

Firelight Newsflash! 28 June 2010

Special Edition – Why We Do The Work

Why do we do this often difficult and exhausting work of helping vulnerable children and families? Because our truest selves do not allow us to look away.

When the stress of work has got you down, and you feel like no real progress has been made, take a moment and read the story below to revive your energy, renew your inspiration, and reflect on your own story of why you do the work!

Sincerely,  
Firelight Team

- Note from HIV/AIDS Monitor Update: 8 Countries Selected as "learning labs"
- What is Country Ownership Anyway? Rethinking Global Health Partnerships event hosted by HIV/AIDS Monitor
- UNFPA Ensuring Universal Access to Family Planning
- Funding opportunities
- (Call for Participation) Survey of HIV prevention needs of young people
- (Announcement) Global Fund Freezes funds to Zambia's Ministry of Health
- (Announcement ) Huairou Commission Training on Gender Mainstreaming and Equality with Focus on MDGs
- "Why He Does the Work" message from Elijah Molahlehi, Founder and Director of Motivation Community Development, South Africa

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8 Countries selected as learning labs

Last Friday, the U.S. State Department, USAID and the Department of Health and Human Services jointly announced that eight countries have been selected as "learning labs" for implementation of the Global Health Initiative. These "GHI Plus" countries-Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nepal and Rwanda-will receive additional technical assistance and resources for programs in infectious disease, maternal and child health, family planning and building health systems, Reuters reports . "GHI Plus countries will provide enhanced opportunities to build upon existing public health programs; improve program performance; and work in close collaboration with partner governments, across U.S. Government agencies, and with global partners", the joint press release said.

For the announcement, go  
here: [http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/06/143307.htm?utm\\_&&](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/06/143307.htm?utm_&&)

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Country Ownership and Rethinking Global Health Partnerships: Moving from

## Dependence to Symbiosis

This past Monday June 21, 2010, the HIV/AIDS Monitor hosted an event, What is Country Ownership Anyway? Rethinking Global Health Partnerships . The event, which featured opening remarks by Ethiopian Minister of Health, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and a panel discussion with high-level U.S. government representatives and global health experts from Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia, sparked a lively and informative discussion, including how the U.S. government can move forward with the key principle of country ownership in their Global Health Initiative.

For more, go here: [http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2010/06/country-ownership-and-rethinking-global-health-partnerships-from-dependence-to-symbiosis.php?utm\\_](http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2010/06/country-ownership-and-rethinking-global-health-partnerships-from-dependence-to-symbiosis.php?utm_)

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## UNFPA Ensuring Universal Access to Family Planning

This brochure reflects a consensus of 40 international experts who convened in New York on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. Together they reviewed evidence and developed recommendations on how to reduce inequities in access to family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services, particularly for disadvantaged populations. These actions are urgently needed to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

For the brochure in pdf. form, go here: <https://www.unfpa.org/public/site/global/lang/en/pid/4770>

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## Funding Opportunities

1) Nominations open for the 2011 Purpose Prize, honoring older social innovators. Five awards of \$100,000 each will be given to people over the age of 60 who have demonstrated continued leadership at an organization or institution working to address a major social problem in the United States or abroad. To be eligible for the prize, a nominee must be at least 60 years old and be a legal resident of the United States. Nominees should have initiated important innovations, in a new or ongoing organization, in an encore career. "Encore careers" are those that combine personal meaning and social impact with continued work in the second half of life. Nominees must currently be working in a leadership capacity in an organization or institution (public, private, nonprofit, or for-profit) to address a major social problem in the United States or abroad. Deadline: March 10th, 2011. More at <http://www.encore.org/prize>.

2) MAC AIDS Fund: Global Foundation Grants. The MAC AIDS Fund encourages non-profit organizations to submit applications now for funding in a number of HIV/AIDS-related program areas. On a worldwide basis, to date the Fund has supported nearly 400 organizations that provide basic needs, direct services, education, awareness and prevention programs to men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. More at [www.macaidsfund.org/](http://www.macaidsfund.org/).

3) Tanzania Ambassador's Community Grants Program. Each year, the Ambassador's Community Grants Program provides approximately US\$220,000 (equal to 295 Million TZS) in direct assistance grants to Tanzanian community organizations whose projects benefit villages and urban communities. Since 1965, the Community Grants Program has helped communities improve public services, strengthen civic and human rights and create economic opportunity. More at here: <http://tanzania.usembassy.gov/grants.html>

4) Call for submissions: Media Reporting on Development: Provocative and Original Stories. The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) invites entries for their first awards for reporting on international development, soliciting provocative and original stories, compelling alternative narratives, and critiques, and encouraging discussion on development issues and processes. Journalists from around the world are requested to submit their best articles, news pieces, critiques, and editorials that focus on poverty alleviation, democracy and governance, rights, health, and other Millennium Development Goals. Deadline: July 9th. More at <http://www.cominit.com/en/node/318253/2754>.

