

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an evidence summit?

An Evidence Summit is a USAID-sponsored event that connects empirical research to important policy or operational decisions facing the Agency. The purpose of an Evidence Summit is to distill evidence produced from empirical research and evaluations and bring it to bear on important processes or decisions facing the Agency, including policy or strategy development or project design. The centerpiece of an Evidence Summit is a gathering that brings members of the research and academic community together with development practitioners to consider the available research findings and evaluation results ("the evidence") and identify how that evidence bears on front-burner questions facing USAID.

The Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research within the Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning is USAID's [institutional home for evidence summits](#).

Who are children outside of family care, and why focus on them?

Children outside of family care are thought to be among the most highly vulnerable children. As a category or situation/circumstance, the phrase "children outside of family care" captures what several U.S. government target groups (including children who are trafficked, living on the streets, separated or unaccompanied as a result of disaster or conflict, heading households, and orphaned) have in common.

Yet, information about children outside of family care is scarce. Because these children are omitted from many surveys and studies (most of which are household-based), they have fallen off the statistical map. It is difficult to know how many children are living in such precarious situations, except for scattered estimates from some specific countries. It is costly, methodologically complex, and sometimes politically sensitive to survey children living outside households, in institutions, on the street, or involved in illicit activities. Consequently, most such children are statistically invisible and further marginalized for want of "evidence" about them.

Interventions targeting children outside of family care for various reasons are often similar, yet programs tend to focus on addressing the needs of children according to their category of vulnerability rather than on building sustainable child protection systems that effectively address the needs of all vulnerable children.

Here's just one example. Despite evidence confirming the cost-inefficiency and deleterious effects of institutionalization on children, as well as the long-term effects of toxic stress experienced by children outside of family care, institutional care persists and inadequate resources and attention are given to (re)integration with families and evidence-based better care alternatives.

Furthermore, the U.S. government has no unified policy, strategy, or guidance that focuses explicitly on children outside of family care.

What is the U.S. government already doing for vulnerable children?

In Fiscal Year 2009, U.S. government assistance for vulnerable children in developing countries amounted to over \$2.6 billion through almost 2,000 projects in more than 100 countries. Assistance is administered through more than 30 offices in seven U.S. government departments and agencies operating under their respective mandates. Under Public Law 109-95, USAID is the lead agency coordinating government assistance in this programming area.

What universities, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations are involved in the Summit and Pre-Summit?

Researchers and practitioners from the following academic institutions, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations will join [participating U.S. government agencies](#) (link to the list on the main page) in the evidence review process, the Pre-Summit, and the Evidence Summit:

Ankara University School of Medicine,
Turkey
Better Care Network
Case Western Reserve University
Child Frontiers
Child Labor Coalition
Children's Hospital Boston
Columbia University
Congressional Coalition on Adoption
Institute
Consortium for Street Children, UK
CPC Network Palestine
CPC Network Sierra Leone
Dartmouth College
Fair Labor Organization, EU
Free the Slaves
Global Sense
International Rescue Committee
Harvard University
ICF/Macro
International Labor Organization
Kidsave International
London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine
Maestral International

Makerere University, Uganda
National Association of Social Workers
NEXUS Institute
Oak Foundation
Regent University
Save the Children
Street Action
The Lancet
Together for Girls
Tulane University
UNICEF
University of California Los Angeles
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
University of Denver
University of Maryland
University of Pittsburgh
University College Medical School (UK)
Urban Institute
Vilnius University, Lithuania
Washington Network on Children & Armed
Conflict
Winrock International
World Vision
Yale University

What are the expected outcomes of the Summit?

Expected outcomes from the Summit include: 1) clarity on evidence to inform U.S. government programming relevant to children outside of family care; and 2) identification of evidence gaps to shape the U.S. government research agenda.

An evidence-to-action strategy will be developed following the Summit to ensure application of the principles, implement evidence-based best practices, and address critical evidence gaps in U.S. government funded initiatives.

Are the Summit and Pre-Summit open to the public?

Due to space and funding restraints, as well as the desire to ensure that the evidence review process is thoughtful, rigorous, and remains grounded by empirical data, the Pre-Summit and Summit are strictly limited to invited researchers and technical experts.