

3 May, 2010
Dear Friends,

It was a good week for articles and reports, so this episode of the Newsflash! has lots of relevant media. Most of the articles are not included, so the links and host information are provided. In addition, there is a compilation of relevant funding opportunities from the FundsForNGOs.org website. We suggest your organizations refer to this website often because they are constantly adding funding opportunities.

Firelight wants to extend our warmest thanks to your organizations for working hard to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Have a beautiful week, and welcome to May!

Sincerely,
The Firelight Team

- Mango's Top 5 Tips for Financial Governance
- Funding opportunities from FundsForNGOs.org
- Report: "Rationing Funds, Risking Lives: World backtracks on HIV treatment. On-the-ground research in India, Kenya, Latvia, Malawi, Swaziland, and Venezuela"
- Article: Zuma launches health campaign by disclosing HIV status

- Article: What Aid Can't Buy in Africa by Tony Blair
- Article: Govt to use karate in HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns

- Article: Economic Crises Taking a Toll on Children

- Article: Sierra Leone gives new hope to mothers and children
- Article: Africans among world's most religious people, study finds
- Article: Stronger Drug Supply Chains Can Save Thousands of Children in Zambia and Beyond
- Article: Letter-Writing Campaign Launched in Support of Universal Access, Funding for AIDS, and the Global Fund
- Article From Huairou Commission Update April 19, 2010: Without Operational Capacity, the New UN Entity for Women Will Not Succeed

Mango's Top 5 Tips for Financial Governance

Overview of tips:

1. Making sure funds are used to help beneficiaries effectively
2. Making sure the organisation has enough funding
3. Making sure the organisation has effective senior management
4. Making sure the organisation operates within the law
5. Making sure the board can handle its responsibilities effectively

For the tips, more information, and training opportunities from Mango, go here: www.mango.org.uk/guide/resources/tips.aspx?dm_i=3SG,4K4E,LCD7F,E5XG,1

Funding opportunities from FundsForNGOs.org

~ Call for Nominations: Business Leaders Award Against Human Trafficking. Deadline 31 July, 2010

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/business-leaders-award-against-human-trafficking-upcoming-call-for-nominations/#axzz0mtpCOBvS

~ Call for Entries: Football for Social Change: Changemakers' new competition. Entry Deadline 11 June, 2010

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/football-for-social-change-changemakers-new-competition/#axzz0mtp2FBEM

~ Call for Proposals: Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges in Global Health. Deadline 19 May, 2010

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/gates-foundations-grand-challenges-in-global-health/#axzz0mtp7VK7R

~ Call for Applications: Ramsar Small Grants Fund. Deadline 30 June, 2010

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/ramsar-small-grants-fund/#axzz0mtoreOEp

~ Call for Proposals: Third Annual Open Enterprise Solutions to Poverty Request for Proposals. Deadline 15 October, 2010

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/third-annual-open-enterprise-solutions-to-poverty-request-for-proposals/#axzz0mtowCgAL

~ Call for Applications: DFID's Development Innovation Fund: An Opportunity for Small NGOs. Rolling deadlines, 3 rounds per year.

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/dfids-development-innovation-fund-an-opportunity-for-small-ngos/#axzz0mtsBkOBh

~ Call for Fellowship Application: Indigenous Leaders Conservation Fellowship.
Deadline 11 June, 2010

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/indigenous-leaders-conservation-fellowship/#axzz0mtocoA5r

~ Call for Applications: Opportunity for Women Peacemakers. Deadline 1 June, 2010

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/opportunity-for-women-peacemakers/#axzz0mtogvRIS

Report from ITPC: "Rationing Funds, Risking Lives: World backtracks on HIV treatment. On-the-ground research in India, Kenya, Latvia, Malawi, Swaziland, and Venezuela"

Released in April 2010

For the report go

here: www.itpcglobal.org/images/stories/doc/ITPC_MTT8_FINAL.pdf or for more information go to www.itpcglobal.org

Zuma launches health campaign by disclosing HIV status

From Karen Smith, CNN

April 26, 2010 6:18 a.m. EDT

(CNN) -- President Jacob Zuma launched a program to combat AIDS in South Africa by making a public announcement that he is HIV negative.

