

Civil Society Recommendations for SFOPS Report Language on Funding for Children and Youth Globally

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Chris Coons, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Barbara Lee, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Dear Chairman Coons, Ranking Member Graham, Chairman Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Lee,

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to increase transparency in the investments on behalf of the American people for children and youth globally in the FY2024 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS) Appropriations bill and Committee report.

For the first time ever, Congress included reporting requirements against the implementation of the USAID Youth in Development Policy in the FY23 omnibus spending bill. The undersigned organizations wish to express our gratitude for the inclusion of this strong oversight and requests the continued use of Congressional power to robustly invest in children and youth in countries where the U.S. government provides foreign assistance programs. In the coming year, we would like to build upon this foundation and suggest the following reporting language for children and youth be included:

Proposed Report Language

Tracking of Funding for Children and Youth—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the USAID Administrator, is directed to submit to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, a report on the actions taken over the previous 12 months to implement programs benefiting children and youth. This report should describe the amounts and uses of funds for programs to promote the development (including Positive Youth Development -PYD), protection, and safety of children and youth including in areas of education, health, economic opportunity, and democracy and governance, and should be disaggregated by country, sex, age, disability, marital status, and crisis affected status to assess the impact of international assistance on all children and youth.

The final report on the allocation of funds for all children- and/or youth-focused programs and activities for the previous fiscal year shall be made publicly available on agency websites. In this report, the agencies should outline steps they will take to improve the tracking of funding that primarily and

secondarily benefits children and youth, including the addition of attributions that are similar to the existing standard attributions for gender found in ADS 205 that designate projects and activities that are primary or secondary in their goals to achieve gender equality. The Committee also directs the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator to provide training no less than annually for partners and field personnel on the consistent utilization of existing F indicators for children and youth, and the characteristics of programs that should be tracked under such indicators.

U.S. leadership for young people globally is an investment not only in the future but in today. This generation of young people is the largest in history, and investments in their education, economic opportunity, safety, health, protection, and well-being will have enormous positive implications for U.S. interests and the world. This work necessarily requires maintaining robust funding for the International Affairs Budget (function 150) and for existing accounts that are focused on young people. It is critical that foreign assistance funding be invested wisely and that the public is able to understand where funding is going and where, if any, gaps may lie. By including reporting language in the FY24 SFOPS Explanatory Statement, the U.S. government will have oversight and transparency to help ensure that we make the most impactful and efficient use of our foreign assistance dollars and multiply positive outcomes for children and youth.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our recommendations further and would be happy to meet at your convenience.

Signed,

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| 1. ACDI/VOCA | 18. IYF |
| 2. Amal Alliance | 19. Just Like My Child Foundation |
| 3. American Academy of Pediatrics | 20. Kakenya's Dream |
| 4. Basic Education Coalition | 21. Kids in Need of Defense |
| 5. CARE USA | 22. Maestral International |
| 6. ChildFund International | 23. Plan International USA |
| 7. ChildVoice International | 24. RISE Institute |
| 8. Education for All Coalition | 25. Save the Children US |
| 9. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation | 26. Savie Asbl NGO LGBT PGEL DRC |
| 10. First Focus on Children | 27. Search for Common Ground |
| 11. Futures Without Violence | 28. SPOON |
| 12. Girl Rising | 29. The Borgen Project |
| 13. Global Campaign for Education-US | 30. Together for Girls |
| 14. GreeneWorks | 31. UNICEF USA |
| 15. Heartland Alliance International | 32. US International Council on Disabilities |
| 16. InterAction | 33. Women Deliver |
| 17. International Rescue Committee | 34. Women's Refugee Commission |
| | 35. World Vision |