
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 95: Keeping Girls in School Act MarkUp, USAID Policy Framework draft, & various House and Senate Foreign Affairs hearings.

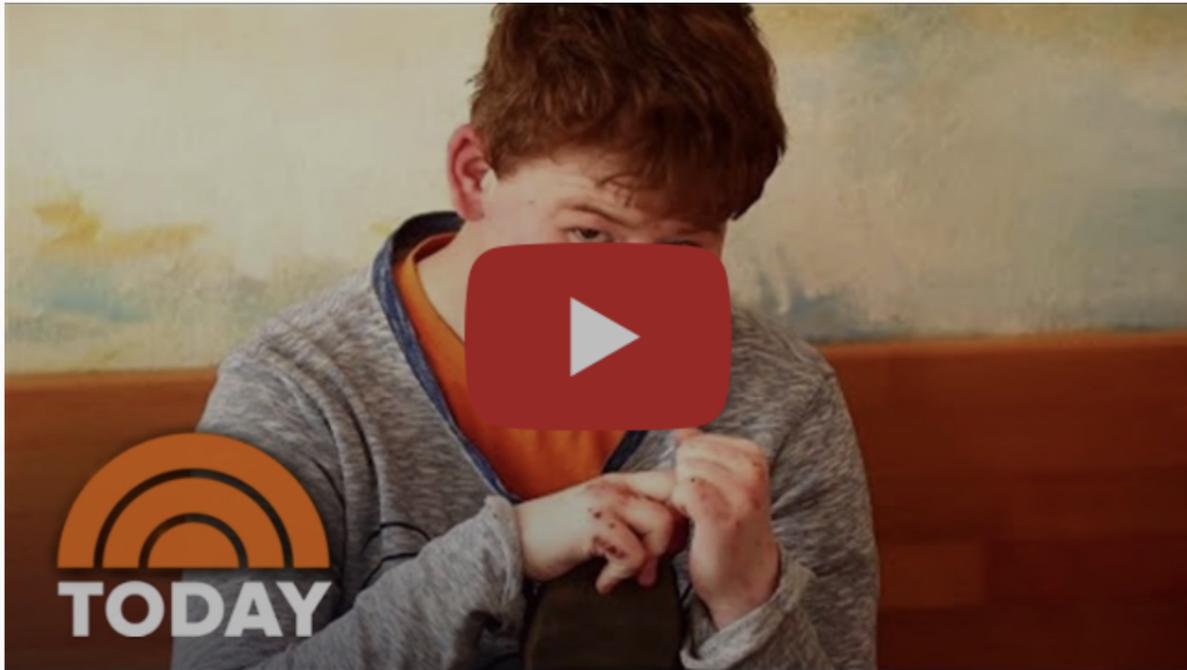
August 1, 2022

Call to Action

USAID is accepting feedback on its [Policy Framework draft](#). The policy framework “is a key step toward advancing USAID’s major policy priorities—including to stem the tide of corruption and authoritarianism while spurring democratic renewal, tackle the climate crisis while reorienting toward a net-zero future, control COVID-19 and emerging disease threats, respond to compounding humanitarian crises, and mitigate conflict, inequality, and other barriers to progress while revitalizing sustainable development systems. ” **If your organization would like to submit a response, please fill out the form [here](#) by August 3rd, 2022. USAID is also holding a Policy**

Framework Public Webinar on August 2nd, at 12 pm ET, which you can sign-up for [here](#).

Quick Summary



▶ Russia's War Creates Orphanage Crisis In Ukraine

Warning: videos contain distressing images ([BBC Video](#)) ([NBC Video](#))

Disability Rights International (DRI), a Children's Policy and Funding Initiative grantee, was featured on both NBC and BBC. More than 11 million people have fled Ukraine as a result of Russia's invasion. But many of the vulnerable — mentally and physically disabled children — have been left behind. [Eric Rosenthal](#), JD, LL.D (hon.), the Founder and Executive Director of Disability Rights International (DRI), describes in the video when talking about the young people in their cribs that “what you have here is the failure to thrive because this is this person's life. Inside this crib, this is all of the stimulation he has. This person is dying a slow death in this bed.” To watch the full BBC video, click [here](#). To watch the full NBC Today Show feature, click [here](#).

