
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 71: USAID 2022 Protecting Children and Youth from Digital Harm Symposium, Human Rights Watch, & Professional & Funding Opportunities.

Feb 14, 2022

Quick Summary

InterAction published a blog in honor of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. [Josh Kaplan](#), the Global Development Policy and Learning Intern at InterAction, explained that “Since its formal adoption, significant progress has been made in advancing the representation of women and girls in STEM disciplines.” Citing the [National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality](#) and a [\\$2.75 billion commitment from the G7](#), Kaplan underscores that the gender gap still exists through all levels in STEM due to lack of women in higher education STEM fields and face “shorter and less well-paid careers with fewer opportunities for promotion, largely due to social pressures.” Even if women and girls have STEM opportunities and education, “women in many lower- and middle-income countries lack what [USAID](#) refers to as the “on-ramps”—namely, access to internet, cell phones, and other technology—necessary

to transition from formal education to the workforce." Click [here](#) to read more of Kaplan's InterAction article.

Human Rights Watch called on the United Nations and governments around the world to address the "**high risk in conflicts for children with disabilities.**" Children with disabilities and their families are often "at greater risk during attacks, including the risk of abandonment. Their families can face a split-second decision, either to flee only with family members who can flee easily, or remain behind to provide support. Children with physical disabilities can struggle to flee without assistance and assistive devices such as wheelchairs, prostheses, crutches, or hearing aids. Children who have visual, hearing, developmental, or intellectual disabilities may not hear, know about, or understand what is happening." Children with disabilities are also more likely to be out of school and without access to education provided by humanitarian organizations, which may have limited options for inclusive programs and a lack of trained staff." To read the article, click [here](#).

The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) released a publication titled "Leave No Girl With Disabilities Behind: Ensuring efforts to advance gender equality in education are disability-inclusive." The brief highlights that girls with disabilities are still being denied their right to education due to multiple factors, including the stigma and discrimination around sexual and gender-based violence. "Girls with disabilities experience heightened rates of bullying and harassment by their peers based on their disability and gender and are more likely to experience bullying, violence, and abuse both within and outside of school. **In general, girls with disabilities experience high rates of gender-based violence and may face communication and cultural barriers to reporting incidents and accessing referral services where they exist.**" UNGEI's recommends greater cross-sectoral collaboration "to overcome the multi-layered barriers to education faced by girls with disabilities, including across health, child protection, and WASH sectors." Click [here](#) to learn more and to read the advocacy brief.

Spotlight

USAID held its symposium on "2022 Protecting Children and Youth from Digital Harm." The government, civil society, private sector, and youth came together to discuss the real risk children and youth face online. The symposium explored "topics ranging from digital inclusion and empowerment to existing protection strategies and the evolving roles of the technology sector and governments. It will also highlight USAID's Digital Youth Council members and their perspectives as youth." To learn more about the symposium, click [here](#).

[Erin Kennedy](#), the Senior Director of External Engagement at ChildFund, gave remarks during the “**The Global Ecosystem (Lightning Talks)**” event. She stated that “**OSEAC [Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children] causes long-term harm to children’s psychosocial well-being and development and can lead to further abuse and exploitation.**” To help combat OSEAC, we must **listen to community members’ experiences, raise awareness from the community and governmental level, involve community members in shaping policy and programming, and listen to the voices of youth.** Kennedy also highlighted that ChildFund published its [report](#) on “**Protecting Children Online Through Policy: Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children Policy Mapping Report.**” This report “documented progress toward addressing online safety and urgent leadership and action that is needed.” She also emphasized that we need a “**whole-child and a whole-of-government approach to prevent and respond to OSEAC, including with domestic and international actors.**” To learn more and watch this event, click [here](#). To read ChildFund’s report, click [here](#).