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Call for Participation: Survey of HIV prevention needs of young people  
The United Nations believes that three actions are critical to empower young people to protect themselves from HIV: 1) increase correct knowledge about HIV among young people in and out of school, including through the provision of good quality sexuality education; 2) promote access to and use of condoms among young people; 3) encourage use of HIV testing and counselling services by young people, especially those most-at-risk of HIV. In preparation for the International AIDS Conference in Vienna, 18-23 July 2010, UNESCO\*, UNICEF\*, UNFPA\* and WHO\* want to hear your views as young people, and invite you to participate in this quick survey.

For the survey, go here: <http://www.awid.org/eng/Women-in-Action/Calls-for-Participation2/Call-for-Participation-Survey-of-HIV-prevention-needs-of-young-people>

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16 June 2010

GLOBAL FUND CONFIRMS FREEZE ON CASH DISBURSEMENTS TO ZAMBIA'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH, GRANTS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO UNDP Geneva – The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria confirmed today that it has not disbursed money for grants to Zambia's Ministry of Health since August last year. It made the decision to halt disbursements in August 2009 after it found evidence of expenditures that could not be accounted for.

However, around US\$17 million of a total of US\$137 million in affected funds originally meant for the Ministry of Health has been disbursed through other channels to ensure that there is no disruption of lifesaving services.

An additional US\$180 million in Global Fund grants implemented by civil society organizations in Zambia are unaffected by this freeze.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) will take over the management of the grants originally provided to the Ministry of Health. Full grant activities are expected to resume within the next two months.

The freeze in disbursement came after Zambian authorities last year uncovered fraud within its own Ministry of Health. Further investigations by the Global Fund showed that the Ministry of Health was not able to safely manage grants. The organization has demanded the return of US\$8 million in unspent funds from the Ministry of Health. The Global Fund has also demanded that Zambia takes action against individuals found to be involved in the unaccounted expenditures that led to the freezing of grant disbursements.

The Global Fund has decided to clarify its actions as recent media reports have caused confusion about the state of its funding to Zambia.

The organization stresses that the overall efforts by the Zambian public sector in providing services and rolling out prevention and treatment for AIDS, TB and malaria are impressive, and that the Global Fund remains confident that the country will continue its progress in the fight against the three diseases.

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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.

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[http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/pressreleases/?pr=pr\\_100616&utm\\_&&](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/pressreleases/?pr=pr_100616&utm_&&)

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## Huirou Commission Announcement: Training on Gender Mainstreaming and Equality with Focus on MDGs

ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on Millennium Development Goals (ARCMDG) at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand, catalyzes the achievements of the MDGs in the ASEAN region through capacity building, education, research and trainings. The center is an integral part of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) with resources and facilities to address issues related to sustainable development inclusive of gender and development.

ARCMDG is launching a training program on 'Gender Mainstreaming and Equality with focus on MDGs'. The training program will add value to participants' professional development with comprehensive knowledge of Millennium Development Goals and regional status, gender mainstreaming with contemporary issues related to migration, climate change, disaster and ICT4D. The training is a unique opportunity for practical learning from the field experts. The training will also provide you opportunity of networking with other organizations in the region. The training will be of 9 days, which includes class room lecture delivery, discussions and field visits for exploring the development projects focusing on gender mainstreaming and equality. A certificate will be awarded upon the completion of training.

The tuition fee is 2500 USD per person. ARCMDG will consider special tuition fees for a group of participants from any organization. ARCMDG has limited scholarships available only for the tuition fee for the countries supported under UNIFEM East and Southeast Asia Regional Office. These countries are Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Aceh, Timor-Leste, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Nominations and applications from these countries are invited now and scholarships will be granted accordingly.

Those interested and would like to avail tuition fee scholarship, please contact ARCMDG by June 30 at [arcmdg-director@ait.asia](mailto:arcmdg-director@ait.asia), [jagriti\\_arcmdg@ait.asia](mailto:jagriti_arcmdg@ait.asia), [arcmdg@ait.asia](mailto:arcmdg@ait.asia)  
Facebook: ARCMDG at AIT, Twitter: ARCMDG

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## Why He Does The Work - In His Own Words

By Elijah Molahlehi, Founder and Director of Motivation Community Development, South Africa

Thank you very much for allowing me to share this story with Firelight.

