
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 140: USAID Climate Strategy, UNICEF report, & Sesame Street Ukraine Workshop.

July 10, 2023

Quick Summary

USAID's 2022-2030 Climate Strategy was [released](#) and focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting climate adaptation, and building resilience in partner countries. The Progress Review highlights USAID's work in various areas, including forests, adaptation, energy, finance, equity, support to partner countries, and internal reforms. In Fiscal Year 2022, USAID conserved over 60 million hectares of carbon-rich lands, mobilized over \$340 million in public and private finance to support climate adaptation, and facilitated access to power for millions of people while reducing emissions through initiatives like renewable energy auctions and energy efficiency measures. USAID also implemented sustainability measures in its own operations and introduced new initiatives to promote climate-positive development practices across all its work areas that focused on youth. Specifically, the report states that “Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, and other populations that are marginalized and underrepresented are on the frontlines of the

climate crisis, and have valuable knowledge and skills that make them powerful change agents in designing and implementing innovative climate solutions for the benefit of all.” To read the strategy, click [here](#).

UNICEF [reported](#) that children faced the highest number of "grave violations" in conflicts in 2022. The UN Special Envoy for Children in Armed Conflict, [Virginia Gamba](#), reported 27,180 grave violations in 2022, affecting 18,890 children. Additionally, there were 26 conflict situations of concern. These violations included killings, injuries, recruitment, abductions, sexual violence, and attacks on schools and hospitals. The article emphasized that while armed groups were responsible for 50% of the violations, governments were the primary perpetrators of child casualties and attacks on educational and healthcare facilities. The US Senior Advisor for Security Council Affairs [Jeffery DeLaurentis](#) expressed disappointment at the insufficient protection of children in conflicts and urged the Security Council to integrate this issue into its work. He accused Russia of committing crimes against humanity, including against children, in Ukraine, while Russia's ambassador accused Western media of launching an information campaign to slander Russia. The Russian Ambassador also claimed that Ukraine's armed forces were responsible for killing and injuring children in Russian-occupied areas, establishing a parliamentary commission to investigate alleged crimes against children by Ukraine. To read the article, click [here](#).

The Department of State has [released](#) the Fiscal Transparency Report (FTR) as mandated by Congress, which provides an assessment of fiscal transparency in countries eligible to receive U.S. foreign assistance. The report evaluates whether governments meet minimum requirements, such as making key budget documents publicly available and following transparent processes for awarding government contracts for natural resource extraction. The FTR serves as a tool to identify deficiencies and support necessary changes in fiscal transparency. The report highlights the importance of fiscal transparency in building market confidence, facilitating public debate, and ensuring appropriate use of U.S. taxpayer funds. It outlines the process in assessing fiscal transparency, including consultations with other federal agencies, U.S. embassies, and international organizations. It also describes the Fiscal Transparency Innovation Fund's project plans for the fiscal year 2022 and outlines objectives for the coming fiscal year. To read the full report, click [here](#).

USAID Administrator and Feed the Future Global Coordinator Samantha Power [announced](#) an additional \$260 million in funding to address the global food security crisis during her visit to Tanzania. The funding will be channeled through Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global hunger initiative, to strengthen food systems, support regional and bilateral programs, and invest in agricultural and nutrition

efforts in Africa and Asia. The assistance will focus on various areas, including leveraging the private sector, promoting local fertilizer production and soil health improvement, adopting climate-smart practices to increase food yields, enhancing water access for farming communities, reducing food loss, strengthening food market systems, and fighting malnutrition. USAID has committed over \$14 billion in humanitarian and development assistance since June 2022 to address the global food security crisis. Click [here](#) to read the announcement.

Spotlight

USAID [partnered](#) with Sesame Workshop to support children and families affected by Russia's war against Ukraine. Through funding from USAID and the U.S. Department of State, Ukrainian children will have access to Sesame Street content in the Ukrainian language, along with tools and resources to help them process the trauma of conflict and displacement. The resources include animated videos and teacher training workshops.

With USAID's support, the leading Ukrainian animation channel PLUSPLUS is broadcasting 140 animated 5-minute video [segments](#) designed to provide playful early learning opportunities for children affected by conflict. These videos promote math, science, social-emotional skills, and health and safety lessons for children ages 3-8. The content is available for streaming on demand on the Kyivstar TV platform.

Additionally, Sesame Workshop [developed](#) Virtual Facilitator Training in Ukrainian and aligned their program with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine's Preschool Education Skills. This will expand to include programming for internally displaced people (IDP) in Ukraine's American Spaces network of U.S. cultural centers, offering in-person elements to support caregivers' well-being, provide psychosocial support to children, and foster creative play and early learning at home.

Sesame Workshop's resources in Ukrainian, including [YouTube](#) content, aim to help families cope with forced displacement, communicate their experiences, and develop a sense of belonging in new places. They have also released a series of [live-action](#) short films called Watch, Play, Learn, which celebrate Ukrainian identity and heritage through dance, music, arts and crafts, language, and food. To learn more about partnership, click [here](#).

Events

- Childhood Education International's Center for Professional Learning [webinar](#)
"New Resources for Professional Development: Teachers Supporting

Teachers in Quality Holistic Learning in Displacement Contexts.” July 10, 2023 at 10:30 am ET.

- Georgetown University’s Collaborative on Global Children’s Issues, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security, Razom for Ukraine, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and Where Are Our People [virtual event](#) **“The Forcible Transfer and Deportation of Ukrainian Children by Russia: Search for Solutions.”** July 12, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- UNDP and the Citi Foundation [hybrid event](#) **“Youth Collab Summit 2023.”** July 12-14, 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- World Vision UN Food Systems Summit [webinar](#) **“Grassroots / local voices leading change.”** July 13, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- USAID Leading Through Learning Global Platform [virtual event](#) **“Introducing ALIGN: A Process for Aligning Learning Inputs to Global Norms.”** July 13, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- World Vision UN Food Systems Summit [webinar](#) **“Power of Faith communities in equitable, resilient and sustainable food system transformation.”** July 25, 2023, at 12 pm ET.
- MenEngage Africa [hybrid event](#) **“3rd MenEngage Africa Symposium 2023.”** August 14-17, 2023, hybrid in Ubumwe Grand Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- InterAction [blog post](#) **“A Hidden Reality: Data & Reporting on Sexual Violence Against Men & Boys.”**
- International Labor Organization [policy brief](#) **“Has youth employment recovered?”**
- The World Bank [brief](#) **“Invest in Childcare.”**
- US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants [policy brief](#) **“‘Forgotten’ Displacement Crises.”**
- UNICEF [publication](#) **“Bridging the Gender Digital Divide: Challenges and an Urgent Call for Action for Equitable Digital Skills Development.”**
- Girls Not Brides [toolkit](#) **“How civil society organisations can use gender-transformative collective action to address child marriage and advance girls' rights: A 7-step guide.”**
- Action Against Hunger [report](#) **“No Matter Who’s Fighting, Hunger Always Wins.”**



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