

5 April, 2011

Dear friends,

As you may know, March 22 is World Water Day. In recognition of how water impacts the lives of children, families and communities, this week's Newsflash provides some resources related to water.

Clean water is essential for life, but one in eight of the world's population does not have access to clean water. Water affects health of children and families, agricultural production in communities, and economic development of countries. Sub-Saharan Africa suffers from chronically overburdened water systems. Experts say incorporating water improvements into development is necessary to end the severe problems caused by water stress and to improve public health and advance agricultural production of the region

- More than 300 million people across Africa drink dirty water daily. The lack of access to clean water and sanitation kills 1.4 million children a year, worldwide. In fact, diarrhea remains the second leading cause of death among children under five globally. Diarrhea kills more young children than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

- Because sub-Saharan Africa is subject to more extreme climate variability than other regions, it needs improved water storage capacity. Access to clean water would save women and girls walking an average six kilometers a day to fetch water, freeing more time for the family, for school and for productive work.

- Agricultural development has the potential to improve food security for children and families, but requires extensive water supplies. Small-scale agricultural improvements also offer a solution to water stress, including the harvest of water in shallow wells, drip irrigation for crops, the use of pumps, and other technological innovations.

We hope these resources are useful for your organizations. Sincerely,

Firelight Team

- (Call for participation) AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development

- (Call for proposals) Civil Society responsive grants from Commonwealth Foundation

- (Call for applications) Grand Challenges in Global Health Round 7

- (Resources) Water resources

- (Article) World Water Day Report: African Cities Outgrow Their Water Supplies
- (Website) Women and Human Settlements: A Global Exchange Space

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(Call for participation) The 12th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development

April 19-22, 2012 | Istanbul, Turkey

Call for Participation Submission Deadline: May 27, 2011

Transforming economic power... are you up to the challenge? Are you willing to move beyond your comfort zone? To question your usual thinking? To engage with actors outside of your every day activism or workplace? Are you ready to build alliances across boundaries so that together we can transform economic power?

Through the 2012 AWID Forum, we aim to explore how economic power is impacting on women and the planet, and to facilitate connections among the very diverse groups working on these issues from both human rights and justice approaches so that together we contribute to stronger, more effective strategies to advance women's rights and justice.

For more information, go here: <http://www.forum.awid.org/forum12/call-for-proposals/>

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(Call for proposals) Civil Society responsive grants from Commonwealth Foundation

Our responsive grants are designed to promote international or intercultural exchange, co-operation and sharing of skills, knowledge and ideas between people from developing Commonwealth countries.

Hundreds of non-governmental organisations around the Commonwealth benefit from our responsive grants. We award funding of up to £12,500, although the average award is about £5,000. In exceptional cases, we can award grants of up to £25,000.

They support activities such as short training courses, workshops, conferences, festivals, study visits or voter education activities.

For more information, go here: <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/Howwedeliver/Grants/Civilsocietyresponsivegrants>

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(Call for applications) Grand Challenges in Global Health Round 7

The Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative fosters scientific and technological innovation to solve key health problems in the developing world. The initiative includes the Grand Challenges in Global Health grant program and the newer Grand Challenges Explorations grant program. We are currently accepting proposals for Grand Challenges Explorations Round 7 until May 19, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

Explorations Round 7 Topics:

- \* The Poliovirus Endgame: Create Ways to Accelerate, Sustain and Monitor Eradication
  - \* Create the Next Generation of Sanitation Technologies
  - \* Create Low-Cost Cell Phone-Based Solutions for Improved Uptake and Coverage of Childhood Vaccinations
  - \* Design New Approaches to Cure HIV Infection
  - \* Explore Nutrition for Healthy Growth of Infants and Children
  - \* Apply Synthetic Biology to Global Health Challenges

For more information, go here: <http://www.grandchallenges.org/Pages/Default.aspx>

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Water resources

See the attached documents for resources on water!

-Protecting community water

-Rainwater harvesting

-Solar water disinfection

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(Article) Using a nomination campaign to identify new constituencies for human rights

The 5-in-6 program in South Africa raises awareness of the widespread problem of domestic violence through a nomination campaign for male role models. Maisel developed an Everyday Hero campaign to find men who do not commit abuse and involve them in the struggle against domestic violence. By recognizing and honoring local male role models, Charles Maisel taught groups of ordinary men to talk about domestic violence and to see that it is an underlying part of the other problems their communities were facing. Approaching local problems in this new way redefines "community" to emphasize interconnectedness during the struggle for justice on any issue. This work empowers community members to create their own peace, and to be responsible for themselves and for each other.

For more information, go here: <https://www.newtactics.org/en/tactics/using-nomination-campaign-identify-new-constituencies-human-rights>

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(Article) World Water Day Report: African Cities Outgrow Their Water Supplies

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, March 22, 2011 (ENS) - Africa's cities are growing at a faster rate than anywhere else in the world, stressing drinking water supplies and sanitation services, says a new UN report released to mark World Water Day 2011.

The Rapid Response Assessment by the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Habitat, "Green Hills, Blue Cities," finds that 40 percent of Africa's one billion people live in urban areas where water supplies and sanitation are inadequate.

The theme of this year's World Water Day, which falls on March 22 every year, is "Water for cities: responding to the urban water challenge." The main event is a three-day exhibition and fair hosted by the government of South Africa at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

For the entire article, go here: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2011/2011-03-22-01.html>

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(Website) Women and Human Settlements: A Global Exchange Space

Women and Human Settlements is an online community of practitioners, researchers, grassroots women leaders and development institutions, created for the purpose of sharing knowledge on women's empowerment, gender equality, urbanization and community development. Here, you can make a personal profile for networking, join discussions, share and find information.

For more, go here: <http://www.womenandhumansettlements.org/>

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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](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).