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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. 70: Devex article on Online Sexual Abuse of Children, NGO Community's Response to USAID's Climate Strategy, & United States GBV Strategy.**

Feb 7, 2022

Quick Summary

Devex published an [Op-Ed](#) titled “Online sexual abuse of children [OSEAC] is surging, but we can stop it.” Written by one of the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative’s grantees **Danielle Lilly** from ChildFund for [Safer Internet Day](#), she emphasizes that “It is estimated that OSEAC has [increased by 422%](#) over the last decade and a half, with an alarming uptick in recent years, particularly since the pandemic began.” Lilly points to several factors that contributed to this increase, including the rise of social media, lack of privacy protections online, and COVID-19 due to the rise in internet use. For example, there has been an increase of OSEAC in Kenya because “an estimated [17 million children](#) could not attend in-person school during lockdowns and had to go online to learn.” Various countries around the world have taken steps to combat OSEAC. For example, the UK enacted the “[Age Appropriate Design Code](#)” requiring all online platforms children might use to follow stronger child data protection standards.” Kenya has developed a “[National Plan of Action on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children](#)” in order to combat the rising threat of

OSEAC.” The US has failed to pass any legislation to combat OSEAC. Click [here](#) to read this op-ed. To learn more about what ChildFund is doing to help combat OSEAC, click [here](#).

**InterAction wrote a [piece](#) on the “NGO Community Response and Recommendations to USAID’s 2022-2020 Draft Climate Strategy.”** The NGO community recognized that USAID’s Climate Strategy draft had a strong foundation to help tackle climate change, but failed to “recognize the climate crisis as a child’s rights crisis and explicitly mention children” and to “make the definitions of children and youth consistent with other USG policies and strategies.” Recommendations were then provided including, to “ensure climate financing is directed at vulnerable populations, particularly children and youth, with the highest need” and “prioritize meaningful consultations and partnerships with children and youth on climate action throughout the implementation process.” Click [here](#) to read the full Children and Youth Working Group Response paper.

**The Thrive Coalition was featured in Bainum Family Foundation’s 2021 Annual Report.** The report highlighted the passage of the Global Child Thrive Act, the proposed funding increase for Vulnerable Children in the FY22 House and Senate Appropriation bills, and the increase in organizations engaged to secure effective implementation of Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs around the world. Mandy Slutsker, the Director of Global Child Health Advocacy at the American Academy of Pediatrics and Co-Chair of the Coalition stated that “What makes the Thrive Coalition so special is that it is actually a coalition of coalitions. It brings together different coalitions that work on specific aspects of early childhood development — whether it be nutrition, maternal and child health, or education — to come up with common priorities and a structure to work together. We present a united front with one voice for children.” To read more about the Thrive Coalition, click [here](#). To read the report, click [here](#).

**Tides Grantees, ChildFund, World Vision US, UNICEF USA, and other children and youth organizations partnered to organize a consultation with the USG and youth leaders from the Global South on their recommendations to update the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.** The Strategy developed in 2012 and last [updated in 2016](#) was created to enable the United States to support other countries to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence around the world and was. Officials from the Gender Policy Council, the U.S. Department of State, and USAID were present to hear from young female leaders from El Salvador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, and Ukraine. These adolescent girls and young women highlighted a variety of gender-based violence issues in their communities and proposed solutions to them that should be included in

the forthcoming update to the GBV Strategy. The issues raised included sexual violence, online abuse, and exploitation, femicide, lack of access to services and equity in political participation, child marriage, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, and more. Lucy, a ChildFund-supported youth from Kenya made this incredible point: “Online sexual abuse and exploitation of children have increased with lockdowns, shutdowns, and other restrictions on movement associated with COVID-19. Most educational settings went to online platforms, and with the financial constraints of COVID-19, many children were vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse online. Caregivers should learn about how to keep children safe online. Girls especially should be able to talk to their caregivers about what is happening online.” The photo shows some of the incredible youth leaders present at the consultation.

## Spotlight

**The Sexuality Working Group, The Association for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, EngenderHealth, the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), La Ceiba, University of California Berkeley, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Summit Foundation, GreeneWorks, Aahung, Vikalap Sansthan, and many more organizations hosted an event “What Counts as Success in Child Marriage Interventions?”** This event was in response to [a journal article](#) that failed to understand that multidimensional measures are key to understanding child, early, and forced marriages and unions. The main issue with the journal article is that a measure of successfully preventing child marriage is that the child did not marry until they were 18 yet there is a need to look at measures other than age when tackling this issue.

One of the speakers, [Erin Murphy-Graham](#), a professor from the University of California Berkeley, explained that there are evaluation issues when it comes to measuring the success of preventing child marriage. She emphasized that child marriage is a symptom or indicator of underlying issues and that practitioners and researchers need to address these root causes. For example, gender inequality can manifest in the form of sexual violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). In order to address sexual violence and FGM, women and girls need changes in social norms, to feel empowered, and structural changes that create equality. To read the letter to the editor, click [here](#). To watch the recording of the event, click [here](#).