I did not know a lot of things when I was growing up, as most of my teen years I spent on my own. My mother died when I was in Grade 4. She was having high blood pressure. I was only 10.

When teachers were asking, "Take out your books," I was always ashamed because we could not afford shoes in January or even afford a cover and I was using a newspaper for my books. The children were always laughing at me, they even gave me a name, SUNDAY TIMES. I ended up accepting the name. Some of them now as adults still remember that even today. Even though we are now laughing about it, what they don't know is that it was very painful for me then.

My father was drinking a lot so he never really got time for me because he was always out of the house to his friends. But I always felt so good to know that I have a father and he loves me. He died when I was 14 with cancer, then my life turned around.

I had four sisters and they were all married in different areas, they were helping me, but they could not go the extra mile because they had their own family responsibilities. They were only visiting once a year. At the age of 14, I was staying by myself.

When I was 16, my sister born just before me, got divorced. She came to Welkom to stay with me and I was very happy. Unfortunately, she was very sick already. She was HIV positive. This was before the ARV became available. She died in my arms. That was in 1994—the year of the first democratic elections in South Africa.

The Sunday after her funeral, all the visitors left including my three sisters. I felt so lonely. Two days after, I tried to commit suicide, I cut my left hand's veins with a sharp object. The blood was spitting on me. It was so painful. My neighbour heard my cry and then she rushed in to find me lying with blood all over my clothes. Then they called the ambulance. I was losing power, but I remember when I opened my eyes in the hospital, my mom's closed friend was sitting on the chair next to me, calling my name. I woke up and she shouted at me until the nurses took her out of the ward. I was released the next day.

When I arrived at home, I found her there. I was so scared I even felt like running away, but she said "Ntate," with tears on her face, "Why?" I did not answer. I just started crying and asked, "Where is my mother? I cannot live like this." At the time, I gave up everything because I knew I was still going to live alone. My mother's friend spoke to me for a long time.

Then the next day, she introduced me to a pastor of my mother's church and I started going to church from that time on. I was feeling so uncomfortable there.

Other guys from church did not want to connect with me, because I was looking a little dirty. But at the time, I was used to people laughing at me. It did not hit me so hard.

Later at that stage, I became a Sunday School Teacher, and a lot of children liked me, they even called me "Malome" (uncle). I finished school in 1996 and I was helped by another elder in church to complete my Personnel Management and Advanced Computer Skills diploma in 1997. But still I could not find a job. Then I started doing volunteer work in companies to get experience.

In 2002, I met my mentor, Arthur Serota, while I was doing my volunteer work at Jubilee 2000. That was when my life took a different shape. I worked with him here in South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia in a lot projects. At the same time he was coaching me.

Then I started youth and children's programs in the Free State and Northern Cape because I was aware that there are a lot of children going through what I have been through, even worse. In June of 2002, while we travelled to Kimberley to meet the Khoi-San people, I was moved by the way the children and youth were isolated and so depressed, I thought of my past.

Then I initiated Motivation Youth Group now called Motivation Community Development (MCD). That is where I took out all the anger, strength and sadness I had all those past years. I am glad that everything is going accordingly. In 2005, we expanded MCD to Welkom where I was born and I still wish MCD can keep on motivating vulnerable children, the youth, families and communities around the Free State and the Northern Cape, and if possible, move around all places where help is needed the most.

We have made a lot of research trying to understand what makes the youth's life in the locations so challenging. What we have realised was the behaviour comes from what they have experienced in life while they were still small. It also goes in to what kind of education they are getting in order to change their lives for the better, even though they don't really have a parental support.

I know how it feels and I used to break down a lot, and still no one to run to, but things changed when I met the right people who coached me from 15 to 22 years. That is why I have devoted my life to help other children who are growing up as orphans, which is not easy, but only needs love and passion.

Way back, I read a quote, and that quote stayed with me even today..."We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world." I decided to be positive rather than negative, I decided to choose peace not war or anger, I decided to smile not always cry, even though it was very painful sometimes. I chose love, real love, not hatred or grief. This changed my life, so I believe it will also change a lot of people and children's lives as well.

I have devoted my life to help the children. For the nation without children is a doomed nation. My past experiences don't bother me any more. The biggest challenge I think about is, "In all the trouble, all the pain, poverty, hunger, restlessness, crime, corruption, selfishness'...WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?" I will not rest until poverty is HISTORY!

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Why do you do the work? Please feel free to share your stories, thoughts, and comments with us for future Newsflashes.

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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).