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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. 69: Increase in Child Sexual Abuse, Rise in Violations Against Children in Conflict, & the State of Community-led Development.**

Jan 31, 2022

Quick Summary

**TODAY (1/31/22) is the LAST DAY to provide input on USAID’s Local Capacity Development Policy.** The Local Capacity Development (LCD) Policy “—which is rooted in the principles of inclusivity, equity, and locally-led and -sustained development—is a key step towards fostering and advancing the Agency’s localization vision and reform agenda. Along with feedback on the policy as a whole, they are specifically asking for feedback on “major gaps and inaccuracies, sections or statements that you strongly support and feel are essential for the USAID policy, and sections or statements where clarification is needed.” Click [here](#) to read the Local Capacity Development Policy Draft. Click [here](#) to submit feedback on USAID’s website.

**UNICEF** published a piece warning about the “**Rise in Grave Violations Against Children in Conflict.**” They highlight the increase in violations against children in both

protracted and new conflicts including, [Afghanistan](#), [Yemen](#), [Syria](#), [northern Ethiopia](#), and [Myanmar](#). Six key violations against children were identified and condemned by the UN Security Council back in 2005 in [S/Res/1612](#), including killing and maiming of children; recruitment or use of children in armed forces and armed groups; attacks on schools and hospitals; rape or other grave sexual violence and abuse; abduction of children; and denial of humanitarian access for children. The resolution Despite the resolution, over the past 16 years, the **“UN has verified 266,000 cases of grave violations against children in more than 30 conflict situations.”** The article also highlights the alarming increase in sexual violence against children, stating that **“verified cases of abduction and sexual violence continued to rise at alarming rates — by more than 50 percent and 10 percent, respectively — compared with the first quarter of the previous year.”** To read this article and to learn more about the alarming increases in violations against children, click [here](#).

**The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)** released an [article](#) **“Three-fold increase of abuse imagery of 7-10-year-olds as IWF detects more child sexual abuse material online than ever before.”** The foundation investigated “361,000 reports, including tip-offs from the public, of suspected criminal material. This is more than they dealt with in the entire first 15 years of their existence when from 1996 to 2011 they assessed 335,558 reports.” **Self-generated child sexual abuse content in ages 7-10 increased by 235% between 2020 and 2021, 8,000 cases in 2020 and 27,000 cases in 2021.** Self-generated child sexual abuse is “created using webcams, very often in the child’s own room, and then shared online. In some cases, children are groomed, deceived, or extorted into producing and sharing a sexual image or video of themselves. There is no adult physically present in the room.” The foundation also highlights that **self-generated child sexual abuse content in ages 11-13 remains the biggest age group for this type of content.** They cite that **“In 2021, 147,900 reports contained self-generated material involving children aged between 11 and 13. In 2020, 55,300 reports included self-generated material involving children in this age group. This is a 167% increase.”** Click [here](#) to learn more and read this article.

## Spotlight

**The Movement for Community-led Development (MCLD)** held a virtual presentation “State of CLD [Community-led Development] 2022.” This event highlighted the goals of the movement, what it plans to accomplish moving forward, how to increase community strengthening, and has a presentation on enhancing organizational capacity framework. To learn more about the MCLD, click [here](#).

[John Coonrod](#), **Co-founder and global coordinator for MCLD and Executive Vice President of The Hunger Project**, kicked off the event by going over the goals for the community-led development (CLD) movement. These goals are “voice and agency for women, youth, and marginalized groups; adequate community finance; good local governance; quality public services; and resilience.” Coonrod asked during his presentation to please give feedback on its vision for 2022. The link can be found [here](#).

