
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 174: 'Start Where You Are', UN-IGME, Global SOL Task Force

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Quick Summary

[InterAction](#) has recently introduced the Gender-Based Violence 'Start Where You Are' Companion Guide, a resource created to assist organizations in utilizing the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Evaluation Framework (**[GBV-PEF](#)**) effectively within their prevention programming. The guide discusses four primary barrier areas highlighted by InterAction members when utilizing the GBV-PEF's tools: risk analysis, project design, innovation in monitoring systems, and evaluation tools. Using a self-assessment feature component, organizations can identify their strengths and limitations helping them strategically prioritize barriers to address within a 12-month timeframe. Additionally, it offers pragmatic strategies to tackle common challenges, such as time constraints in risk analysis and resource limitations in implementing evaluation tools for GBV prevention. The guide aims to support GBV teams in fostering sustainable prevention outcomes in humanitarian settings, ultimately benefiting women and girls globally. To access the guide, [click here](#).

A recent report from the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN-IGME) highlights a noteworthy moment in the ongoing global effort to reduce preventable child deaths. With the annual number of under-five deaths dropping to 4.9 million in 2022 and the global under-5 mortality rate decreasing by 51 percent since 2000, it's evident that progress is being made in improving child survival rates. This reflects the collaborative efforts of governments, organizations, communities, healthcare professionals, and families to protect the most vulnerable members of our global community. However, despite these gains, millions of children still tragically pass away before their fifth birthday, especially in underprivileged communities in regions like sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. The report suggests ways to combat the ongoing high child mortality rates, by focusing investments in accessible, quality healthcare and enhancing critical data systems. Prioritizing these actions will enable progress, toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring every child has the chance to thrive no matter where they are born. To read the full report, [click here](#).

The [Global SOL Task Force](#), a collaboration between CHILD Global, Fundación Derecho al Tiempo, and Brave Movement, has released a comprehensive report on Criminal Statutes of Limitation in Latin America. The Global Taskforce aims to eliminate the statute of limitations applicable to cases of child sexual abuse. The report underscores the push for the "right to time" for victims of pedophilia, advocating for an end to the statute of limitations for such crimes in the region. Shedding light on instances where abuses within the Church have prompted legal reforms, the report delves into six countries where crimes no longer face expiration, while also warning about agreements with the Holy See which might impede investigations into justice. Time consistently works against survivors of childhood sexual abuse, with the law often unable to prosecute perpetrators when survivors come forward decades later. The report assesses the legal frameworks of 19 Latin American countries, offering insights to activists, politicians, and legislators striving to make positive change. It ranks Chile, El Salvador, and Mexico as leading the region due to their complete elimination of the criminal statute of limitations for sexual abuse of minors and the absence of agreements with outside influences. To read the full report, [click here](#) and for additional news coverage, [click here](#).

Spotlight

President Biden delivered the [State of the Union address](#) and submitted his [Budget Request](#) for Fiscal Year 2025.

In the State of the Union, the President underscored the crucial role of prioritizing children and families in his next term. Emphasizing the significance of education, he highlighted the positive impact of early childhood education on academic success and advocated for accessible preschooling for every child. Additionally, he proposed increased funding for after-school programs to provide additional support for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The President also addressed economic support for families by pioneering the restoration of the Child Tax Credit, aiming to alleviate child poverty and bolster support for working families. On the international front, he addressed the devastating toll conflicts are having on children and called for bipartisan action to protect children online, reinforcing a commitment to protecting the welfare of all children and families in his upcoming term. **To read the President's address, click: [here](#).**

The President's Budget Request outlines several initiatives to address the needs of children and youth, marking progress in key areas. Notably, efforts to lower childcare costs and expand access to universal preschool demonstrate a commitment to supporting families and improving early childhood education opportunities. Additionally, increased funding for programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) reflects a small uptick in support for addressing nutritional needs among vulnerable global populations.

While the President's budget initiatives are positive steps forward, advocates underscore that more work is still needed to address the challenges facing children and youth fully. Although progress has been made in education and social support programs, disparities remain in providing equitable access to resources and opportunities for all children and youth. Investing in special education services for children with disabilities is noteworthy, but continued action is vital to ensure every child receives the necessary support to excel academically and personally. Proposed improvements to nutrition assistance programs are a step in the right direction. Still, more is required to tackle systemic challenges contributing to food insecurity and insufficient access to nutritious foods in underserved communities.

The President's Budget reflects important progress in prioritizing the well-being of children and youth, as well as a recognition that more comprehensive and sustained efforts are necessary to address the challenges they face. With continued investment in

education, healthcare, and social support systems, policymakers can work towards creating a more equitable and prosperous future for all children and youth. **To read more about the President's Budget, click: [here](#).**

Events

- PMNCH [virtual event](#), “Ending Preventable Deaths: Prioritization of Maternal and Newborn Health in Conflict-Affected Contexts.” March 19, 2024, at 8:30 am ET.
- Georgetown University [webinar](#) “Youth Children in Humanitarian and COVID-19 Crises.” March 19, 2024, at 8:00 am ET.
- EMPower [in-person event](#) “Amplify Her: Centering Girls' Voices in Decision-Making.” March 19, 2024, at 10:30 am - 12 pm ET
- PMNCH [webinar](#) “Male Engagement in Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services.” March 20, 2024, 7:00 am ET.
- PMNCH [hybrid event](#) “13th World Down Syndrome Day Conference” March 21, 2024, 10:00 am ET.
- EuroChild, Voice Project [hybrid event](#) “VOICE Report Launch.” April 8, 2024, at 3 am to 11:30 am ET.
- The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) [in-person event](#), “SVRI Forum 2024.” October 21 - 25, 2024.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Mobile Creches [report](#), “Annual Report 2022/23”
- Global Fund for Children [report](#), “Investing in youth- and community-led change.”
- UNESCO [report](#) “Technology in Education.”
- UNICEF [blog post](#) “ETHIOPIA TRIES HYDROPONIC FARMING TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD.”
- Degrees [blog post](#) “Heat threatens children’s right to education: Here’s what we can do.”
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Global Education Monitoring Report Team [report](#) “SDG 4 scorecard progress report on national benchmarks: focus on teachers.”

