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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. 91: International Children with Disabilities Protection Act, Reach Every Mother and Child Act (Reach Act), USAID Humanitarian Policy, & G7 Summit.**

July 5, 2022

Call to Actions

**The International Children with Disabilities Protection [Act](#) of 2022 will soon be introduced by Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.** Disability Rights International (DRI) and the U.S. International Council on Disabilities (USICD), who have spearheaded this bill, are seeking organizations to [endorse](#) the bill. This bill will establish a grant-making fund within the U.S. Department of State to:

- Create a small grants program authorized at **\$25,000,000 annually for ten years** to support leadership and advocacy by people with disabilities and their

families to protect the full inclusion of children with disabilities in society – and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization;

- Of the amount authorized, **\$3,000,000 annually** will be provided to NGOs to develop capacity-building programs for disability leaders, legislators, policymakers, and service providers.
- **Promote advocacy skills and leadership by people with disabilities and family members of the children and youth with disabilities** so that individuals can participate in their local, regional, and national governments to bring about policy reforms, legal protections, and programs to support family inclusion of children with disabilities;
- **Promote laws, policies, and funding programs that strengthen families** and protect against the institutionalization of children with disabilities;
- **Assist countries abroad in developing policies and social supports to protect families and ensure full inclusion of children with disabilities.**

To read the entire bill, click [here](#). To read the 1-page summary of the bill, click [here](#).

**If your organization is interested in endorsing this bill, please fill out the Google form [here](#).** If you have any questions, please contact Eric Rosenthal at [erosenthal@driadvocacy.org](mailto:erosenthal@driadvocacy.org) or Isabel Hodge at [lhodge@usid.org](mailto:lhodge@usid.org).

**USAID is seeking feedback on its [Draft Humanitarian Action Policy](#).** This new Policy will serve to underpin USAID’s humanitarian interventions and reflect the integration of strong coordination across all areas of emergency assistance. USAID explains that the goal of its Humanitarian Action Policy is to “understand our positions and hold us accountable to the commitments we outline. The policy explains USAID’s understanding of the international humanitarian landscape and how its operational, policy and technical approaches address the critical needs of disaster- and conflict-affected populations.” **Please fill out this form [here](#) by July 8th, 2022 at 5 pm ET.**

Quick Summary

**In the House Appropriations State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Sub-Committee FY23 report, there was specific language about the tracking of funding for children and youth, which Initiative grantees advocated for, specifically.** It states that “Not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, the USAID Administrator shall report on steps being taken under the new Youth in Development Policy to improve the tracking and disaggregation of funding benefiting children and youth, including for programs related to the protection, education, support and safety of

children and youth.” (pg. 53). To read the full draft bill, click [here](#). To read the summary of the bill, click [here](#).

The bipartisan Reach Every Mother and Child Act ([Reach Act](#)) was introduced by Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA). In collaboration with some of the initiative’s grantees, including UNICEF USA, It aims to “improve U.S. foreign assistance efforts to end preventable deaths of young children, newborns, and mothers in low- and middle-income countries by 2030.” This legislation is cosponsored by Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN), Rep. Young Kim (R-CA), Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL), and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). The Reach Act has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE). Click [here](#) to read the legislation. Click [here](#) to learn more about the legislation and its press release.

The Brave Movement has delivered an [assessment](#) of global leaders’ lack of progress to end sexual violence against children. In an emergency press conference ahead of the G7 Summit being held June 26-28, survivors and allies released the details of the Ending Childhood Sexual Violence: #BeBrave G7 Scorecard analyzing the commitment of G7 nations to tackle child sexual violence, with damning results for France, Italy, Japan, and the U.S., in particular. The newly released data proves that there is an appalling lack of progress by all G7 countries when it comes to ending childhood sexual violence in their own countries and across the world. The scorecard found that, amongst other things, that “No G7 country has adequate protections in place to create a safe internet free of all online forms of sexual violence,” and “No country has a comprehensive National Action Plan to address childhood sexual violence which adequately addresses prevention, healing, and justice.” To read the scorecard, click [here](#).

U.S. President Joe Biden and leaders of the G7 announced their efforts to counter Putin’s attack on food security. The G7 plans to contribute over “\$4.5 billion to address global food security.” Additionally, President Biden announced, “\$2.76 billion in additional U.S. Government funding commitments to help protect the world’s most vulnerable populations.” Of this \$2.76 billion, “\$2 billion will be to help save lives through emergency interventions and \$760 million will be for sustainable near-term food assistance to help mitigate further increases in poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in vulnerable countries impacted by high prices of food, fertilizer, and fuel.” In the White House statement, they cited that over “20 million people may face the threat of starvation by the end of the year. The prolonged drought is also having dire nutrition impacts, putting children at severe risk of malnutrition and in need of treatment.” The U.S. government’s multi-pronged response to combat global food insecurity includes further funding for Global Humanitarian Assistance, Global Development Assistance,

Expansion of Feed the Future, and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). To read the full press release, click [here](#).

