

Dear Friends,

The Firelight Team hopes this Newsflash! finds you to be well. This week's newsletter is pretty long! We have included many funding opportunities including grants, scholarships and competitions. In addition, there are several articles and introductions to peer organizations that support CBO's and non-profits.

Enjoy, and we wish you the best in your continued efforts working with children and communities affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty.

The Firelight Team

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Comprehensive list of funding opportunities

Please visit FIND Partners International's website for a comprehensive list of different funding opportunities.

www.findpartnersinternational.org/

Call for Participation: HIV and Disability Networking Survey

Health Canada hosted an International Policy Dialogue on HIV and Disability in March 2009. At the Policy Dialogue, a need was identified for increased communication and collaboration between the HIV/AIDS and disability fields, within Canada and abroad, to advance policy and program development. The Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation (CWGHR) has been contracted by Health Canada, International Affairs Directorate, to conduct a survey to identify what communication and collaboration activities currently exist or are under development, and obtain recommendations for ways to increase communication and collaboration between the HIV and disability fields. Deadline to complete the survey: March 1, 2010.

www.awid.org/eng/Women-in-Action/Calls-for-Participation2/Call-for-Participation-HIV-and-Disability-Networking-Survey

Call for Applications: Change-makers seeking Solutions for Raising Awareness against Gender-based Violence

The Campus of Excellence and Ashoka's Change-makers have launched a new competition for preventing violence against women. Under this competition, women's associations, education groups or grassroots-based NGOs implementing most innovative solution around the world for raising awareness and taking action against gender-based violence will be selected for grant support (for the prize winner) and/or will get an opportunity to participate in the 2010 Campus of Excellence event in Spain (for the prize winner and two runners up).

Deadline for submissions March 15, 2010

www.changemakers.com/en-us/stopviolence

Call for Applications: PEPFAR Grant Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Improving Access to and Delivery of HIV/AIDS Services by Strengthening Community and Health Center Linkages in the Eastern Province of the Republic of Zambia

Deadline for submissions March 30, 2010

www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opId=51398

Call for Applications: PEPFAR Grant: Building the Capacity of Regional Health Management Team to Coordinate, Manage, and Support HIV/AIDS Clinical Services in the United Republic of Tanzania under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

Deadline for submissions March 30, 2010

www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opId=51396

Call for Applications: PEPFAR Grant: Support for a National Monitoring and Evaluation System, Strategic Information Coordination, Data Synthesis, and Data Use to Strengthen the Multi-Sector HIV/AIDS Response in the United Republic of Tanzania

Deadline for submissions March 30, 2010

www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opId=51370

Competition: Healthy Mothers, Strong World: The Next Generation Of Ideas For Maternal Health Competition Summary

Strong mothers enable children, families, communities and economies to grow and thrive. And we have the power to end preventable maternal death and disability in our lifetime.

Ashoka and the Maternal Health Task Force are partnering to transform the maternal health field. We invite you, our Changemakers community, to become Young Champions of Maternal Health and Changemakers Prize Winners.

The search has begun. Enter now through March 17th, 2010.

There are multiple opportunities to be recognized as an innovator in the field of Maternal Health. The best innovations will be awarded prizes totaling almost \$600,000. Please view the Prizes page to see how Maternal Health Task Force and Ashoka's Changemakers are working together to improve maternal health. Congratulate our two early entry prize winners: Maternova (United States) and Aadharbhut Prasuti Sewa Kendra (Nepal) have each won a choice of Microsoft Office Suite or Adobe Creative Suite, digital camera, iPod and a feature on the Changemakers Homepage.

www.changemakers.com/en-us/maternalhealth

Grantees can be linked with photographers and can post a need for a camera(s) donation. In May, they'll be posting about their annual awards program - and will be giving one to a community-based organization. Firelight shares a real affinity with them for grassroots work and positive, true portrayals.

www.photophilanthropy.org

NGO Connection from Microsoft

This Web site supports nongovernmental organizations (NGOs, also known as nonprofit organizations) with instant access to resources that will help you advance your causes more quickly and with greater impact. They offer NGO forums, stories, free and discounted software and hardware, as well as help and training.

www.microsoft.com/About/CorporateCitizenship/CommunityInvestment/NGO/en/us/default.aspx

Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF)

PTF is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to helping civil society play an effective role in the design, implementation and monitoring of national anti-corruption programs.