## Virtual Events

- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace & Security [webinar](#) **“Confronting Russian Aggression: The Voices of Ukrainian Women.”** February 7, 2022, at 9:30 am ET.

- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace & Security [virtual event](#) “**Afghanistan’s Education Crisis Under the Taliban: Ensuring Access for Women.**” February 8, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- UNICEF & UNESCO-IIEP Global Disability Summit virtual event “**Strengthening Inclusive Education Systems through Partnerships, Planning and Capacity Building.**” Feb 16, 2022 at 7 am ET. Please contact Asma Maladwala, [amaladwala@unicef.org](mailto:amaladwala@unicef.org) for more details.
- KMOP- Social Action & Innovation Centre Global Disability Summit 2022 virtual event “**Sex-Ed for Children and Youth with Intellectual Disabilities**” February 16, 2022, at 7 am ET. Please Contact Savvoula Oikonomou, [oikonomou.s@kmop.org](mailto:oikonomou.s@kmop.org) for more details.
- The Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Global Disability Summit 2022 virtual event “**Inclusive Education Case Studies and the INEE Minimum Standards.**” Feb 16, 2022 at 11 am ET. Please contact Myriam Jaafar, [myriam.jaafar@inee.org](mailto:myriam.jaafar@inee.org) for more details.
- GLAD Inclusive Education Working Group (IEWG) Global Disability Summit 2022 [virtual event](#) “**Inclusive Education: Making It Happen**” Feb 16, 2022 at 11 am ET.
- Global Campaign for Education (GCE), GCE-Norway, GCE-US, the Inclusive Education & Early Childhood Community of Practice, and UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report Global Disability Summit 2022 [virtual event](#) “**Inclusive Education: Learnings from the GEM Reports and COVID-19.**” Feb 16, 2022 at 12 pm ET.
- Rick Hansen Foundation Global Disability Summit 2022 [virtual event](#) “**The Perspective of Youth with Diverse Abilities in Education.**” Feb 16, 2022 at 12 pm ET.
- Pathfinder International Global Disability Summit 2022 virtual event “**Beyond One Size Fits All: Advancing Inclusive Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Young People with Disabilities.**” Feb 16, 2022 at 1 pm ET. Please contact Ilayda Oranköy, [iorankoy@pathfinder.org](mailto:iorankoy@pathfinder.org) for more information.
- The International Foundation for Electoral Systems; the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Global Disability Summit 2022 virtual event “**Youth with Disabilities Lead: Linking the Summit for Democracy and the Global Disability Summit.**” February 17, 2022, at 11:30 am ET. Please contact Virginia Atkinson, [vatinson@ifes.org](mailto:vatinson@ifes.org), Katherine Guernsey, [kguernsey@usaid.gov](mailto:kguernsey@usaid.gov), or Michael McCabe, [mimccabe@usaid.gov](mailto:mimccabe@usaid.gov) for more information.
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO) (TBC), Office of the United Nations Secretary-General Youth Envoy (OSGEY), Global Network of

Young Persons with Disabilities (GNYPWD), Youth Coalition on Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR), Common Wealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN) Global Disability Summit 2022 virtual event “**Meaningful Participation of Young Persons with Disabilities in the Youth and in the Disability Movement: From Commitment to Compliance.**” February 17, 2022, at 11:30 am ET. Please contact Anton Ingstedt, [anton.ingstedt@unitar.org](mailto:anton.ingstedt@unitar.org) for more information.

- UNFPA Global Disability Summit 2022 virtual event “**We Matter. We Belong. We Decide Committing to accelerating progress on the rights of women and young persons with disabilities by ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights and bodily autonomy for all.**” February 17, 2022, at 11:30 am ET. Please contact Kadambari Mainkar (Kami), [mainkar@unfpa.org](mailto:mainkar@unfpa.org) for more information.
- World Institute on Disability and Partners for Youth with Disabilities Global Disability Summit 2022 [virtual event](#) “**Pathways to Inclusive Employment and Livelihoods.**” February 17, 2022, at 1 pm ET.
- UNICEF Global Disability Summit 2022 [virtual event](#) “**Presentation of Main Findings from UNICEF's Global Report on Children with Disabilities.**” February 17, 2022, at 1 pm ET.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) [report](#) “**Children, Adolescents, and Youth Pioneering a Human Rights-Based Approach to Climate Change.**”
- UNICEF [article](#) “**Making Climate and Environment Policies for and with Children and Young People.**”
- PLAN International [article](#) “**Somaliland’s Children’s Act is First Step to Ending FGM/C.**”
- UNICEF [article](#) “**Children bear invisible wounds of conflict in Ukraine.**”
- World Bank [report](#) “**Prioritizing Learning During COVID-19.**”
- Devex [article](#) “**Opinion: Child labor is on the rise; here's how to prevent it.**”

#### Funding Opportunity

**The U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor-Combat Trafficking in Persons is providing grants to fund research and implementation projects focused on five priority areas as they related to child trafficking:** supply chains, climate change, displacement, public health, financial inclusion, and sex trafficking. Any commercial, international, educational, or non-profit organizations, including any faith-based, community-based, or public international organizations, are eligible to apply. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.



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