## Spotlight

**USAID, YouthPower2, and the Youth Engagement Community of Practice held a webinar titled “Building Sustainable Youth Networks.”** Hosted by [Farida Makame](#), Community of Practice Champion, and [Christabel Netondo](#), Youth Advisor. Farida and Christabel first introduced the Youth Engagement Community of Practice, which promotes a Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach to advance outcomes in youth programming by “creating a member-led collaborative space to share ideas about resources and knowledge on youth engagement, promoting peer-to-peer experience sharing of best practices and existing resources, and nurturing a member-led technical network within the community, offering practical tips to challenges faced by members.” To learn more about the Youth Engagement Community of Practice, click [here](#).

Part of the discussion included a question on defining youth networks. The hosts provided two different definitions. The North American Council on Adoptable Children's definition is “Youth networks are a dynamic platform for youth engagement that can serve to unite individuals of varied backgrounds toward a common goal. These networks can function in a number of different ways and typically address a variety of needs for their members.” The Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) definition is “Youth networks are formal or informal youth spaces or platforms designed to unify and amplify the voices of young people at a local, national, regional and global levels.” The same question was thrown to the various guest speakers, which included [Salma Yusuf](#), FounderMentor.Transform.Yield (MTY); [Kevine Otieno](#), Youth Advocate, Kenya; [Jennifer Uchendu](#), Founder, Susty Vibes; and [Kashindi Shabani](#), Co-founder, Savie Asbl. Kashindi Shabani explained that it is important to welcome youth into the group, that young people want to identify with the group and its leadership, and that they look for support to empower them and their ideas. He emphasized that youth want leadership and volunteer opportunities. They want to feel like they are a part of a group, to feel that they have contributed, and to learn from role models and leaders.

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

## Events

- The International Disability and Development Consortium, the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network, the World Bank Group, Humanity & Inclusion, CBM, Leonard Cheshire, and Inclusion International High-Level Political Forum 2022

virtual side [event](#) “**Count me in! Evidence and participation to shape inclusive education policies.**” July 5, 2022, at 7:30 am ET.

- Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) [virtual event](#) “**Two years into the pandemic: How education systems have coped with the second year of COVID.**” July 6, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- How to Child Rights High-Level Political Forum 2022 virtual side [event](#) “**How to Advance Children’s Rights Through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).**” July 6, 2022, at 1 pm ET.
- **The 24th International AIDS [Conference](#).** July 29th-August 2nd, 2022.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- Devex [article](#) “**Over 100 countries gather to transform education for world's poorest.**”
- Devex opinion [article](#) “**Opinion: African youth deserve better learning opportunities.**”
- Plan International [report](#) “**Reimagining climate education and youth leadership.**”
- USAID YouthPower2 [article](#) “**USAID’s YouthPower Action Youth Engagement Training.**”
- The Population Council [report](#) “**Intentional Design: Reaching the Most Excluded Girls in the Poorest Communities—A Guide for Practitioners and Advocates.**”
- Sage Journal [publication](#) “**Enhancing Human-Centered Design With Youth-Led Participatory Action Research Approaches for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming.**”
- Center for Global Development [blog post](#) “**When You Say US Foreign Assistance is Corrupt, Where Are You Pointing the Finger?**”

#### Professional Opportunities

**The AAP is seeking to hire a consultant to conduct a landscape analysis of the federal advocacy space involving children in humanitarian crises to help inform AAP’s long-term global child health advocacy efforts.** To date, the AAP’s global child health advocacy work has been primarily in the development space, and we are interested in better understanding where we, as an organization, might fit in to support federal advocacy for children in humanitarian settings. To assess federal advocacy opportunities to support these children, and identify where the AAP’s niche might be, the AAP Federal Advocacy team is looking to support a consultant who will do a comprehensive mapping of the organizations and coalitions involved in U.S. federal advocacy related to children in crisis and conflict settings; Provide an analysis of all

programs and reporting language related to children in humanitarian emergencies in the Fiscal Year 2022 State and Foreign Operations funding bill, and relevant FY 2023 funding bills; Review relevant legislation related to U.S. foreign assistance to address humanitarian crises, and help create a pediatrician member engagement strategy to support children in crisis and conflict settings. If you know anyone who might be interested in this consulting opportunity, please email **Elisabeth Piper**, the Global Child Health Policy Assistant at AAP, at [epiper@aap.org](mailto:epiper@aap.org).

**Together for Girls and the Brave Movement have multiple job opportunities open**, including [Brave Movement Executive Director](#), [Together for Girls Deputy Executive Director](#), [Senior Proposal Development Manager](#), and [Grants and Reporting Officer](#). All of the roles are remote, full-time positions supporting our mission to end violence against children and youth. International candidates are also welcome to apply. If you are interested in learning more and applying, please use the link [here](#). apply below or forward this email along.



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