Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (APCCCA)

Implementation Progress in 2020

Civil Society Convening
December 16, 2020
1. Welcome
2. APCCA Secretariat Presentation
   a. Overview of the APCCA Strategy and Implementation Plan
   b. Year in Review: Accomplishments and Progress This Year
   c. APCCA and the USAID Transformation
3. COVID-19: Over-the-Horizon
4. Coalition Presentations
   a. Thrive Coalition
   b. Transforming Children’s Care Global Collaborative Platform
   c. Ending Violence Against Children Task Force
5. Q&A and Closing
Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity

- Responds to Public Law 109-95.

- Whole-of-government commitment and approach to investing in the development, care, and safety of the world's most-vulnerable children and their families.

Operationalizing APCCA Objectives
Build Strong Beginnings

• Increased focus on nurturing care and pre-primary education within key USAID technical bureaus including Global Health and Education, USAID Missions and humanitarian response

• Department of State issued its first global notice of funding opportunity to advance innovation in early childhood development for children on the move

• New ECD activities in 5 countries (Cambodia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda), with implementation research in Mozambique and Rwanda designed to measure impact on child outcomes

• Technical input into the Global Thrive Act

• Review of Peace Corps PEPFAR OVC programming to maximize volunteer efforts and outcomes
Operationalizing APCCA Objectives
Put Family First

• Supporting care reform in Kenya and Moldova through the Changing the Way We Care initiative and through country projects in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Ghana.

• In response to COVID-19, supported innovations and provided guidance in case management for children and families.

• Developed a data collection protocol and tools for conducting a census of residential care facilities and survey on the well-being of children who live in such settings -- piloted in Ghana.

• Developed Demographic and Health Survey optional module on children in adversity.

• Engaged with adoption community to share information about the impact of COVID-19 and travel restrictions on intercountry adoptions, fostering better communications and cooperations.
Operationalizing APCCA Objectives
Protect Children from Violence

• Facilitated coordinated responses to Violence against Children Surveys
  – Significant decreases in violence in Kenya, including decrease of sexual violence by 50% for young women and girls and 66% for young men and boys.
  – Coordinating the development of Government of Colombia’s National Action Plan.

• Increased child protection through the promotion of Child Safeguarding Principles.

• Provided input to the USAID Digital Strategy on protecting children from digital harm.

• Funded 6 new global awards and continued funding of other awards to identify best practices and guidance to improve child protection responses in humanitarian settings.

• Incorporated child protection into toolkit for reopening schools after COVID-19 shutdown.

Delivering on the APCCA Implementation Plan

In 2020, we released the APCCA Implementation Plan, which outlined:

- Specific responsibilities for the Special Advisor, the Secretariat, and the APCCA Interagency Working Group
- Three new cross-cutting areas that will be the initial focus of collaborative interagency efforts under the implementation of the APCCA Strategy
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Communications and engagement
The APCCA Secretariat

A more proactive Secretariat:

• Promoted technical best practices in COVID-19 response

• Kicked-off APCCA Technical Brown Bag Presentation Series, including exchanges on:
  – Integrated nutrition / ECD programming and research;
  – Protection of children in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
  – Strengthening the social service workforce.

• Strengthened communications efforts
  – Launch of APCCA Quarterly Newsletter
  – Repository of Success Stories
Initial Collaboration Areas for USG: Child Safeguarding and Child Protection

• Convened Interagency Child Safeguarding Sub-Working Group

• Recruited *Keeping Children Safe* as child safeguarding consultant to provide recommendations on improving child safeguarding policies across the USG and developing training modules to build staff capacity on child safeguarding.

