
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 64: \$11 billion towards Global Malnutrition, Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan 2021-2026, & Search For Common Ground Intergenerational Dialogue

Dec 13, 2021

Quick Summary

UNICEF released a new report, [Preventing a lost decade: Urgent action to reverse the devastating impact of COVID-19 on children and young people](#). Executive Director Henrietta Fore said, “In an era of a global pandemic, growing conflicts, and worsening climate change, never has a child-first approach been more critical than today.” In the report, UNICEF warns that COVID-19 is rolling back virtually every measure of progress for children, and calls COVID-19 the greatest challenge to children in its 75-year history, exacerbated by conflict, disaster and climate change. The report pulls together data points from numerous sources over the past two years to show COVID’s impacts on children. The report notes:

- At its peak, more than 1.6 billion students were out of school due to nationwide shutdowns. Schools were closed worldwide for almost 80 per cent of the in-person instruction in the first year of the crisis.

- Mental health conditions affect more than 13 percent of adolescents aged 10–19 worldwide. By October 2020, the pandemic had disrupted or halted critical mental health services in 93 percent of countries worldwide
- Up to 10 million additional child marriages can occur before the end of the decade as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years. An additional 9 million children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of the increase in poverty triggered by the pandemic.
- At the peak of the pandemic, 1.8 billion children lived in the 104 countries where violence prevention and response services were seriously disrupted.
- 50 million children suffer from wasting, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition, and this figure could increase by 9 million by 2022 due to the pandemic’s impact on children’s diets, nutrition services and feeding practices.

The unequal recovery furthers growing divides between wealthy and poor children, with the most marginalized and vulnerable hurt the most. However, UNICEF found that far from feeling powerless in the face of challenge, today’s children and young people are hopeful for their futures, willing to forge ahead with resilience and courage. UNICEF urges us to respond, recover, and reimagine the future for every child. To read the report, click [here](#).

Administer Samantha Power announced that the White House and USAID will invest [\\$11 billion towards tackling global malnutrition](#). The White House issued an accompanying fact sheet that emphasizes how this initiative will ensure “the survival and wellbeing of newborns, children, and women”, which “remains an urgent global challenge.” Specifically citing children and newborn malnutrition, she explained that “We intend to invest up to \$11 billion over the next three years to combat global malnutrition through locally-designed and locally-led programs. Of this, approximately \$3 billion will be directed toward anticipated emergency humanitarian needs. These investments build on our recent launch of the second edition of our U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan. The global and domestic programming that will be implemented include policy action to advance nutrition security in the United States, expanding data availability and use, prevention and treatment of wasting, breastfeeding promotion and support, and improving diets in older children. To read the White House statement, click [here](#).

USAID released its [U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan 2021-2026](#). One of their main priorities in this plan is to prevent and manage wasting in children under 5 years old. They explain that “There has been less evidence and consensus on the treatment protocol for moderate acute malnutrition, and frequently separate

programs, rather than a continuum of care, treat severe and moderate acute malnutrition. Evidence is accumulating for the effectiveness of simplified protocols to treat both types of acute malnutrition as well as for shifting more responsibility for treatment to community health workers and their families rather than requiring families to report to health facilities.” To tackle this issue, USAID will coordinate with other government agencies to address three different action areas. These areas include “promote leadership and partnership”, “Support country and region-led efforts”, and “Generate, share and apply knowledge and evidence”. The Plan forms part of other government initiatives that together aim at “building strong beginnings, ensuring vulnerable children receive nurturing and permanent family care, and protecting children from violence.” To read the coordination plan, click [here](#).

UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Bank released its report titled “[The State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery](#).” It researches what the COVID-19 pandemics long-term effects on education and how that affects children in multiple ways, including economic and mental health. The report finds that “this generation of students now risks losing \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings in present value as a result of school closures, or the equivalent of 14 percent of today’s global GDP, far more than the \$10 trillion estimated in 2020.” Additionally, the report finds that “Schools and educators play an important role in detecting and reporting cases where children experience domestic violence, suggesting that in some cases, instances of violence may be underreported.” To read the report, click [here](#).

Spotlight

Search for Common Ground and the U.S Youth, Peace & Security (YPS) Coalition held an event titled “Intergenerational Youth, Peace & Security Dialogue.” This event aimed to continue conversations about advocacy and policy recommendations. Participants in this conversation included youth and adult advocates from the civil society and government sectors.

