



UNITED STATES MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN GENEVA  
December 3, 2015

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

Ms. Imma Guerras-Delgado  
Advisor on Child Rights  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Geneva, Switzerland

**09 DEC 2015**

Recipients :..... *RCPP*.....  
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Dear Ms. Guerras-Delgado:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding investment in the rights of the child. The United States Government wishes to share a few examples of how we use resources to protect children in our country and abroad.

The United States government's Action Plan for Children in Adversity (APCA), launched by the White House in December 2012, represents the country's first government-wide strategic guidance regarding international assistance for children in adversity. APCA's three core objectives are:

1. Supporting comprehensive programs that promote healthy child development through integrated health, nutrition, and family support activities;
2. Supporting and enabling families to care for their children, preventing unnecessary family-child separation, and promoting protective and permanent family care;
3. Preventing and protecting children from violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

To promote the institutionalization and sustainability of U.S. Government assistance to children in adversity, three supporting APCA objectives aim to: strengthen child welfare and protection systems; promote evidence-based policies and programs; and integrate APCA's strategic global agenda for children in adversity into U.S. diplomatic, development, and humanitarian efforts overseas.

Further, the United States remains the top contributor to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in terms of both overall and core resources. Total FY2014 funding to UNICEF amounted to over \$672 million. Over the past several years, the Department of State's Bureau of International Organization Affairs has provided \$132 million in un-earmarked core resources, enabling UNICEF the flexibility to strengthen its programs and respond to an increasing number and scale of humanitarian crises.

The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) supports the protection of refugee and conflict-affected children globally through support

for and coordination with its international organization and non-governmental organization partners. In 2014, PRM provided continuing support to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) Global Framework for the Protection of Children, which aims to strengthen child protection mechanisms in refugee and conflict settings around the globe. PRM's financial and diplomatic support also advances the objectives of UNHCR's global campaign to end statelessness. This is important given that 10 million people around the world, many of them children, do not have a nationality, thereby limiting their access to school, health care, livelihoods, and legal protection.

PRM also supported a UNHCR initiative to protect unaccompanied minors by strengthening asylum systems and enhancing the protection of displaced persons; and dedicated UNHCR child protection positions in emergencies and a regionally-focused function in Headquarters. Other PRM-supported activities included efforts to prevent and respond to harmful traditional practices against children. PRM's coordination with international organizations and NGOs has facilitated improved responses to the protection needs of children, both directly through child-focused programming and indirectly through integrated programs.

The Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) supports the goals of the Action Plan on Children in Adversity through targeted foreign assistance programs to protect children and youth, particularly by assisting governments to reduce gang membership and activity and reform criminal justice systems to account for the specific needs of children, and by expanding the availability of evidence-based drug demand reduction programs targeting substance abuse treatment and prevention. INL also supports programs that provide access to justice and protection from violence for survivors of gender-based violence that in some cases also benefits girls. Beyond these specific programs, INL support for holistic criminal justice reform in partnering countries helps extend the authority of governments to provide essential state services necessary for ensuring the rule of law – critical for protecting vulnerable populations, including children.

The United States Agency for International Development's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (USAID/DCOF) programs advocate for care reform that strengthens family-based care for children. USAID/ DCOF is currently supporting national child care reform efforts in 10 countries with the aim of helping to build the capacity of government and civil society to help children outside of family care and at risk of family separation realize their right to protective and permanent family care.

Domestically, the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) launched a program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 to help ensure a fair and effective juvenile justice system by improving the training and performance of prosecutors of juveniles. Georgetown University has been funded under the program to develop and operate a national center that provides technical support and training, publications and resources, and policy development and leadership opportunities to the juvenile prosecution bar. In addition, Georgetown University is developing a national

curriculum and professional standards for prosecutors who handle cases of juvenile delinquency.

Another domestic OJJDP program, launched in FY 2015, will provide funding to: (1) develop effective, statewide, well-resourced model juvenile indigent defense legal delivery systems; (2) develop and implement standards of practice and policy for the effective management of such delivery systems; and (3) develop state or regional resource centers to help state, tribal, and local juvenile defense systems enhance the quality of legal representation, leverage resources, and collect and analyze data to measure the effectiveness of specific initiatives. The goal of this initiative is to ensure that children receive the guarantees of due process and equal protection and that their constitutional rights are honored. Under this initiative OJJDP has provided one-year planning grants to four U.S. states to engage in the development and implementation of a more effective state-wide juvenile indigent defense legal delivery system.

The United States Government is committed to protecting children, including through investing in children in the United States and abroad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Harper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith M. Harper  
Ambassador  
U.S. Representative to the Human Rights Council