
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 50: President Biden & Secretary Blinken remarks on Afghanistan, UNICEF Child Protection Strategy, and USAID in Haiti.

6 September, 2021

Quick Summary

President Biden's [remarks](#) on Afghanistan referenced the plight of girls. Biden stated that “We will continue to support the Afghan people through diplomacy, international influence, and humanitarian aid. We’ll continue to push for regional diplomacy and engagement to prevent violence and instability. We’ll continue to speak out for basic rights of the Afghan people, especially women and girls, as we speak out for women and girls all around the globe. And I’ve been clear that human rights will be the center of our foreign policy.”

Secretary of State Blinken gave [remarks](#) to the press on Afghanistan on Wednesday (8/25). First mentioning that “...of the 82,000-plus people who so far have been evacuated, about 45, 46 percent have been women and children, and we’ve been intensely focused particularly on making sure that we can get women at risk out of harm’s way.” He also acknowledged the risk women in Afghanistan face and said he “will use every diplomatic, economic, political, and assistance tool at my disposal, working closely with allies and partners who feel very much the same way, to do everything possible to uphold their basic rights. And that’s going to be a relentless focus of our actions going forward.” Despite Taliban [promises](#) to respect women’s rights, there are many reports of [threats and cases](#) gender-based violence since the U.S. withdrawal.

USAID [announced](#) \$32 million in humanitarian assistance to Haiti to support “humanitarian partners delivering urgently-needed aid, including health care services, emergency shelter and food, safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation assistance, and protection services, including gender-based violence prevention and response, child protection, and psychosocial support services in hard-hit areas of southwestern Haiti”. Administrator Power visited Haiti and met with USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to help assess and coordinate with other partners for effective humanitarian assistance.

UNICEF released their [Child Protection Strategy](#) for 2021-2030. The strategy highlights significant improvements at the government and community level, citing increases in birth registrations and decreases in child labor, child marriage, and female genital mutilation. The strategy also includes language to support holistic needs of children, stating “Our ambition is to scale up evidence-based prevention approaches to the population level – not only in the core Child Protection sectors of Social Welfare and Justice, but also in Education, Health, Social Protection and other sectors with strong and clear accountabilities to deliver child protection outcomes. This includes universal access to justice, to family and parenting support, to safe schools and to safety online, as well as universal adoption of transformative norms and values”.

Virtual Events

- Women’s Refugee Commission is hosting an event on developments in Afghanistan and conditions for Afghan refugees and leaders, 9 September, 2021, 5:00 EST. Contact: ashleym@wrcommission.org
- Maestral is hosting a [webinar](#) “Preparing the Future: Converting COVID-19 Liabilities into Investments that Protect Children” 21 September, 2021 1:00pm GMT.

- IGWG is hosting an [event](#) “2021 State of the Art in Engaging Men and Boys in Health and Development: A Technical Marketplace.” 21 September, 2021 8:30am EST.
- FHI 360 [Virtual Round Table](#) “Fostering Systemic Change for Adolescent Girls’ Education: A Roundtable with FCDO and USAID” 6 October, 2021 9:30am EST.
- Global Women P.E.A.C.E. Foundation [Walk to End FGM](#). 15 October, 2021 4-6:30pm EST.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Health Policy Plus [Policy Framework](#) for Engaging Men and Boys in Family Planning Programs and Services.
- Alliance for Peacebuilding [Podcast](#) “Peace! We Build It” recent podcast covering the events in Afghanistan
- The Adolescent Data [Hub](#), which is a “unique global portal for data on more than 5,310,000 adolescent young people living in low- and middle-income countries”.
- Together for Girls, AfriChild & End Violence Against Children [Policy Brief](#) “Investment in nationally representative data on violence against children in low- and middle-income countries”
- International Training Course (ITC) [E-Learning Course](#) “E-Learning on International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor”



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