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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. 94: Global Education Advocacy Day, The Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, & U.S. Department of State report.**

July 25, 2022

Quick Summary

**Global Campaign for Education-US held its annual Global Education Advocacy Day**, where youth advocates met with multiple Congressional offices to advocate for legislation that improves international basic education, including the READ Reauthorization Act and an increase in the FY23 Global Education Fund. Multiple members of the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative Youth Alliance Working Group participated in this event. [Anny Lin](#), the Fellow at Global Campaign for Education-US, met with Senators [Chris Coons](#) (D-DE), [Susan Collins](#) (R-ME), and [Shelly Moore Capito's](#) (R-WV) offices to discuss the importance of international basic education and the work that the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative is doing.

Additionally, [Emily Todd](#), Youth Advocate for the Youth Alliance Working Group, met with Senator [Lindsey Graham](#)'s (R-SC) office to also advocate for international basic education and discussed the importance and purpose of the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative Youth Alliance Working Group. Please visit GCE-US's [Twitter @GCE\\_US](#) to learn more about the outcomes of this event.

**The U.S. Department of State released its annual "Trafficking in Persons (TIP)" report.** This report highlights critical human trafficking issues and "ranks governments based on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking." The report emphasized that "traffickers frequently target girls and exploit the vulnerabilities created by compounded, systemic inequalities, such as a lack of access to education, which is driven by cultural norms that undervalue women and girls." Additionally, this year's report also highlighted the Child Soldier Prevention Act List and report, which required the TIP report to identify countries that have "governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces, or government-supported armed groups that recruit or use child soldiers." The 2022 CSPA list includes Governments of the following countries: Afghanistan, Burma, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Mali, Russia, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen. The governments identified are subject to restrictions, in the following fiscal year, on certain security assistance and commercial licensing of military equipment. Click [here](#) to read the report. Click [here](#) to watch the launch of the report.

**USAID announced last week that it will provide almost \$1.3 billion for humanitarian and development assistance to the Horn of Africa.** Currently, the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia) is experiencing a devastating drought, which has caused more than 18 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Nearly \$1.18 billion of the funding will go towards emergency food to respond to the threat of famine, nutritional support to prevent and treat child malnutrition, farming and agricultural support to prevent crop and livestock losses, urgent medical support, and clean water to prevent disease outbreaks often prevalent during drought, and support to protect women and children from higher risk of violence. This funding will specifically help "provide community-level screening to support early detection and identification of cases of severe acute malnutrition in children." Additionally, this funding will support "**specialized training for healthcare staff to mitigate future gender-based violence, alongside the creation of safe spaces and counseling for women and girls with an emphasis on communities displaced by the drought, as well as child protection services and family reunification assistance.**" To learn more and read USAID's press release, click [here](#).

**The White House [announced](#) that the U.S. will hold a U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit on December 13-15, 2022.** The statement explained that the U.S.-Africa Leaders summit will “build on our shared values to better foster new economic engagement; reinforce the U.S.-Africa commitment to democracy and human rights; mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and of future pandemics; work collaboratively to strengthen regional and global health; promote food security; advance peace and security; respond to the climate crisis; and amplify diaspora ties.” Click [here](#) to read the full White House statement.

**Representatives of the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative Youth Alliance Working Group met with [Rep. Dean Phillips’](#) (D-MN) [Youth Advisory Council](#) to discuss the initiative, current projects of the Youth Alliance Working Group, and topics that bridge domestic and international issues.** [Anny Lin](#), the Fellow at Global Campaign for Education-US, discussed the importance of improving access to quality, inclusive education for all. Lin explained that **“COVID-19 has only exacerbated existing learning losses: over two years since the start of the pandemic, 616 million students continue to be affected by school closures.”** This is due to poverty, cost of school, conflict/war, climate change-related disasters, child labor, and gender inequality. [Meghana Srikrishna](#), the Youth, Peace, and Security Fellow at Search for Common Ground discussed creating effective youth activism. She highlighted that “Search For Common Ground has launched Mosaic, a community of young people pushing for change in their communities, to help mitigate these issues. **Click [here](#) to learn more about the Youth Alliance Working Group. If you are a youth who is interested in joining, please fill out the form [here](#).**