The House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing to mark up various measures, including the H.R. 4134 Keeping Girls in School Act (ANS to H.R. 4134), offered by [Rep. Houlahan](#) (D-PA). The proposed various amendments to the proposed Act included a Global Strategy Requirement and transparency and reporting to Congress stating that “**Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the USAID, in coordination with the USAID**

Coordinator for International Basic Education Assistance, the USAID Youth Coordinator, and the most senior USAID and Department of State officials on advancing women’s rights and gender equality, shall—(1) review and update a United States global strategy to empower adolescent girls... submit the updated strategy to the appropriate congressional committees. (b) Year Update of Strategy...and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the other officials described in such subsection, shall consult with and provide a meaningful opportunity for review.” Additionally, amendments included that **“Not later than 1 year after the submission of the first strategy required by section 5, and biennially thereafter for 4 years, the Administrator of the USAID, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report...”** To watch the hearing and read the Keeping Girls in School mark-up, click [here](#).

The Explanatory Statement for the Senate State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs bill and report include language about tracking funding and reporting outcomes, which is one of the main asks from the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative. On page 38, the report states that **“Children and Youth.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the act, the USAID Administrator shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations on steps being taken under the new Youth in Development Policy to improve the tracking and disaggregation of funding benefiting children and youth, including for programs related to the protection, education, support, and safety of children and youth.”** This is critical to improving children and youth's lives globally. To read the full Explanatory Statement, click [here](#).

The House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on “Challenges Facing Food Security.” Witnesses of this hearing included [Sarah Charles](#), Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance at USAID, and [Maura Barry](#), Acting Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security at USAID. This hearing highlighted the historic global hunger crisis, what USAID is doing to combat it, and what pieces of legislation are critical to addressing global hunger. Sarah emphasized that **“hunger disproportionately impacts women and children as families take desperate measures when there is not enough to eat; for example, humanitarians documented increases in recruitment of children into armed groups in South Sudan and the sale of girls as sex slaves and domestic labor in Somalia during periods of acute food insecurity in these countries.”** Maura echoed her concerns by stating that **“Before the pandemic, the world was already facing rising food insecurity and hunger stemming from increased conflict and extreme weather exacerbated by climate change. Covid-19 accelerated this trend.”** Currently, USAID has

taken steps of “drawing down the full balance of \$282 million from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust for the first time in nearly a decade.” However, this is not enough. Sarah underscored the importance of **“the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, the reauthorization of the Global Food Security Act, and other legislative opportunities [would] provide a pivotal moment for USAID to share lessons and to work together to maximize the impact of U.S. foreign assistance programs to meet today’s challenges and prepare for tomorrow’s.”** Click [here](#) to watch the hearing. Click [here](#) to read both Sarah Charles and Maura Barry’s witness testimonies.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy held a hearing on “FY 2023 Budget Request for Africa.” Witnesses included [Mary Catherine Phee](#), the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, and [Dr. Diana Putman](#), Acting Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Africa at USAID. Mary explained that the budget request will “continue to advance the priorities of the Administration and the Secretary of State to build partnerships across Africa in support of U.S. interests and shared goals of African leaders and their citizens.” She also mentioned the second U.S. Africa Leaders’ Summit in December. Dr. Putman articulated that, in the budget request, that to **“address the projected doubling of population in Africa by 2050 to 2.2 billion people and to set them up for success, USAID will create opportunities for Africa’s children and youth with programs that increase equitable access to foundational learning and encourage talented youth, such as through the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). The FY 2023 request level of \$20 million for YALI will expand opportunities to support transformational local leaders who contribute economically to their communities and advocate for peace, security, and democratic governance.”** Additionally, the budget request aims to promote inclusive country-led development. USAID will provide “robust funding that strengthens local health systems and health security. The President’s FY 2023 request for Africa allocates approximately \$3.83 billion for PEPFAR, and \$1.84 billion for other health programs including malaria, tuberculosis, and maternal and child health.” To watch the hearing and to read the witness statements, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The Partnerships for Male Youth held a virtual event titled “Young Males, Healing Partnerships and Promoting Resilience.” This event discussed the role of healing as a part of human connection, what can be done to ensure that young males thrive in the face of adversity, and what parents and other caregivers can do to support young males at risk. They also discussed the importance of creating communities of caring for young males, and the clinician’s role in that effort. Speakers included [Elizabeth Miller, MD](#).

