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# *The Weekly Pulse*

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NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



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Vol. 126: USAID Policy Launches, U.S. Department of State Country Reports, and U.S. Department of State Women and Youth Fireside Chat,

March 27, 2023

Calls to Action

**Global Campaign for Education-US is seeking organizations to sign onto the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Global Education Community [Letter](#).** This letter is urging Chairman Chris Coons ([R-DE](#)), Ranking Member Lindsey Graham ([R-SC](#)), Chairman Mario Díaz Balart ([R-FL](#)), and Ranking Member Barbara Lee ([D-CA](#)) to “provide at least \$1.2 billion for International Basic Education, including \$200 million for Global Partnership for Education and \$50 million for Education Cannot Wait, in the FY 2024 State and Foreign Operations bill.” To sign on to this letter, please complete this [sign-on form](#) or email Jennifer Rigg at [jrigg@gce-us.org](mailto:jrigg@gce-us.org).

**The Civil Society-led Declaration of Principles for the Summit for Democracy, led by Freedom House, the McCain Institute, and the Bush Institute is seeking organizations to sign onto the [Declaration of Principles](#).** This is a set of principles

outlining human rights and democratic tenets that all governments should adhere to, including provisions to promote gender equality, youth political and civic engagement, equal rights for persons with disabilities, freedom of religion and belief, and non-discrimination of individuals who are “disadvantaged on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other such category.” The statement will be released for the Summit for Democracy taking place next week and published on the websites of Freedom House, the George W. Bush Institute, and the McCain Institute on Monday, March 27, although signatures will be accepted through Friday, March 31, 2023. To sign up, fill out the google form [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Katie LaRoque at [laroque@freedomhouse.org](mailto:laroque@freedomhouse.org).

### Quick Summary

**USAID [launched](#) its new policy framework “Driving Progress Beyond Programs”.** The policy framework outlines “USAID’s vision for effective, impactful development. The Framework connects dots across major policy initiatives and provides a guide for the Agency to advance its priorities while driving progress beyond the impact of our programs or the limits of our budget.” This framework establishes three overarching priorities to drive progress through and beyond programs. First to “confront the greatest challenges of our time; second, to embrace new partnerships; and third, to invest in USAID’s enduring effectiveness... Marshaling action to address them demands new, inclusive, and ambitious partnerships; investments in our people; and the streamlining of our processes.” To read the new policy framework, click [here](#).

**USAID [launched](#) its new strategy to prevent child and maternal deaths, titled “Preventing Child and Maternal Deaths: A Framework for Action in a Changing World.”** The strategy “lays out an action plan for country-led programs to measurably improve health outcomes for women and children through an intensified focus on coverage, quality, and equity.” USAID’s new framework calls on the “international community to draw from lessons learned, renew momentum towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and work together to improve global maternal and child survival.” To read this new strategy, click [here](#).

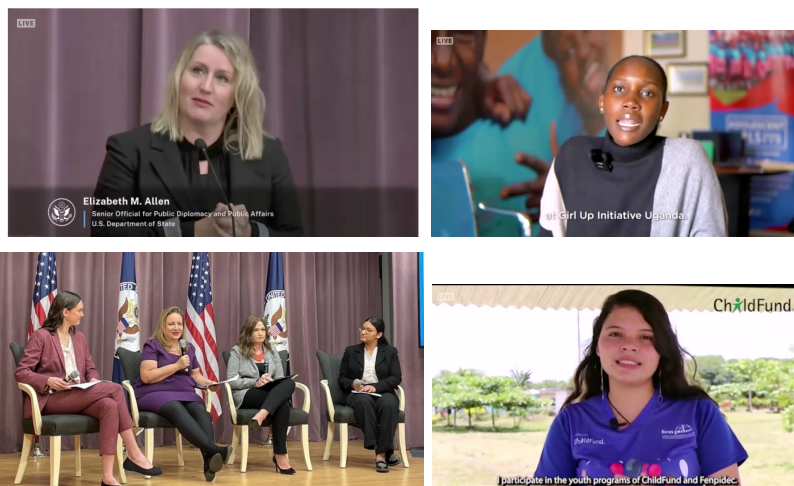
**The U.S. Department of State [released](#) its 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.** This congressionally mandated annual report covers adherence to “internationally recognized individual, civil, political, and worker rights, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements” by all countries receiving aid from the U.S. and all UN member states. The report summarizes rights violations including children’s rights. In the report’s preface, Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasizes “Russia’s full-scale war against Ukraine beginning in February 2022 has resulted in massive death and destruction, with reports of members

of Russia’s forces committing war crimes and other atrocities, including summary executions of civilians and horrific accounts of gender-based violence, including sexual violence against women and children.” To read the 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, click [here](#).

