
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 155: Whole Child Video, InterAction Forum, & Congressional Reception.

October 23, 2023

Special Highlight

The Children's Policy and Funding Initiative [published](#) a video describing the need for a whole child approach, which looks to address the multifaceted challenges faced by children worldwide. The short video illustrates the myriad needs of children and emphasizes that the key to creating a brighter future for children and youth globally is to take a holistic approach to addressing their challenges. It underscored that a healthy child can grow and a safe child can learn, but only with a comprehensive approach can they truly thrive. Everyone is encouraged to publicize, use, and share the video widely. To watch the video, click [here](#).



Children's Policy & Funding Initiative, 2023. *Whole Child*.

<https://vimeo.com/873888044/6bbb401d7e>

Quick Summary

The InterAction Forum held its annual Forum this past week, which brought together organizations, change-makers, and executives from the public, private, and NGO sectors. The purpose was to create a cross-sector conversation aimed at finding solutions to pressing global challenges. Attendees included leaders from various sectors, such as foundations, governments, global industries, the U.N., and national civil society organizations.

- One of the sessions during the event, titled "It's All About the Climb: Shifting Power to Youth Advocates," addressed the challenges young people faced when engaging with NGOs in advocacy initiatives. It sought to explore how to provide a safe and inclusive space for young people to participate meaningfully in advocacy. The [session](#) featured speakers like Maham, Plan USA Youth Advisory Board Member; Kamila, Plan El Salvador Champions for Change Youth Activist; Varina Winderis, Chief of Staff for the Secretary of State's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) at the Department of State; and Justin Fugle, Head of Policy at Plan USA.

- Another session, titled "How Eco-Anxiety and Eco-Optimism Are Making Youth Lead the Climate Change Movement," used to discuss the way young people perceive climate change. The session highlighted the prevalence of eco-anxiety among young people but also noted that many of them felt optimistic. It emphasized how young individuals, driven by both eco-anxiety and eco-optimism, were taking a leading role in the climate change movement. The session also highlighted the need to expand our understanding of green jobs. These jobs are not just working for solar companies; they are accountants, logisticians, etc. that fundamentally need to reconceptualize how industries work from the ground up. [Speakers](#) Darla M. Silva, Chief Global Program Officer for UNICEF USA; Elizabeth Vance, Technical Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and Green Jobs Strategy Lead for the International Youth Foundation (IYF); and Bella, UNICEF youth speaker, shared their expertise and experiences related to youth engagement in climate action.

USAID [launched](#) a new phase “YALI Legacy Localization” for its Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Centers. These centers aimed to empower young African women and men with the skills to drive economic, political, and social change in their communities, countries, and the continent. The new initiative, YALI Legacy Localization, focused on streamlining the operations of the four YALI regional centers in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa under the umbrella organization "YALI Africa." This localization effort aimed to establish relationships and partnerships with local entities, including potential investors, collaborators, and program alumni. This partnership also expanded leadership training opportunities with a focus on increasing diversity among participants, including more women, rural youth, and underrepresented populations. Drawing on their extensive experience in international development, the partnership aimed to create the necessary systems to advance critical goals under YALI Africa.

Since 2015, the USAID-supported YALI centers have collaborated with higher education institutions and the private sector to equip young leaders in the areas of business, civic engagement, and public management, allowing them to effect change in their home countries and regions. These centers had graduated over 24,000 leaders from across sub-Saharan Africa, representing diverse language, culture, and socioeconomic backgrounds. For more information click [here](#).

Spotlight

ChildFund International, UNICEF USA, InterAction, and other organizations participating in the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative held a Congressional reception to mark the International Day of the Girl. This event brought together a community of advocates, youth leaders, congressional staff, government officials, and other dedicated supporters, all with a common mission: to support and help improve opportunities for girls worldwide. The reception served as a pivotal platform for reflection, where advocates and government officials assessed both the strides made and the increasing risks for girls around the world and underscored the essential work that remains to ensure girls' access to education, skills, health, and safety.