• Developing a child protection toolkit for USAID staff in the education sector in collaboration with the Africa Bureau Education team.
Initial Collaboration Areas for USG: Strengthening the Social Service Workforce

- Supporting country projects that include strengthening the Social-Service Workforce.
- Funded the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance to develop tools, guidance, best practices, training, and communications materials to strengthen this workforce.
- The APCCA Implementation Plan includes strengthening the Social-Service Workforce as one of this three initial priorities.
- An interagency Social Services Workforce Strengthening Sub-Working Group is being organized and will start early in the new year.
Initial Collaboration Areas for the IWG: Positive Parenting and Family Strengthening

- New funding to evidence-based parenting interventions in 3 countries (Senegal, Rwanda, and Uganda)
- Promoting nurturing care in partnership with USAID Mission programs (Mozambique, Cambodia)
- In collaboration with USAID’s mental health team, developed a database on evidence-based and effective psychosocial support interventions, including parenting support
- Partnership w/ LEGO Foundation
Monitoring and Evaluation

- Finalized an M&E framework that allows us to roll up basic APCCA indicators across all Departments and Agencies for the first time.
  - Over 30 million children received services in FY19
- APCCA Indicators
  - ES.4-1: Number of vulnerable persons benefiting from USG-supported social services
  - ES.4-2: Number of service providers trained who serve vulnerable persons
  - ES.4-3: Number of USG-assisted organizations and/or service delivery systems that serve vulnerable persons strengthened
- IWG Process Indicators
  - Number of deliverables jointly developed by the APCCA Interagency Working Group
  - Number of instances of new programs or initiatives explicitly addressing the objectives of the APCCA strategy
Accepting Applications for the USAID Care Leaders Council

• Recruiting young leaders (21-35) from multiple countries who have expertise and experience with residential care or another type of alternative care.

• Members will collaborate with each other and USAID to identify ways to strengthen care reform as well as to develop their own capacities as young professionals.

• Applications are due December 21 and more information can be found on YouthLead.org
APCCA and USAID’s Transformation

• In fall 2019, USAID began implementing a series of reforms to its workforce, structure, programs, and processes.

• Our work now sits in the Inclusive Development Hub of the Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation

• This change helps facilitate closer collaboration with Agency Coordinators:
  – Youth
  – Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
  – Disability
  – Indigenous Peoples
  – LGBTI
OVER the HORIZON
Why a Strategic Review

- Positioning USAID to respond proactively to the world altered by COVID-19
- Improve how the Agency meets its mission while continuing to contribute to national security priorities
- Maintain commitment to NSS, State-USAID Joint Strategic Plan, USAID’s Journey to Self-Reliance, and other policy and program priorities
- Focusing USAID’s medium- and long-term response to the pandemic in places with the greatest needs and opportunities for impact
ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Internal Engagement:

- ~75 staff reviewed more than 200 sources for scenario planning
- 50+ field-based staff from ~20 Missions, spanning every region, provided input through surveys, consultations, and a series of meetings with the OTH Mission Director Resource Group
- 50+ experts conducted analysis on and developed recommendations for critical priorities, investments, reforms, and innovations

External Outreach:

- ~75 external organizations were represented at roundtables, across implementing partners, think tanks, and academia
- ~150 participants provided input
OVER THE HORIZON
STRATEGIC REVIEW

MAIN ELEMENTS

1. Strategic Context
2. Strategic Objectives
3. Focus Countries
4. Recommendations
5. Implementation
COVID-19 HAS CHANGED THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

**A new U.S. national security imperative.** COVID-19 has far-reaching geopolitical implications. China, Russia, and Iran are exploiting the crisis to advance their agendas; criminals and violent extremists are using the crisis to undermine governments and the rule of law.

**A health crisis of enormous scale.** COVID-19 is overwhelming health care providers, facilities, and supply chains. Beyond the direct impact of the virus, the burden of other disease may grow. For example, nearly 120 million children risk missing measles vaccines this year.

**Rising pressures on governance, democracy, and stability.** COVID-19 is straining governance and social cohesion. Dozens of countries have curtailed free expression, assembly, and media in its wake. More than 70 countries postponed elections. Risks of entrenching “digital divides”

**Severe shocks to mobility and the economy.** Reduced flows of people, capital, and information have depressed economies; the IMF projects a 5.2% GDP contraction this year.

**Devastating impacts on households.** COVID-19 is compounding household shocks: declining access to drinking water, school closures, and rising violence against women and girls. More than 113M people will face crisis-level food insecurity this year, and 100M people may be pushed into extreme poverty.
# OTH Goal & Strategic Objectives

USAID advances U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives by leading USG international development and disaster assistance for a world altered by COVID-19, so that partner countries continue to build self-reliance and progress beyond assistance.