Updates from the Hill

**The Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a full committee hearing on the “Global Food Security Crisis and The U.S. Response.”** This committee hearing discussed the U.S. and U.N.’s efforts to combat the impacts of food security and malnutrition with a focus on two contexts; Ukraine and the Horn of Africa. Those who testified included USAID Administrator [Samantha Power](#), U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. [Linda Thomas-Greenfield](#), and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme [David Beasley](#). Power explained in her testimony that, before Russia invaded Ukraine, **“768 million people were chronically hungry, and 193 million people were facing crisis levels of acute food insecurity.”** She emphasized that USAID is taking multiple measures to combat the global food security crisis including, using “data analysis to project the potential impacts of the crisis in countries with existing humanitarian emergencies to prevent even further deterioration in conditions. The impacts of the global food crisis extend beyond just the amount of food communities can eat. They

affect people's health and nutrition and change the types of risks to violence that women and girls face." She also noted that **USAID "announced an additional \$200 million contribution to UNICEF to support treatment of severe wasting in the most food insecure countries."** Beasley emphasized the dire global food security crisis by stating that the World Food Programme is **"being forced to make the terrible decision to literally take food from hungry children to give it to starving children."** Additionally, **around 30% of children with parents who are malnourished are "wasting and many are now permanently stunted, undermining their ability to ever achieve their potential. This is not just a critical moment of hunger; it is a generational impact that will have consequences for decades to come."** Click [here](#) to watch the committee hearing. Click [here](#) to read USAID Administrator Samantha Power, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme David Beasley's testimonies.

**The Global Learning Loss Assessment Act 2021 ([H.R. 1500](#), [S. 552](#)) has seen traction on both the House and Senate versions.** This bill requires USAID to report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agency's basic education programs. The House version of the bill, which is led by Reps. Houlahan and Fitzpatrick was passed in July. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a business meeting last week, where they considered the Senate version.

**The Safe from the Start Act ([H.R. 571](#)) is being amended so it can be included in the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act.** This amendment, which is co-led by Rep. [Grace Meng](#) (D-NY), [Chrissy Houlahan](#) (D-PA), and [Lois Frankel](#) (D-FL) aims to **"improve upon and codify the Department of State-United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Safe from the Start Initiative, a program to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the needs of women and girls in international crises like natural disasters, war or pandemics. It would also provide Congress oversight of the program's implementation."** Some of the child-focus provisions include expanding the **"Advisory Panel on Community Support for Families with Special Needs and establishing a grant program increasing support of educational services at primary receiving installations"**, It also authorizes **"\$53.0 million for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies with military dependent students and \$22.0 million for local educational agencies eligible to receive a payment for children with severe disabilities."** To read the Safe from the Start Act, click [here](#). To learn more about the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act, click [here](#).

Events

- FHI 360 [virtual event](#) “**Gender Plus Summit 2022: Power and Partnerships-Centering Equity in Global Development and Humanitarian Programs.**” July 26, 2022.
- The Partnership for Male Youth [virtual event](#) “**Young Males, Healing Partnerships and Promoting Resilience.**” July 27, 2022, at 1 pm ET.
- The Research Division in the Innovation, Technology, and Research (ITR) Hub at USAID [virtual event](#) “**Closing Evidence Gaps to Inform Programming Decisions.**” July 28, 2022, at 9:30 am ET.
- USAID, YouthPower2: Learning & Evaluation, & Youth Excel [virtual event](#) “**Intergenerational Solidarity: Inclusion, Protection, and Mental Well-Being.**” August 11, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Social Current [virtual event](#) “**Challenging the Indian Child Welfare Act and Tribal Sovereignty.**” August 11, 2022, at 2 pm ET.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) [in-person event](#) “**The 2022 Annual Meetings.**” October 10- 16, 2022.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- Thrive Online [blog post](#) “**Cyberspace needs to be a safe space– for all of us.**”
- UNHCR [report](#) “**Lives on Hold: Profiles and Intentions of Refugees from Ukraine.**”
- The Daily Star [article](#) “**We must do more to protect our children from sexual abuse.**”
- The Official Journal of RESNA [journal article](#) “**The Global Report on Assistive Technology: a new era in assistive technology.**”
- The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health [journal article](#) “**Challenges and opportunities of female leadership in education.**”
- Equality Now & the UNFPA [analysis](#) “**Use of the Multi-Sectoral Approach to Ending Gender-Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation in Africa.**”

#### Professional Opportunities

##### **The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is seeking to hire a Learning Officer.**

The Learning Officer will “support all knowledge exchange and learning initiatives and activities from all GCE’s operational units” and will do this by supporting organizational learning and developing learning resources and publications. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

##### **RTI International is looking for a Senior Manager for its Early Childhood**

**Development division.** The Senior Manager will “support project and proposal work related to early childhood development (ECD) and pre-primary education, ensuring

efficient management and quality of work products while working collaboratively with other ECD, education and operational staff.” To learn more about this position and apply, click [here](#).



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