The next presentation was from [Meg Kinghorn](#), **International Civil Society Consultant**, who worked with [USAID’s Momentum](#) award to research enhancing organizational Capacity Framework. USAID Momentum “seeks to accelerate reductions in maternal, newborn, and child mortality and morbidity in high-burden USAID partner countries. The project represents a paradigm shift in how USAID carries out its work, with a greater focus on strengthening the capacity, sustainability, and resilience of local institutions.” Kinghorn explained that Momentum was looking for a new framework because most capacity measurement tools have limitations. These limitations include “often overly directive and lengthy processes, they often rely on self-assessment with little use of evidence, tend to focus on latent capacity rather than performance, are ill-suited for complex environments, shed little light on resilience, and seldom look for underlying causes of capacity and performance gains.” She also highlighted **the difference between capacity building, capacity development, and capacity strengthening**. Capacity building is “sustainability of development results,” which includes things such as engineering tools, frameworks, and measurements. Capacity development is “sustainability of donor program implementers,” which is illustrated by human development, including stages of development: Nascent, emerging, mature, and certification. Capacity strengthening is “sustainability of actors to influence their local system,” which is based on systems, including systematic solutions, intersectional partnerships, localization, and ownership. Lastly, she went over the 5 core capacities for organizational resilience and sustainability. These five core capacities are fostering self-determination, producing sustainable results, aligning systems for agility, learning and adapting, attracting and sustaining support, and cross-cutting resilience. Her next step in this project is to develop a tool for the framework that is evidence-based, systems-orientated, and complexity-aware.

The last presentation was given by individuals from the [Right2Grow Initiative](#), [Jovana Dodos Jovanovic](#) and [Ousman Maiga](#). The Right2Grow Initiative seeks to end “the practice of orthodontic growth stunting. Our aim is to legally ban the use of any growth stunting appliance used on a child's skull.” The objectives of their mutual capacity building are “to ensure the technical capacity of the Consortium partners to jointly achieve Right2Grow objectives and development outcomes” and “To ensure sustainable change and continuation of impact beyond the scope of Right2Grow and organizational

sustainability of local civil society (CSOs) themselves.” They emphasized that their vision includes capacity strengthening agendas that should be tailored to the needs of the community and that capacity strengthening and learning are interlinked and require collaboration. So far, they have learned that capacity strengthening is sometimes perceived as a way to ‘educate’ the community instead of an opportunity to improve yourself in working better with communities.

To learn more about the Movement for Community-led Development (MCLD) and its partners, click [here](#).

### Virtual Events

- ECPAT [virtual event](#) “**Dismantling Online Exploitation of Children.**” January 31, 2022, at 11 am ET.
- **Global Campaign for Education (GCE)-US Coalition Meeting** with Speakers from Global Education Monitoring Report and Journey for Justice Alliance. Feb 1, 2022 at 9 am ET.
- Child, Early & Forced Marriage & Unions (CEFMU) and Sexuality Working Group [webinar](#) “**What counts as success in child marriage interventions? A discussion on age, agency, and measuring change that matters.**” Feb 2, 2022 at 9 am ET.
- Basic Education Coalition (BCE) [virtual event](#) “**Supporting Strong BeginningsL Tools to design and implement high-quality pre-primary programming from USAID, UNICEF, and GPE.**” February 3, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- Beit Issie Shapiro [webinar](#) “**Maling the Most of your Multi-Sensory Environments.**” Feb 8, 2022 at 11 am ET.
- The George Washington University’s Global Women’s Institute [virtual event](#) “**Finding the Path Forward: Highlighting Marganzitized Refugee Women and Girls’ Experiences of GBV in the Global South.**” Feb 17, 2022 at 9 am ET.
- World Health Summit [virtual event](#) “**Health of Children on the Move- MB Alliance Webinar Series.**” February 28, 2022, at 9 am ET.

### Reports, Articles & Resources

- USAID [article](#) “**The Global Child Thrive Act Commemorates Its First Year in Action.**”
- The New Humanitarian [news feature](#) “**How COVID has made education an urgent humanitarian issue.**”
- Rutgers Graduate School of Education [blog post](#) “**In 2022 the World Needs to Take Care of its Children: It Starts with Each of Us.**”

- Handicap International [Factsheet](#) “**Information and Communication Technology supporting the inclusion of children with disabilities in education.**”
- The Guardian [article](#) “**Why climate change is creating a new generation of child brides.**”
- ReliefWeb [article](#) “**More than 70 people, including women and children, killed overnight in Yemen.**”
- Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States of America (PNAS) [research article](#) “**The impact of a poverty reduction intervention on infant brain activity.**”
- The Wilson Center [article](#) “**Gender, Climate Change, and Security: Making the Connections.**”



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