

13 May, 2010

Dear Friends,

Sorry for the delay in this week's Newsflash! We will be in touch again on Monday with more information and opportunities. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Newsflash

- Call for Applications: AWOMI Session
- Rockefeller Foundation Funds US State Department Award for Empowering Women and Girls Around the World
- Global Fund Announces New Funding Round
- (Article) SOUTHERN AFRICA: Same problems, less funding
- Say and Play resource
- DFID Development Innovation Fund for Small NGOs
- Introduction to the Equator Initiative: for our grantees with an environmental focus

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Call for Applications: AWOMI: Young Women Knowledge and Leadership Institute (YOWLI)

African Women's Millenium Initiative (AWOMI) invites applications for the 3rd edition YOWLI to be held for 3 weeks, Dec 2010 to Jan 2011 in Senegal. The YOWLI is one of the 3 Flagship programs of AWOMI. The other flagship programs are the African Women Economic Education and Empowerment Fund (WEFU) and the Accountability Tracking Program (ACT). YOWLI was set up to enable young women and men of African descent to widen their leadership horizons, enhance their knowledge base and actively engage in monitoring and fighting for social justice. Deadline for applications: May 30, 2010.

For more information, go here: [www.awid.org/eng/Women-in-Action/Calls-for-Participation2/Call-for-Applications-AWOMI-Young-Women-Knowledge-and-Leadership-Institute-YOWLI](http://www.awid.org/eng/Women-in-Action/Calls-for-Participation2/Call-for-Applications-AWOMI-Young-Women-Knowledge-and-Leadership-Institute-YOWLI)

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Rockefeller Foundation Funds US State Department Award for Empowering Women and Girls Around the World  
Everywhere from rural villages to burgeoning cities, women and girls face special challenges when it comes to poverty, violence, legal systems, education, employment, health and nutrition.

The good news is that people across the globe are taking innovative steps to strengthen the ability of women and girls to overcome these difficulties.

To help identify and expand the reach and impact of these local measures, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has just announced the Secretary's Innovation Award for the Empowerment of Women and Girls. This award, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, is intended to enable individuals and organizations to address female empowerment more effectively in new and sustainable ways and to encourage others to join them.

The two 2010 award winners will each receive a grant of up to \$500,000 to advance their work.

We invite you to submit details about your solution or concept by June 21, 2010 or to forward this email to any organizations or individuals (female or male) you think would be strong candidates.

For more information about the award, please visit the US Department of State website here: [www.state.gov/s/gwi/innovation/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/innovation/index.htm).

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Press Release  
03 May 2010

#### GLOBAL FUND BOARD CONFIRMS NEW FUNDING ROUND

GENEVA – The Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria confirmed on Friday the launch of its tenth call for proposals for 20 May 2010. This call is key for countries to continue making progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals.

Based on the Global Fund model of country-ownership, countries will present proposals that upon approval will receive support in the fight against the three diseases. The Global Fund requests that proposals are based on a comprehensive needs assessment – including efforts to scale up access to key prevention services for the three diseases through both public and non-public implementers.

“I am very pleased that the board has approved a new funding round as we have made tremendous progress in the fight against the diseases and now have a unique opportunity to have a lasting, unprecedented impact,” said Professor Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund. “Indeed, if we can continue scaling up successful programs and interventions, by 2015 we can dramatically reduce deaths from AIDS, prevent millions of new HIV infections, eliminate malaria as a public health problem in most malaria-endemic countries, and achieve further, significant declines in TB prevalence and mortality.”

Applicants may submit proposals until noon (CET) on 20 August 2010. The submitted proposals will first be screened for eligibility and completeness by the Global Fund Secretariat and will then be reviewed for technical merit by an independent panel of health experts (referred to as the “Technical Review

Panel”), who will then recommend the selected applications to the Board. The Global Fund Board is expected to approve successful applications for this Round in December 2010 at its 22nd Meeting; initially for a two-year period, with an option to renew funding for a second three-year phase if the programs achieve targets.

Global Fund rounds of proposals and approved funding have shown unprecedented growth in the past years with approved funding of US\$ 1.1 billion in 2007, US\$ 2.75 billion in 2008 and US\$2.4 billion in 2009.

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The Global Fund is a unique global public-private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities represents a new approach to international health financing. The Global Fund works in close collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral organizations to supplement existing efforts dealing with the three diseases.

Since its creation in 2002, the Global Fund has become the dominant financier of programs to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, with approved funding of US\$ 19.3 billion in 144 countries. To date, programs supported by the Global Fund have saved 4.9 million lives through providing AIDS treatment for 2.5 million people, antituberculosis treatment for 6 million people and the distribution of 104 million insecticide-treated bed nets for the prevention of malaria.

For more information, please contact:

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Information on the work of the Global Fund is available at [www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)

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(Article) SOUTHERN AFRICA: Same problems, less funding

JOHANNESBURG, 4 May 2010 (PlusNews) - Without adequate funding, barriers to HIV treatment are likely to remain unchanged in spite of growing demand, a new report has warned.

A new report by the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) looked at national HIV programmes in Malawi and Swaziland as part of a six-country focus that spanned Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

The ITPC, an international treatment lobby group, noted in its report, Rationing Funds, Risking Lives: World backtracks on HIV treatment, that poor health infrastructure, high costs and staff shortages have kept HIV treatment uptake low in Malawi and Swaziland.

In addition, antiretroviral (ARV) programmes in the two countries have been compromised by lower levels of international funding.

