
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 161: USAID Disability Policy, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, & Council on Foundations Report.

December 4, 2023

Call to Action

The USAID “[Nothing Without Us: Disability Policy](#)” is currently open for public comment until December 8, 2023. Interested individuals can provide comments and suggestions through a Google Form, and organizations are encouraged to submit collective feedback. The focus is on addressing sections that need clarification, identifying major gaps or inaccuracies, and expressing support for essential elements of the policy. USAID emphasizes that stylistic or phrasing edits are not being sought during this external comment period. To facilitate the review process, individuals are asked to provide their highest priority recommendations or issues, offer concrete suggestions for any concerns they raise, and submit comments in English if possible. The final version of the policy will undergo professional editing for style and readability. Access the draft policy and submit comments [here](#). For accessibility concerns, contact disability@usaid.gov.

Quick Summary

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, U.S. President Joe Biden issued a [statement](#) acknowledging the collective global effort to eradicate gender-based violence. Recognizing the resilience of survivors and advocates, the President emphasized the ongoing work to create a future where individuals – including women and girls – can live free from violence. President Biden reflected on his history of advocating for this cause and outlined measures taken during his presidency to address gender-based violence, including the reauthorization and strengthening of the Violence Against Women Act. The statement acknowledged persistent challenges, citing statistics that one in three women globally will experience physical violence, rape, or stalking in their lifetimes. He [states](#) that “Around the world, particularly in areas of conflict, countless women and girls suffer at the hands of perpetrators who commit gender-based violence and use rape as a weapon of war. And all too often, women and girls from historically marginalized communities—including people of color, people with disabilities, and people who identify as LGBTQI+—are disproportionately affected.” President Biden stressed the disproportionate impact on historically marginalized communities, including women and girls of color, those with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ individuals. The statement underscored the commitment to standing with survivors, holding offenders accountable, and working toward a future where violence against women and girls is not tolerated. To read the full statement, click [here](#).

The U.S. Department of State and the Government of Peru, accompanied by civil society and international partners, [convened](#) for the fourth Child Protection Compact (CPC) Annual Dialogue. Key [participants](#) included Bryan Marcus from the U.S. Department of State, Political Counselor Justin Davis of the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru’s Vice Minister of Public Security Héctor Loayza Arrieta, and Dr. Aissa Tejada from Peru’s Ministry of Interior. **The U.S.-Peru CPC Partnership aims to strengthen Peru’s efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict child traffickers, provide trauma-informed care for affected children, and prevent child trafficking.** During the dialogue, government officials and civil society partners presented accomplishments and challenges over the past year toward achieving the mutually agreed partnership goals. This dialogue followed a co-creation workshop among the same entities in October. Since 2017, the U.S. government has invested over \$10 million in foreign assistance for projects supporting the partnership’s objectives. Peru made significant progress, establishing specialized child trafficking shelters and increasing prosecutors’ offices. Regional governments in Loreto and Cusco approved projects to expand

prevention efforts and enhance victim assistance in line with the partnership. Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

Council on Foundations and Candid recently released its [report](#) "The State of Global Giving by U.S. Foundations: 2022 Edition." This comprehensive report highlights how U.S. foundations are contributing to global causes such as health improvement, climate change mitigation, education accessibility, and human rights advocacy. Key findings reveal that in 2019, U.S. foundations awarded approximately \$8 billion in globally focused grants, a significant increase from the \$2.2 billion in 2002. Health initiatives constituted 49% of these grant dollars, with Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia & Pacific regions receiving the largest shares. Human rights experienced notable growth, reaching 11% of global foundation grant dollars from 2016-2019, up from less than 7% in the previous period. The report also notes a slight increase in direct funding to organizations based in program-implemented countries. Notably, foundations in Candid's Foundation 1000 dataset allocated nearly \$1.8 billion to counter climate change impacts in the 2016-2019 period. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation emerged as a major contributor, accounting for 44% of global giving by U.S. foundations during 2016-2019. The report provides valuable insights into how foundations are addressing global challenges and identifies areas of opportunity. To learn more and read the full report, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion [webinar](#) "Protecting Futures: Addressing lack of access to education for children without legal identity." The event focused on the critical issue of children lacking legal identity and its impact on their ability to access education. The symposium highlighted the stand-alone right of a child to identity, encompassing birth registration, name, nationality, and family relations as outlined in Articles 7-8 CRC. Emphasizing the significance of legal identity (SDG 16.9), the lack of which hinders children from accessing basic rights such as education, health, development, and social services. Millions of children are excluded from the education system due to the absence of a formal legal identity, preventing them from enrolling or sitting for final exams. The symposium shed light on the challenges faced by these children and presented promising practices in response.

Key points discussed during the event included raising awareness about the lifelong impact of identity loss, urging compliance with commitments to SDG 4 (universal education) and SDG 16.9 (legal identity for all), and implementing the 2023 Human Rights Council Resolution on birth registration. This resolution recommends strengthening interoperability with health, educational, and social protection sectors to

ensure prompt birth registration and facilitate catch-up mechanisms for older children or adults.

The symposium addressed the situation of millions of children unable to access education due to issues like missing birth certificates, statelessness, and lost identity documents. For many, the lack of legal recognition as citizens denies them birth registration processes and access to necessary identity documents for education.

Speakers at the symposium included Ann Skelton, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Committee Chairperson; Faith Marshall-Harris, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Bhaskar Mishra, UNICEF; Monika Sandvik, Senior Statelessness Coordinator for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; and other experts and advocates. The symposium marked a significant effort to address the pressing issue of children lacking legal identity and its profound implications for their access to education and fundamental rights. To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

Events

- MenEngage Alliance and Learning Colab Menengage Alliance [webinar](#) **“Redefining Masculinities: Engaging adolescents, youth and educators through gender transformative programs in the education system.”** December 7, 2023, at 7:30 am ET.
- UNiTE! [virtual event](#) **“UNiTE! The Need for an Optional Protocol to CEDAW to End Violence Against Women and Girls.”** December 7, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- UN [event](#) **“Human Rights 75 High-Level Event.”** December 11-12, 2023.
- Humanity & Inclusion and Education Cannot Wait [webinar](#) **“Child Functioning Module Teacher Version - from research to operationalization.”** December 12, 2023, at 7 am ET.
- UN [hybrid event](#) **“Civil Society Town Hall with the President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly.”** December 12, 2023, at 11 am ET.
- USAID [event](#) **“2024 Global Education Conference.”** April 15-19, 2023.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- UNESCO [article](#) **“What you need to know about UNESCO’s Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development.”**
- First Focus [blog post](#) **“Putting Kids First Through Global Vaccination Programs.”**
- Open Global Rights [article](#) **“Why disability inclusion matters.”**

- The Guardian [article](#) “Taliban could be convinced to open girls’ schools, says Afghanistan ex-education minister.”
- UN [report](#) “Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 5 A Global Digital Compact — an Open, Free and Secure Digital Future for All.”



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