

Firelight Newsflash! 20 October 2008

Sharing Evaluation Results: The KwaWazee Project in Tanzania

Two companion studies conducted with The KwaWazee Project, a Firelight grantee-partner since 2006, are now available online.

Key findings indicate that social pensions are an effective way of bringing more stability and dignity to both the adults and children in older people headed households. "Salt, Soap and Shoes for School" documents that regular pensions and child benefits lead to greater financial stability and better protection against crises. Children living in homes with a pension and child-benefits are better off than children in households without a pension leading to a considerable improvement in their psychosocial wellbeing: They are better satisfied after meals, have a more varied diet, and a better coverage of basic needs such as access to clothes, school materials, soap to wash and kerosene (for light to do homework), all of which are essential for school attendance and progress. They also have to do less hard work and have more time for themselves. Thus, better nutrition, better hygiene and better access to medication are likely to improve their general state of health. To read the full report, see: <http://www.crin.org/docs/Salt, Soap and shoes for school.pdf>

Over 50% of children orphaned by the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Tanzania live with their grandparents. Given this situation it is important for us to begin to understand more about the lived experience of children being brought up by grandparents. The KwaWazee Project provided a unique opportunity to work with groups of children living in elderly-headed households. This report, Living with Our Bibi, is the result of a series of participatory workshops with children who are part of the project. It gives a useful understanding of the issues children are facing and directions for policy and programme intervention. To read the full report, see: <http://www.crin.org/docs/Living with our Bibi final .pdf>

To learn more about KwaWazee's work, see: <http://www.kwawazee.ch/E/>

Online Resources: Tools for Community Dialogue and Participatory Learning

From the Community Development Resource Centre in South Africa

<http://www.cdca.org.za/DialogueResources/Dialogue Resources.htm>

Skoll Foundation Announces next Deadline for Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship

Application deadline: 4 November 2008

The Skoll Foundation is looking for social entrepreneurs whose work has the potential for large-scale positive change in the areas of tolerance and human rights, health, environmental sustainability, peace and security, institutional responsibility, and economic and social equity. Within these issues, they are particularly interested in applications from social entrepreneurs working in five critical sub-issue areas that threaten the survival of humanity – climate change, nuclear proliferation, pandemics, conflict in the Middle East and water scarcity.

Learn more at: <http://www.skollfoundation.org/skollawards/index.asp>

Organizational Profile: Women's Funding Network

The Women's Funding Network is 135 organizations that fund women's solutions across the globe. They give women the money and tools to transform their ideas into lasting change -- in every critical area from combating poverty to achieving advances in healthcare, education and human rights.

Contact Information:

Women's Funding Network
1375 Sutter Street, Suite 406
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 441-0706
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To learn more, see: <http://www.wfnet.org/about>

Article: The Shrinking Space for Civil Society and Changing Donor Dynamics

The shrinking space for civil society worldwide given the context of the global "war on terror" was a dominant theme of the discussions at the 4th International Conference on NGO Accountability, Self Regulation and the Law organised by DENIVA in Kampala, Uganda in July 2008. This is supported by the findings of

the CIVICUS Civil Society Index, published in 2008. Even in well-entrenched democracies where civil society space was hitherto considered guaranteed there are negative trends. These and other developments have spawned negative trends in less well-entrenched democracies. For instance, Ethiopia is seeking to introduce a law that will classify civil society organisations receiving more than 10% of funds from abroad as foreign and then prevent them from working on a host of vital issues including the advancement of citizenship rights, democratic rights, human rights and national reconciliation.

To read the full article, see: <http://www.civicusbeta.org/content/ShrinkingSpace-CivilSociety-Changing-DonorDynamics.html>

Call for Papers: UNICEF Egypt sponsors International Conference on “Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice”

Within the framework of the First International Forum for the Developing Countries Think Tanks, the United Nations Children’s Fund in Egypt (UNICEF) is organizing an international conference on “Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice”. The conference serves as a platform for innovative thinking on social policy and child rights that will bring together academics, policy makers, practitioners as well as university students to exchange experiences and discuss proposals for inclusive and child-sensitive public social and economic policies that aim to reduce child poverty and are based on scientific evidence. Deadline for abstracts is 16 November 2008. The Conference will take place in Cairo, Egypt, January 2009.

For more information, see: http://www.unicef.org/egypt/media_4579.html

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.