Another event held by the **International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)**, titled “**Digital Protection: Gender-based Violence and Harassment**” looked at the overview of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. One of the presenters, [Laura Hinson, MPH Ph.D.](#) the Senior Social and Behavioral Scientist at ICRW, presented her findings over the past 4 years around technology-facilitated gender-based violence. She first defined what technology-facilitated gender-based violence is, which is “action by one or more people that harms others based on their sexual or gender identity or by enforcing harmful gender norms. This action is carried out using the internet and/or mobile technology and includes stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, defamation, hate speech, and exploitation.” Women and girls who participate in politics are more likely to suffer technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including identifying information exposed on social media, barrage or repeated unwanted private messages from strangers, misogynistic posts on Facebook and WhatsApp groups, multiple account hacks, threats of physical and psychological harm, and photos manipulated into pornographic images. The impact of technology-facilitated gender-based violence includes sadness and depression, self-imposed social isolation and withdrawal, lost financial, social, and professional opportunities, “walked in fear”, and scaled-down political ambitions. In concluding remarks, Hinson stated that the breadth and depth of experience are greater than we imagined and experiences are not stand-alone isolated events; they disrupt many aspects of people’s lives.

To learn more about this symposium and watch more events, click [here](#).

Virtual Events

- Save the Children Norway, UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, Global Campaign for Education, Light for the World, and the University of Cambridge Network for Disability and Education (CaNDER) [virtual event](#) “**Inclusive Education: Learnings from the GEM Reports and COVID-19.**” Feb 16, 2022 at 12 pm ET.
- Columbia Mailman School of Public Health [webinar](#) “**Code Red: Menstrual Needs During Natural Disasters.**” Feb 17, 2022 at 8 am ET.
- Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), UNICEF East Asia & Pacific Regional Office (UNICEF-EAPRO), and Save the Children [webinar](#) “**Putting Young Children at the Center of Environmental and Climate Change Actions: the role of Early Childhood Development.**” Feb 17, 2022 at 12 am ET.
- Alliance for the Protection of Children and End Violence Partnership, Arigatou International, Church World Service, World Vision, and Tearfund [virtual event](#) “**Harnessing the Unique Role of Faith Actors to Protect Vulnerable Children from Gang Violence and Organized Crime in the Northern Triangle and Mexico.**” Feb 23, 2022 at 11:30 am ET.
- The World Health Organization [virtual event](#) “**Marketing the \$55 Billion Formula Milk Industry.**” February 23, 2022, at 11 am ET.
- World Vision and the End Violence Partnership [virtual event](#) “**Collective Solutions for Child Protection in the New Normal: COVID-19.**” Feb 24, 2022 at 9 am ET.
- The United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) [side event](#) “**Girls’ Education, Empowerment and the Impact on Climate Resiliency.**” Mar 14, 2022 at 4 pm ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Days for Girls [article](#) “**Building Bridges to End Gender-Based Violence: How Prevention and Menstrual Equity Go Hand in Hand.**”
- EnCompass World [analysis](#) “**USAID MCHN Gender, Youth, and Social Inclusion Analysis Document Review.**”
- Grow to Know [guide](#) “**A Girls Guide to Puberty and Periods.**”
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) [announcement](#) “**Department Submits the 43rd Annual Report to Congress on Nation’s Progress Related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.**”
- Green America [article](#) “**Chocolate Company Scorecard.**”

Professional Opportunity

ChildFund is looking for a [Strategic Communications Advisor](#) to lead their external messaging and strategy on policy and programmatic success. They are seeking an

excellent communicator with at least 6-8 years of experience including direct experience developing and implementing effective communications strategies, especially those with experience in policy, foreign policy, and children's messaging. Click [here](#) to learn more about this position and apply.

Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) is providing two funding opportunities for organizations engaging with and for youth. First, is a DRL Program to Promote Youth Engagement in Democratic Processes and the Protection of Human Rights in Bangladesh and Nepal that "enables young people to proactively engage in democratic processes, including policy development and decision-making, and the protection of human rights in Bangladesh and Nepal." To learn more and apply, click [here](#). Second is a DRL program for Youth Empowered to Protect Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Sri Lanka. This funding opportunity hopes to "empower young people in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Sri Lanka." To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



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