The basic premise for creating PTF is that the civil society has an important role to play in the development of anti-corruption and good governance programs, and it can play this role more effectively if it is independent, financially, from

government or direct bilateral or multilateral funding. There is information on PTF, Press Releases, Examples of PTF Supported Projects, PTF CSO Guidelines, and documents below. See also PTF's most recent Annual Report (2008) and the status of PTF supported projects across the globe.

partnershipfortransparency.info/

Civil society: Have your say on community systems strengthening!

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance and the International Council of AIDS Services Organizations are conducting an online consultation for civil society to provide input on the Global Fund's draft framework on community systems strengthening. The framework, produced in collaboration with other stakeholders including UNAIDS, aims to help community-based organizations, networks, and NGO's identify their capacity needs and support policy development, resource mobilization and program design and implementation to increase access to appropriate services.

www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2010/20100216_CSS.asp

Article: Zambia Government Reviews Child Law

Rabecca Mushota

11 February 2010

THE Government is reviewing child-related legislation to ensure children are protected from abuse and HIV/AIDS.

Deputy Minister of Community Development and Social Services Friday Malwa said in Ndola yesterday when he launched a series of training workshops for police officers and social workers conducted by Plan International that the Government, through his ministry, had been reviewing child-related legislation.

Mr Malwa said this was done to ensure such laws adequately provided for children, especially those in difficult circumstances, in accordance with the convention on the rights of a child.

The ministry would also work to strengthen existing policies and legislative framework to reduce the number of children on the streets by 50 per cent.

The minister said abuse of children had a negative bearing on the socio-economic development of the country.

He said children needed increased access to care and protection from sexual

and other forms of abuse that were mostly a result of the fast-changing family life-styles mainly due to economic reasons.

The Government, therefore, initiated the child protection unit (CPU) about two years ago to address the challenges of protecting children from abuse and HIV/AIDS.

Mr Malwa said his ministry was grateful to Plan International for taking the initiative to conduct the training workshops and said it was good that the social workers had decided to partner with police officers in the CPU.

Inspector General of the Police Francis Kabonde said in a speech read for him by Ndola police chief Stella Libongani that the CPU from its inception had handled 668 cases of child abuse.

Mr Kabonde thanked the Government for its cooperation and appealed for more financial and material support.

Plan International child protection officer Ernest Mwenya said the CPU was in line with the organisation's objectives.

Mr Mwenya said the training aimed to equip officers from the social welfare department and the police with skills and capacity to handle problems that faced children concerning abuse and HIV/AIDS.

Plan International was happy with the Government's commitment towards fulfilling the United Nations ratification to protect children.

Mr Mwenya said training programmes would be undertaken in every province.

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Article: Vaccine 'could cut HIV TB deaths'

A vaccine could cut tuberculosis cases among HIV-positive Africans by almost two-fifths, a US study suggests. The lung infection is the most common cause of death among HIV patients in the continent. Journal Aids reports that Dartmouth Medical School research involving 2,000 people found significantly fewer TB cases in vaccinated patients. An expert said the jab could be a cheaper option for countries struggling to find money for extra anti-HIV drugs.

HIV patients are particularly vulnerable to TB because their immune systems are compromised. The vaccine works by boosting the immune responses of patients

who have already been given the BCG vaccine earlier in life.

In itself, the BCG jab may offer some protection against TB, but this is far from certain, and protection may only last a few years after immunisation. The researchers from Dartmouth Medical School in the US tested it among 2,000 HIV positive patients in Tanzania over a seven-year period. The number of confirmed TB cases was 39% lower in the vaccinated group.

First vaccine

Professor Ford von Reyn, who led the study, said it was a "significant milestone". One theory now suggests that patients could be given the booster jab as soon as they are diagnosed with HIV, before antiretroviral drugs are needed.

