

Firelight Newsflash! 18 August 2008

Publication: Strategic Analysis on Civil Registration and Children in the Context of HIV and AIDS

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Civil registration is of utmost importance for both states and individuals affected by HIV and AIDS. In the context of HIV and AIDS, civil registration systems allow states to monitor their population, enabling effective policies to be formulated and implemented, protecting and fulfilling the rights of people living with HIV and communities affected by the pandemic. Simultaneously, civil registration acts as a source of protection for individuals, as such systems provide legal documentation establishing an individual's identity, nationality, and kinship, which are necessary proof for securing property rights, and accessing basic services such as health care and education. While civil registration establishes and provides documentation of births, foetal deaths, marriages, divorce and deaths, in the context of HIV and AIDS, birth and death registration are of particular importance in understanding the impact of the pandemic on children's rights. That said, only reliable statistics and information on birth registration are available. The report hence focuses on the extent to which the HIV pandemic influences accessibility and availability of birth registration systems in Africa, and how Africa's weak birth registration systems impact on the large number of children affected by AIDS. Birth registration is enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, as well as other international legal instruments, as a fundamental right for all children, and it places the obligation on states to ensure this right.

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Geographic focus: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America and the Carribean, and the Middle East and North Africa

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Grant size: € 500 and € 20,000 per year.

Application process: Open and rolling process; Applications accepted in English and French. See website for additional details on eligibility criteria <http://www.mamacash.org/> (and click on the button on the right side, saying "apply for a grant") Note: It takes three to six months, on average, for Mama Cash to process a grant proposal.

AFRICA: Nearly half sub-Saharan children malnourished [news]

[11 August 2008] - Despite past efforts by governments and aid agencies, undernutrition still affects 2-3 billion people worldwide. And, a new report reveals, the numbers affected are growing steadily in Africa.

According to WHO, the number of children in sub-Saharan Africa suffering from malnutrition rose from 27 million in 1980 to 44 million in 2005. And the recent rise in food prices can only fuel this trend, says the report from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom.

It says that in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, one third of children under 5 are chronically undernourished. But while in South Asia, the number of children under 5 who are low weight for age, or low height for age, has been steadily declining in most but not all countries – in sub-Saharan Africa, the number is steadily increasing.

The nutrition status of children is particularly important, it points out, because nutrition losses incurred in childhood represent losses children will carry throughout life.

Drought and displacement

Malnutrition affects about 30 per cent of children in Africa, caused by low birth weight and faltering post-natal growth, and rates worsen during droughts, economic crises, conflicts and displacement, and HIV.

However, the authors say, resilience to these crises can be better than anticipated. And any progress towards reducing malnutrition may be re-established when they recede. The provision of food or income support (through cash transfers) can help this resilience.

Examples for this include the Enhanced Outreach Strategy following drought in Ethiopia in the early 2000s, supplementary feeding programmes in Zimbabwe in

the early 2000s, and other drought mitigation programmes in Botswana. Sustained improvement in the nutrition status of children requires fair social and economic development, authors say. "Education is particularly important, notably for women. Community-based programmes and health services can reduce malnutrition, usually without food distribution. This has been seen in Tanzania through the Iringa and Child Health and Development programmes during the 1980-90's, and the Community Nutrition Project in Senegal in 1996." They add that experiences from effective community-based programmes in Asia and Latin America also need to be applied in Africa.

However, in the long-term, "accelerating globalisation of food production, trade and marketing threatens the food security of poor communities in Africa."

Removing barriers to trade (such as tariffs) and reductions in income support to farmers in richer countries would help to create greater export opportunities for African farmers. These actions would also reduce the price of food and other commodities imported into Africa. Both of these changes would improve the nutrition status of poor communities, the report adds.

"Without greater attention to nutrition, increased child mortality, morbidity and impaired intellectual development are inevitable."

The authors say that policies must tackle intermittent crises through emergency programmes and support sustained community-based programmes. Nutrition should be reinstated as a priority programme area alongside HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. [Source: www.peopleandplanet.net]

Further information

More [information and resources on child rights in Africa](#)

[Information on children's rights mechanisms in Africa](#)

For more information, contact: Institute of Development Studies IDS Publications Office, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton BN1 9RE, Tel: + 44 1273 678269 ; Fax: + 44 1273 621202 Email: ids.books@sussex.ac.uk

Visit: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=18106>

**Call for Nominations for the 2009 GINETTA SAGAN
AWARD FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
Amnesty International USA**

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ginetta Sagan Fund of Amnesty International USA is to recognize and assist women who are working to protect the liberty and lives of women and children in areas where human rights violations are widespread. The 2009 award will be given to a woman who works on behalf of the human rights of women.

