



2021 THRIVE COALITION STRATEGIC PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Committee of the Thrive Coalition met for three workshops facilitated by Unbounded Associates on June 23, June 29, and July 15, 2021. A full description of the process is contained in the document Thrive Coalition Strategic Planning Meetings – Summary of Discussion and Key Themes.

During the workshops, the Executive Committee focused their conversations on determining how they can push the Biden Administration to implement the Global Child Thrive Act (GCTA) and prioritize early childhood development (ECD) over the next 6-12 months, with additional activities planned on the horizon for the next 2 years. The Executive Committee selected three main areas in which to engage: Political Will & Engagement, Implementation Guidance & Indicators, and Funding. Each area is described in detail below.

The Executive Committee will check in on progress and adjust the strategy as follows:

- Regular bi-monthly meetings: Review and adjust immediate priority lists.
- Quarterly: Review accomplishments from previous quarter and add, remove, or shift the activities as needed. This will give the Executive Committee an opportunity to problem solve if an activity is not progressing as hoped. At this time, reviewing the “Opportunities to keep on radar” section will be helpful.
- Every six months, or upon election of new members: Do a full strategy review and make sure the activities and goals are still relevant. Complete the strategy for the next 6-month period which has not yet been planned (e.g., in January 2022, complete the strategy for July 2022-January 2023).

1. POLITICAL WILL & ENGAGEMENT

We will focus our advocacy efforts on getting the special advisor appointed, building relationships with top offices and officials, and furthering congressional and administration engagement on global early childhood development.

Success indicators in 6-12 months:

- Congress keeps ECD a priority and puts pressure on the Administration
- Special Advisor on Children in Adversity appointed
- Initiate high-level political signaling on global ECD through engagement with relevant political leadership/offices

Priority Actions

Table 1. Priority Actions—Political Will & Engagement

	By (date)	Members (Lead in bold)	Success Indicator Focus	Notes
Immediate priorities				
Draft op-ed drawing attention to GCTA and calling on administration to appoint a Special Advisor	November	Mark, Nate, Members of PW&E Workstream	Appointment of Special Advisor	
Get Congress to write to USAID asking for the appointment of a Special Advisor	Mid-End of September	Leila, Members of PW&E Workstream	Appointment of Special Advisor	
Next priorities				
Create strategy around engagement with the administration to bring our high-level leaders together to push Global ECD agenda	TBD	Elana, Mark, Members of PW&E Workstream	High-level political signaling on Global ECD	Democracy, Development & Education; Global Health; BHA; PRM
Use created strategy to engage with political leadership in sector offices – protection, nutrition, WASH, MCH, education, food security, HIV- on global ECD.	TBD, following creating of engagement strategy	Elana, Mark Members of PW&E Workstream	High-level political signaling on Global ECD	Based on engagement strategy. Includes engaging with applicable RT and coalitions on global ECD
Support congressional leadership to continue pushing administration in meeting the goals of GCTA	Ongoing	Leila, Elisabeth PW&E Workstream	Congress keeps ECD a priority and puts pressure on the Administration	Strategy/steps to be discussed/coordinated by WS members
Ongoing activities				
Engage/liaise with Children & Youth Working Group on whole child approach, etc.	Ongoing	Mark, Elisabeth, Leila,		

Opportunities to keep on radar and revisit periodically:

- Engage with White House on domestic conference on young children
- Consider other strategies to engage Congress and/or the Administration on global ECD such as events, briefings, etc.

2. DISSEMINATION AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES WORKSTREAM

We will disseminate information about the GCTA and seek to influence USG programming to include ECD through technical offices and missions by sharing good practices and evidence. We will lend expertise for technical guidance and indicator development, and provide input on policies and strategies, as needed.

Success indicators in 6-12 months:

- USAID's Children in Adversity office develops implementation guidance on the Global Child Thrive Act and shares widely within the agency.
- USAID bureaus and Missions include ECD language in their strategies, sector strategies, RFPs/RFAs, and CDCS.
- USAID develops standard indicators for child development informed by technical input from the Coalition.

Priority Actions

Table 2. Priority Actions— Political Will & Engagement

	By (date)	Members (Lead in bold)	Notes
Immediate priorities			
Disseminate information and engage missions on GCTA	Ongoing August - December	Katherine, Carolyn, Dissemination & Tech. Resource WS	
Ask Jamie Gow how to influence indicator development process	August 26 Executive Committee Meeting	Katherine	
Influence upcoming disability policy	Ongoing August-TBD	Carolyn, Don Wertlieb	
Next priorities			
Develop outreach strategies for USAID bureaus	August	Elana/Carolyn/Katherine	Coordinate with Political Will WS. Discuss which specific bureaus to engage
Provide input to implementation guidance and measurements drawing upon Coalition members' expertise.		Elisabeth	Work with FHI360. Katherine to verify timeline
Implement outreach strategies for different USAID bureaus / sectors re: GCTA implementation	September on	Dissemination and Tech. Resource WS	
Influence missions' CDCS to include GCTA	from Jan 2022	Katherine, Carolyn, Dissemination & Tech. Resource WS	
Share USAID implementation guidance widely with partners implementing ECD programming in country		Elisabeth, Dissemination and Tech. Resource WS	When guidance is published
Ongoing activities			
Provide input on USAID bureau & sector strategies to include ECD language		Katherine, Carolyn, Mission Outreach WG	

3. FUNDING

We will meet with OMB (Foreign Assistance Bureau) and continue to meet with champions on the Hill, pushing for an increase in the Vulnerable Children account as at a catalyst but also seeking ECD embedded in funding across the accounts.

Success indicators in 6-12 months:

- Increase to the Vulnerable Children account in FY22 and FY23
- Inclusion of Thrive report language in final appropriations bill
- USG defines and funds new and existing projects featuring inclusive ECD
- Increase to accounts that support global ECD (Nutrition, MNCH, WASH, Education, UNICEF)

Priority Actions

Table 3. Priority Actions—Funding

	By (date)	Members (Lead in bold)	Notes
Immediate priorities			
Depending on Senate numbers, conduct key meetings with Senate or House appropriators to encourage uptake of VC account ask.	Mid-September	Nate, Mandy, Elisabeth	
Create initial letter for OMB outlining asks/priorities	Mid-September	Nate; Funding WS Members	From Thrive Coalition
Next priorities			
Meet with OMB to influence President's FY23 budget	Oct/Nov 2021	Mandy, Nate	
Meet with USAID/former USAID to inform justification for funding.	Oct/Nov 2021	Mandy, Nate	
Consensus on ask for VC account to bring to Congress	Oct/Nov 2021	Funding WS Members	Focus on justification of amounts during consensus process
Get more signers to the Vulnerable Children Dear Colleague letter	January 2022	Elisabeth, Mandy; Funding WS Members	Tap Fitzpatrick/Castro to lead. Have 6-week lead time.
Create & finalize report language for appropriations	Feb 2022	Funding WS Members	
Annual appropriations lobby days to build support for vulnerable children line item and expand funding	March 2022	Elisabeth, Mandy	

Opportunities to keep on radar and revisit periodically:

- Influence other donors to support inclusive ECD

