

Firelight Newsflash! 13 July 2009

Correction

Please note that in last week's Newsflash, the notice of "**Call for Proposals: IHEU-HIVOS Humanist Network and Development Programme 2009**" was obtained from the FundsforNGOs.org website.

[FundsforNGOs.org](http://www.fundsforngos.org) is an online initiative, working for the sustainability of NGOs by increasing their access to donors, resources and skills. It uses online technologies to spread knowledge about organizational sustainability, promote creative ideas for long-term generation of institutional funds for development interventions, improve professional efforts in resource mobilization and advocate for increased allocation of donor resources for building the skills and capacities of NGOs. FundsforNGOs.org also intends to create awareness about opportunities to sustain NGOs in the long-run and address the issue of short-term donor support which lacks any plan for organizational sustainability. Such kinds of support not only implicate NGOs in embarrassing situations but also disturb the established community practices.

For other funding opportunities, see their website: <http://www.fundsforngos.org/>
For more information, email them at: info@fundsforngos.org.

Award: Nominate your unsung hero

Nominations due 24 July 2009

The Guardian (a U.K.-based newspaper), in partnership with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and Marie Stopes International, are pleased to announce an exciting new award - [The Guardian Achievements in International Development Award](#). The Guardian Achievements in International Development Award is designed to recognise some of the unsung heroes of international development. These are people who have made a profound contribution to the alleviation of poverty, working above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people. This contribution can be made either directly - through their own work or activities - or indirectly as a result of others using their achievements to improve their lives (e.g. technological inventions or agricultural research).

For more information on the award criteria and the nomination process, see:
http://www.guardian.co.uk/achievementsaward?dm_i=3F8,17UC,R7X6W,416D,1

Aid worker, rate thyself: Participate in an Online Survey on the International Humanitarian System

JOHANNESBURG, 7 July 2009 (IRIN) - If you are an aid worker and have an opinion on how poorly funded your organization is, how competent your fellow aid workers are or how well the international humanitarian system works with local authorities, ALNAP needs you.

A "state of the humanitarian system" review is being led by the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP), a UK-based network.

Despite various evaluations and analyses of the humanitarian system some "very basic information" on its size, reach, scope of action and capability remains unknown, said Paul Harvey, a humanitarian aid expert leading the review for ALNAP.

The research will include an analysis of basic statistics on funding; profiles of implementing agencies and numbers of aid workers; interviews with about one hundred purposively selected key informants; a survey of aid worker perceptions of the performance of humanitarian aid; and a synthesis of issues and findings from recent evaluations and other humanitarian literature.

The report will provide a descriptive mapping, a general performance assessment, and an analysis of major new developments in the humanitarian aid sector over the past three years.

If you are an aid or development worker you can contribute to the survey [online](#) at:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB229CU7Y4RJA>

Publication - The Child Within: Connecting with Children Who Have Experienced Grief and Loss

By the Khulakahle Child Counselling & Training Forum; 68 pages; August 2008

This workbook, containing numerous illustrations, was developed in collaboration with Masangane ('to embrace' in Xhosa), an orphan care project supported by the Moravian Church in South Africa's Eastern Province. It arose out of a need expressed by volunteer caregivers who were experiencing serious difficulties in looking after orphaned children.

The Child Within breaks new ground in promoting resilience in children who have suffered grief and personal loss. It does so by enabling adults who are child care-givers - as parents, guardians, volunteers or professionals - to rediscover

and appreciate their own 'child within'. Through structured workshop sessions, participants learn how to communicate more openly and effectively with children.

The workbook incorporates a Christian approach to children as 'a gift from the Lord' (Psalm 127:3), but can be used by a wide variety of community groups and organisations. Although based on professional research on child and adolescent development, the book is written in clear, simple language, and is easily accessible to non-professional child caregivers.

You can order or download this publication from the Strategies for Hope website at: <http://www.stratshope.org/b-cc-06-child.htm>

Publication - Seen and Heard: Involving Children in Responses to HIV and AIDS

This publication, "Seen and Heard," from PANOS UK, looks at the involvement of children, including young children, in responses to HIV and AIDS and examines issues around children's participation. It explores the challenges of enabling children to express their views and priorities effectively and suggests how they can best be supported through a range of appropriate media and communication approaches. The paper draws on the experiences of people living in communities affected by poverty and HIV and AIDS, and highlights examples of initiatives that successfully involve children.

Key points

- The specific needs and communication styles of children of different ages need to be recognised and accommodated in responses to HIV and AIDS. Methods that support children to express themselves and communicate effectively need to be documented and more widely shared.
- There is a need to build on the documented success in involving children in decisions that affect their lives, to give them the tools and space to participate effectively in responses to HIV and AIDS.
- The different 'childhoods' and experiences of HIV and AIDS, poverty, and of participation for girls and boys of different ages need to be better understood as the starting point for interventions with children.
- Meaningful involvement of children in responses to HIV and AIDS requires significant investment of time and resources over the long term.
- There is a need to address barriers preventing children's involvement, such as scarce time and resources and differences of confidence and power between children. Efforts to involve children also need to be sensitive to the family and community context, and engage communities in addressing harmful local cultural norms and practices.
- In order to assess its effectiveness, the scope and quality of children's participation in HIV and AIDS initiatives need to be clearly defined – including in relation to differences of age, gender and diversity.
- Child- and youth-led organisations and networks need to be supported, both to

further children's ability to secure their rights and to support children's public engagement and social awareness.

To download the full document, see: <http://www.panos.org.uk/?lid=26917>

Conference: 4th African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights

Addis Ababa, 8-12 February 2010

The Fourth Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights shall be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (8th – 12th February 2010). This conference is part of a long-term process of building and fostering regional dialogue on sexual rights and health that leads to concrete action to influence policy particularly that of the African Union and its bodies. This conference follows three previous conferences: February 4 – 7, 2008 in Abuja (Nigeria); June 19 – 21, 2006 in Nairobi (Kenya); February 25 – 29, 2004 in Johannesburg (South Africa). It will focus on critical documents that have been developed to promote comprehensive sexual health and rights in Africa.

The purpose of the 4th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights is to examine the interrelationship between sexuality and HIV & AIDS. In particular, to open up discourse on sexuality in Africa and how this might lead to new insights in reducing the spread of HIV & AIDS in Africa. The focus will be on identifying new and emerging vulnerabilities and vulnerable people using the concept of sexual rights and sexuality in the fight against HIV & AIDS; explore how the application of human rights framework to sexuality might provide new insights in developing interventions to reduce the spread of HIV & AIDS and map out new and innovative strategies, programming and funding best suited to deal with those most vulnerable to HIV & AIDS infection.

Registration opens in August. Abstracts will be accepted until **September 30, 2009**. Kindly refer to the website www.africalsexuality.org for more information.

Any queries/request for additional information should be sent to:
4srhconference@ippfaro.org

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. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.htm>.