

17 May, 2010

Dear Friends,

This Newsflash! highlights many new resources and reports that have recently been released. We hope that these resources can be of assistance for your organizations. Please enjoy.

Sincerely,
Firelight Newsflash!

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Call for nominations: 2011 Freedom Awards
The Freedom Awards celebrate the vision and courage of community-based organizations, survivors of slavery, individual leaders and anti-slavery activists who are showing the way to a world without slavery. Please help us by making a nomination. Please also pass along this invitation to anyone who might be able to nominate suitable organizations or individuals. We also welcome self-nominations. Each award has its own requirements and nomination form. To get more information and the correct form, visit the awards Web pages: www.freetheslaves.net/FreedomAwards2011, or e-mail us at: freedomawards@freetheslaves.net. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, August 1, 2010. Nominations received after August 1 cannot be considered for the 2011 awards.

Kenya hosts family planning meet
BY CATHERINE KARONG'O
Capital News

NAIROBI, Kenya, May 11 - A three day conference on acceleration of access to family planning services opens in Nairobi Tuesday morning.

The meeting to be hosted by United States Agency for International Development aims at identifying gaps in reproductive and family planning services as well as mark the end of a five year USAID funded project on Extending Service Delivery (ESD).

Project Director Milka Dinev said the conference also aims to come up with ways to reach as many women and couples as possible with the information and services on family planning.

For full article, go here: www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Kenyanews/Kenya-hosts-family-planning-meet-8421.html?utm_campaign=

Emerging Issues in Today's HIV Response: A Debate Series Co-Hosted by the World Bank and USAID

With leading donor countries emerging slowly from economic crisis, development aid flows are under heavy pressure. As a results, governments, development agencies, civil society organizations, communities of people living with HIV and AIDS, and other partners need the best evidence and knowledge available to make their development dollars go further in pursuit of better results. The World Bank's Global HIV/AIDS Program and the Office of HIV/AIDS at USAID will co-host a series of debates on the constantly changing dynamics of HIV/AIDS, and our collective response.

The binmonthly debate series will begin in late May at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., with a discussion on what constitutes an effective "HIV test and treat" strategy. Using the Global Development Learning Network's video conferencing and web-based technologies, country teams in Africa and other partners will also be able to take part in the Washington-based debate. Typically, four-to-six panelists who are experts in the field will participate in the moderated debate, followed by a panel discussion.

To participate in the debates or to see the schedule of topics, go here: web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTHEALTHNUTRITIONANDPOPULATION/EXTHIVAIDS/0,,contentMDK:22570781~menuPK:376477~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:376471,00.html?utm_campaign=

It's Her Business: A Handbook for Preparing Young, At-risk Women to Become Entrepreneurs.

The handbook is designed to help developing country organizations working with young, at-risk women to determine whether entrepreneurship programming is a good fit for their organization and, if so, how to proceed. We are grateful to the Nike Foundation for their investment in this effort and their inspirational vision and commitment to adolescent girls and the Girl Effect. This handbook is available for download in English and Spanish.

For the handbook and more information, go here: www.itsherbusiness.org

From Huairou Commission Update: Conference Hubs for the International AIDS Conference

For those who are not able to attend AIDS 2010, a hub could bring the conference to you. By accessing recorded sessions through the Internet you can organise and participate in discussions and debates locally. This also provides an opportunity to network and leverage AIDS 2010 sessions to strengthen the AIDS response in your country!

What is a conference hub?

Conference hubs are physical locations around the world where selected sessions of the conference will be screened. These sessions are usually followed by moderated local discussions to examine how the content of a session may be used to strengthen the response to HIV locally.

Conference hub submissions close on June 15, 2010.

For more information about the conference hubs, visit www.aids2010.org/Default.aspx?pageId=186

HIV/AIDS Monitor: Are Funding Decisions Based on Performance?

Linking funding decisions to performance can help the best programs continue and give program managers strong incentives to lead their programs well. Performance-based funding can also have unintended negative consequences, such as inducing single-minded attention to specific targets to the exclusion of harder-to-measure but important goals. This report examines the use of performance-based funding (PBF) among the big three funders of HIV/AIDS programs in developing countries: the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the World Bank's Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program for Africa (the MAP). All three have room for improvement.

The Global Fund has an explicit PBF approach and clearly and systematically links funding decisions to performance. But Global Fund data are not always accurate or reliable, and there is room for improvement—for instance, ensuring that recipients report accurate data on the services they provide and the beneficiaries they reach.

PEPFAR places a strong emphasis on results, but it does not systematically use results to inform funding decisions. Unlike the Global Fund, PEPFAR does not always clearly document its funding decisions or release its performance data. Of the three donors, though, PEPFAR has the most accurate and reliable data collection system.

