

4 October, 2011

Dear friends,

This week's Newsflash! is about upholding children's right to play. The image of children playing symbolizes the essence of childhood across many countries and cultures. If children are not playing at some point in every day, then something is not right. But for many children, especially those living in poverty, that right is often denied. Recognized by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 31) and African Charter on the Welfare and Rights of the Child (Article 12), as essential to child well being, play is a right because play is:

- A basic need of human development and well-being that is as vital as food and water are for survival.
- Essential for decent quality of life
- Children's way of engaging with the world around and within themselves
- Improves health – both mind and body
- Develops mental and physical competencies and self-perceptions
- Develops social skills - sharing, following rules, fairness, cooperation
- Develop social relations – peers and adults
- Key to learning life lessons about respect, inclusion, leadership, and cooperation.
- Natural way to deal with healing and recovery when hurt or traumatized

Many adults equate play with organised sports, physical education and formal recreation. These are important parts of the right to play, but not the whole of play. There are different types of play that help facilitate children's development. Whatever form play takes for different children at various stages in their lives, it must:

Make play rights a reality

For Every Child,

Every Day,

No Matter Where

- Have Fun - Play Safe – Play Fair
- Create opportunities and spaces for play
- Increase awareness in adults about play as a right
- Develop children and adults skills to engage in and support safe and appropriate play.

A description of manuals on play developed by Right to Play (www.righttoplay.com)

(Call for Proposals) Social Protection Thematic Window

(Call for Case Studies) FHI 360 Seeks Case Studies about Best Practices in HIV Interventions for Young People

(Call for Applications) 2011 Global Development Awards and Medals Competition

(Call for Proposals) Social Protection Thematic Window

3ie is calling for new and innovative impact evaluation proposals on social protection. This grant window dedicated to social protection is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), with the potential for more funding from 3ie. Applications will be accepted from 10 October 2011.

This is the first thematic window being launched by 3ie and is part of an ongoing drive to fund high quality research that helps us gather a body of evidence and understand what works, why and under what circumstances in particular sectors and sub-sectors. A strong shared agenda has been developed across 3ie and DFID based on a clear poverty focus, a commitment to building national capacity and to communicating findings so that new evidence makes a real difference to policy and practice in developing countries.

Focus of the Social Protection Thematic Window

- This grant programme seeks to gather evidence about risk reduction or coping mechanisms, particularly cash transfer interventions and public works.
- It may also consider complementary interventions in the area of risk prevention like unemployment benefits, pensions and insurance; and opportunity promotion initiatives, such as job creation and training.
- This window accepts proposals on the impact of social protection interventions, design issues relating to social protection, as well as proposals that examine elements of the institutional and political context that influence social protection programmes.
- The priority is to gather evidence from the impact evaluations of interventions in low-income countries. However, studies in a middle-income country will be accepted as long as it clearly demonstrates that lessons are of relevance for low-income countries. Cross-country and cross-regional studies are also of interest.
- Researchers are strongly encouraged to lay out the theory of change and use mixed methods and to complement their studies with cost effectiveness analysis. The window also seeks general or partial equilibrium type of analyses and systematic context analyses, in contexts where results from rigorous impact evaluations are already available.
- Preference will be given to studies where there is a high degree of involvement of the implementing agency and other key international, national and local policy-stakeholders.

Deadline for Submissions: 11 November, 2011

For more go to: http://www.3ieimpact.org/social_protection_thematic_window.html

(Call for Case Studies) FHI 360 Seeks Case Studies about Best Practices in HIV Interventions for Young People

FHI 360 is currently inviting case studies about best practices in HIV interventions for young people. These case studies are being invited on behalf of the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on HIV and Young People. Interventions being discussed in the case studies can represent different types of HIV programming including counselling and testing, family life or life skills education, mass media campaigns, medical interventions, etc.

Submitted programs or interventions should be aligned with at least one of the six themes of the IATT Global Guidance Briefs, or specifically target young people living with HIV, or adolescent girls. Submissions will be assessed by a team of experts, and those that most compellingly illustrate best practices will be included as case studies in a publication and disseminated globally.

Case Study Themes

Programs or interventions submitted for consideration must align with at least one of the themes of the IATT Global Guidance Briefs, or specifically target young people living with HIV, or adolescent girls.

The case study themes are:

- Community-Based HIV Interventions for Young People
- HIV Interventions for Most-at-risk Young People
- HIV Interventions in the Health Sector for Young People
- HIV Interventions for Young People in Humanitarian Emergencies
- HIV Interventions for Young People in the Workplace
- HIV Interventions for Young People in the Education Sector

Deadline for Submission: October 17, 2011

For more go to: http://www.iywg.org/youth/case_studies

(Call for Applications) 2011 Global Development Awards and Medals Competition

Do you have a research question on 'Urbanization and Development' you want to explore but are short of funds for? Here is your chance to receive grants of up to US\$ 30,000 to pursue your academic quest. And it does not stop there! The Global Development Network (GDN) is also giving you the opportunity to get up to US\$ 10,000 in recognition of the quality of your completed research under this topic.

GDN promotes superior research through the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development for innovative research proposals and its Medals for Research on Development for quality research papers. A second prize of US\$ 5,000 is awarded in the two categories as well.

In addition, the finalists will be given a chance to present their work before an international high profile audience in development research at the 13th Global Development Conference scheduled to be held in June 2012. Their travel and stay will be funded by GDN.

This year, our focus is on Urbanization and Development. Entries should be specific to the following themes:

1. The Interactive Economy and Urban Development

2. Urban Externalities (Contagious Disease, Congestion and Crime) and Urban Poverty
3. The Enabling Environment – Housing, Transportation and Infrastructure

For more details, please log on to 2011 Global Development Awards and Medals Competition.

Watch what past winners of GDN's Global Development Awards and Medals Competition have to say vimeo.com/27619123

To Apply:

- All applications and documents must be submitted electronically only at <http://opa.gdnet.org>
- For any further queries related to the competition write to us at awards@gdnet.org
- Application Deadline – 31 January, 2012 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.