The Ginetta Sagan Award recognizes individual accomplishment, but also serves as a beacon of hope to women everywhere who are fighting for human rights.

The Award:

- recognizes outstanding achievement, often at great personal risk
- enhances the recipient's ability to live and work freely
- protects the recipient's capacity to continue her work
- brings increased international scrutiny to the crisis region or issue for which the recipient works

The creation of the Ginetta Sagan Fund emphasizes that more human rights work must be done by and for women. The \$10,000 award is announced and presented each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Amnesty International USA. The 2009 AGM will be held in Boston, MA, from March 22nd to 29th.

HISTORY OF THE GINETTTA SAGAN FUND

For more than three decades, the late Ginetta Sagan, recipient of the 1996 Presidential Medal of Freedom, fought for the lives and rights of prisoners of conscience throughout the world. A tireless crusader and eternal optimist, Ginetta's passionate dedication inspired generations of human rights advocates. In honor of her humanitarian achievements, Amnesty International USA created the Ginetta Sagan Fund in 1994, one of AIUSA's first permanently endowed funds and the only fund that specifically addresses the needs of women and children. The Ginetta Sagan Fund ensures the continuation in perpetuity of Ginetta's human rights legacy and brings Worldwide attention to the abuses perpetrated on women and children.

For further information or to download the nomination form, please visit:

www.amnestyusa.org/ginettasaganfund

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

LETTER OF NOMINATION

This letter of nomination should inform the Selection Committee why the candidate should receive the Ginetta Sagan Award for Women's and Children's Rights. To the extent that it is relevant, please include any personal background related to human rights. If possible, please include answers to the following question:

- In what capacity do you know the candidate and how long have you known her?
- How long has the candidate been involved in women's and/or children's right work?
- What inspired the candidate to do human rights work?
- Has the nominee faced threats or intimidation for her human rights work?
- How has the nominee impacted and/or transformed her community through her work?

Examples from past nominees include changes to legislation, raising profile of

the issue in her country and internationally, providing life-saving services, etc. Please be as inclusive as possible.

- Any other relevant information you would like to include.

We will accept an electronic (via email) nomination letter AND a hard copy of the letter that contains your signature.

TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

These two letters can be from anyone familiar with the candidate's human rights work. If possible, please have these two letters sent along with the nomination package. If sent by email, please put the nominee's full name in the subject line.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Any material that can help the Selection Committee members gain insight into the candidate would be very helpful. This can include press clippings, radio interviews, photographs, and any other relevant information. Please note that supporting materials will not be returned.

DEADLINE

Nomination and letters of recommendation must be received by SEPTEMBER 1st, 2008.

SEND NOMINATION TO:

The Ginetta Sagan Fund
c/o Amnesty International USA/GSF
1663 Mission Street, Suite 604
San Francisco, California 94103

Tel: 415.252.1750 / Fax: 415.252.1759

Email: gsf@aiusa.org

ETHIOPIA: VI African regional conference on child abuse and neglect [event]

Date: 4 to 6 May 2009 Location: Addis Ababa The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) is partnering with ANPPCAN chapters and the Africa-wide Movement for Children to stage the VIth African Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, focusing on Early Childhood Development and Education. The Conference will serve as a forum for children, parents, teachers, educators, administrators, child care providers, policymakers and all concerned to:

Share experiences and evidence-based practices in early childhood care and education

Share information to guide positive policy and intervention programme development on early childhood development and education

Examine challenges and opportunities for early childhood development and education practices in Africa

Explore opportunities for cross-sectoral cooperation in regard to early childhood development and education

The Conference Scientific Committee invites interested scholars and practitioners to submit abstracts on the following themes for presentation during the Conference.

Early Childhood Survival and Care
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Protection
Child Rights and Development
Crosscutting Issues

Send all abstracts by email to the Conference Secretariat at anppcanconference@ethionet.et or anppcan-eth@ethionet.et.

For more information, contact: Conference Secretariat, ANPPCAN-Ethiopia, P.O. Box 34359 Phone: +251-115505202, Fax: +251-115539757 Email: anppcanconference@ethionet.et, anppcan-eth@ethionet.et Website: www.anppcan-eth.org.et

Visit: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=18107>

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.