

Firelight Newsflash! 7 June 2010

Dear Friends,

We apologize for the delayed Newsflash! this week. Several Firelight staff members attended the Grantmakers Without Borders conference (<http://www.gwob.net/justgiving2010/index.htm>) this week in San Francisco, California. It was a great opportunity for us to learn about the amazing work being done by granters, and grantee-partners, all around the world. We were able to learn about emerging issues, creative problem-solving, and innovative ideas. One such idea that was gained by this conference, was to suggest YOU write some Newsflashes! That's right, we want to hear your voices. If you have any topics, messages, resources, etc, that you would like to share with other grantee-partners in a Newsflash!, feel free to submit them to newsletter@firelightfoundation.org and we will do our best to include your submission in an upcoming edition. So, please enjoy this week's Newsflash!, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Sending our best,
Firelight Team

- Honoring Firelight Grantee-partner St. Francis Health Care Services in Jinja, Uganda
- "Make the United Nations more effective in realizing women's rights" --Sign the GEAR petition
- (Call for proposals) SEVEN Fund Announces Open Enterprise Solutions to Poverty Request for Proposals
- (Essay competition) Global competition seeks essays on faith-based enterprise solutions to poverty
- (Article) Mobile Phones Fight Africa's Drug Wars
- (Article) Pefar Targets Gender Violence
- (Essay) The Global AIDS Transition: A Feasible Objective for AIDS Policy
- (Article) 'We Matter': Kenyan young people analyze their current status and look to future
- (Article) UNICEF Executive Director speaks out on girls' education and empowerment'Engendering Empowerment: Education and Equality' conference
- Six Tips for Reducing or Managing Job Stress

In a message from St. Francis Health Care Services, Firelight was informed that their Executive Director was honored with the Parlimentary HIV/AIDS Leadership Award for 2009. We are very glad to honor Faustine for the

wonderful work she, and her organization, has done. Below is an excerpt from Faustine:

"I am pleased to share with you a moment of joy and thanksgiving for achieving the annual Parliamentary HIV/AIDS Leadership award 2009. This award is given to individual Ugandans who have contributed to HIV prevention and care for people living with HIV/AIDS in their communities in Uganda. This year's award was presented by His Excellency the President of the Republic Of Uganda Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at parliamentary building in Kampala on 31/5/2010. Present were ministers, members of Parliament, PEPFAR Country representative and UNAIDS country representatives in Uganda. I am very excited for this recognition for my contribution in the HIV/AIDS arena for the last 21 years since 1989."

Recognition for consistent, dedicated work does not come often enough. So, we take this moment to recognize St. Francis for the amazing work they have done. In addition, we take this moment to thank all of your organizations who work tirelessly to support children, families and communities. Thank you, sincerely.

"Make the United Nations more effective in realizing women's rights" --Sign the GEAR petition
A message from the GEAR campaign:
Greetings Colleagues,
In mid June, GEAR Campaign representatives will present a petition to "Make the United Nations more effective in realizing women's rights" to the United Nations President of the General Assembly, H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki. If you have not already signed on, please do so before June 10th when the petition will close. Also, please disseminate widely to your networks and constituencies.

GEAR Petition Links:
Arabic - www.amnesty.org/ar/appeals-for-action/gear
English - www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/gear
French - www.amnesty.org/fr/appeals-for-action/gear
Spanish - www.amnesty.org/es/appeals-for-action/gear

(From the Huairou Commission Update, June 1, 2010, Vol. 89)

SEVEN Fund Announces Open Enterprise Solutions to Poverty Request for Proposals

The SEVEN Fund is a virtual nonprofit entity run by entrepreneurs whose strategy is to markedly increase the rate of innovation and diffusion of enterprise-based solutions to poverty. SEVEN believes that such solutions already exist but are not sufficiently studied, analyzed, and exhibited as examples. Grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded to think-tanks, economists, professors, and other individuals working to find a solution to poverty through scientific research. Deadline: October 15th. More at www.sevenfund.org/enterprise-solutions-poverty/.

Global competition seeks essays on faith-based enterprise solutions to poverty

In partnership with the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty, the SEVEN (Social Equity Venture) Fund has announced its 2010-11 essay competition, open to participants around the globe. Writers are asked to submit a first-person narrative describing enterprise solutions to poverty that are faith-based, faith-inspired, or interfaith efforts. Illustrations may come from any domain, including healthcare, education, consumer products, human rights, and others. Examples must represent innovative private solutions to public problems. The competition will award two prizes of \$5,000 each. Deadline: October 15th. More at www.sevenfund.org/faith-and-development/.