Alvaro Bermejo, executive director at the International HIV/Aids Alliance, said that the other way of fighting TB in HIV patients might be to give them antiretrovirals earlier, an expensive option compared with a vaccination programme. He said: "This is a very important finding - it is the first time we are going to have a vaccine which is influential in preventing opportunistic infections in HIV patients. "TB is a massive problem - a third of people living with HIV in Africa are infected with it. "The reduction of 39% seen in Tanzania, although not fabulous, is a good result."

Story from BBC NEWS:

news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/health/8488287.stm

Published: 2010/01/30 00:33:18 GMT

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Article: Panel Says Early Childhood Poverty Impacts Productivity, Health

SAN DIEGO--Evidence is accumulating that poverty-related stress from birth to age 5 affects neurological development, including the expression of genes and the release of hormones which has implications for physical and mental health later in life, reseachers said Sunday.

Research indicates that children living in poverty, especially during early childhood, are likely to earn and work less and are at an increase risk for chronic diseases has been widely-documented. But scientists speaking at a Sunday press briefing at the AAAS Annual Meeting in here said that researchers may be closer to learning about the specific mechanisms.

Whether biology or environment has a stronger impact on the shape of a person's character has long been a polarizing question among researchers and among the public. But speaking at the AAAS meeting, W. Thomas Boyce, M.D.,

professor of pediatrics at the University of British Columbia, said that biology-focused research is not in opposition to studies that explore poverty from a more social orientation.

"The question of 'is it nature or nurture' should be all but over because clearly they are affecting each other," said Boyce, adding that future research will explore the permanence of poverty's biology effects.

Greg J. Duncan, distinguished professor of education at the University of California, Irvine, described research that found "surprisingly strong associations" between family income in the child's first five years and their later productivity-- indicated by their salary and number of work hours per year.

His study found that an \$3000 annual increase in income between birth to age 5 is associated with 17% higher earnings and 135-hour increase in work hours per year.

"We perhaps should be paying more attention to families with younger children and direct interventions toward them," he said. He also added that he is using economics to predict productivity, not happiness.

Katherine Magnuson, assistant professor of social work at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, described research in which she examined the impacts of three public economic policies and programs on future productivity: welfare, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the distribution of casino revenues to Native American's in the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina.

She found "modest but meaningful" impacts following the public policies. Early educational enrichment and quality of parenting can be correlated with household income, suggesting that households with a higher income may have access to better childcare, books, and lessons in a child's early years, said Magnuson.

Discovering the biological implications of poverty does not mean that children are predetermined to to be less successful, said Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D., professor of child health and development at Harvard University, nor does it suggest that early social interventions are ineffective.

"Learning the biological effects of poverty during early childhood allows you to enhance early education and other social interventions," he said, adding the research is showing how the stress of poverty is translated into the body. "It most likely will tell us why we are not getting the most bang for our buck."

news.aaas.org/2010/0221impacts-of-early-childhood-poverty.shtml

Article: Here's how to Sustain HIV/AIDS Workplace Policies

WORKPLACES are increasingly being targeted as fertile grounds for the fight against HIV/AIDS because workers spend most of their time there; working and interacting with their colleagues.

Because of their higher literacy levels, workers are also better placed to understand the meaning, causes, preventive measures, and other issues surrounding the epidemic, which has continued to attract the attention of governments, civil society, and other interest groups owing to its devastating effects on populations.

Read on here allafrica.com/stories/201002091071.html

Article: Bad malaria pills in Africa raise resistance fears

By MARGIE MASON, AP Medical Writer – Mon Feb 8, 9:43 am ET

High rates of the most effective type of malaria-fighting drugs sold in three African countries are poor quality — including nearly half the pills sampled in Senegal — raising fears of increased drug resistance that could wipe out the last weapon left to battle a disease that kills 1 million people each year, according to a U.S. report released Monday.