### Strategic Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Build more <strong>stable, resilient systems</strong> in countries that are increasingly fragile due to COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Respond to dramatic increases in <strong>food insecurity, extreme poverty, and loss of educational opportunities</strong> in communities most impacted by COVID-19</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Strengthen <strong>health systems</strong> in partner countries critical to <strong>global health security</strong></td>
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**Strategic Principles:** Continue to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance, protect hard-won development gains, and counter the negative impact of malign actors in areas of significant USAID investment and partnership.

**NOTE:** The OTH Goal and Strategic Objectives will underpin the recommendations that come out of the OTH Strategic Review process and guide USAID’s medium- to long-term response to the pandemic. They are all consistent with and build on the Journey to Self-Reliance, and they do not supplant other goals, objectives, or policy and program priorities the Agency pursues.
OTH FOCUS COUNTRIES

- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Burkina Faso
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Colombia
- Peru
- Venezuela
- Ukraine
- Bangladesh
- Mozambique
- Kenya

Focus Areas:

- SO1: Build Stability + Resilience
- SO2: Address Compounding Household Shocks
- SO3: Strengthen Health Systems + Security
OTH identified 14 Focus Countries in which to **concentrate implementation of USAID’s Strategic Objectives for responding to COVID-19** and its lasting impacts.

Focus Country Missions will be asked to take the lead on advancing the SOs relevant to their context, with Washington support.

The OTH Secretariat and Resource Hub will work with Focus Countries throughout the process and connect them to resources.

Interested Missions that are not focus countries are encouraged to consider implementing OTH recommendations to better prepare in this rapidly changing context.
## RECOMMENDATIONS

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO1.1</th>
<th>Support tailored, country-level analysis to assess the impact of the pandemic in fragile contexts and inform Mission-level strategic planning and implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SO1.2</td>
<td>Build the resilience of local systems to manage the direct and follow-on impacts of COVID-19</td>
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<td>SO1.3</td>
<td>Invest in improving social cohesion, civic and political engagement, inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized populations, and preventing and mitigating conflict</td>
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<td>SO1.4</td>
<td>Invest in effective and citizen-responsive governance to manage the impacts of COVID-19, mitigate corruption, halt democratic backsliding, and build trust in democratic institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO1.5</td>
<td>Promote the participation and leadership of women and young people in pandemic relief and recovery efforts, conflict-prevention, and stabilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO1.6</td>
<td>Optimize the coherence of humanitarian, development, and peace programming in order to address compounding challenges</td>
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### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO2.1</th>
<th>Support partner-country governments in developing response plans, adopting risk-financing to manage future shocks, and devising blueprints for economic inclusion models, to move people off of humanitarian and social assistance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SO2.2</td>
<td>Leverage public- and private-sector resources to mitigate rising poverty and chronic hunger by financing and scaling up innovations and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in agriculture and food security</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO2.3</td>
<td>Invest in education plans, tools, training, strategies, and digital solutions, so learners are safe, well, and learning, despite shocks and stressors related to COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO2.4</td>
<td>Invest in access to water, to accelerate economic recovery and prevent the spread of COVID-19</td>
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### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO3.1</th>
<th>Build health-system resilience by strengthening capacities across public, private, faith-based, and community health structures</th>
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<tr>
<td>SO3.2</td>
<td>Protect U.S. and global health security through a holistic approach inclusive of community-level health actors</td>
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<td>SO3.3</td>
<td>Invest in sustainable health financing and public financial management to improve health resilience and the accessibility and affordability of essential care</td>
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<td>SO3.4</td>
<td>Promote access to a safe, licensed vaccine against COVID-19 with a clear roadmap for its rollout</td>
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<td>SO3.5</td>
<td>Invest in and promote access to high-quality data to improve the ability to collect and share accurate information on COVID-19, so appropriate interventions can be delivered</td>
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<td>SO3.6</td>
<td>Support the ability of public and private health systems to address the prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV)</td>
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## RECOMMENDATIONS