"After careful consideration, I have decided to share my test results with South Africans," Zuma said Sunday. "The purpose is to promote openness and to eradicate the silence and stigma that accompanies this epidemic."The president's sex life has been a controversial subject in the country of 49 million.

Zuma is a member of the Zulu culture, which practices polygamy. He has three wives and 19 children, according to his Web site. Polygamy is legal in South Africa, but has sparked criticism from opponents who say it is out of step with modern times and unfair to women. Adding to the criticism, Zuma was acquitted of charges of raping an AIDS activist four years ago. During the trial, he said he knowingly had consensual sex with the HIV positive woman and thought he could ensure his safety by showering afterward.

Zuma also recently apologized for fathering a child out of wedlock, prompting an outcry from critics who said he was undermining the nation's health campaign.

The United Nations estimates that 5.7 million South Africans are HIV-positive, the highest rate worldwide. The new campaign aims to test one-third of the

population by June next year.

What Aid Can't Buy in Africa

By Tony Blair Monday, Apr. 19, 2010

There is a fashion that is half right in saying that aid is not the answer to Africa's plight. Where it is wrong is that aid — especially focused on the killer diseases, like HIV/AIDS or malaria — saves lives and has a real impact. Where it is right, is that aid alone won't relieve Africa's poverty and underdevelopment. But good governance, the rule of law and a climate that welcomes solid private-sector investment can and will.

Read

more: www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1978716,00.html#ixzz0mu0Vert

Govt to use karate in HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns

The Post Newspapers Zambia By Edwin Mbulo in Livingstone on Monday 19 April 2010, 03:50:00 CAT (582 Reads)

SOUTHERN Province sports development coordinator Gibson Muyaule has said karate is an important sport for young people.

Speaking when he officiated at the first-ever Livingstone Karate Open championships at Victoria Hall on Saturday, Muyaule said the government would use the revised national policy on sports to promote karate as a tool for creating awareness in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

"The new sports policy shall endeavour to use sports such as karate as a tool to create awareness for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS infections among the youths and children.

"Karate is an important outlet for young people and adults to vent out their feelings and frustrations. It is a physical exercise that teaches self-defense and control of mind and body allowing the persons involved to learn to handle life's frustrations and anger," Muyaule said.

Meanwhile, Green Buffaloes scooped the first-ever Livingstone Karate Open championship team award after black belt holder Mushila Slater defeated black belt first dan John Phiri of Zambia National Service (ZNS).

Buffaloes, ZNS, Young Men's Christian Association, Livingstone karate club and Africa Directions were some of the teams at the event.

For more information, go here: www.postzambia.com/post-read_article.php?articleId=8296

Article: Economic Crises Taking a Toll on Children

April 7, 2010—Economic shocks are taking a toll on a population already facing high risks in low-income countries: children.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, as many as 50,000 infants likely lost their lives last year to the global financial crisis that began in the U.S., almost all of them girls, according to economists at the World Bank's Development Research Group. That worsens the region's struggle to reduce infant mortality: 3 million already die every year before reaching their first birthday.

In addition, children in poor countries—mostly Africa and parts of Asia—are put at risk by droughts, export decline and other economic setbacks. They often drop out of school or lose access to health care, according to a series of research papers by the Development Research Group exploring the impact of economic crises.

That in turn will put those children at a disadvantage, even long after the crises are over, according to economists who study past crises. That's because children suffering from malnutrition – especially from conception to two years old—are more likely to be shorter in height as adults, less educated and earn less income over their lifetimes.

