



Global Child Thrive Act (H.R.4864/S.2715)

The Issue: Early childhood development is the basis for sustainable development. Yet, today, **around 250 million children** in developing countries are **at risk of not reaching their developmental potential** due to poverty and stunting. For those who survive, the economic costs of underdevelopment are significant. Children who do not reach developmental milestones are expected to **lose about 25 percent of their average yearly income** when they join the labor force. In Africa alone, child stunting results in GDP losses of up to **11 percent per year**.

The Solution: The bipartisan Global Child Thrive Act will strengthen U.S. leadership in **advancing early childhood development globally**. The bill increases the number of agencies that the **Special Advisor on Children in Adversity** (created under the Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005) has authority to coordinate with as it relates to the implementation of early childhood development policies. Overall, the legislation will focus on **integrating early childhood development into current programming** by:

- building on the evidence and objectives detailed in “**Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity: A U.S. Government Strategy for International Assistance 2019-2023.**”
- identifying evidence-driven strategic priorities, indicators, outcomes and targets to **support early childhood development** for all children but especially those who are **at risk of being socially excluded**.
- supporting the design, execution and assessment of pilot programs in partner countries, with the goal of **scaling their impact**.
- working to **enhance coordination** between foreign governments and international and regional organizations as it relates to country policies and **plans for early childhood development**.
- promoting **inclusive early childhood development** by **supporting bureaus, working groups and task forces** executing relevant sector strategies and public laws.
- **consulting with** governments, international financial institutions, NGOs, organizations run by people with disabilities, early childhood networks, field workers on the ground and other relevant organizations as needed.

CBO Score: [CBO anticipates](#) that the Global Child Thrive Act would “generally codify USAID’s current support activities, so implementing those requirements **would not increase costs**. Satisfying the bill’s reporting requirement would cost less than **\$500,000 over the 2020-2024 period.**”

Supporters: Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), and Senators Chris Coons (D-DE.) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), introduced the bicameral Global Child Thrive Act on October 28, 2019. “I’m proud to introduce the Global Child Thrive Act with Senator Blunt, a leader on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Together, we understand the value of investing in the reduction of preventable child deaths worldwide and **ensuring the healthy development of future generations,**” said Sen. Coons. On December 19, 2019, the legislation passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously.