
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 152: Children's Budget Book 2023, UNICEF Children with Disabilities Report, & U.S. Government Shutdown

October 2, 2023

Quick Summary

USAID's Office of Children in Adversity held consultations with civil society regarding the imminent updates to the Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity ([APCCA](#)) strategy. Throughout the meeting, civil society and government partners identified priority issues and trends affecting children in adversity, how to enhance the APCCA strategy's effectiveness in addressing the challenges faced by children in adversity, and the strategy's consultations and revision process. The next step will be an open comment period for broader civil society input into the APCCA strategy. Participants noted that children around the world are facing greater challenges and are at higher risk due to the confluence of recent crises. There are more threats to children's well-being emanating from the digital world, displacement, violence, and exclusion. Especially vulnerable are young girls, LGBTQIA+ adolescents, children with disabilities, and children from marginalized indigenous communities. In addition, there

are growing concerns about the increasing dangers relating to online technology and child sexual abuse material.. The APCCA strategy aims to protect and enhance the well-being of all children and in particular those most at risk of harm. The strategy also promotes children's voice, participation, and inclusion; and it addresses issues like positive parenting, inclusive education, and services for recovery from childhood sexual and emotional violence. Click [here](#) to learn more about the current APCCA strategy.

In the House of Representatives, conservative Republicans [introduced](#) a series of budget amendments aimed at reducing or eliminating funding for U.S. aid programs. These amendments include proposals to cut USAID's program budget substantially, eliminate international disaster assistance, halt U.S. funding for Ukraine, and restrict foreign aid programs. These proposed amendments are only the latest threat to future US foreign assistance. Already, House Republicans put forward an Appropriations bill that would reduce the US foreign affairs budget for international programs by 12%. Advocates for global development including Lisa Bos, Director of Government Relations at World Vision, argued that addressing deficit spending by focusing on cuts to the 1% of the total federal budget that is allocated to foreign assistance is an ineffective approach.

Despite the unlikelihood that these amendments will be adopted, the debate on the House floor provided conservative Republicans with a platform to voice their concerns about U.S. aid programs. For instance, one amendment sought to cut USAID's budget by 50%, alleging that the agency promotes a "woke" social and cultural agenda. Other amendments targeted specific agencies and officials, including efforts to reduce funding for the Peace Corps and cut the salary of Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Additionally, an amendment sought to eliminate the salary of Linda Thomas Greenfield, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. The political debate is occurring within a larger context of hardline discourse which now threatens a US government shutdown beginning on October 1 until the US Congress agrees on a budget for the next Fiscal Year. To read the full Devex analysis, click [here](#).

The WHO-UNICEF [released](#) its report titled “Global Report on Children with Developmental Disabilities.” The report urges the global community to include children and youth with developmental disabilities in global and national initiatives to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report emphasizes the need for immediate action to drive changes at individual, family, community, and societal levels, promoting inclusion and health equity. Also, it advocates for increased investment and accountability to establish comprehensive, responsive care systems for these individuals. By drawing on research and practical insights, as well as aligning with international human rights principles, the report assesses the current state of

knowledge, policies, programs, and public monitoring related to developmental disabilities. To read the report, click [here](#).

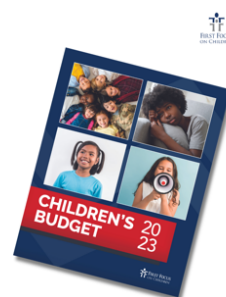
The U.S. and Côte d'Ivoire [launched](#) its Child Protection Compact (CPC) partnership. Those in attendance included U.S. Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire [Jessica Davis Ba](#), First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire [Dominique Ouattara](#), U.S. Deputy Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons [Bryan Marcus](#), and key ministers. This multi-year initiative is aimed at addressing child sex trafficking and forced child labor in Côte d'Ivoire. The partnership involves coordinated efforts to enhance prevention, provide accessible protection services for child trafficking victims, improve legal frameworks for justice-sector actions, and promote collaboration among relevant stakeholders. The University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML) is conducting research on child trafficking, while Save the Children will work to enhance the capacity of Ivorian justice-sector actors and strengthen anti-trafficking efforts over the next five years, all under the auspices of the CPC Partnership. Click [here](#) to read the announcement.

Spotlight

First Focus [launched](#) its Children's Budget 2023 report, which revealed that U.S. spending on children, both domestically and internationally, has significantly decreased. In FY 2023, only 9.89% of the federal budget is allocated to children, which is a drop of nearly 16% from the previous fiscal year. This allocation is also much lower than the 11.97% reached during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in FY 2021.

The report emphasizes that this reduced investment in children comes at a time when global challenges such as conflict, climate issues, and the ongoing impact of COVID-19 continue to threaten the well-being of children worldwide. Despite children making up a significant portion of the world's population, they received only 0.10% of the entire federal budget in FY 2023 for international assistance.

Children's International Share
of Total Spending



#CHILDRENSBUDGET2023

Additionally, the significant returns on investment in children's well-being, including economic benefits, with examples such as every dollar spent on international education delivering up to \$15 in economic returns. However, the combined investment in both foreign and domestic assistance for children decreased from over \$708 billion in FY 2022 to \$630 billion in FY 2023.

President Biden's FY 2024 budget request proposes a slight increase in funding benefiting children internationally, but it also reduces funding for critical areas such as maternal and child health, nutrition, and education. The Children's Budget report calls for greater investment in children's holistic needs, emphasizing that our future depends on it.

Additionally, the report spotlights the importance of foreign assistance funding to prevent and address violence against children, with an estimated 1 billion children globally having experienced violence or neglect. It highlights the efforts of organizations like [Together for Girls](#), which rely on funding from programs like the PEPFAR and the USAID's Central American Regional Security Initiative ([USAID CARSI](#)) to address this issue. The report raises concerns about the decreasing allocation of resources for children both domestically and internationally and emphasizes the need to prioritize children's well-being to secure a better future. To read the announcement and full report, click [here](#).

Events

- Devex [virtual event](#) **"The Future of PEPFAR."** October 4, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- OECD [webinar](#) **"Generative AI in the Classroom: Hype or reality?"** October 5, 2023, at 7 am ET.
- The Center for Global Development and the Malala Fund [webinar](#) **"Protecting Our Future Generations: Climate Change, Education, and Gender Perspectives."** October 5, 2023, at 11 am ET.
- U.S. Department of State Office of Global Women's Issues [in-person event series](#) **"International Day of the Girl."** October 11, 2023 at 10 am ET. Registration ends October 4, 2023.
- InterAction [in-person event](#) **"Forum: A Day of Conversation."** October 19, 2023 at 8:15 am ET.
- Keeping Children Safe [online summit](#) **"Child safeguarding in education and childcare."** November 14-16, 2023.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Speaking of Kids [blog post](#) **"Congress Is Shortchanging Children."**
- UNICEF [report](#) **"The Early Childhood Development Index 2030."**

- AP [article](#) **“As mental health worsens among Afghanistan’s women, the UN is asked to declare ‘gender apartheid’.”**
- Send My Friend to School [brief](#) **“Securing education for the world’s refugees at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.”**
- Human Rights Watch [article](#) **“US Rebukes Egypt for Using Child Soldiers: Presidential Waiver Still Allows Military Aid.”**
- U.S. Department of State [press release](#) **“U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken Launches Global Music Diplomacy Initiative, Music Icon and Former U.S. Jazz Ambassador Music Director Quincy Jones Receives Inaugural Peace Through Music Award.”**
- Send My Friend to School [brief](#) **“COP28: a critical crossroads for education and the climate agenda.”**



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