

Dear friends,

As we commemorate this 100th International Women's Day, we are reminded that women across the continent of Africa, and indeed across the world, still do not have claim to their human rights nor to equal opportunity and participation.

Yet we know that when women have equal opportunity and can fully realize their rights - the benefits are for women themselves, but also for their children. Women who are healthy, educated and working, marry at a later age, have few children, who are healthier and better educated.

This year, International Women's Day highlights the participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology. It also focuses our attention on the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.

This week's Newsflash builds on the information shared last week, with resources that focus on women and land, water, and agriculture.

Sincerely,

Firelight Team

-- (Call for Applications) UN Habitat Youth Fund

-- (Call for submissions) Project Inspire

-- (Call For Submissions) Skoll Foundation

-- (Resource) Women's Land Rights

-- (Resource) Community Mapping for Water and Sanitation

-- (Resource) Women and Agriculture

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(Call for Applications) UN Habitat Youth Fund

This fund promotes the poverty reduction aims of *Millennium Development Goals* and the *Habitat Agenda* for better, more sustainable and equitable towns and cities throughout the developing world. It provides grants of up to \$25,000 for new ideas and solutions for job creation, good governance, adequate shelter and secure tenure.

By undertaking research on best practices in youth-led development the fund will also create a greater awareness of the urgency to ensure that youth concerns are integrated into

national and local development policies and strategies.

Applicant organizations must be led by young people aged 15-32 years and be based in cities or towns in developing countries to qualify for a grant. Support will be provided primarily for those working to improve slum conditions and to raise opportunities for young people growing up in poverty. Projects encouraging gender equality or involving partnerships with the government or the private sector are particularly encouraged.

For more, go here: <http://www.unhabitatyouthfund.org/Default.aspx>

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(Call for submissions) Project Inspire

**PROJECT INSPIRE: 5 Minutes to Change the World** is a joint initiative by UN Women Singapore and MasterCard to help you create a better world of opportunities for women and girls in Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa. Send us a video pitch with your idea to help empower disadvantaged women or girls, through education, skills training, financial inclusion, social entrepreneurship. You could win a **US\$25,000 grant** to go out there and bring your vision to life. Special recognition will be given to the Best Financial Literacy/ Livelihood proposal which will win a start-up grant of **US\$10,000**. What's more, finalists will get the chance to come to Singapore to present their inspiring idea to an expert judging panel. You will also attend a workshop on sustainable social entrepreneurship and presentation skills training.

For more information go here: <http://www.5minutestochangetheworld.org/>

Submissions open - 8 March - 30 June 2011

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(Call For Submissions) Skoll Foundation

Each year the Skoll Foundation presents the Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship to a small number of social entrepreneurs who are solving the world's most pressing problems. The Skoll Award includes a core support grant to the organization to be paid over three years and a noncash award to the social entrepreneur that is presented at the Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship. The Skoll Foundation has an open application process for Awards consideration. However, to be considered for the Award, organizations must meet very specific Awards criteria: winners have a tested and proven social innovation that addresses an issue of critical importance and is positioned for large-scale impact.

Deadline: Online applications accepted: Between March 1 and April 27, 2011

Fore more information go here: <http://www.skollfoundation.org/about/skoll-awards/>

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(Resource) Women's Land Rights

This policy brief presents consolidated findings from the Women's Land Rights in Southern Africa Project. It shares information on the legal and policy environment in five countries; narrates women's experiences with regards to land rights; and based on what the women want, articulates potential springboards to the realization of women's land rights and concludes with baseline trends and key conclusions for the project and beyond.

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(Resource) Community Mapping for Water and Sanitation

Two of the most common challenges faced by poor communities are access to clean water and sanitation. This guide provides a roadmap for a community mapping exercise that helps the community identify the problems it faces and to develop and implement appropriate solutions.

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(Resource) Women and Agriculture

Women farmers are the pillars of African agriculture. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, women make up over two thirds agricultural labor in Africa and produce nearly 90 percent of food on the continent. They are responsible for growing, selling, buying and preparing food for their families. Yet even as the guardians of food security, they are still marginalized in business relations and have minimal control over access to resources such as land, inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizer, credit and technology. This briefing paper provides an overview of the key challenges that women face in agriculture.

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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).