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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. 147: Sanctions on Russia, Sudan, and Girls Not Brides Event

August 28, 2023

Call for Submissions

**The Global Reading Network ([GRN](#)) is seeking input on effective approaches by caregivers and communities to support children's reading development beyond school settings.** They are interested in insights spanning pre/emergent to upper primary readers. This initiative contributes to USAID's endeavor to enrich the evidence base with diverse perspectives on caregiver engagement in literacy outside of school. To participate, complete the submission form found [here](#) by **September 8, 2023**. The form includes open-ended inquiries about institutional approaches, along with space to upload relevant resources and documents. If you have any questions, please email [usaidgrn@edc.org](mailto:usaidgrn@edc.org)

Quick Summary

**USAID has [encountered](#) delays in its process of awarding Next Generation Global Health Supply Chain [contracts](#), a series of contracts worth a potential \$16.8 billion over 10 years.** These contracts are intended to improve the existing global health supply chain program. The Next Generation Global Health Supply Chain initiative, known as [NextGen](#), aims to enhance the availability, quality, and affordability of health products worldwide. It seeks to strengthen local capacities, improve sustainability, and reduce waste and fraud. The program is designed to segment supply chains based on different health programs and product categories, making it more responsive to specific needs. It also encourages private-sector involvement and intends to increase transparency and risk management. The planned awards under NextGen include various categories such as Procurement Service Agent- Malaria, Family Planning and Reproductive Health, Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition and Other Health Elements ("Integrated PSA"), and more. To learn more about USAID's Next Generation Global Health Supply Chain contracts, click [here](#).

**The U.S. Department of State [announced](#) sanctions and visa restrictions on Russian individuals who are a part of the forced transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children.** The U.S. Department of State is imposing sanctions on two entities and 11 individuals involved in the forcible transfer of children to camps that promote Russian indoctrination. Additionally, visa restrictions will be applied to three Russia-installed officials who have been "engaged in human rights abuses against Ukrainian minors." The sanctions are based on Executive Order [14024](#) and the visa restrictions fall under Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. For more details and to read the announcement, click [here](#).

**The ongoing brutal conflict in Sudan has [resulted](#) in the displacement of over two million children within the past four months, a number higher than the combined total of the previous four years.** The violence has caused more than 1.7 million children to move within Sudan, and over 470,000 have crossed into neighboring countries. [Mandeep O'Brien](#), UNICEF Country Representative in Sudan, emphasizes the urgent need for a collective response, as unimaginable stories of suffering and loss emerge from affected children and families. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [report](#) estimates that around 20.3 million people will face food insecurity between July and September 2023, impacting the health and nutrition of nearly 10 million children. The rainy season has further exacerbated the situation, causing floods that destroy homes and increase the risk of disease outbreaks such as cholera. The combination of disease outbreaks and malnutrition poses a grave threat to children's lives, especially for the 700,000 children with severe acute malnutrition. Additionally, 1.7 million babies are at risk of missing critical vaccinations, and access to education and

psychosocial support is severely compromised. To read more about this crisis, click [here](#).

## Spotlight

**Girls Not Brides recently hosted an informative [webinar](#) titled "Child Marriage Interventions in Conflict- and Crisis-Affected Settings,"** shedding light on innovative approaches to addressing this critical issue. The session delved into girl-led initiatives and youth-led research within conflict and crisis contexts, with a specific focus on West Africa. Distinguished speakers included Flora Koné, a youth researcher and active member of JAPAME; Teoma Mamadou Ousseini, a youth researcher and volunteer at AJEP; Aïcha Awa ba Seck, a gender advocate and independent researcher; and Mehreen Jaswal, Senior Adolescent Girls Specialist at the International Rescue Committee.

A central highlight of the webinar was a presentation by [Mehreen Jaswal](#), spotlighting the collaboration between the IRC and the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) in the "Girl Shine: Preventing and Responding to Early Marriage" [project](#). Girl Shine encompasses a comprehensive approach to tackle early marriage, encompassing physical safe spaces, curriculum groups, mentorship networks, engagement of caregivers, and community outreach. The overarching aim of the Girl Shine initiative is to champion a holistic strategy for addressing early marriage in humanitarian settings. This involves creating separate spaces for girls, fostering close collaboration between child protection and gender-based violence actors, training health providers in gender equality and sexual health services, establishing secure reporting mechanisms in schools, advocating for girls' education, life skills, and livelihood opportunities, and ensuring inclusive support for girls with disabilities.

Key insights emerged for effectively engaging with girls in preventing and responding to early marriage. These included meticulous consideration of group composition, provision of necessary resources such as childcare, avoiding judgment of girls' feelings towards marriage, crafting content that empowers girls, approaching caregivers for engagement, and respecting the diversity of experiences. The webinar also underscored valuable lessons learned, such as the challenge of involving male caregivers initially, the importance of selecting appropriate caregivers for married girls, the need for community-wide involvement, investment in training for staff and mentors, and recognition that a single program may not suffice to address early marriage comprehensively. Visit the Girls Not Brides website [here](#) to learn more about this webinar and initiative.

## Events

- The Global Health Council and Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 [webinar](#) **“UNGA 101.”** September 7, 2023, at 11 am ET.
- USAID Leading Through Learning Global Platform [webinar](#) **“Evaluating Approaches to Remedial Education: Catch Up Clubs.”** September 11, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- Global Network of Women Peacebuilders hybrid [event](#) **“Parliamentary-Civil Society Alliances: Propelling Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) to New Heights.”** September 18, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- USAID Leading Through Learning Global Platform [webinar](#) **“Monitoring Equity in Education in LAC.”** September 21, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- Keeping Children Safe online [summit](#) **“Child safeguarding in education and childcare.”** November 14-16, 2023.

## Reports, Articles & Resources

- The New Humanitarian [article](#) **“Six years after child shelter tragedy, slow justice shines a light on Guatemala’s enduring GBV problem: ‘I know everything will always stay the same.’”**
- EMpower [resource](#) **“Girl Path - An EMpower Program Tool: Engaging Girls Every Step of the Way.”**
- Keeping Children Safe summary [report](#) **“Child Participation in Safeguarding: A global conference on children and young people’s participation in safeguarding.”**
- GOAL Global [article](#) **“Empowering Homeless Youth in Ethiopia: Melkamu’s Story.”**
- AP News [article](#) **“UNICEF says a year on from Pakistan’s catastrophic floods, millions of children still need support.”**

## Professional Opportunity

**The Hilton Foundation is currently seeking a consultant to lead the development of a strategy aimed at securing USAID investment in Early Childhood Development (ECD) within the mission contexts of Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania.** The goal is to advance ECD initiatives and programs at the mission level. Expressions of interest for this consultancy role are requested by September 8, 2023. Please send your submissions to Saskia Guerrier at [Saskia.g@hiltonfoundation.org](mailto:Saskia.g@hiltonfoundation.org).



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