Bloomberg Businessweek

TELECOMMUNICATIONS May 13, 2010, 5:00PM EST

Mobile Phones Fight Africa's Drug Wars

New systems that let users dial up to verify antimalarial and other drugs' authenticity could be a major defense against counterfeit meds

By Simeon Bennett

While malaria is relatively easy to treat if caught early, it kills nearly 900,000 people a year, mostly in Africa. That's because across much of the continent, malaria medicine is hard to come by, and even when available, it's often fake. Although it may be years before every African has access to treatment, new technology could let anyone with a mobile phone verify that drugs are the real deal.

At least two rival systems plan to put unique codes on packages containing antimalarials and other medications. Buyers will be able to text the code to a phone number on the package and get an immediate reply of "NO" or "OK," with

the drug's name, expiration date, and other information. "This is a big blow to counterfeiting," says Bright Simons, co-founder of mPedigree, a Ghanaian startup working with Hewlett-Packard (HPQ) on one of the systems. Simons expects to put 10-digit codes on about 125,000 packets of malaria medications in Ghana and Nigeria in a six-month trial starting in December. In 2008, mPedigree did a trial with bottles of acetaminophen syrup. At the urging of pharmacists, nearly all 3,000 customers who bought the syrup sent in the code, Simons says. "When a pharmacist tells a patient that something is worth doing in Africa, they listen," he says.

Nigeria's drug regulator is testing a rival service with Glucophage, a diabetes treatment from Germany's Merck (MRK). That service was developed by Ashifi Gogo, an mPedigree co-founder who left to start his own company, Sproxil. By June, Gogo expects to have codes on 1.5 million packs of Glucophage, and he says he's in negotiations with other pharmaceutical companies.

Drugmakers will pay for the systems through subscription fees. Using mPedigree's technology will add about 4 cents to the cost of a typical \$4 malaria treatment, Simons says. He's confident that will be more than offset by a reduction in counterfeits. London-based Glaxo-SmithKline (GSK) says it's considering using mPedigree's technology, and Simons is in discussions with three other big drugmakers, he says. His company wrote software that generates the codes and checks them against a database stored in computers run by HP. "We'll be able to get information back to the pharmaceutical companies about where their drug is actually being used," says Mick Keyes, an HP executive overseeing the program. "They like the model."

Dozens of companies are developing anti-counterfeiting technologies such as holograms and bar codes. But mobile phones may be a simpler and cheaper solution, says Patrick Lukulay of the United States Pharmacopeial Convention, a Maryland nonprofit that tracks fakes. "In a low-tech, resource-limited environment it's very effective," Lukulay says. "It's using a technology that millions of people have access to."

The bottom line: As mobile phones spread across the developing world, they're being used in unexpected ways—including, now, to fight counterfeit drugs.

For the article, go

here: www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/10_21/b4179037128534.htm?utm_campaign=

Pepfar Targets Gender Violence

Women with violent or controlling male partners are at increased risk of HIV infection. Gender-based violence is a world-wide pandemic.

According to a number of recent studies conducted mainly in the United States and in Sub-Saharan Africa, gender-based violence and gender inequality are

important determinants of women's risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. In other words, women with violent or controlling male partners are at increased risk of HIV infection. As well, women who become HIV- positive are much more likely to be singled out for abuse. This is bad news for the health and well-being of those women and girls who are most affected by sexual violence, and as such are at greater risk of infection by HIV/AIDS. Gender-based violence is a world-wide pandemic and directly affects the spread of HIV/AIDS. Fear of violence limits the ability of women and girls to choose their partners; to find out about a partner's HIV status or disclose their own; and to get medical or counseling services. The United States recognizes the link between gender-based violence and global HIV/AIDS. Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, (or PEPFAR) the U.S. has allocated an additional 30 million dollars to scale up the response against gender-based violence, with significant funding going towards Tanzania, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Funding in these countries will go toward programs that already exist in the three nations. The idea is to use their experience in dealing with gender-based violence and HIV to scale-up gender-based violence programming and improve the coordination and efficiency of programs against gender-based violence. Some of the money will also be used to make health facilities more comprehensive and able to respond to victims of violence.

