
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 148: READ Act Reauthorization, US-Nepal Child Protection Compact, & UN Child Rights Mainstreaming

September 5, 2023

Quick Summary

U.S. and Nepali officials have [begun](#) discussions on a Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership, aimed at tackling child sex trafficking and forced child labor in Nepal. This non-binding plan involves an initial investment of up to \$10 million from the U.S. to support anti-trafficking efforts through civil society and international organizations. The Partnership will build upon existing anti-trafficking efforts in Nepal, aiming to strengthen the country's ability to investigate and prosecute child trafficking cases, respond to forced child labor and child sex trafficking, provide comprehensive support to trafficking victims, and prevent future incidents. Discussions will also focus on setting indicators and targets to measure progress and ensure sustainability. To read the U.S. Department of State's announcement, click [here](#).

In response, to civil society activism to urge the UN Secretary-General to prioritize a child rights approach across all UN entities, the Secretary-General [developed](#) a "Guidance Note on Child Rights Mainstreaming" aimed at integrating children's rights within the UN's management, programs, and operations across development, human rights, and peace and security sectors. The document was crafted by a group including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNICEF, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and Children in Armed Conflict. The Note encourages change and sets pathways for follow-up through various means, including a report on child rights mainstreaming by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council in March 2024 and oversight by a Task Team co-led by OHCHR and UNICEF. Civil society is advised to use the Note for change by advocating for a child-friendly version, promoting it within networks and UN entities, urging more resources for child rights within the UN, and utilizing its language for advocacy and engagement at various levels. The Note also emphasizes child participation and advocates are encouraged to push for inclusivity, sustained interaction with children, and development of a UN-wide policy framework on child participation and safeguarding. To read the Guidance Note, click [here](#).

A recent [article](#) co-authored by Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, and Helen Clark, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) Board Chair, emphasizes the urgent need for the G20 to address the health and wellbeing of women, children, and adolescents on a global scale. They highlight that nearly two million preventable deaths occur annually among these groups in G20 countries, with factors like COVID-19, conflict, climate change, and the cost of living crisis playing significant roles. The G20's collective actions hold immense global influence, making it crucial for them to act swiftly to improve the health of these vulnerable populations. The article emphasizes that the G20 must make the health and wellbeing of women, children, and adolescents a permanent agenda item, requiring sustained financing, global coordination, and solidarity to ensure no one is left behind. To read the article, click [here](#).

Spotlight

[Advocates](#) are ramping up efforts to pass the bipartisan READ Reauthorization Act 2023 ([H.R.681/S.41](#)), which requires urgent reauthorization to prevent it from expiring September 30, 2023. The READ [Act](#) aims to strengthen education systems globally and improve learning outcomes, particularly for young girls and marginalized populations. Introduced by Representatives Chris Smith ([R-NJ](#)) and Grace Meng ([D-NY](#)), and Senators Dick Durbin ([D-IL](#)) and Marco Rubio ([R-FL](#)), the READ

Reauthorization Act of 2023 extends the authorization of the original 2017 READ Act for an additional five years, continuing U.S. efforts to expand equitable access to quality education for children in foreign assistance. The READ Act ensures the U.S. government will continue to update and report on their strategy to improve foundational literacy and numeracy in basic education around the globe.

Advocates are convening a Hill event titled [“Ready, Set, READ!”](#) on **Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 8:30-10:00 am in the Russell Senate Office Building, Room 385**. This event will celebrate the power of literacy and education in transforming lives in celebration of International Literacy Day and highlight the significance of U.S. foreign assistance to education, particularly for vulnerable children who face higher barriers to education, including girls, children with disabilities and those affected by crises and conflict. With distinguished speakers invited from Congress, USAID, partners, and youth advocates, our shared goal is to promote the reauthorization of the [READ Act](#). Please [RSVP](#) here: <https://bit.ly/RSVP-Ready-Set-READ>

To learn more about the READ Reauthorization Act, click [here](#).



Events

- USAID Center for Education [webinar](#) **“Strategies to Boost Foundational Learning: #USAIDLiteracy Kickoff.”** September 5, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- OECD [webinar](#) **“Pack your bags, it’s back to school! What’s on your mind this academic year?”** September 7, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- USAID Education in Crisis and Conflict Network (ECCN) and Save the Children [virtual event](#) **“Evaluating Approaches to Remedial Education: Catch-Up Clubs.”** September 11, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- World Bank [livestream](#) **“Ending Gender-Based Violence: A 10-year Retrospective.”** September 12, 2023, at 10 am ET.

- World Bank Group, Pure Earth, and CGD [virtual event](#) **“Breakfast Briefing Groundbreaking Analysis of the World's Top Toxin: Lead.”** September 14, 2023, at 9:15 am ET.
- The Government of South Africa, PMNCH and UNICEF [webinar](#) **“Renewing the Promise for Women, Children and Adolescents.”** September 18, 2023, at 7:30 am ET.
- The Government of Honduras, PMNCH, FIA Foundation, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA [webinar](#) **“Accelerating SDG Commitments: 1.8 Billion Adolescents and Youth Transforming our World: High-level luncheon dialogue.”** September 19, 2023, at 1:15 pm ET.
- US Department of Labor [hybrid event](#) **“Protection in Practice: Lessons in Global Child Labor Enforcement.”** September 26, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- Global Reading Network and Impact Network [webinar](#) **“Unlocking Literacy for Early Learners in their Local Language.”** September 27, 2023, at 9 am ET.

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.”**



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