Over 100 Civil Society Organizations Support the *United States National Action Plan on Children in Adversity: A Framework for U.S. Government International Assistance*

24 July 2012

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly support the United States Government's first-ever ***National Action Plan on Children in Adversity: a Framework for U.S. Government International Assistance*.**

U.S. government (USG) support for vulnerable children currently includes approximately $2.8 billion in assistance channeled through more than 30 offices in seven (7) USG departments and agencies in over 100 countries. While there are some existing USG funded efforts to address the need for putting family care first and providing positive childhood development, these objectives are not yet core components of US foreign assistance. Therefore, we believe it is imperative that a comprehensive action plan be sanctioned at the highest level of government to ensure that addressing the needs of children in adversity becomes a core component of U.S. foreign assistance.

We support the key elements of the "Plan" that will improve children's well-being through a comprehensive approach that ensures that all children living in adversity 1) have a healthy beginning; 2) grow up within and are supported by healthy loving families; and 3) are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. We support the intention of the "Plan" to strengthen child welfare and protection systems through evidence-based policies and programs. We believe that investments in economic and social development, including in the health, education, and social protection sectors, will have far lower returns unless children are supported by this comprehensive approach.

We encourage President Obama to prioritize the U.S. National Action Plan on Children in Adversity through issuance of an Executive Order in accordance with the mandate of Public Law 109-95 requiring an interagency strategy which includes guiding principles, goals, objectives and outcome indicators. We also encourage the U.S. Congress to provide the leadership and urgently needed funding to ensure that U.S. programs addressing the needs of children living in adversity around the world are coordinated, efficient, and highly effective.

At this moment, we have a unique opportunity to ensure that the USG response for the world's most vulnerable children meaningfully and measurably improves child well-being; we urge you to seize it.

U.S. Organizations (alphabetical order)

1. ACT V: The End of AIDS
2. Adoption Advocates International
3. Adoption ARK
4. Adoption Associates, Inc.
5. Adoptions Together
6. Agape Adoptions
7. All Blessings International, Inc.
8. All God's Children International
9. Americans for African Adoptions, Inc.
10. Americans for International Aid and Adoption
11. Arms Around the Child Campaign
12. Baker Victory Services
13. Bal Jagat - Children's World
14. Bethany Christian Services Global

15. Buckner International
16. Caminos Consulting Group
17. Casa Viva USA
18. Child Aid Development Foundation International (Cameroon)
19. ChildFund International
20. Children's Home Society & Family Services
21. Children's Hope International
22. Children's House International
23. Christian Adoption Services
24. Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST)
25. Columbia Group for Children in Adversity
26. Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)
27. Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI)
28. Consol Homes Orphan Care (CHOC)
29. Creative Associates International
30. Each, Inc.
31. ECPAT-USA
32. Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
33. Families Thru International Adoption
34. Family Resource Center
35. FHI360
36. Firefly Inc.
37. Focus on Adoption
38. Friends Fiduciary Corporation
39. From Person to Person
40. GHR Foundation
41. Gladney Center for Adoption
42. Golden Cradle
43. Happy Families International Center, Inc
44. Half the Sky Foundation
45. Hesperian Health Guides
46. Hope International
47. Holt International
48. Illien Adoptions International
49. International Adoption Program at the University of Minnesota
50. International Child Advocacy Network (ICAN)
51. Joint Council for International Children's Services
52. Journeys of the Heart Adoption Services
53. Kalamba Community Development Organization, Uganda
54. Kempe Center for the Prevention & Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect at the Univ. of Colorado
55. Kidsave
56. Life for Relief and Development
57. Lutheran Social Services of New England
58. Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
59. Maestral International
60. Mercy International
61. National Council For Adoption
62. Pact
63. Partners for Adoption
64. Patch Our Planet

65. PEACE Centre
66. Pearl S Buck International
67. Plan International USA
68. Red Hot Organization
69. Resources4Adoption
70. Save the Children USA
71. Save Street Children Uganda (SASCU)
72. Social Workers Beyond Borders USA
73. SOTENI International
74. Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children
75. Stop the Silence: Stop Child Sexual Abuse, Inc.
76. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
77. University Research Co., LLC – Center for Human Services
78. Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services
79. Wasatch International Adoptions
80. West Sands Adoptions
81. Wide Horizons For Children
82. World Vision US
83. Worldwide Orphan Foundation

International Organizations (alphabetical order)

84. Action for Citizen and Community Development (ACCOD)
85. AIDS Support Organization (TASO), Uganda
86. Arms Around the Child, UK
87. Bobbi Bear, South Africa
88. Camp Counselors Africa (CCA), Kenya
89. Catholic Relief Services, Malawi
90. Casa Viva Latin America/Viva de América Latina
91. Chun Hui Bo Ai Foundation (China)
92. Coast Care Organization, Kenya
93. Family AIDS Initiative Response, Kenya
94. Grace Ecumenical Counselors Association
95. Grassroots Movement for Health and Development (GMHD), Malawi
96. Guatemala 900
97. Half the Sky Foundation (Asia) Ltd.
98. Half the Sky Foundation (UK) Ltd.
99. Half the Sky Foundation (Canada)
100. Half the Sky Foundation (Australia)
101. Horizon Foundation Sierra Leone
102. Kidsave Colombia
103. Kidsave Russia
104. PEMA/ZUMA Kenya
105. Somali Youth Development Foundation (SYDF)
106. Tasimba Film & Arts Organisation (Zimbabwe)
107. Uganda Youth Development Link
108. Women's Rights and Health Project