"The GDP goes down a year and eventually recovers," said Harold Alderman, an economist who studied previous crises in countries such as Tanzania and Zimbabwe. "A young child with malnutrition is not likely to recover. A child who drops out of school is not likely to go back."

For the entire article, go here:

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/0,,contentMDK:22523759~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:469382,00.html>

Article: Sierra Leone gives new hope to mothers and children

The article discusses Sierra Leone's new health care plan, highlighted by this excerpt:

"Sierra Leone has launched a free healthcare programme for pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers and children under five-years-old. The plan is expected to save the lives of 1.25 million mothers and children, at a cost of \$19m (£12m)."

For the entire article, go here: news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8643965.stm

Africans among world's most religious people, study finds

By Richard Allen Greene, CNN

April 15, 2010 4:30 a.m. EDT

(CNN) -- At least half of all Christians in sub-Saharan Africa believe Jesus will return to Earth in their lifetime -- part of a pattern that indicates the region is among the most religious places in the world, according to a huge new study. It's not only Christians in Africa who experience their religion passionately, either. Nearly one in three Muslims in the region expect to see the re-establishment of the caliphate -- Islam's golden age -- before they die.

At least three out of 10 people across much of Africa said they have experienced divine healing, seen the devil being driven out of a person or received a direct revelation from God, according to the study by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life in Washington.

For the entire article, go

here: www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/04/15/africa.religion/index.html

Stronger Drug Supply Chains Can Save Thousands of Children in Zambia and Beyond

LUSAKA: ZAMBIA, April 21, 2010 – A pilot project in Zambia has shown that strategic improvements in the supply chain for lifesaving drugs can have an immediate and dramatic impact on child mortality. Pediatric malaria drugs—so essential to save children's lives—are now available in 88 percent of public health centers in trial districts, nearly double the 51 percent availability rate in control districts.

For the article, go here:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22550249~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

NEWS: Letter-Writing Campaign Launched in Support of Universal Access, Funding for AIDS, and the Global Fund

The International AIDS Society (IAS) has launched a web-based letter-writing

campaign that allows individuals and organisations to add their voices to the call for universal access and for an increased political and financial commitment to AIDS and the Global Fund. The campaign is targeting members of the G20.

The G20 is a group of 19 countries plus the European Union which, collectively, comprise two-thirds of world's population, 80% of world trade and 85% of global gross national product. Until recently, those attending G20 meetings were finance ministers and central bank governors. However, the G20 has been growing in stature; in 2009, it was announced that the G20 will replace the G8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations.

The G20 will meet in Toronto, Canada on 26-27 June 2010 (overlapping with the G8 meeting). Countries that have donated to the Global Fund in the past, or that are considering donating now, will meet in New York on 4-5 October 2010 to discuss their pledges to the Fund for the period 2011-2013.

The IAS "call for universal access" website is at www.iasociety.org/Default.aspx?pageld=404. The site enables anyone to send a letter to the heads of government of any or all of the G20 countries with just a few clicks of the mouse. Several different texts are provided, in English, French and Spanish, most of which are country-specific. In addition, the IAS encourages letter writers to include a personal touch and, where appropriate, to add text in the language of the country.

With respect to the Global Fund, the texts say that the Fund "has turned international investments in health into lifesaving services quickly and efficiently. Without increased financial support, however, this progress could be reversed, meaning millions more will become infected with HIV and die premature, avoidable deaths. Your leadership and influence can help change this."

The website also allows people to send a letter to the head of the African Union. That version of the letter calls on the African Union to work with G8 and G20 leaders to ensure that the global response to AIDS is high on their summit agendas.

One does not have to be from the African Union or a G20 country in order to send a letter.

In addition to the European Union, the G20 is made up of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Meanwhile, Shannon Kowalski of the Open Society Institute has posted some

blog entries about Global Fund financing at <http://blog.soros.org/2010/03/the-cost-of-fighting-aids-tb-and-malaria>, <http://blog.soros.org/2010/04/the-global-fund-for-health-if-donors-pay-up> and <http://blog.soros.org/2010/04/the-human-cost-of-misplaced-priorities>.

