

## **Firelight Newsflash! 5 November, 2007**

### **Congratulations are in order...**

The Government of Malawi has appointed Mr. Maxwell Matewere, Executive Director of Eye of the Child in Blantyre, to serve as one of the part-time law commissioners that will develop a law against Human Trafficking in Malawi. It means that he will serve as a Special Law Commissioner in the country. Since Maxwell started working on child protection issues in Malawi many years ago, he has always expressed concerns about how orphans have been victimised by traffickers, including illegal adoption. The appointment will give him the chance to develop and lobby for the enactment of law that will provide protection to orphans and vulnerable children throughout Malawi.

Congratulations to Maxwell and to Eye of the Child for this important recognition and opportunity to affect change on this important issue! We at Firelight are very proud of all of our grantee-partners' commitment and accomplishments. Join us in congratulating Eye of the Child!

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### **Each and Every Child: Understanding and working with children in the poorest and most difficult situations [publication]**

[25 October 2007] - [This report](#) discusses the challenges that confront Plan and other child-focused organisations as they seek to assist those children whose rights are most violated and who are living in some of the poorest and most difficult situations in the world.

Organisations have mainly worked with these children according to different categories, such as street children, children in conflict with the law and children in the worst forms of child labour. However, many children have multiple problems and belong to more than one category or move between categories over time. Many of the root causes and factors that impact on the lives of these children are similar.

There is therefore the need to develop a more holistic approach, particularly in terms of prevention. This report proposes a framework that can help staff think about working with these groups of children from an integrated, child-centred and rights-based development perspective.

To read the report, see the website:  
[http://www.crin.org/docs/PlanEach\\_final.pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/PlanEach_final.pdf)

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### **Echoing Green seeks applicants for 2008 Fellowship Program**

Deadline: 3 December 2007

Echoing Green awards two-year fellowships to emerging social innovators creating new organizations. Annually, Echoing Green awards approximately twenty fellowships to individuals with innovative ideas for creating new models for tackling seemingly unsolvable social challenges. These fellowships offer the opportunity to develop and test innovative ideas. Applications are accepted from citizens of all nationalities, working in any country. Echoing Green fellows do not develop their ideas in an academic setting, rather they work in the community, launching, managing and growing organizations that implement and continually expand ideas for creating lasting social change. During the two-year fellowship, Echoing Green provides both financial and technical support. The deadline for applications is December 3rd, 2007.

For more information, see:

<http://www.echoinggreen.org/fellowship>

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### **Rural Women's Movement Using Radio Programmes to Tackle Human Rights**

South Africa, 12 September 2007

Rural women in KwaZulu Natal will soon be producing their own radio programmes on human rights issues affecting them. The UmNyango Project is currently using SMS technology for rural women and men in KwaZulu Natal to access information to and report incidences of violence against women and children, as well as violations of women's right to land. There are currently 160 people using this facility, with the overwhelming number being women users.

As part of the awareness-raising component of the initiative, a core group of women from the Rural Women's Movement ([www.rwm.org.za](http://www.rwm.org.za)) and a male representative from the Centre for Public Participation ([www.cpp.org.za](http://www.cpp.org.za)), were trained in August on radio programme production by Community Media for Development ([www.cmfd.org](http://www.cmfd.org)). They produced 8 magazine programmes covering issues of evictions on farms, evictions of widows from their marital homes, women's inheritance rights and the impact of HIV/AIDS, sexual violence against girl children, forced/arranged marriages, young women and employment and grandmothers and orphans. The programmes have been made available to local radio stations, as well as being distributed over the internet as 'podcasts'. These

may be downloaded by anyone with access to the Internet. Please direct your browser to:

<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/broadcasts/podcasts.php>

-and to-

<http://www.cmfd.org/cmfdprojects/ruralwomen.html>.

We encourage individuals and organisations working with vulnerable women and children to make use of the radio programmes for awareness raising.

The training of the women from the Rural Women's Movement on radio programme production, was made possible through a grant to Fahamu ([www.fahamu.org](http://www.fahamu.org)) from the New Field Foundation (a supporting organisation of the Tides Foundation) ([www.newfieldfound.org](http://www.newfieldfound.org)).

Dr. Firoze Manji, Director of Fahamu said: "The ability of women to conceptualise, develop and produce their own radio programmes is vital. These are the pioneers of citizen journalism in Africa. The voices and experiences of rural women can now be heard without editorial interference and interpretation. We plan to extend this initiative to Kenya and Sierra Leone in the next few months, and further afield in the coming year."

The women will now begin training other women on radio programme production and we are hopeful that we will continue to hear more reports by rural women about their plight.

Anil Naidoo, Managing Director of Indiba-Africa and UmNyango Project Team Leader said: "The UmNyango Project is innovating simple, accessible and reliable ways to promote and protect the human rights of rural women in KwaZulu Natal. The Project is shaped and driven by their needs. This is the first instance we know of in South Africa, where rural women are using an SMS facility to easily access human rights information and to report human rights violations against them. All they need is a mobile phone. We have a network of partners that act on these reports. At a policy level, we are encouraged by a request from the eThekweni (Durban) Municipality to discuss how they may set-up an SMS facility for their rural Area Based Management and Development Programme. Now with the training on radio production, the women will have a powerful tool to directly interface with the rest of the world and thereby expose human rights violations in their communities that are very rarely reported on. In the next phase of the UmNyango Project, we hope to train rural women journalists who will file media reports along with photo and video clips using their cell phones. We will begin fundraising for this from October 2007. An American company, ReCellular has already donated 50 cell phones for this. We are hopeful that in the long term, these innovations will

allow rural women and men, greater and more equitable participation in government, poverty alleviation and in the creation of a sustainable culture of human rights in South Africa. We have just launched an SMS competition for the participants of the UmNyango Project. The 5 best judged SMS's received suggesting possible community driven solutions to domestic violence will each win a re-furbished cell phone. We hope this will assist in the sensitisation and prevention of violence against women "

The training was part of the UmNyango Project, which is funded by the Dutch International Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (<http://www.hivos.nl/english>), the South Africa Development Fund (<http://www.sadevelopmentfund.org>), Clickatell (<http://www.clickatell.com>) and ReCellular (<http://www.recellular.com>). The UmNyango Project partners are Centre for Public Participation ([www.cpp.org.za](http://www.cpp.org.za)), Community Law and Rural Development Centre, Domestic Violence Assistance Project, Fahamu ([www.fahamu.org](http://www.fahamu.org)), Indiba-Africa Development Alliance ([www.indiba-africa.org.za](http://www.indiba-africa.org.za)), Participatory Development Initiative ([www.pdi.org.za](http://www.pdi.org.za)) and Rural Women's Movement ([www.rwm.org.za](http://www.rwm.org.za))

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