PEPFAR will work with local governments and non-governmental organizations in Mozambique, Tanzania and the Republic of Congo, while looking for ways to link up with other partners that already focus on gender-based violence-related developmental issues, such as education, reproductive health, democracy and governance, and economic growth. As U.S. President Barack Obama has outlined in his Global Health Initiative, the United States is committed to improving the lives of women around the globe. Find this article at: www1.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Pepfar-Targets-Gender-Violence-93929709.html?refresh=1&utm_campaign=

The Global AIDS Transition: A Feasible Objective for AIDS Policy

This landmark essay proposes a new paradigm for combating AIDS and a new objective around which international donors and recipient governments can coordinate their efforts. CGD senior fellow Mead Over calls this objective the "AIDS transition."

What exactly is an "AIDS transition"? It is a dynamic process that holds AIDS mortality down—that is, preserves recently achieved mortality reductions—while lowering the number of new infections even further—so that the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS begins to diminish.

For the full essay, go here: www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424143/?utm_campaign=

'We Matter': Kenyan young people analyze their current status and look to future

By Jayne Kariuki

NAIROBI, Kenya, 11 March 2010 – Kenyan young people have been given a say in the future of their country, following the divisive and violent riots that took place in the aftermath of the disputed 2008 elections.

Youth representatives recently had chance to speak out at the launch of Kenya's National Youth Situation Analysis Report, subtitled 'We Matter'.

The situation analysis was carried out in 2009 to address the diverse needs of the country's large youth population, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention states that children and adolescents should participate – “according to their evolving capacities” – in decision-making on issues that affect their lives.

More than 1,000 young people came to the capital from all over Kenya for the launch event. Their songs, drama, poetry and dance filled the room; and their messages were loud and clear, as they eloquently defined their place in the country's future.

Agents of social changeThe post-election crisis of early 2008 – and the role young people played during the violence that engulfed Kenya – underlined the need for an analysis of the role they can play going forward. About half of all Kenyans are under 18 years of age. They are both a tremendous resource for national development and effective agents of sustainable social change.

“My Ministry will use the situation analysis report as a basis for youth development planners and partners to come up with new and far-reaching interventions in Kenya,” said Assistant Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Wavinya Ndeti.

UNICEF Representative in Kenya Dr. Olivia Yambi congratulated the 1,000 young people who contributed to the analysis. “UNICEF thanks you for targeting your efforts and energies into coming up with a report that outlines priorities and recommendations that best serve your interests,” she said.

'Gateways to our future'

Young people were unified in identifying the key issues that affect them: education, employment, quality health care, security, governance, gender equality and recreation.

Their joint statement outlined an optimistic, united view of the future:

“Nothing is predestined; the obstacles of our past can become gateways to our future. The views in this report are proof that we can break the ground; we have the will power, we are fired up and committed individuals, out only to make a difference in our country. Let it forever be known that our strength shall never again be used to destroy, but rather to build our nation.”

For the article, go here: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/kenya_52986.html

UNICEF Executive Director speaks out on girls' education and empowerment 'Engendering Empowerment: Education and Equality' conference

NEW YORK, USA, 17 May 2010 – Speaking at an international conference on education and gender equality, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake today called for accelerated efforts on behalf of “forgotten children” in the run-up to the 2015 deadline for meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

The conference – entitled ‘Engendering Empowerment: Education and Equality’ or ‘E4’ – is being organized by the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). Hosted in Dakar, Senegal, it marks the 10th anniversary of the UNGEI global partnership, capping a decade of significant advances towards closing the gender gap in education.

This progress has not been swift enough, however, to ensure achievement of the MDG benchmark on universal primary education and gender parity.

“The sad reality is that if our progress continues at its current pace, by 2015 there still will be approximately 56 million children out of school,” Mr. Lake said at the opening session of the E4 meeting. “And worse: You can count on those children being the hardest to reach, living in the poorest countries, with the highest and hardest barriers to overcome.”

Barriers to education

Mr. Lake went on to cite several of the biggest barriers to school retention and educational quality. For example:

- Children from the poorest 20 per cent of their societies, the so-called ‘fifth quintile’, are much less likely to attend primary school than those in the richest quintile
- Girls in impoverished rural households are the most likely to be excluded from primary school
- Children from indigenous and minority groups, as

well as children with disabilities, are the least likely to be able to attend or stay in school.