Members of Congress spoke on the importance of addressing issues affecting girl worldwide. Congresswoman Lois Frankel ([D-FL](#)), an ardent champion for children, described herself as a cheerleader for the empowerment of girls and their rights. Congressman Michael Waltz ([R-FL](#)), drawing from his experiences as a Green Beret, shed light on how girls' lives are affected by conflict and the crucial role they play in ensuring sustainable peace in societies. He emphasized that girls' empowerment is not merely a feel-good issue but a matter of national security.

[Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta](#), the State Department Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues (GWI), spoke and emphasized the global significance of advancing gender equality and girls' empowerment. She pointed out the daunting challenges girls face today, such as the impact of conflicts and crises, child marriages, and female genital mutilation. However, Dr. Rao Gupta also highlighted the resilience and hope embodied by girls themselves, reminding us that they are the agents of positive change.

Accompanying her were two young advocates, Adama Diallo and Somaya Faruqi. [Adama Diallo](#), a UNICEF Youth Advocate from Senegal, passionately addressed the issues of child marriage and female genital mutilation, stressing the urgency of protecting girls from harmful practices. She shared her personal experience of enduring pain and forced child marriage, highlighting the interconnected nature of these issues. The event provided a platform to discuss the transformative power of girls' clubs within communities. Adama's story exemplified how she, at the age of 14, used her voice to persuade her family to abandon harmful practices and break free from the cycle of child marriage and FGM. [Somaya Faruqi](#), a former captain of the Afghan Girls' Robotics Team and an Education Cannot Wait Global Champion, shared her journey and aspirations. She underscored the importance of investing in girls' leadership and well-being, emphasizing that we cannot afford to squander the potential and talent of girls, particularly in regions where quality education remains elusive.

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

Events

- Childhood Education International [webinar series](#) “**Holistic Language Pedagogies: Ways Forward in English Language Teaching & Learning**,” October 12, 14, 18, 21, and 26, 2023.
- Center for Global Development [virtual event](#) “**What Works to Improve Numeracy at Scale? Key Takeaways from Six Featured Programs.**” October 24, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- Basic Education Coalition, FHI360, RTI International, & Teach for All [webinar](#) “**Lessons and New Directions in Social and Emotional Learning Measurement Webinar.**” October 24, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) [virtual event](#) “**Book Talk: We the Young Fighters: Pop Culture, Terror, and War in Sierra Leone.**” October 25, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- OECD [webinar](#) “**Charting the Future of Vocational Education and Training: Insights and Strategies for Tomorrow’s Workforce.**” October 26, 2023 at 9:30 am ET.
- Global Health Council and the Global AIDS Policy Partnership (OGAPP) [webinar](#) “**PEPFAR Reauthorization Webinar.**” October 26, 2023, at 11 am ET.
- George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs Humanitarian Action Initiative [webinar](#) “**International Humanitarian Law and the Israel-Palestine Conflict.**” October 27, 2023, at 12 pm ET.
- Child Health Task Force [webinar](#) “**Strengthening the Quality of Nutrition, Responsive Care, and Early Learning in Health Systems: Resources and Learning from USAID Advancing Nutrition.**” October 31, 2023, at 9 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Speaking of Kids [blog post](#) “**A Lifeline in Peril: How Congressional Inaction Puts PEPFAR’s Crucial Support for Children at Risk.**”
- USAID Education Links [guide](#) “**Social Emotional Learning and Reading Comprehension.**”
- USAID [guidance](#) “**Gender and Youth Action Plans: Process Guidance and Templates.**”
- UNICEF [report](#) “**2022 Global Annual Report - Reimagining Resilience: Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation in the Context of the Polycrisis.**”

Professional Opportunity

Childhood Education International is accepting applications for its Pathways to Teaching Project Fellows. This 10-month-long opportunity provides a pathway to the

teaching profession for refugees and immigrants in the U.S. The program is free, and small stipends will be awarded. The deadline to apply is November 5, 2023. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



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