
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 118: READ Reauthorization Act Reintroduced, PLAN International Report, & Education in Emergencies Event

January 30, 2023

Quick Summary

The READ Act Reauthorization ([H. Res. ____](#)) was introduced for the International Day of Education in the Senate by U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin ([D-IL](#)), and Senator Marco Rubio ([R-FL](#)). The bipartisan congressional resolution reaffirms U.S. support for access to education globally in the House by Rep. Grace Meng ([D-NY](#)), Rep. Mike Quigley ([D-IL](#)), and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick ([R-PA](#)). The READ Reauthorization Act calls for:

- The U.S. Government to integrate education in all humanitarian response efforts, both bilateral and multilateral;
- The U.S. Government to meet its various commitments to international basic education through its annual budget requests; and
- The State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to use all means at their disposal to promote access to quality education, globally, and

commit to prioritizing quality and inclusive education for children and youth in emergency and crisis settings.

In a statement from Senator Dick Durbin ([D-IL](#)), he emphasizes that “given the terrible learning loss around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic and troubling backsliding on girls' education in places such as Afghanistan, reauthorizing the *READ Act* couldn't come at a more important time,”. He went on to say that “doing so will ensure U.S. development programs continue to focus on providing basic education around a sound, long-term strategy – one that includes making sure girls have access to schooling. This legislation has strong bipartisan support, which we saw through its original passage into law in 2017 and SFRC passage of this reauthorization last Congress. I hope we can get it through the Senate and signed into law in the 118th Congress.” To read more about the READ Reauthorization Act, click [here](#).

USAID will provide an additional \$75 million in humanitarian aid to Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi host community. With this new funding, USAID will “work with the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) to provide critically needed food and nutrition assistance, infrastructure maintenance, disaster risk reduction, and logistics support. This new funding will provide critical and life-saving assistance to nearly 600,000 people.” The food and nutrition assistance includes “electronic vouchers for staple and fresh foods at designated distribution sites as well as support to feeding programs for malnourished children six months to five years of age and pregnant and lactating women. These programs will target populations residing in 33 refugee camps and 130 sites in the local Bangladeshi community.” **According to [Save the Children](#), Rohingya children are some of the most marginalized groups on the planet. Over 450,000 Rohingya refugees are children, almost 1/3 of children under five have had their growth stunted by lack of food, and only 13% of boys and 2% of girls aged 15-18 are in school.** To learn more about this announcement, click [here](#).

PLAN International published its [report](#) on “Beyond Hunger: The Gendered Impact of the Global Hunger Crisis.” This report highlights that at least 345 million people across 82 countries are currently facing or are at risk of acute food insecurity, with 50 million people on the brink of starvation, teetering on the edge of famine.”The gendered impact of this crisis is staggering. do not account for the gendered impact of the global hunger crisis. Their report found that “gendered food distribution and consumption practices at the household level often work to the detriment of girls and women,” “In almost all countries studied, there was evidence that gender-based violence has increased since the onset of the current crisis,” and that“the hunger crisis is having a negative impact on children’s education, and this impact differs by gender,” and more. PLAN International recommends a multi-pronged approach, including

- that food security data is sex- age and disability disaggregated
- children, adolescents, and young people are consulted and engaged in the design of humanitarian programming
- Funding and implementing gender-responsive, child-sensitive, and locally led anticipatory action and preparedness,” and more.

To read the report, click [here](#).

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the “Children of War” exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art during his trip to Chicago, Illinois. The exhibit showcased art by Ukrainian children who are experiencing the war in Ukraine. He stated that “in Chicago, I saw an extraordinary exhibition of artwork from Ukrainian children of war as well as a diaspora community that is a profound expression of what our country is all about — supporting each other, but also supporting others in times of need.” To learn more about his visit, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The Youth Alliance Working [Group](#) of the Children’s Policy & Funding [Initiative](#), Global Campaign for Education- [US](#), [World Vision](#), Georgetown [Collaborative](#) on Global Children’s Issues, Georgetown [Center](#) for Child and Human Development, and more co-hosted the event “**Education in Emergencies: A Global Call for 222 Million Children**” The discussion highlighted the crucial opportunity for the U.S. and donors to commit to financing quality, inclusive, safe education for over 222 million children and adolescents living in crisis and conflict settings around the world.

The first round of panelists included [LeAnna Marr](#), USAID Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator; [Elizabeth H. Campbell](#), Department of State, Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration; [Yasmine Sherif](#), Director, Education Cannot Wait; [Representative Grace Meng](#), Congresswoman from New York’s 6th Congressional District. They discussed the importance of education globally and how a multitude of crises, such as COVID-19, has disrupted progress. Additionally, LeAnnaMarr emphasized that education in emergencies is often the first to go when there are budget cuts. She noted that, the humanitarian sector has taken education more seriously in the past couple of years, but that there is still a long way to go.



Participants on the second panel were youth activists from around the world, including [Pierina Anton Lopez](#), Global Campaign for Education-US Fellow, 2021 USAID Donald M. Payne Fellow, and Georgetown Global Human Development (GHD) '23; [Nehemia Abel](#), Georgetown GHD '23, Policy and Advocacy Fellow, International Rescue Committee, 2021 USAID Donald M. Payne Fellow and Co-Founder, Ubumwe; [Olivia Issa](#), Program Lead, NASH Refugee Resettlement Initiative, George Washington University '22; [Emmanuelle Dyer Melhado](#), Outreach Chair, Welcoming Campus Initiative, and No Lost Generation at George Washington University, George Washington University '24; and [Jessica Garcia Bocaletti](#), Senior at International High School at Langley Park and Posse Scholar. The youth activist emphasized the need for having conflict-affected students at the decision-making table and that higher education institutions need to prioritize access and inclusion for conflict-impacted students.





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

Events

- U.S. Department of State Office of Global Women's Issues [virtual event](#) **"Women Lead: Ukrainian Women's Fight for the Future of Ukraine."** January 30, 2023 at 9 am ET.
- USAID Education in Crisis and Conflict Network (ECCN) [virtual event](#) **"COVID-19 Learning Loss: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support."** February 7, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- George Washington University Global Women's Institute and Beyond Borders [webinar](#) **"Rethinking Power: Presentation of an impact evaluation of the Rethinking Power program to prevent violence against women and girls in Haiti."** February 9, 2023 at 9:30 am ET.
- Learning Through Play [virtual event](#) **"Playful Schools Conference 2023."** March 27-29, 2023.
- World Literacy Foundation [hybrid event](#) **"World Literacy Summit 2023."** April 2-4, 2023 online & at Oxford University, Oxford UK.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- The Guardian [article](#) **"'They just vanish': whistleblowers met by wall of complacency over missing migrant children."**
- USAID [one-pager](#) **"USAID Global Reading Network (GRN) 2022 Priorities."**
- World Bank [article](#) **"Learning in Crisis: Prioritizing education & effective policies to recover lost learning."**
- France24 [article](#) **"France repatriates 15 women, 32 children from Syria jihadist camps."**

Professional Opportunity

The Global Fund for Women is searching for young activists to join its Adolescent Girls Advisory Council (AGAC). As a member, you will share your girl- and regional-related expertise, co-develop the Adolescent Girls' Rights Program Strategy, map girl-led groups, participate in Global Fund for Women's grantmaking process, Attend key convenings, and more. Applications are due February 20, 2023. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



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