“These are the forgotten children,” said Mr. Lake, “marginalized simply because of the economic and social inequities in their societies, left behind simply because they were born poor or female, or of the wrong caste or in the wrong country.”

Agents of change

Despite these obstacles and others – such as the global economic crisis, which is leading some governments to cut back on their investments in education – the UNICEF chief argued that it would be “morally indefensible and strategically short-sighted” to ignore the needs of marginalized children.

“In fact, I believe it is precisely on these ignored, forgotten children that we must refocus our efforts as we approach 2015,” Mr. Lake said, echoing UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s assertion that children “are at the very heart of all the MDGs.”

Indeed, the evidence shows that educated girls, in particular, grow into agents of change for their families, communities and societies as a whole. Providing girls with quality education can be a highly effective tool to address poverty, fight disease and improve economic development.

“For UNICEF, all of our goals and all of the gains we may make – whether child survival, maternal and child health, or child protection – hinge in the long run on education,” said Mr. Lake. “It is the only way to sustain the gains we make.”

‘A broader agenda’

For all of these reasons, UNGEI partners at the conference in Senegal are discussing how to steer more international funding towards education and gender equality. They are also advocating for governments to make positive changes in their own national policies on education.

But at the same time, Mr. Lake cautioned, “education alone does not equal empowerment.” He noted that in some cases, “countries can achieve significant gender parity in education but still fail to translate these gains into more meaningful participation by women at every level of society.”

Full participation can be fostered by involving girls in social support networks that help them stay in school, and by encouraging them to participate actively in making decisions that affect their lives. UNGEI is already supporting such initiatives in many places.

“The time has come for us to accelerate our efforts – and to look beyond gender parity to a broader agenda,” Mr. Lake concluded in his speech at the E4 meeting. “That is what we are here to do.”

For the article, go here: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/senegal_53660.html

Six Tips for Reducing or Managing Job Stress

There’s no getting around it. If you work with children and families, more than likely you have experienced some job stress. If you haven’t, chances are you will at some point in the future. Still, how individuals handle stress often involves such characteristics as personality type and their individual coping style.

What is Job Stress?

Job stress is defined as harmful physical and emotional responses that occur when the requirements of a job do not match the capabilities, resources, or needs of the worker. Stress also occurs when workers feel little or no control over a particular situation.

What Causes Job Stress?

Working with abused or neglected children obviously creates significant emotional burdens. When layoffs occur or positions are cut, this results in job stress not only for those affected, but also creates excessive workloads that require those remaining employees to work longer hours or to frequently take work home. Lack of opportunities for promotion or other advancement opportunities is another. Likewise, conflicts with supervisors or co-workers can create stress.

More than impacting performance, continued or chronic job stress can lead to serious health problems that include, but are not limited to emotional health issues such as depression, high blood pressure, diabetes, ulcers, and heart disease. While the symptoms below frequently may be something other than job stress, some early warning signs of job stress include:

- Low morale
- Depression

- Anger/irritability

- Physical problems (headaches, stomach problems)

- High Absenteeism

- Problems in relationships with co-workers, family and friends.

However, there are six things that individuals can do to reduce or manage job stress.

1. Prioritize tasks and tackle them in order of importance.
Instead of putting off a large or unpleasant task, why not do it first and get it out of the way? That way you can focus the rest of your day on those less stressful tasks or more pleasant ones.
2. Strive to become better organized.
Think back to the number of times that you have lost important files or papers that you knew were somewhere on your desk, in your files, or on your computer. How about ridding your desk of clutter and files that you aren't currently working on? Simple as it is, knowing where things are saves time and reduces stress.
3. Manage your time wisely.
This can reduce job stress and may also decrease how often you work overtime or take work home. If you must stay late or take work home, try to limit staying late to no more than once or twice a week, if possible.
4. Take a break during the day or whenever you start to feel stressed.
If the weather allows, why not take a short walk outside? Listen to or sing a song. Call a friend or family member. This can relieve the tension and help you focus or concentrate after the break.
5. Get enough rest or sleep.
It goes without saying that not getting enough rest sets the stage for stress on the job.
6. Take regular time off.

Use leave and holiday breaks to reconnect with friends and to strengthen family ties. And refrain from taking work with you so that you can truly re-charge.

Adapted from Carol Gee's article on:

<http://content.opportunityknocks.org/2009/11/16/six-tips-for-reducing-or-managing-job-stress/>

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.