Between 16 percent and 40 percent of artemisinin-based drugs sold in Senegal, Madagascar and Uganda failed quality testing, including having impurities or not containing enough active ingredient, the survey found. Artemisinin-based drugs are the only affordable treatment for malaria left in the global medicine cabinet. Other drugs have already lost effectiveness due to resistance, which builds when not enough medicine is taken to kill all of the mosquito-transmitted parasites.

If artemisinin-based drugs stop working, there is no good replacement and experts worry many people could die.

"It is worrisome that almost all of the poor-quality data that was obtained was a result of inadequate amounts of active (ingredients) or the presence of impurities in the product," said Patrick Lukulay, director of a nongovernmental U.S. Pharmacopeia program funded by the U.S. government, which conducted the survey. "This is a disturbing trend that came to light."

The study is the first part of a 10-country examination of antimalarials in Africa by the U.S. and the World Health Organization. It follows evidence from the Thai-Cambodian border that artemisinin-based drugs there are taking longer to cure malaria patients, the first sign of drug resistance.

The three-country report also found bad drugs in both the public and private health sectors, meaning governments — some buying medicines with donor funds — are not doing enough to keep poor-quality pills out. All of the drugs

tested from the public sector in Uganda, however, passed the quality tests. But 40 percent of the artemisinin-based drugs in Senegal failed.

"There are countries where donated medicines are not subjected to quality controls, they're just accepted," said Lukulay. "There are countries in Africa where Chinese products have been donated and found to be unacceptable later in the public sector."

A total of 444 samples of artemisinin-based combination drugs along with the antimalarial sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine — to which resistance has already developed — were first screened locally using visual inspection and basic lab tests. Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine is still used, mainly for preventative treatment for pregnant women.

Nearly 200 samples then underwent full quality control testing in a U.S. laboratory to examine the amount of active ingredient present and drug purity. For both drugs, 44 percent from Senegal failed the full quality testing, followed by 30 percent from Madagascar and 26 percent from Uganda.

While the study is not the first to assess the quality of antimalarials in Africa, it is the most rigorous and complete. Similar failure rates were found in previous work, but those did not focus specifically on artemisinin-based drugs.

"I am alarmed by these results because it means there are many cases of malaria that are being only partially treated, and that just guarantees acceleration of artemisinin drug resistance," said Rachel Nugent, deputy director for Global Health at the Center for Global Development, a U.S. think tank. "It is the most comprehensive study out there on antimalarials and should be a wake-up call." Nugent was not involved in the study.

In all three countries, the antimalarial brands collected from various areas and sectors tended to either do well across the board or poorly, which could prove helpful for governments working to ban low-grade drugs.

Results from the other countries surveyed —

Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Tanzania — have not yet been publicly released by the WHO. But Clive Ondari, who worked on the study for the WHO in Geneva, said failure rates in three of those countries were also significantly high.

Ghana has already withdrawn more than 20 drugs from the market after receiving the initial results, Lukulay said.

Associated Press Writer Justin Pritchard in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Article: Reviving the Global Education Compact: Four Options for Global Education Funding

By Desmond Bermingham for CGD

In early 2008, the new U.S. administration indicated willingness to lead a renewed effort to mobilize and channel development assistance to support education in developing countries. As a candidate, President Obama publicly stated his desire for the United States to make a significant commitment to education and promised to capitalize a \$2 billion global education fund. The commitment to global education was restated by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and by Congresswoman Nita Lowey in her capacity as Chair of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Committee.

The action since then? Disappointing. The high-level U.S. political commitment has eroded, partly because of a lack of clear vision in the education community on how best to use potential support. This paper argues that we cannot continue with business as usual in the face of the vast financing needs in the sector. The current funding arrangements have demonstrated limitations, and many believe that a new aid architecture is needed to ensure that any new funding would be used for the right programs in the right countries and yield the right results. In this essay, visiting fellow Desmond Bermingham describes the framework for a better “global education compact” between donor and recipient nations and four possible arrangements to mobilize and allocate development assistance for education. He highlights the advantages and disadvantages of these options—all with the motivation of informing decisions that must be taken by the United States and other G-20 countries if donor commitments are to be met.

www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1423802/

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.