## Spotlight

**ChildFund, UNICEF USA, PLAN International, U.S. Department of State, and more held an event titled “Foreign Policy Classroom: A Conversation Between the U.S. Special Envoy for Youth, Senior Official in the Office of Global Women’s Issues, and Youth Women and Girls Around the World.”** This event provided the opportunity and the platform for girls from lower- and middle-income countries most affected by U.S. foreign policy as well as girls in the U.S. to speak directly with U.S. government leaders who are committed to their empowerment and leadership who seek to address their most pressing concerns.

[Speakers](#) at this event included Elizabeth M. Allen, Senior Official for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; Anna Borasky, UNICEF USA GW Club President; Rohini, Plan International USA Youth Advocate; Candice Helton, Senior Communications Advisor, Office of Global Women’s Issues; Atrina Fotovat, Senior USG Official for the Office of Global Women’s Issues; Abby Finkenauer, Special Envoy for Global Youth Issues; Mia Gilstrap, Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Global Public Affairs; Masika Munoya, Refugee in Uganda from the Democratic Republic of Congo; Gabrielle Mckenzie, student, business owner, disability rights and youth activist, IFES Guyana Youth ALLIES facilitator; Clare Akumu, Uganda, Girls Opportunity Alliance and Girl Up Uganda; and Gabriela, Ecuador, ChildFund International. All of these government leaders and advocates came together and discussed the importance of inclusion and diverse perspectives when it comes to foreign policy and foreign assistance.



From top left to bottom right: Elizabeth M. Allen, Senior Official for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; Clare Akumu, Uganda, Girls Opportunity Alliance and Girl Up Uganda; Panel of Anna Borasky, UNICEF USA GW Club President, Rohini, Plan International USA Youth Advocate, Katrina Fotovat, Senior USG Official for the Office of Global Women's Issues, & Abby Finkenauer, Special Envoy for Global Youth Issues; and Gabriela, Ecuador, ChildFund International

U.S. government senior officials highlighted the ways that the U.S. government is elevating and listening to girls' voices. Atrina Fotovat, Senior USG Official for the Office of Global Women's Issues stated that "...more girls can engage in policy formation and implantation through the GPC [Gender Policy Council], formal consultations, during key high-level visits and during forums like the UN Commission on the Status of Women. In programs like She's Great!, girls' input is a key part of the implementation." Additionally, Abby Finkenauer, Special Envoy for Global Youth Issues underscored the importance of youth networks by stating "Elevating the need to create support networks for girls and young women is critical to increasing more public spaces where girls, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals can safely participate."

Youth advocates highlighted the ways in which the U.S. government needs to step up in the continued inclusion of youth voices. Clare Akumu from Girls Alliance-Uganda emphasized that "for too long, society has lied to us and told us that girls and people with disabilities are incapable of being included in decision-making. That needs to change."

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

## Events

- USAID YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation [webinar](#) "**Insights from Ukraine: Findings on Secondary Education and Youth Research.**" March 28, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- USAID YouthPower2 [webinar](#) "**Youth and Digital Rights in the MENA Region Webinar.**" March 29, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee [hearing](#) "**Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability of Ukraine Assistance.**" March 29, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- UNA-NCA [virtual event](#) "**Our Voices Are Our Strength: Women Storytellers Fireside Chat to Recognize the Impact of Women.**" March 29, 2023, at 6 pm ET.
- USAID YouthPower2 Youth Engagement Community of Practice (YE CoP) [webinar](#) "**Youth Participation in COVID-19 Recovery Efforts.**" April 3, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- UNICEF [webinar](#) "**The UN Resolutions on the Child, Early, and Forced Marriage & Female Genital Mutilation.**" April 4, 2023, at 8:30 am ET.

- The Basic Education Coalition [virtual event](#) “**USAID Virtual Launch: Guidance for Promoting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Educational Materials.**” April 5, 2023, at 10 am ET.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- Exemplars in Global Health [article](#) “**Girls are now central to the agenda**”
- UNICEF [article](#) “**Poems for Peace: Young people living in conflict use poetry to express their hopes for a more peaceful future.**”
- USAID YouthPower2 [article](#) “**Positive Youth Development Learning Agenda Literature Scan Brief 2023.**”
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network [resource](#) “**Talking with Children about Islamophobia and Hate-Based Violence.**”
- Human Rights Watch [Twitter Space](#) “**Stranded in Syria: The plight of detained ISIS suspects and relatives.**”

#### Professional Opportunity

**Together for Girls and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) launched the course “*From Data to Action: A course on analyzing and using the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) for Researchers and Advocates*”.** Early career researchers working on child health, protection, violence, and child rights issues in universities located in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, Lesotho, Moldova, Mozambique, and Namibia are welcome to apply to join the first cohort of participants. The course will take place from June to October via Zoom. It will cover topics such as violence measurement, research questions design, statistical approaches and techniques that can be applied to VACS data, and science communication to share research findings. The deadline for applications is **April 12, 2023**. Find more information on selection criteria and course content [here](#).



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