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<tr>
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<th>EQUIP</th>
<th>PREPARE</th>
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<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>E1</td>
<td>P1</td>
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<td>Enhance USAID’s leadership for a coordinated, global response to COVID-19 and the global economic downturn.</td>
<td>Ensure USAID Foreign Service Officers have the opportunity to return to the field and lead, as U.S. overseas Posts reopen.</td>
<td>Establish a strategic foresight unit to prepare for an uncertain and complex development and humanitarian landscape.</td>
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<tr>
<td>L2</td>
<td>E2</td>
<td>P2</td>
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<td>Leverage access to capital to bolster the pandemic response by USAID and partner-country governments.</td>
<td>Develop a more adaptive and diverse workforce, including through rapid assessments of and adjustment to a changing environment.</td>
<td>Increase the flexibility and agility of Mission-level strategic planning, in order to adapt to unpredictable and shifting contexts.</td>
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<td>Orient USAID’s assistance toward digital development for greater inclusion, access, and efficiency as countries rebuild and reopen.</td>
<td>Strengthen USAID’s capacity and culture to pursue, scale, and learn from innovations to respond to emerging crises.</td>
<td>Improve USAID’s crisis preparedness, in anticipation of compounding crises, new crises, and future pandemics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>L4</td>
<td>E4</td>
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<td>Intensify strategic communications to counter disinformation and build trust in fact-based information, including on COVID-19 and vaccines.</td>
<td>Accelerate the uptake of reforms in partnering and “connecting design to procurement,” under USAID’s Acquisition and Assistance Strategy, to expand the use of adaptive, locally driven approaches for more tailored programming responsive to COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>L5</td>
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<td>Bolster USAID’s role as the lead U.S. Government agency for development and humanitarian assistance.</td>
<td>Review USAID’s global distribution of resources systematically and regularly to improve efficiencies, encourage mobility, and promote adaptability in programs, operations, and overseas presence.</td>
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<td>L6</td>
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<td>Streamline USAID’s internal budget processes for program funding.</td>
<td>Elevate the ability of USAID’s Foreign Service National staff to lead, which is essential to the Agency’s success at all times, but even more urgent under authorized and ordered departure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>L7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work with key stakeholders to mutually identify areas for increased budget flexibility in foreign assistance programming.</td>
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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **LEAD**
  - L1: Enhance USAID’s leadership for a coordinated, global response to COVID-19 and the global economic downturn.
  - L2: Leverage access to capital to bolster the pandemic response by USAID and partner-country governments.
  - L3: Orient USAID’s assistance toward digital development for greater inclusion, access, and efficiency as countries rebuild and reopen.
  - L4: Intensify strategic communications to counter disinformation and build trust in fact-based information, including on COVID-19 and vaccines.
  - L5: Bolster USAID’s role as the lead U.S. Government agency for development and humanitarian assistance.
  - L6: Streamline USAID’s internal budget processes for program funding.
  - L7: Work with key stakeholders to mutually identify areas for increased budget flexibility in foreign assistance programming.

- **EQUIP**
  - E1: Ensure USAID Foreign Service Officers have the opportunity to return to the field and lead, as U.S. overseas Posts reopen.
  - E2: Develop a more adaptive and diverse workforce, including through rapid assessments of and adjustment to a changing environment.
  - E3: Strengthen USAID’s capacity and culture to pursue, scale, and learn from innovations to respond to emerging crises.
  - E4: Accelerate the uptake of reforms in partnering and “connecting design to procurement,” under USAID’s Acquisition and Assistance Strategy, to expand the use of adaptive, locally driven approaches for more tailored programming responsive to COVID-19.
  - E5: Review USAID’s global distribution of resources systematically and regularly to improve efficiencies, encourage mobility, and promote adaptability in programs, operations, and overseas presence.
  - E6: Elevate the ability of USAID’s Foreign Service National staff to lead, which is essential to the Agency’s success at all times, but even more urgent under authorized and ordered departure.

- **PREPARE**
  - P1: Establish a strategic foresight unit to prepare for an uncertain and complex development and humanitarian landscape.
  - P2: Increase the flexibility and agility of Mission-level strategic planning, in order to adapt to unpredictable and shifting contexts.
  - P3: Improve USAID’s crisis preparedness, in anticipation of compounding crises, new crises, and future pandemics.
SO 2.1 Support partner-country governments in developing response plans, adopting risk-financing to manage future shocks, and devising blueprints for economic inclusion models to move people off of humanitarian and social assistance

   a. Support an economic-inclusion model that transitions people from cash and food assistance through programs for employment and income-generation.
   b. Develop tailored programs that include the promotion of livelihoods, social protection, economic inclusion, market systems, and social empowerment.
   c. Ensure interventions are strategically layered with other shock-responsive interventions by national governments and donors for disaster-risk reduction.