[Saji Prelis](#), Director of Child & Youth Programs at Search for Common Ground (SFCG), started the conversation off with an overview of the global YPS agenda. Since 2010, there has been enduring change in youth leadership and participation in peace and security initiatives. A first important step was to reform political norms to acknowledge the important impact of youth. This work was bolstered by the adoption in 2015 of [United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250](#) (UNSCR 2255), which tackled the issue and reflected input from 11,000 youth. In 2018, adoption of [UNSCR 2419](#) addressed the role of youth in peace processes. Later in 2020, [UNSCR 2535](#) addressed the need to ensure the protection of youth and their civic space.

After the adoption of these UN resolutions, the next important step was to strengthen institutional commitments for action on these norms, and then to strengthen evidence and secure innovative financing. He also added that old questions were guided by policy panic. By asking new questions to discover the meaning of peace, more governments and advocates need to tackle the question “Why are most youth peaceful?” He argued that there needs to be more focus on youth that are peaceful advocates than those who cause violence. The next big event on youth inclusivity is the high level Doha Conference on Youth Inclusive Peace Processes, which is January 19-21, 2022.

[Carolyn Williams](#) and [Leni Anaya](#) talked about their process of researching and coming up with policy recommendations for youth, peace and security in an U.S. context. They explained that their first step in this process was desk research and stakeholder mapping. This included “congressional landscape overview, U.S. discourse analysis, global YPS National Action Plans, U.S. conflict-prevention policy, and YPS research.” Their next step was to conduct key informant interviews with policymakers, policy experts, YPS practitioners and experts, and academic experts. The third step was to conduct closed consultations to gather input from U.S. and international youth, YPS actors and leaders, WPS leaders, USG actors and influencers, and peace & security practitioners and policymakers. This work laid the foundation for the intergenerational dialogue.

They also presented an overview of their policy brief. First, they addressed “Why youth and why now?” They argued that “Youth are peaceful agents of positive change and sustainable peace and development.” and that “The YPS agenda offers an opportunity to advance and promote U.S. interests.” Second, they explained the benefits of mainstreaming YPS across U.S. policies, programs and strategies as a critical component to strengthening peace and security in general. They shared three priority recommendations, which are creating a support system for youth, facilitating meaningful youth participation and leadership, and institutionalizing YPS policy.

At the end of the discussion, they identified that there needs to be more conversations between younger and older youth activists. Additionally, both younger and older activists feel stereotyped in different ways. This inspired ideas such as creating an adults champions coalition and creating a space for younger and older generations to talk, share insights, and enable greater youth engagement, participation, and leadership.

Virtual Events

- Save the Children [virtual event](#) **“Strengthening child participation in UN processes”** Dec 13, 2021 at 10am EST.
- Finn Church Aid and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers virtual event **“Towards Inclusive Local Governance and Reconciliation: Reflections on Best Practices and Lessons Learned on Advancing Women and Young Women’s Political Participation in Somalia”** Dec 13, 2021 at 8am EST. Please email Sarah Tyler (sarah.tyler@kua.fi) to confirm your participation.
- Global Shelter Cluster [virtual event](#) **“Latin America and the Caribbean Shelter Forum”** December 13-14, 2021 at 9am.
- UN Women & Prevention Collaborative [virtual event](#) **“From Awareness Raising to Fostering Behaviour Change to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls”** Dec 14, 2021 at 9am EST.
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP) [virtual event](#) **“Youth, Peace and Security in Southeast Asia: Lessons for Developing National Action Plans on the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda”** Dec 15, 2021 at 9pm EST.
- Devex & Care [virtual event](#) **“Strengthening Food Security: A Conversation with U.S. Rep, Chris Stewart”** Dec 15, 2021 at 11am EST.
- International Labour Organization [virtual event](#) **“A World of Work Free from Violence and Harassment”** Dec 15, 2021 at 10am EST.
- Foreign Policy [virtual event](#) **“How to End Vaccine Apartheid”** Dec 16, 2021 at 11am EST.
- USAID [virtual discussion](#) **“Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity Annual Civil Society Convening 2021”** Dec 17, 2021 at 9am EST.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- The New Humanitarian [article](#) **“‘Like a precipice’: Children growing up with war on Europe’s front line”**
- STAT [op-ed](#) **“Covid-19 is fueling a pandemic of violence against women and girls”**
- New Security Beat [article](#) **“Generation 2030: The Strategic Imperative of Youth Civic and Political Engagement”**
- Amnesty International [report](#) **“Afghanistan: Survivors of gender-based violence abandoned following Taliban takeover”**
- International Center for Research on Women [report](#) **“Dare to Dream: Educational Aspirations of Adolescent Girls”**
- Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group [article](#) **“Seeing Forced Displacement and Protection Through a Child’s Eyes”**
- The European Commission [report](#) **“The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee”**

- The Conversation [article](#) “How inequality drives HIV in adolescent girls and young women”
- The New Humanitarian [article](#) “What happened to the emergency UN money promised for gender-based violence?”



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