
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 144: USAID 2023 LGBTQI+ Inclusive Development Policy & Georgetown University event.

August 7, 2023

Call to Action

USAID is [inviting](#) young people aged 10 to 29 with innovative ideas on using digital tools to improve the well-being of their peers to participate in the Youth Well-Being Prize Competition. The competition aims to address pressing issues affecting youth, such as mental health, digital harm, safeguarding, gender-based violence, and climate change. USAID is looking for youth-led solutions that tackle these challenges and create positive impacts on the lives of young people and their communities. The competition is seeking diverse and creative ideas that recognize the unique identities of youth.

Categories for Submission:

1. **Mental Health:** Solutions focused on improving the mental health of children and youth, reducing stress, and enhancing overall well-being.
2. **Digital Harm:** Innovations aimed at mitigating digital harm caused by online platforms and digital use, including cyberbullying and misinformation.
3. **Safeguarding:** Solutions addressing prevention and response to child and youth abuse, exploitation, neglect, and violence.
4. **Gender-Based Violence:** Ideas promoting gender equality and combating harmful actions or threats based on gender and identity.
5. **Climate Change:** Innovations fostering climate awareness, sustainable practices, and youth-led climate mitigation efforts.

Examples of potential ideas include websites promoting mental health tips, social media campaigns against digital harm, online training on preventing youth violence, online games to increase knowledge of gender-based violence, and youth-led climate change initiatives.

Applications for the competition will open on July 31, 2023, and close on September 29, 2023. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

Quick Summary

USAID [released](#) its “2023 LGBTQI+ Inclusive Development” policy. This serves as a blueprint for integrating LGBTQI+ individuals into USAID's policies and programs. The policy aims to lead through development diplomacy, drive evidence-based policies and approaches, accelerate localized programming, and improve crisis response through inclusion. To achieve these goals, USAID will follow several principles, including being proactive while upholding the principle of "Do No Harm," respecting and working with local LGBTQI+ activists and groups, understanding and meeting diverse needs, and recognizing the importance of targeted and tailored programs for different contexts. By implementing these principles and goals, USAID aims to create a more equitable and inclusive world where LGBTQI+ individuals are fully integrated into development efforts that help strengthen livelihoods, economies, and democracies. Click [here](#) to read the policy.

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Administrator Samantha Power [highlighted](#) the concerning global nature of human trafficking. Children and youth are particularly vulnerable, with approximately 3.3 million child victims of trafficking worldwide. This number has tripled in the last 15 years, with the actual figures likely even higher due to underreporting. USAID has been actively working since 2001 to combat trafficking, investing over \$370 million across 88 countries to protect survivors

and address the root causes that increase trafficking risks. For example, in Ukraine, USAID supports a national toll-free counter-trafficking and migrant advice hotline, providing assistance to thousands of callers annually. To read Administrator Power's statement, click [here](#).

Spotlight

Georgetown University's Collaborative on Global Children's Issues, in conjunction with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security, Razom for Ukraine, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and Where Are Our People? Held a [webinar](#) titled "The Forced Transfer and Deportation of Ukrainian Children by Russia: Seeking Solutions." This event brought together organizations and individuals from around the world to discuss this urgent issue facing thousands of Ukrainian children affected by the war. These children have been separated from their families, communities, and homeland, forcibly transferred to Russian-occupied territories, or deported to Russia.

[Reports](#) reveal that some of these children have been placed in Russian foster and adoptive families, given Russian nationality, or transferred to camps and facilities in Russia and occupied territories. Russian authorities claim they are providing "patriotic education" and integration in these facilities, but such forced transfers and deportations are prohibited by international humanitarian law and could potentially amount to war crimes.

During the webinar, experts examined the current situation, delved into historical context, and explored potential responses to this humanitarian crisis. This included Daria Herasymchuk, Commissioner for Children's Rights and Rehabilitation, Government of Ukraine; [Mykola Kuleba](#), Founder and CEO, Save Ukraine; and [David Schlaefer](#), Principal Director for Ukraine, Office of Global Criminal Justice, U.S. Department of State. Ukrainian organizations actively engaged in the frontline response shared their perspectives, shedding light on the dire realities faced by the affected children and their families. The international community's role in supporting family tracing and reunification efforts was a key focus of the discussion, as it is crucial to find solutions to reunite these children with their families and safeguard their well-being and rights. As the situation continues to unfold, raising awareness about the plight of Ukrainian children and advocating for a coordinated global response is critical.

To rewatch and learn more about this webinar, click [here](#).

Events

- Child Health Task Force [webinar](#) **“Giving Children the Best Start in Life: Resources, Experiences, and Lessons Learned from USAID Advancing Nutrition’s Work Integrating Nutrition, Responsive Care, and Early Learning.”** August 8, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- USAID Inclusive Development Hub [webinar](#) **“USAID & Indigenous Peoples: Co-creation Efforts and Lessons Learned.”** August 9, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- USAID Education in Crisis and Conflict Network (ECCN), the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Regional Hub, and OREALC/UNESCO Santiago [webinar](#) **“Data for the Education of Returnees in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras: Introduction to a framework for addressing the data gap in educational access, progression, and achievement of returnees in Central America.”** August 9, 2023, at 11 am ET.
- YouthPower2 Gender CoP [virtual workshop](#) **“Empowering Futures: Unleashing Potential with the Gender and Youth Analysis Toolkit.”** August 10, 2023 at 9 am ET.
- InterAction in-person [event](#) **“InterAction Forum 2023.”** October 19, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Saferworld [article](#) **“Sudan: with the Jeddah talks faltering, the US must focus on civilian engagement.”**
- Girls Not Brides [article](#) **“Communicating Challenges and Dreams of Young Girls through Mithila Art in Nepal: Young girls work together with artists/trainers and create five fascinating pieces of individual Mithila artwork or paintings.”**
- Elevate Children Funders Group [publication](#) **“Framework to Decolonize Child & Youth Philanthropy.”**
- The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health [report](#) **“Prioritizing displaced children in the global refugee agenda.”**
- UNICEF [report](#) **“Children with Disabilities in Eastern and Southern Africa: A statistical overview of their well-being.”**



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