
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 86: Devex Op-Ed, Grantee Language during Fiscal Year 2023 USAID Budget Request Committee Hearing, & Reactions to Texas School Shooting.

May 30, 2022

Quick Summary

Language submitted by InterAction and ChildFund to Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) was used during the House Appropriations Committee, State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee hearing on the Fiscal Year 2023 USAID Budget Request. Meng asked:

“However, it is not clear how USAID accounts for its support of youth and youth participation in its fiscal year '23 budget request. The transparent accounting of international programmatic activities for youth has always been a challenge. Funding data is not often broken down in a way to account for children and youth, and demographics are not always disaggregated by age, gender, disability, minority location, and other key factors to ensure that we are reaching

youth as intended. Administrator Power, how will you ensure more clear and public reporting of U.S.-funded investments in these programming -- programs intended to benefit our children and youth?"

Administer Samantha Power stated that:

"Well, you know, we need to ensure that youth are at the table and are part of who counts as local because there is a temptation to just go back to the well of the more traditional partners that we have worked with over time. With regard specifically to your question about indicators, which, again, you're very, very immersed in this, I'm sure you're aware already, but we do have indicators for the number of youths trained in soft skills, life skills in U.S. programs. We have indicators around the number of laws, policies, and procedures that USAID engagement helped bring about the adoption of, the implementation of. We have indications which need -- we need to see those metrics go up, about youth participation in USG-funded programs, conferences, et cetera. So, those are just a few of the examples of the indicators. Happy to work with you and your team if you have other ideas about how we can get more sophisticated again in being better able to measure that, which we intend to change."

To read the full transcript of this hearing, click [here](#).

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, made supportive comments at [Global Citizen Now](#), while speaking with celebrity Connie Britton.

The Global Citizen Now summit had more than 200 speakers from the public and private spheres, including heads of state, scientists, activists, celebrity advocates, and corporate executives, who discussed the overlapping crises that affect communities around the world — from the climate crisis to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to gender inequity. Rep. Nancy Pelosi stated that **"What would you do first if you ruled the world?" I like that question. What I would do first, second, and third is the education of women and girls, the universal education of women and girls throughout the world.**" To watch the summit, click [here](#).

The G7 Development Ministers met last week to discuss achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of multiple crises. In the first sentence, they cited the global education crisis, stating that "An increasing number of people are threatened by the impacts of conflict, climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, economic decline and poverty, discrimination, food insecurity and malnutrition, lack of access to quality health services, energy insecurity, gender inequalities and gender-based violence, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the global

education crisis.” The G7 Development Ministers also reiterated points from the [G7 Education AWG Call to Action](#), specifically a section devoted to education within the Gender Equality section that also reiterates previous G7 commitments to girls’ education:

We are deeply concerned about the disruptive impact of COVID-19 on education worldwide, particularly for the most marginalized learners. Advancing gender equality in and through education, with a specific focus on girls’ education, is crucial for peaceful and just societies. We therefore stand steadfast in our commitment to girls’ education made in previous years. We will contribute to more resilient, inclusive, gender transformative education systems by ending structural barriers and harmful gender norms, stereotypes, roles and practices, which remain a pervasive threat to global achievements in gender equality, health, and empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity and their rights to quality education. This will help reduce sexual and gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage or teenage pregnancy. The Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative, the Gender at the Centre Initiative, and civil society and bilateral partners are key actors in this endeavour.

To learn more about the G7 Development Ministers’ Meeting, please click [here](#).

Philip Goldman, President of Maestral International, and Shannon Senefeld, the Senior Vice President of Overseas Operations at Catholic Relief Services published an op-ed in Devex titled “We can learn from AIDS crisis for kids left behind by COVID.” Following the annual World Health Assembly, they state that “Inequitable access to vaccines and therapeutics, poor public health messaging, and inadequate health care systems are just a few of the issues they’ll need to grapple with as they chart our way out of the pandemic and into a brighter future. And there couldn’t be a better time than now to hold these discussions. Because a brighter future, it seems, has become all too uncertain for the world’s most vulnerable children.” **According to the [latest data](#), more than 10.4 million children have lost a primary or secondary caregiver to COVID-19.** Goldman and Senefeld argue that we can learn from the HIV/AIDS crisis. Drawing from that crisis, they explain that “we learned from the HIV/AIDS crisis that providing holistic support to children’s extended families in the wake of parental death can help these families stay intact. Amid the AIDS response, U.S. policymakers recognized caregiver loss’ impact on children. As such, the U.S. government, through the [President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#), set aside at least

10% of funding to support orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. Since then, research has shown that PEPFAR has strengthened local [health systems](#) and social services systems while ensuring that families can access critical support.” To read the entire op-ed, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative is deeply heartbroken by the horrific school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. As a part of the global community, we are angered by these continuous tragedies and we know that change and reform are only possible through consistent and coordinated action. Many of our grantees, including GCE-US, are collecting resources, actions, ideas, and responses. For information on school safety, please email info@gce-us.org. Other resources can be emailed to edavis@tidescenter.org and below are some resources and upcoming events.

- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#), National Association of School Psychologists
- [Talking to Students About the Texas Elementary School Shooting](#), National Education Association, and [advocacy action in support of the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act](#)
- [March for Our Lives](#) Emergency Organizing Call, Wednesday, May 25th from 7-8 PM ET.
- Sandy Hook Promise has an ongoing [Action Fund](#) used to advocate for legislation that advances school safety and mental health and prevents gun violence.

Events

- [March for Our Lives](#) Emergency Organizing Call. May 25th from 7-8 pm ET.
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP) [virtual event](#) **“The Ukraine Conflict and the Crisis of Sexual Violence: A Conversation with The Honorable Pramila Patten, U.N. Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.”** June 3, 2022, at 3:30 pm ET.
- The Atlantic Council [summit](#) **“360/Open Summit: Contested Realities | Connected Futures.”** June 6-7, 2022.
- InterAction’s annual [Forum](#). June 15 (Long View Art Gallery) -16 (The Ronald Reagan Building), 2022, starting at 1:30 pm ET.
- InterAction’s annual Forum [event](#) **“Breakout: Two Sides of the Same Coin – Breaking Down Silos for Children and Youth.”** June 16, 2022, at 11 am ET in The Ronald Reagan Building.

- Safe to Learn [virtual event](#) **“Driving action towards ending violence in schools: Pre-summit discussion.”** June 28, 2022, at 6:30 pm ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- InterAction [article](#) **“Global Rise in Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Highlights Urgent Actions Needed to Save Lives and Alleviate Future Suffering.”**
- UNICEF [blog post](#) **“Childcare: An overlooked response to emergencies.”**
- USAID EducationLINKS [report](#) **“Evidence Summary: What Works in Pre-Primary Education Pedagogical Practices.”**
- The World Bank [publication](#) **“Quality Early Learning: Nurturing Children's Potential.”**
- UNICEF [article](#) **“World a ‘virtual tinderbox’ for catastrophic levels of severe malnutrition in children.”**
- UNICEF [article](#) **“Child alert: Severe wasting.”**



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