
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 107: The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, The Brave Movement, & AAP Global Mental Health Summit.

October 24, 2022

Quick Summary

The White House signed the “Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021” (H.R. 4693) into law. This bill requires the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) “to carry out activities to prevent and treat malnutrition globally. Specifically, USAID may leverage resources to address malnutrition through the Global Nutrition Coordination Plan (an interagency effort to strengthen the impact of U.S. investments in nutrition) and its role on the board of directors of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. USAID must also select countries based on specified malnutrition-related indicators for purposes of targeting malnutrition prevention

and treatment programs and update the selection within five years.” To read more about this bill, click [here](#).

The Brave Movement will hold its 2nd Global Mobilization for the World Day for Prevention, Healing, and Justice to End Childhood Sexual Violence on November 18th. The Brave Movement and its partners are urging G7 and global leaders to act now to implement proactive solutions for prevention, healing, and justice and to make real investments, both domestically and globally. They underscore the fact that “Childhood sexual violence is preventable. We know more than ever the evidence-based, proven solutions to end all forms of violence against children and adolescents.” Click [here](#) to read more and sign-up to participate in this event.

The Initiative’s [Youth Alliance Working Group](#) had its first blog post [published](#) on “Fighting Education Inequality: People are Critical to Transforming Education.” The post on World Vision Advocacy’s website highlights the plight of issues young people, especially young women and girls, face globally when trying to receive an education. In crisis settings, girls are “disproportionately at risk of experiencing [poverty, gender-based violence, and forced marriage](#), which further amplify barriers to safe, quality, inclusive education. At [least 1 in 5 primary-aged girls living in conflict-affected regions](#) are unable to access quality education. It is estimated that, as a result of COVID-19 and other shadow pandemics, an **additional 11 million secondary school-aged girls** may never return to school.” The need for “Meaningful, active, and inclusive youth participation, engagement, and partnership must be prioritized as a core pillar of effective policy and programming in education. When young people are empowered through resources and opportunities for equitable partnerships, they gain a greater capacity to remain resilient for themselves and their communities.” To read the blog post, click [here](#). To learn more about the Youth Alliance Working Group, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) held its first Global Mental Health Summit. This was an opportunity to highlight the increasing awareness about the urgent mental health crisis needs around the world and how this is prompting innovative approaches to address the crisis. AAP stated that in “low-income countries, where access to mental health care has long been highly limited, local clinicians are rapidly advancing mental health innovation.” [Moria Szilagyi, MD, PhD, FAAP](#) and AAP President-elect, presented on childhood mental health and resilient relational care and described the global mental health emergency. Currently, suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-24. Between March and October of 2020, emergency department (ED) visits rose 24% for children ages 5-11 and 31% for children ages 12-17. Szilagyi also spoke on the burdens children and families bear when it comes to

mental health. Children in minority communities often face bias, discrimination, inequalities, and marginalization when seeking mental health care. Additionally, these same children also face disparities in education, nutrition, housing, employment, healthcare, and technology. All of these factors can cause stress to become biologically embedded to the point it becomes toxic. Szilagyi explained that toxic stress is the “prolonged activation of stress response systems in the absence of protective relationships.” This can be caused by physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect, or a variety of household challenges. To start to solve these complex challenges, Szilagyi highlighted the need to address mental health needs across the entire continuum of care, ensure that care is high quality, accessible and patient-centered, and increase investments for under-resourced communities.

The keynote speaker, [Vikram Patel, Ph.D., MBBS](#), a Pershing Square Professor of Global Health in the Blavatnik Institute's Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School also gave a presentation on “Scaling up psychosocial interventions: lessons from the global South.” He stated that, in the U.S., only about 23% receive psychological treatments compared to 90% receiving medication. Additionally, patients, especially in low-income and minority groups, overwhelmingly express a preference for but are much more likely to receive psychological treatments. He underscored the fact that patients who receive their preferred treatment report greater satisfaction, higher rates of treatment completion, and superior clinical outcomes. Patel called for redefining mental health care through a community-based workforce transformation. This would address supply-side barriers, and demand-side barriers leverage unique mechanisms for action and can benefit the providers themselves.

To learn more and rewatch the event, click [here](#).

Events

- UN Women [webinar](#) “**Violence against Forcibly Displaced and Migrant Women and Girls.**” October 24, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- OECD [webinar](#) “**Why is media literacy so important for 21st-century children?**” October 25, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- The Center for Professional Learning, Childhood Education International, & Arizona State University Mary Lou Fulton Teacher College [virtual event](#) “**Social Emotional Learning and Wellbeing: Cornerstones of Refugee/(Im)migrant Education.**” November 15, 2022, at 12 pm ET.
- UNICEF & The RISE Institute [webinar series](#) “**From Fragmented Fields to a Unity of Efforts for Early Childhood Development: The SDGs and Multisectoral ECD Monitoring and Evaluation Systems Webinar #3:**

Overview of national multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.” November 30, 2022, at 8:30 am ET.

- The Center for Professional Learning, Childhood Education International, & Arizona State University Mary Lou Fulton Teacher College [virtual event](#) **“Social Emotional Learning and Wellbeing: Cornerstones of Refugee/(Im)migrant Education.”** November 15, 2022, at 12 pm ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- World Bank [article](#) **“COVID-19 Dealt a Historic Blow to Poverty Reduction: Fiscal Policy Can Help Repair the Damage.”**
- Kids Rights [report](#) **“KidsRights Index 2022: ‘Lives of 1 Billion Children are at Stake due to Climate Change.’**
- The Georgetown Collaboration on Global Children’s Issues [event readout](#) **“Innovating Protection for Children on the Move Across the Americas.”**
- The BMJ academic [article](#) **“Adolescents and youth are prioritizing human rights in the climate change agenda.”**
- Teen Vogue [article](#) **“Teen Farmworkers Support the US Agricultural Industry But Have Few Protections.”**
- Peace Direct [report](#) **“Youth Action for Peace – Programme Evaluation.”**



Copyright © 2021 Tides Center, All rights reserved.