[PhD, FSAHM](#), Division Director, Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, and Professor of Pediatrics, Public Health and Clinical and Translational Science; [Kenneth R. Ginsburg, MD, MEd](#), Co-Director, Center for Parent and Teen Communication; and [Latrice Rollins Ph.D.](#), MSW at the Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center National African American Child & Family Research Center.

Elizabeth and Kenneth both emphasized the importance of working with young people and having them be in charge of their own future. **Kenneth explained that thriving is not just surviving, you need to prepare young people for the undermining forces in their lives.** Elizabeth echoed Kenneth by stating that resilience means getting past something and the goal is to absorb the lessons you learn from those adversities. Kenneth also gave four key steps for young men to promote resilience; **reject toxic masculinity, reject all of the isms, reject brokenness, and reject labels “problems”.**

Latrice Rollins spoke about engaging Fathers as partners in promoting the healing and resilience of young men. She first defined Father as “The male or males identified as most involved in caregiving and committed to the well-being of the child, regardless of living situation, marital status, or biological relation.” A father may be a biological, foster, or adoptive father; a stepfather; or a grandfather. Then she outlined the benefits of partnering with Fathers. She uses the healing-centered approach, which includes; **Father-son relationships can be seen as healing mechanisms; Fathers prepare their sons for surviving in a racist society by teaching them how to cope with racism; and Teachers, providers & community leaders can help fathers support their sons as they heal.** However, there are multiple barriers to father engagement, including Legislation that doesn't support father engagement, such as: Access to services, Agency Culture/Staff Training, Agency Data Systems, Housing, Employment, Transportation, Bias, Values, and Family relationships.

To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

Events

- UNICEF USA [virtual event series](#) “UNICEF USA August Recess 2022.” August 1-31, 2022.
- USAID [webinar](#) “USAID Policy Framework Public Webinar.” August 2, 2022, at 12 pm ET.
- Devex [virtual event](#) “Decolonizing Global Health Through Autonomous Manufacturing in Africa.” August 3, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- USAID YouthPower2 Learning Network [webinar](#) “The Impact of Young Leaders on Systems Change: Lessons from Jordan.” August 10, 2022, at 9 am ET.

- Family for Every Child [virtual event](#) **“The importance of supporting mental health in children’s care.”** August 11, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- USAID, YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation (YP2LE), and Youth Excel [virtual event](#) **“Intergenerational Solidarity: Inclusion, Protection, and Mental Well-Being.”** August 11, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) [webinar](#) **“Post COVID-19 Condition in Children.”** August 17, 2022, at 7:30 am ET.
- Transforming Children’s Care Global Collaborative Platform [webinar](#) **“Spotlight Series on Foster Care Practice Webinar 4: On the Same Team - Parents and Foster Carers Working Together.”** August 18, 2022, at 8 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- The New Humanitarian [news feature](#) **“Communities defy bombs to keep schools running in Myanmar.”**
- The Center for Global Development [working paper](#) **“Understanding Education Policy Preferences: Survey Experiments with Policymakers in 35 Developing Countries.”**
- Statelessness and Citizenship Review [report](#) **“Statelessness and Young Children.”**
- **OECD Child Well-being [Dashboard](#).**
- OECD [policy insight](#) **“Starting unequal: How’s life for disadvantaged children?.”**
- Foreign Policy [Analysis](#) **“Afghan Women Are Worse Off Than Ever.”**



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