SO 2.3 Invest in education plans, tools, training, strategies, and digital solutions, so learners are safe, well, and learning, despite shocks and stressors related to COVID-19

   a. Work with governments to ensure plans to reopen education include support for learners’ cognitive development, access to basic needs, and safety and security, including considerations for gender-based violence (GBV).
   b. Ensure marginalized populations can continue learning safely by investing in digital tools, remedial, catch-up, and remote accelerated learning.
2020 year in review

Mandy Slutsker and Leila Nimatallah, December 16, 2020
Thrive Coalition 2020 Successes

- Global Child Thrive Act
- Built bipartisan champions in Congress
- More coordination with USAID teams working on MNCH, disability, education.
The Case for Early Childhood Development
Looking Ahead to 2021

• Work with all of you around the implementation of the Global Child Thrive Act!
• Continue to build champions for global ECD.
• Making stronger connections with communities working with vulnerable children
  • humanitarian settings
  • disability and inclusion
  • maternal and child health
  • Education
  • WASH
  • Violence Against Children
TRANSFORMING CHILDREN’S CARE GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM
GLOBAL MOMENTUM TO TRANSFORM CARE AND PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Global Commitments
UNGA Rights of the Child Resolution 2019

Global UNGA Coalition
Unprecedented global coalition (local to global) behind common agenda (Key Recommendations)

Family-Based Care
Moving towards solutions centred on keeping and reintegrating children into family-based care

'How to' of care reforms
Growing number of countries looking for support and guidance on HOW TO do this
CHALLENGES RECOGNIZED WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE SECTOR

- **Fragmented Sector, Under-Resourced, and Often Uncoordinated**
- Broad agreement on most issues but disagreement on some makes it difficult to find a common voice and to advocate effectively.
- Lack of active engagement and partnerships with key actors critical to addressing the drivers of the problem as well as implementing the solutions.
- Problematic lack of evidence about what works and how, and weak data and measurement systems.
- Limited ability to respond effectively to the growing demand for support globally in implementing those changes.
To agree on common principles and approaches, leverage and build on one another’s work, secure greater and more sustainable impact, contribute to a shared learning agenda and undertake joint advocacy.
• Define the vision and objectives of the platform and its operational framework
• Build inclusive membership

Coalition-Building WG

• Share learning on experience and practice in transitioning individual residential care services
• Collaborate on the development of transitioning services framework

Transitioning Residential Care WG

• Agree common narrative of effective policy solutions and systems change, drawing from programmatic experience
• Establish strategic sector-wide advocacy collaboration spanning from the global to national

Policy and Advocacy WG

Evidence For Impact WG

• Provide overview of the state of evidence, identifying gaps and opportunities
• Setting priorities for research agenda
Ending Violence Against Children Taskforce

APCCA Annual Civil Society Meeting
December 2020
Efforts in 2020

• Bipartisan Resolution to End Violence Against Children Globally – approved by the House.
  ▫ 63 cosponsors in the House (46 Ds/17 Rs)
  ▫ 21 cosponsors in the Senate (12 Ds/8 Rs/1 I)
• COVID-19-related advocacy
  ▫ Raise awareness of the significant rise in VAC and contributing factors, such as economic strain, time restricted to homes, and separation from community networks
  ▫ Need for additional foreign assistance to address the spread of COVID-19 and secondary, yet life-threatening, impacts such as VAC
Looking ahead to 2021

• Legislation, building off the VAC resolution
  ▫ Maintain strong bipartisanship
  ▫ Update to P.L.109-95 to reflect current scope of work and elevate the Special Advisor
  ▫ Encourage broader use of VAC Surveys at State/USAID and help ensure future funding streams
  ▫ Reporting on COVID-19’s impact on children in adversity

• Continued education of Congress and partnership with the Children in Adversity Office
Questions?