In both countries people living with HIV had to travel long distances, often followed by long waiting times once they got to the clinic, due to the uneven distribution of health centres and staff shortages. Shortages of ARV drugs reflected "early warning signs of the negative impact of the global backtracking on AIDS commitment and funding", the ITPC commented.

Malawi has an HIV prevalence rate of about 12 percent; according to UNAIDS more than 90 percent of its HIV response is donor-funded. ARVs are free in the public sector, but the report pointed out that transport costs for trips - sometimes up to 35km - often made obtaining the drugs unaffordable.

The country began training its own doctors and nurses about 30 years ago; it has an estimated shortfall of 160,000 health workers but only produces about 10,000 annually.

Mind the gap:

Swaziland boasts the world's highest HIV prevalence rate - about 26 percent - with about 50,000 people on treatment, according to Derek von Wissell, director of the National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA).

In recent years, the government has moved to become the primary funder of treatment, yet the ITPC report noted that poor wages and working conditions continued to drive Swazi healthcare staff out of the public sector.

Von Wissell said downturns in donor funding had affected the fight against HIV, more so in HIV prevention and support services to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) than treatment provision.

HIV prevention was often a budgetary afterthought, receiving whatever was left over after allocations to HIV treatment and diagnostic services had been made. With constricted funding, child grants to support OVC were likely to remain on the drawing board, he told IRIN/PlusNews.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently issued new HIV treatment guidelines, but Von Wissell said funding would determine how quickly Swaziland could conform. Raising the CD4 count threshold for starting treatment, as suggested in the new guidelines, would greatly increase the number of those eligible for treatment, he said.

Malawi recently released the results of a study funded by WHO to investigate what adhering to the new WHO guidelines would mean. It found that initiating

patients on ARVs sooner, at the new higher CD4 count of 350, would increase the number of those eligible for treatment by about 50 percent, making international funding even more crucial.

The ITPC report made a number of recommendations, including that international donors honour their previous funding commitments, and that governments make health a priority in their national budgets.

Report can be found online at: [www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89021](http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89021)

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Say and Play resource available on-line

This resource tool for young children and their caregivers is available for download on their website. See the information about this resource below, and visit their site for more information.

Say and Play is a unique, easy-to-understand early childhood development tool that enables adults to provide psycho-social support to children ages three to six years old. To do so, Say and Play helps children express themselves naturally through pictures, stories and games, and helps adults to listen to young children and mobilize change in their communities for a healthier environment for young children.

While many early child development materials promote children's intellectual and physical development, few give children the opportunity to express their hopes, fears and experiences. The Say and Play methodology actively engages young children, and guides adults to learn from and take action for young children.

Though Say and Play involves children from three to six years old, it also addresses the needs of newborn to three year olds by providing guidelines for parents and caregivers.

Say and Play addresses the following topics:

- What do children need to grow?
- Helping young children with their problems
- Children on their own
- When the caregiver is sick
- Talking to children about death
- Our hopes
- Caring for children

The full Say and Play package consists of a manual, six colorful A3 size pictures, one A2 size poster, a set of eleven playing cards, all packaged into a carrying bag. For easy download, however, only the manual is available on their website,

but it contains the pictures, posters and playing cards within its pages. If you would like to order hard copies, please find more information under, 'Access Say and Play'

here: [www.projectconcern.org/site/PageServer?pagename=PCI\\_Zambia\\_Say\\_and\\_Play\\_Resources](http://www.projectconcern.org/site/PageServer?pagename=PCI_Zambia_Say_and_Play_Resources).

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DFID's Development Innovation Fund offers support for Small NGOs  
The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) has launched the Development Innovation Fund, "aimed at community-based organizations involved in providing specific small scale, one-off support that directly targets poverty in the developing world and includes a significant development awareness component in the UK." More at [www.dfid.gov.uk/dif](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/dif).

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## Introduction to the Equator Initiative

The Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses, and grassroots organizations to build the capacity and raise the profile of local efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Started in 2002, the Equator Initiative evolved in response to: the fact that the world's greatest concentrations of biodiversity are found in countries also beset by the world's most acute poverty; and the evolving trend of local leadership in advancing innovative projects in biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.

As sustainable community initiatives take root throughout the tropics, they are laying the foundation for a global movement of local successes that are collectively making a significant contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The Equator Initiative is dedicated to:

- Celebrating successful local initiatives
- Creating opportunities for sharing community experiences and good practice
- Informing policy and fostering an enabling environment for local action
- Building the capacity of grassroots organizations to deliver results and scale-up impact

The Equator Initiative addresses the two interrelated problems of biodiversity loss and abject poverty. In collaboration with a wide range of partners, the Equator Initiative concentrates on three thematic action areas.

#### Equator Prize

The Equator Prize is awarded biennially to recognize outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. As local and indigenous groups across the tropics chart a path towards sustainable development, the Equator Prize shines a spotlight on their efforts by celebrating them on an international stage.

#### Equator Dialogues

Equator Dialogues is an ongoing series of community-driven meetings and exchanges, held in conjunction with related international forums. Designed as a response to the lack of representation of local and indigenous groups in policy forums, Equator Dialogues creates space for grassroots leaders to influence policy and share their experiences with relevant stakeholders in the United Nations, government, academia, business, and civil society.

#### Equator Knowledge

Equator Knowledge is a research and learning program focused on synthesizing lessons from local practice in conservation and income generation that can serve to inform policy and advance research. Academic and research partners support the documentation of local-level best practice, while the Community Knowledge Service (CKS) ensures the ongoing exchange of local expertise.

For more information, go here: [www.equatorinitiative.org/index.php](http://www.equatorinitiative.org/index.php)

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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).