The MAP, like PEPFAR, does not systematically link funding decisions to performance. The MAP does not clearly document its funding decisions and releasing performance data about its grants. The MAP's data, collected from its partner countries, is not always accurate or reliable.

Putting in place or improving structures and procedures that successfully tie funding decisions to programmatic results is one tool to get more health for the money. For the Global Fund, this means improving existing processes, such as increasing the quality of data upon which funding decisions are made and releasing more information about such decisions. For PEPFAR this requires establishing clearer guidelines on the role that programmatic performance plays in relation to other determinants of funding. And for the MAP, implementing PBF would require a fundamental shift from emphasizing financial management to emphasizing programmatic achievement as a primary determinant of funding decisions.

To download the full report, go
here: www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424030?utm_campaign=

Evaluated strategies to increase attraction and retention of health workers in remote and rural areas

Carmen Dolea, Laura Stormont & Jean-Marc Braichet

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

The lack of health workers in remote and rural areas is a worldwide concern. Many countries have proposed and implemented interventions to address this issue, but very little is known about the effectiveness of such interventions and their sustainability in the long run. This paper provides an analysis of the effectiveness of interventions to attract and retain health workers in remote and rural areas from an impact evaluation perspective. It reports on a literature review of studies that have conducted evaluations of such interventions. It presents a

synthesis of the indicators and methods used to measure the effects of rural retention interventions against several policy dimensions such as: attractiveness of rural or remote areas, deployment/recruitment, retention, and health workforce and health systems performance. It also discusses the quality of the current evidence on evaluation studies and emphasizes the need for more thorough evaluations to support policy-makers in developing, implementing and evaluating effective interventions to increase availability of health workers in underserved areas and ultimately contribute to reaching the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

For this and other full reports, go here: www.who.int/bulletin/en/

Grandmothers' summit to put spotlight on Africa's 'forgotten victims' of Aids
David Smith in Johannesburg
guardian.co.uk, Monday 3 May 2010 22.27 BST

Representatives from 12 countries meet in Swaziland to highlight the impact of Aids on grandparents' lives

Their collective wisdom is incalculable – and so is the collective burden they carry when families are torn apart by Aids.
Africa's newest special interest group is that of grandmothers. They will attend their first special conference this week to share experiences and call for international recognition of their uniquely difficult circumstances.

A summit of grandparents in the west might prompt jokes about bingo and dentures, but the inaugural African Grandmothers' Gathering, starting in Swaziland on Thursday, is a gravely serious affair.

More than 450 grandmothers from 12 African countries will meet to discuss the impact of losing adult children to Aids, becoming the head of a household and raising grief-stricken grandchildren as their own.

These forgotten victims hope to build a "solidarity movement" across Africa to make the case that grandmothers need targeted support from international donors and aid agencies.

For the full article, go
here: www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/may/03/grandmothers-summit-aids-africa?utm_campaign=

How to stop HIV spreading in Zambia's prisons
By Jo Fidgen
BBC News, Lusaka

Bright spent two years in Zambia's Lusaka Central Prison for selling cannabis but fears he now faces a life sentence.

"I did it because of hunger," says Bright softly.

"There's not much food in prison. Sex has become the way of payment."

“ The wall prevents an inmate from going outside, but the disease has no boundary ”

Dr Chisela Chileshe Zambia Prisons Service medical director

"Conditions were bad," he remembers. "We had nshima [maize meal] and beans two times a day. I never felt full."

One day, the cell "captain" gave Bright extra food, then asked him for sex.

"I had never had sex with a man, but I did it. The first time it was painful, but I joined a group of maybe 20 men who did that.

"Mainly they were people who were condemned, or who had been jailed for 25 years. They hadn't seen women for a long time."

For the full article, go

here: news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8647576.stm?utm_campaign=

LinkTV View Change Online Film Contest

We want powerful films (up to five minutes long) that tell stories of progress in developing countries. What are people doing to help end poverty, disease, hunger, conflict, inequality, and illiteracy? Show us the progress being made towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Your film can win the \$20,000 Grand Prize, be shown on Link TV and other TV channels worldwide, and can inspire action and change!

You may enter in six categories:

- Empowerment
- Innovation
- Leadership & Governance
- Local/Global Partnerships
- Overcoming Conflict
- Sustainability

Contest closes August 31, 2010. For more information, visit: www.linktv.org/viewchangeilmcontest

OVCsupport.net is a global hub for the exchange of experience, practice and tools on policy and programming about children and HIV. It is managed and moderated by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, and it is open to stakeholders who are involved in responses to children and HIV worldwide.

For discussions, information, and news, visit: www.ovcsupport.net

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.