

Firelight Newsflash! 11 August 2008

Dear partners,

Firelight staff are now back in the office following the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. To read about their experience and that of the Firelight partners who were in attendance, please see highlights on our website: http://www.firelightfoundation.org/AIDS_2008.htm

We will be sending out a full summary of the conference later this week. In the meantime, please see attached a copy of the first-ever plenary speech on children at the conference, which was delivered by Firelight Advisory Board member, Linda Richter of the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa. Her four recommendations were:

- Support children through families.
- Develop comprehensive & integrated family-centred services.
- Create social protection for the poorest families.
- Expand income transfers to poor families.

Her final parting words were: "All children, including those affected by HIV and AIDS are best cared for in functional families with basic income security, access to health care and education, and support from kin and community. Our work is to ensure these conditions for children and families."

Enhanced Protection for Children Affected by AIDS

[The Executive Summary of Enhanced Protection for Children Affected by AIDS](#) is now available from UNICEF. Many countries heavily affected by the AIDS pandemic have responded by developing their own plans of action for orphans and vulnerable children, creating a mechanism for coordination and oversight for governments to work closely with civil society. The actions and recommendations presented in this document invite governments and donor organizations to mobilize resources in protecting children affected by AIDS and to partner with civil society and communities in designing and implementing responses appropriate to their needs. As seen in the **complete document**, the summary sets forth a matrix of recommendations for action in regards to social protection, legal protection, justice, alternative care, reducing stigma, and strengthening social welfare sectors. It contains specific actions that governments and NGO's can take to decrease the vulnerability of children

affected by AIDS and respond to instances of abuse, exploitation and neglect.

To read the document in English or French, see: <http://www.crin.org/bcn/>

HIV/AIDS ADVOCACY GUIDE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa has produced an Advocacy Guide for Local Authorities in Namibia. This short guide presents the case for local government addressing HIV/AIDS. It shows, in practical terms, what local leaders - no matter the size of your city, town or village - can do to advocate for effective responses to HIV/AIDS at the local authority level. An excerpt:

"What can Mayors, Councillors and Local Authorities do?

The fundamental responsibilities of local government institutions are to:

- Ensure the provision of municipal services.
- Promote the economic and social development of the local communities.
- Provide good governance to the local communities in a way that is responsive, inclusive, democratic and accountable."

To read the guide,

see: http://www.amicaall.org/publications/guide/Namibiaadvocacyguide_en.pdf

Civil Society Perspectives on TB/HIV: Highlights from a Joint Initiative to Promote Community-Led Advocacy

This document was released by the Treatment Action Group (TAG) and the Open Society Institute (OSI) to highlight the work of community-based organisations and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) who are advocating for coordinated tuberculosis (TB) and HIV policies and services in their countries. It is a product of the TB/HIV Advocacy Grants Project, which was launched in 2004 by Public Health Watch and TAG. The project and the publication underscore the importance of enhancing community engagement in the design, implementation, and evaluation of collaborative TB/HIV programmes. The report presents case studies from Indonesia, Mexico, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Ukraine, and the Caribbean, highlighting community advocates' strategies, achievements, and lessons learned...

To download the document,

see: http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/phw/articles_publications/publications/highlights_20060811/highlights_08112006.pdf

HIV/AIDS and Women: A Collection of Resources to Support Policy and Advocacy on HIV/AIDS 2008

Women, Ink., a programme of the International Women's Tribune Centre, has compiled a collection of materials entitled "HIV/AIDS and Women: Resources to Support Policy and Advocacy." Comprising some 50 action-oriented tools as well as analyses, reports, and case studies, this resource pack was assembled to support informed participation on issues of women and HIV/AIDS at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS 2008.

The directory of resources specifically addresses the needs of women. Included in this pack are a list of free resources from organisations working on gender and HIV/AIDS. It includes materials around the following topics:

- Advocating for a gender-based approach to HIV/AIDS;
- Protecting the rights of young women and girls;
- Promoting a gender-based approach to prevention and care;
- Guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights for women;
- Supporting leadership among women living with HIV/AIDS;
- Eliminating violence against women; and
- Ensuring women's economic rights.

[Click here to download titles and links to these resources in PDF format.](#)

[Click here to access titles and links to these resources by topic.](#)

Making Local Voices Heard on PEPFAR

While debates over the US global AIDS program have heated up in the U.S. capital recently, there has been little consultation with groups in the countries where the program actually works. Global AIDS Alliance (GAA) is working to get such "local voices" heard by those in power, through an initiative to strengthen AIDS advocacy in sub-Saharan Africa and to help ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the on-the-ground impact of global AIDS policies and programs. As part of this work, GAA brought together East African activists from 21 civil-society groups for a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, last December to develop recommendations for strengthening PEPFAR. Organized in partnership with the Kenya Treatment Access Movement and Health GAP, the meeting resulted in a list of eight top priorities, which was delivered to key members of Congress. [Click here to read the recommendations.](#)

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Assistance (META) 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. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.