
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 61: USAID Acting on the Call Report 2021, Keep Kids Safe, GCE-US Coalition Meeting, & Child Immunization.

Nov 22, 2021

Quick Summary

USAID published its [Acting on the Call Report 2021](#). This report provides “a roadmap for accelerating progress against one of the Agency’s top global health priorities: preventing maternal and child deaths. Each year the report highlights how far the global health community has come in accelerating access to essential health care for mothers, newborns, and children in 25 countries where they are most vulnerable.” This year, the report highlights “how sustained commitment, financial investment, and technical leadership from the United States has continued critical, lifesaving health services for women, children, and families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.” To read the announcement, click [here](#). To read the report, click [here](#).

Keep Kids Safe (KKS) launched its [US National Blueprint to End Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents](#). The Blueprint outlines the “changes that need to be enacted, at federal level (by Congress and the White House), if we are to truly end all forms of sexual violence against children and adolescents.” This is the first ever comprehensive blueprint to address sexual violence against children and adolescents. It has also been “developed over the last 11 months, by survivors and allies, 10 leading organizations, and with input from numerous coalitions, individuals, and leaders.” Together for Girls played a central role with Keep Kids Safe to prepare the blueprint. To access the social media toolkit, click [here](#).

GCE-US held its monthly coalition meeting where they discussed information and global education opportunities relating to the RewirEd Summit in Dubai. Nicola Dean, the Program Manager at Dubai Cares and the Deputy Director at RewirEd, spoke on the three main themes of the Education Summit that will be December 12-14. Day 1 will be about Youth Skills and the Future of Work, Day 2 will be about Innovation in Education, and Day 3 will be about Education Financing. Additionally, the coalition reviewed feedback for the new/updated US Government Strategy on International Basic Education Consultative Process in 2022. The coalition also went over the strategy to gather recommendations to submit as part of the public comment for the USAID Climate Strategy Draft.

InterAction [published](#) its Children & Youth Working Group recommendations on USAID’s Youth in Development Policy 2021 Update in response to its release for public comment on October 20. The Working Group acknowledges USAID’s progress and also highlights several areas that need further action, clarification, and coordination. They state that “the U.S. Government, more broadly, should make a concerted effort to illustrate how this strategy will interact with existing or developing strategies and policies. The Working Group advocates for a whole of government elevation of children and youth that is integrated, cross-sectoral, supports children and youth throughout all life stages.” They provide a many specific recommendations, in particular in areas relating to: mental health and mental disorders; early childhood development; child, early, and forced marriage as forms of gender-based violence; engaging adolescents versus youth in their twenties; exercise of civil rights and freedoms; LGBTQIA+ considerations in other sectoral responses; and implementation of a twin-track approach to youth with disabilities throughout the policy. For more information, reach out to Caitilin St. Amour at cstamour@interaction.org.

Spotlight

Save the Children held a virtual event titled “Child Immunization in Jeopardy: Expert Perspectives from Around the World.” This event highlighted the “severe disruptions in routine immunization for children as a result of the pandemic. At one point in 2020, 80 percent of all routine immunizations were halted.” They point to parents’ reluctance to visit vaccination centers, limited public transport, lockdown measures, physical distancing policies and health care worker hesitancy to the lack of children vaccinations.

[Congresswoman Kim Schrier](#), MD (WA-08), the first pediatrician elected to the U.S. Congress, provided brief remarks. She said She commended the assembled group for taking on this important topic.

The first speaker, [Pavani Ram](#), is the Chief of Child Health and Immunizations at USAID. She underscores the fact that 53 countries are off track from preventing child mortality and the number of children not receiving vaccines is increasing due to population growth. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 23 million children have not received one basic child vaccine. In the past, GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, helped 888 million children get vaccines. When vaccinating for and during the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID and GAVI have a strong emphasis on equity. To increase equity, USAID will be implementing technology to track COVID-19, similar to the technology used to track polio. Additionally, the health infrastructure that is used to combat polio will be used to combat COVID-19,

The next speaker was [Jenny Sia](#), the Director at the Pfizer Foundation. She spoke on the role of the private sector, which is creating effective partnerships to create a whole-of-society commitment to child vaccination. She recommends that expanding access to healthcare, commitment of access to high-quality vaccines and resources, and ensuring flexibility in our foundation funding will increase child vaccination rates around the world. To address gaps in coverage, she calls on unique partnerships to assist. For example, Pfizer partnered with Zipline to use drone delivery to help deliver vaccines to hard to reach places. She also advocated for the continued push for vaccines and to push other private sector companies to use their resources.

Another speaker was [Dr. Chizoba Wonodi](#), the Associate Scientist at International Health, Johns Hopkins University and International Vaccine Access. She recommends building on the existing infrastructure that addresses other diseases to distribute COVID-19 vaccines. By using existing and currently developing databases, such as [UN Momentum Country and Global Leader Project](#), countries can target these gaps.

Virtual Events

- Global Center for Development [virtual event](#) “Recent Reforms to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT)– Responding to the Crisis and Beyond” Nov 21, 2021 at 9:30am EST.
- Adolescent Girls’ Investment Plan (AGIP) [virtual evidence launch](#) “Where are we on the adolescent agenda? Taking a deep dive into Covid-19 evidence and SDG data gaps” Nov 23, 2021 at 9am EST.
- Global Disability Innovation Hub [virtual event](#) “Disability LIVE: The opportunity of a billion - Investing in Assistive Technology.” Nov 23, 2021 at 9am EST.
- The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, International Rescue Committee, Raising Voices, Social Development Direct, and CARE International [virtual event](#) “What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls: Impact at Scale” Nov 29, 2021 at 8am EST.
- Brookings Institute [virtual event](#) “Girls’ education research and policy symposium: Protecting rights and futures in times of crisis” November 30, 2021 at 9am EST.
- Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit [virtual side event](#) “Global Nutrition Coordination Plan Launch” Nov 30, 2021 at 10am EST.
- The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action [launch](#) of the Alliance Strategic Plan “A Clarion Call: The Centrality of Children and their Protection within Humanitarian Action.” Dec 6, 2021 at 9am EST.
- Global Disability Innovation Hub [virtual event](#) “Mapping the sector and exploring the AT investment opportunity with the Assistive Tech Impact Fund innovative funding approach.” Dec 8, 2021 at 9am EST.
- Global Disability Innovation Hub [virtual event](#) “Investment Ready Innovations - a unique sneak peak into assistive technology investment opportunities from the AT Impact Fund’s portfolio” January 12, 2022 at 7am EST.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- International Rescue Committee (IRC) [report](#) “Unaccompanied children in Europe remain in danger, as 74% decisions for family reunification from Greece are negative”
- UNICEF’s Changing Childhood [Project](#)
- USAID Advancing Nutrition Infant and Young Child Feeding [Image Bank](#)
- InterAction Disinformation [Toolkit](#) 2.0
- The Lancet [report](#) “School violence: where are the interventions?”
- Basic Education Coalition (BEC) [article](#) “Virtual, Low-Tech Approaches for Transient Young Children and Families for Resilience Building and Positive Parenting during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

- End Violence Against Children [recap](#) “Emerging Global Movement Calls for Nov 18 to be World Day to End Sexual Violence Against Children”
- New York Times [article](#) “What Young People Say About Mental Health”
- [Introduction](#) to the Special Issue on Early Child Development: From Measurement to Optimal Functioning and Evidence-Based Policy



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