– David Garmaise (garmaise@aidspan.org), Senior Analyst, Aidspan

From Huairou Commission Update April 19, 2010: Without Operational Capacity, the New UN Entity for Women Will Not Succeed

Statement from our friends at AIDS Free World

New York, USA - April 9, 2010. On the eve of a meeting of UN Ambassadors convened to discuss the new UN women's agency, AIDS-Free World released the following statement:

In all our years working within, alongside and in support of the United Nations, we have never heard the word "catalytic" mentioned - except in relation to women. Member States that need the international community's help to end poverty, child labour or preventable diseases never ask for "catalytic programmes"; they want to tap into the operational capacity of the UN. Governments requiring assistance with clean water, emergency feeding, primary education or urban planning don't look to the UN for "catalysis"; they want specific expertise, analysis, action and results. When nations emerge from conflict, they don't look for a "catalytic demonstration project that will test innovative approaches"; they want an operation built on decades of UN peacekeeping experience. Why is it that the UN and Member States only request catalytic programming when it comes to women? Because they consider health, prosperity and peace extremely important, but women's issues less so. And although few of us know exactly what the intangible word "catalytic" really means in the context of human rights or development, we all understand that it is code for "low priority", "experimental" and "unsustainable". In fact, "catalytic and innovative programming" is not much more than a façade used to cover up the absence of commitment, time, energy, urgency, expertise and, most of all, budget.

After several years of soul-searching and deliberation, Member States have now humbly and bravely acknowledged that the UN has made little progress toward its gender goals, and they have reached consensus that a new UN entity for women is needed to put the institution on the right track. An historic resolution has now been passed in the General Assembly.

But two fallacies stand between the General Assembly and its chances for

success with the creation of a new UN agency for women, meant to help Member States achieve their goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The first fallacy is that operational capacity for the new women's entity is optional: that global equality for women can somehow be achieved with 'catalytic programming' in select countries. This low-budget, low-skills approach has been leading the UN and UNIFEM's work on women's empowerment for decades. A few pilots and demonstration projects have provided direct aid and support to a miniscule percentage of the world's women - but those are token achievements when held up against the goals of eliminating all forms of discrimination and empowering women worldwide. The verdict of the General Assembly was clear: the UN's gender record to date - built on catalytic programming -- has not worked. There is no reason to think it will work in the future. As Albert Einstein pointed out, doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results is the very definition of insanity.

The truths to be acknowledged are that discrimination against women is the most widespread and intractable problem affecting humankind; that gender inequality exists in every country worldwide; that for nearly seven decades, the UN has neglected and mismanaged women's issues, leaving the real work of women's equality and empowerment to women themselves; and that all evidence points to the undeniable fact that "catalytic programming" (or short-lived, unsustainable experimentation) is no substitute for human rights and development planning, funding and expertise (also known as operational capacity). There is simply no cheap, ad hoc, para-professional short-cut to the empowerment of women.

The second fallacy is that adequate gender expertise and programming exist within the UN, and merely need to be encouraged, coordinated and "enhanced". The truth is that the entire UN - its agencies, funds, programmes, including UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, WHO, FAO, as well as the Office of the Secretary-General, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues - lacks sufficient expertise and experience to address women's issues effectively, and has never committed the time, energy or human and financial resources required to bring results in line with rhetoric on gender.

The youngest UN entity, UNAIDS, was created expressly to coordinate and enhance the joint AIDS work of the entire UN, including its "gender entities", and provides proof of system-wide gender failures and deficits. An independent evaluation of the coordinating body's effectiveness from 2002-2008 judged UNAIDS' global leadership on gender dimensions of the AIDS pandemic to be "weak"; its mainstreaming of, and capacity in, HIV and gender to be in need of strengthening; its engagement with organizations working on gender "limited"; and its support to countries to address the gender dimensions of the pandemic "not strategic". The result has been catastrophic for women, whose share of the

global AIDS burden continues to climb.

