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# *The Weekly Pulse*

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NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



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Vol. 146: New USAID Indicator, International Youth Day, & Lancet Article.

August 21, 2023

Call to Action

**The Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) is urging support for International Education Funding through the [FY24 Conference Letter](#).** This initiative is critical for providing quality education to children worldwide facing crises and urgent educational needs. The letter requests U.S. congressional leaders to allocate a minimum of \$970 million for International Basic Education, including funding for the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait. It also emphasizes the importance of the Vulnerable Children account for Early Childhood Education. The letter underscores the rising number of children affected by crises, particularly in regions like Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Ukraine. It also acknowledges the role of USAID in mitigating learning loss and highlights the potential consequences of reduced funding, impacting around 11 million children. To sign-on to the letter, please fill out the [form](#) by Friday, September 1st, 2023. For questions, contact [info@gce-us.org](mailto:info@gce-us.org)

## Quick Summary

**USAID will be releasing its Standard Youth [Indicators](#), which includes a new indicator that will track the “number of children (0–19 years) and youth (10–29) reached with United States government (USG) assistance.”** Known as the [Youth 7 indicator](#), this indicator will be used to monitor the number of children and youth who receive support from USG development programs as well as progress under the Youth in Development Policy, USG Strategy to Advance the Protection and Care of Children in Adversity (APCCA). It will also be used to respond to inquiries from Congress and other USG stakeholders on the number of youth reached by USAID programming. Reports include the Annual Report to Congress on Youth Policy, the Congressional Report on Adolescent Girls, and the APCCA Report to Congress. Implementing Partners and USAID Operating Units are being urged to set targets for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025. If the information was already being collected, reporting results may begin with the Fiscal Year 2023 reporting cycle (October 1, 2023). To read the description of the new indicator, click [here](#). To read Youth-7 FAQs, click [here](#).

**For International Youth Day, We Trust You(th) [featured](#) the Youth Alliance Working Group (YAWG) of the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative in an article titled “International Youth Day: Young People are Transforming Communities.”** The feature highlighted work around advocating and passing the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Act ([H.R. 5024](#)) last October during Search for Common Ground’s YPS Advocacy Days. The YPS Act calls for a comprehensive strategy that acknowledges youth’s pivotal role in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and post-crisis recovery. Over multiple days, members of the YAWG had meaningful discussions with Congressional Representatives, as well as officials from the U.S. Department of State and USAID. Additionally, members of the YAWG called for the creation of the nonpartisan Congressional Caucus for Children and Youth Globally, which would further solidify their commitment to amplifying youth voices in shaping policies that transcend borders and confronting challenges like violence, poverty, and climate upheaval. To read the article, click [here](#).

**This past week [marked](#) two years since the Taliban took over the Government of Afghanistan.** For women and girls, the last two years have been marked by significant upheaval. The Taliban have excluded girls over the age of 12 from attending classes, which has become a major obstacle to the international recognition of the Taliban administration. The Taliban have also restricted women's access to work, education, and public spaces, including closing beauty salons, barring women from parks, and imposing travel limitations without a male guardian. Education Cannot Wait ([ECW](#)), a global fund for education in emergencies, has launched the #AfghanGirlsVoices

campaign to amplify the voices of Afghan girls who have been deprived of their right to education due to the ban on girls' access to secondary and tertiary education. The campaign features testimonies from Afghan girls whose lives have been upended by the education ban, highlighting their resilience and strength. The situation of women and girls in Afghanistan has been deemed the 'worst globally' by a recent UN experts' [report](#). The campaign aims to raise awareness and bring attention to this issue on the global stage. To learn more and participate in this campaign, click [here](#).

## Spotlight

**The Lancet published an [article](#) titled “Reauthorize PEPFAR to prevent death, orphanhood, and suffering for millions of children.”** It highlights the critical importance of reauthorizing the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to prevent death, orphanhood, and suffering among millions of children affected by HIV/AIDS. The researchers, who focus on HIV, AIDS, and pediatric health, emphasize the central role of preserving children's lives in their work.

Using 2023 UNAIDS estimates, the article examines PEPFAR's impact on child survival and health, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where over 90% of PEPFAR funds are directed. PEPFAR collaborates with various entities including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, national governments, and UN agencies to provide support. PEPFAR has significantly reduced the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS on newly orphaned children, including a substantial decline in child orphanhood due to AIDS, from a peak of 1.6 million in 2004 to 382,000 in 2021. However, 10.3 million children in sub-Saharan Africa still require support due to AIDS-related orphanhood.

The article emphasizes that PEPFAR's interventions have resulted in a four-fold reduction in new HIV infections among infants and young children through prevention of parent-to-child transmission and widespread distribution of antiretroviral agents. Furthermore, PEPFAR's implementation has led to an 80% decrease in AIDS-related deaths among infants and young children. The program plays a vital role in preventing infections and providing antiretroviral treatment to children born with HIV, significantly improving their chances of survival.

PEPFAR's comprehensive support extends beyond medical interventions, including providing antiretroviral medication, psychosocial support, and nutritional assistance to orphaned and vulnerable children. These interventions prevent negative outcomes such as developmental delays, family breakdowns, abuse, mental health issues, and poverty-driven exploitation. The article strongly advocates for the reauthorization of PEPFAR, highlighting its critical role in preventing death, orphanhood, and suffering among millions of children affected by HIV/AIDS. The authors emphasize that without

PEPFAR, there would be dire consequences for the health and well-being of these children. Click [here](#) to read the article.

## Events

- Girls Not Brides [webinar](#) **“Child marriage interventions in conflict- and crisis-affected settings.”** August 23, 2023 at 9 am ET.
- Education Cannot Wait, PLAN International, and Youth For Education in Emergencies [webinar](#) **“Youth Connect for Education in Emergencies.”** August 31, 2023, at 1 pm ET.
- Thrive Coalition, Center for Global Development (CGD), and the Coalition for Women's Economic Empowerment & Equality (CWEEE) in-person Hill [event](#) **“Celebrating U.S. Investments in Global Childcare and Women's Economic Empowerment.”** September 6, 2023, at 12 pm ET.
- Foreign Policy [virtual dialogue](#) **“Safeguarding Childhood.”** September 7, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- Foreign Policy [virtual dialogue](#) **“Defending Democracy: How young changemakers are demanding progress.”** September 12, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- READ Reauthorization Task Force in-person Hill [event](#) **“Ready, Set, READ!”** September 13, 2023, at 8:30 am ET.

## Reports, Articles & Resources

- The European Commission [article](#) **“The Eurobarometer on Online Child Sexual Abuse reveals two things. how bad people think the situation has got. and how willing people are to do something about it.”**
- Devex [blog post](#) **“Why youth involvement is key to tackling online gender-based violence.”**
- The Guardian news [article](#) **“No milk, no eggs, small hope: fears rise for Sri Lanka’s malnourished children.”**
- Send my Friend to School [blog post](#) **“The ‘Missing Children’: Why we urgently need an inclusive approach to education in emergencies.”**
- The Washington Post [article](#) **“Judge rules in favor of Montana youths in landmark climate decision.”**



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