



GWII Update – 29 July 2015



International News Round-Up: July 2015

Financing the future or financing failure? (Devex, 20 July)

The third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was supposed to usher in a new era in global development and international cooperation. But while the United Nations hailed the FFD3 outcome as a groundbreaking, “critical step forward in building a sustainable future for all,” many civil society organizations and development leaders did not see it the same way. The conference’s outcome document — better known as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda — represents the world’s plan to implement and finance the new post-2015 development agenda. And although it expresses global support for an array of measures aimed at helping developing countries achieve self-reliance and sustainable economic transformation by raising domestic revenues and attracting private finance, it lacks the teeth needed to scale up existing resources and draw increased official aid from traditional donors. [Read more.](#)

Small gains for women playwrights in the USA (New York Times, July 15)

Roughly one-fifth of the productions staged at hundreds of theaters nationwide over the past three seasons were written by women, according to a study to be released Friday. Overseen by the playwrights Julia Jordan and Marsha Norman, the study, called “The Count,” is to be updated each year. Until now, besides a handful of older analyses, it had been unclear just how many female playwrights were seeing their work staged, according to Ms. Jordan. “We wanted to create a baseline,” she said, “and to document the change.” Judging from the numbers, the picture for women is rosier than a decade ago. A 2002 report from the New York State Council on the Arts found that 17 percent of productions across the country had female playwrights. According to the new report, that figure now sits at 22 percent. [Read more.](#)

The educational struggle faced by girls around the world (BBC, 9 July)

Occasionally stories break through that give a graphic sense of the enormous educational struggle faced by children, particularly girls, in many parts of the world. For example, the shooting in the head of [Malala Yousafzai - an](#) advocate for girls' education - in 2012; the Taliban murder of 132 schoolchildren in an attack on a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, in 2014; and the abduction by Boko Haram of some 200 Nigerian schoolgirls in the same year. Behind the headlines, the outlook, in terms of educational opportunities for children in some of the poorest parts of the world, appears to be worsening, in spite of international efforts to reverse the trend. [Read more.](#)

Oslo Summit: Financing Education in Developing Countries (World Bank, 9 July)

At the [Oslo Summit on Education for Development](#), Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Sohlberg urged the international education community to adopt new and smarter ways to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Norway's support for global education has been expanding, including a new partnership with the World Bank group on results-based financing. Speaking of a lack of political support to invest in quality education for all children, Sohlberg said "For the first time in history we are in the unique position to provide education opportunities for all, if only we pull together." [Read more.](#)

Girls' education will only make the grade when intuition gives way to information (The Guardian, 2 July)

Schools have the potential to transform girls' lives, unlocking the door to future opportunities, better health and greater autonomy. But in many places, schooling falls short of that aspiration. In May, global educators gathered at the World Education Forum in Korea to agree on a post-2015 global education agenda. In June, the US first lady Michelle Obama visited the UK to help launch a UK/US partnership that will invest nearly \$200m (£128m) in supporting girls' education in countries affected by conflict, starting with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [Read more.](#)

Fight against child marriage to get \$10m in Canadian funding (CBC, July 8)

Worldwide efforts to end child, early and forced marriage are getting \$10 million from Canada, Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson said Wednesday, as the government also named 11 non-governmental organizations that will share \$180 million in maternal, newborn and child health funding. In a news release, Nicholson said Canada will put \$2.3 million toward a project to promote secondary schooling and skills development training for girls and women in Commonwealth countries. The goal is to "promote secondary schooling for girls and women and provide them with skills development training to improve their livelihoods", the release said. [Read more.](#)

Sierra Leone poised to lift bar on pregnant girls being educated (The Guardian, 24 June)

The decision to continue the school ban on pregnant girls in Sierra Leone could soon be reversed as the government inches towards an agreement with international agencies. It had been expected that the government would lift the ban, imposed in 2010, when schools reopened following the end of the Ebola crisis but the education minister, Minkailu Bah, reaffirmed it. Now, after weeks of talks with the government, senior UN officials and UK and Irish aid representatives say they are on the verge of a significant breakthrough. It is estimated that a third of children in Sierra Leone are born to school-age children and there is anecdotal evidence that the incidence of teenage pregnancy rose sharply during the Ebola outbreak. [Read more.](#)



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