And women affected by AIDS are but one example of the UN's failure to apply true expertise, gender analysis and operational capacity to women's issues. The UN has largely neglected and failed vast swathes of the world's women, who cannot point to any UN agency and know that it is working to end the discrimination against them: women with disabilities; older women; domestic workers and others who are abused and exploited in the informal sector; women who are sexually harassed and abused in the formal sector, including within the UN itself; women who are raped; women targeted during military and political campaigns of sexual violence; women subjected to forced sterilization; indigenous women; women who are unequal to men under the law; women who do not receive equal pay for equal work or are not compensated for work at all; victims of intimate partner violence; women who are not allowed to decide for themselves whether, when or how often to bear children; women deprived of equal professional opportunities; women conscripted into carrying an unfair burden of care for those sick and orphaned by AIDS; women conscripted into lives of full-time, uncompensated child care, sick care and elder care; sex-trafficked women; women subjected to forced marriages, to honour killings, and to harmful cultural and traditional practices; women deprived of equal access to secondary and tertiary education, of equal access to information technology, and of opportunities to participate in the full range of professions; and the hundreds of millions of women who are excluded, by virtue of their lack of access and agency, from politics, and decision-making, and peacemaking, and development planning, and finance, and economics, and math and the sciences, and senior corporate positions, and UN costing exercises that would take the guesswork out of budgeting for women's programmes...the list goes on and on.

As we all know, UN agencies presented with such a list inevitably feel that they must claim to be addressing all or most of these issues. But it is obvious on the ground -- to women, to governments - that the UN's gender progress is undetectable, because more often than not in the United Nations, "addressing" women's issues means quantifying them, not offering or implementing solutions. We feel confident that most of the women and men who staff the UN - that is, not the heads of agencies, who seem more concerned about the new entity's potential impact on their funding than they are about its impact on women, but the middle managers in headquarters and regional offices and the international and national staff working at country level, including in the existing "gender entities" - would eagerly welcome a strong new women's agency with true operational capacity and real expertise. Perhaps more than anyone else, they understand the gender policy and programme gaps and omissions, and they are weary of consistently failing women, while simultaneously having to exaggerate accomplishments and pretend to gender expertise as part of their job requirements.

A simple rearrangement of the existing "gender entities" in the UN's organizational chart, accompanied by a minimalist approach to staffing and budgeting, and yet another pledge by the leadership that everyone in the system will work harder at "gender mainstreaming" will not even begin to touch the lives of the billions of women included in the list above. The "evidence base" is solid; the "catalytic programming plus gender mainstreaming" formula has been tried, again and again, and each time, it has served to maintain the status quo of men's power and women's inequality. For the UN to repeat it again as though it has any real chance of success would be an exercise in blatant, willful deception.

No one - least of all the advocates of human rights who have devoted their lives to women's equality, equity and empowerment - believes for a moment that special knowledge, skills, analysis and understanding of women's issues, as well as the political will and commitment to apply them, have all been lying dormant within the UN and its various entities, and need only to be awakened. Few have retained any faith in the bona fides of an institution whose leader and primary spokesperson, the Secretary-General, makes two announcements within the space of a few hours during March of 2010 - one lamenting the UN's persistent lack of progress toward the 2000 goal of 50/50 gender parity in the staff, and another about his appointment of 19 men to a 19-member high-level panel on climate change.

The General Assembly has an opportunity to avoid the insanity of repeating past mistakes, and to design a women's agency with real clout and real potential, with true operational capacity, an expert staff worthy of being entrusted with the gender goals to which Member States have committed, and a budget that reflects governments' commitment to those goals.

Paula Donovan,
Stephen Lewis
Co-Directors

For more information, please write to:
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www.aids-freeworld.org

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.