

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to the Newsflash! Please enjoy this week's newsletter. The Aidsmap website (www.aidsmap.com) is listed several times for their comprehensive resources for PLWHA, caregivers and organizations working with PLWHA. If you know of any resourceful tools, sites or organizations that should be featured in the Newsflash!, please send us your recommendations.

Thanks for reading,
Firelight Team

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Call for Proposals: Comparative African Perspectives on China and other emerging powers in Africa
DEADLINE MARCH 19, 2010
Pambazuka News- Pan-African Voices for Freedom and Justice

Comparative African Perspectives on China and other emerging powers in Africa is a research project initiated by FAHAMU, the network for social justice issues. China's deepening engagement with Africa is receiving increased attention from the global media, public- and private sectors as well as academic research. This should however not overshadow the activities of other emerging powers in Africa, including India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa. This call therefore seeks to

develop an African perspective by strengthening the civil society voice in the discourse surrounding the engagement between Africa and these emerging powers.

www.pambazuka.org/en/category/Announce/62769

Invitation: Opportunity to Participate in SIDA's International Training Programme on LGBT and Human Rights in Sweden

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is supporting international travel, participation fee, meals and accommodation for participants interested to attend the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons (LGBT) and Human rights Training Programme to be held in two parts: Part 1 from 18 October 2010 to 5 November 2010 in Stockholm, Sweden and Part 2 from 30 May 2011 to 3 June 2011 in any one of the participating countries. The purpose of the programme is to equip participants with useful tools and perspectives for working for LGBT persons' human rights. "The training is administered by RFSU, The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, in partnership with RFSL, The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights and will be conducted in English."

The contents of the programme are as follows:

Week 1: Sexualities, Norms and Genders

Week 2: Human Rights and Protection for LGBT Persons

Week 3: Supporting LGBT in Practice

Week 4: Regional follow-up

Within these themes there will be lectures, group discussions and workshops on: Perspectives on Sexualities and Gender, LGBT and the Right to Health, Violations of Human Rights, Religion and LGBT, Strategic Advocacy Work, Parliamentarians' and Politicians' Work for Change, Planning with LFA, Region Specific Challenges.

The training programme is only for candidates from African countries of Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Moçambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. To apply to participate in the programme, candidates should have a minimum of three years of work experience either in LGBT or in the field of human rights in they should have an academic degree in social sciences, law, public health or related field of study. Besides, they should have equivalent knowledge obtained through similar experiences.

The last date to apply for programme is 9 April 2010. For more information, visit this [link](#).

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/opportunity-to-participate-in-sidas-

[international-training-programme-on-lgbt-and-human-rights-in-sweden/](#)

Article: Criminalising homosexuality: a threat to human rights
Pambazuka News- Pan-African Voices for Freedom and Justice

If Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill is passed into law, the implications for LGBT people, and for the rights of everyone across Africa are 'horrific', writes Sokari Ekine. 'Utterly inhumane', the bill violates all African Union and International human rights legislation and treaties to which Uganda is signatory, says Ekine, but if it were to be passed, the chances are strong that some of 38 African countries criminalising same-sex relationships would attempt to copy it. Can a new book 'Urgency Required: Gay and Lesbian Rights are Human Rights' help to prevent legislation that threatens to cast homosexuals as 'illegal beings' rather than human beings?

More here: www.pambazuka.org/en/category/features/62729

Article: HIV prevention, treatment not accessible to migrant workers in Southern Africa
AFRIQUE EN LIGNE NEWS - AFRICA NEWS

Migrant workers in Southern Africa have relatively low and inadequate access to HIV prevention and treatment services, although they have high vulnerability to infection, according to a new study by the International Office of Migration (IOM).

Conducted in eight countries -- Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia -- over a five-month period from July to November 2009, the assessment focused primarily on labour migrants employed in the agriculture, mining, transport, construction, informal cross border trade and the maritime sectors.

Irregular migrants were a secondary focus, IOM said in a brief made available to PANA here Wednesday.

The UN agency said its findings were based on a regional assessment of the HIV vulnerabilities of migrants and mobile workers in the southern Africa region, commissioned by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and funded by the Southern Africa Prevention Initiative of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Numerous factors contribute to the increased HIV vulnerability of migrant workers, mobile populations (and the communities that they interact with), the study found.

These factors include boredom and loneliness resulting from the long periods of time spent away from home; poor social environments in which alcohol and sex are the only forms of entertainment; and multiple and concurrent sexual partnerships including commercial and transactional sex.

Other factors, according to the study, were low HIV knowledge and inconsistent condom use, limited access to HIV prevention services and low coverage of social and behaviour change communication programmes.

Additionally, irregular and undocumented migrants faced special health vulnerabilities as they often avoided accessing public health services, citing reasons such as the high cost of health care services; fear of being deported; language barriers and possible xenophobic attitudes of health care service providers.

The report makes a number of recommendations to help reduce the HIV vulnerability of migrant workers and mobile populations.

These include: the need to look at migrants within a public health context and developing programmes for migrants and the communities with which they interact 'spaces of vulnerability'; the need for further research to examine sexual behavioural patterns within the migration process; and the need for governments to introduce comprehensive HIV/AIDS policies that cover the specific vulnerabilities faced by migrants, in particular access to healthcare at their work place and in their home countries.

USAID's Southern Africa Mission Director, Jeff Borns, said, 'USAID supported this valuable research to find out how susceptible the migrant workers are to HIV and AIDS, and to gain valuable guidance for those seeking to address the needs of such a vulnerable and under-served group.'

Dar es Salaam - Pana 03/03/2010

www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/hiv-prevention,-treatment-not-accessible-to-migrant-workers-in-southern-africa-2010030345122.html

PEPFAR February Newsletter

Contents:

Obama Administration Releases Consultation Document on the Global Health Initiative

In Vietnam, PLWHA Provide Care and Support

Public-Private Partnership Entertains as it Raises HIV/AIDS Awareness

In Nigeria, Farm Nourishes PLWHA Support Group

www.pepfar.gov/press/newsletters/2010/137328.htm

HIV/AIDS Monitor- Tracking Aid Effectiveness: Of note this week

UNAIDS has launched a [five-year initiative](#) to help tackle gender inequalities and human rights violations that increase the vulnerability of women worldwide to HIV/AIDS, the [BBC](#) reports. The initiative aims to tie the women's human rights movement with the global AIDS response and mobilize all constituencies, starting with UNAIDS and the UN Development Fund for Women, through increased political commitment, stronger capacity and increased resources. According to UNAIDS, HIV is now the leading cause of death and disease worldwide among women of child-bearing age from 15-49.

Article: **Aidsmap** News: Ugandans who think they have HIV are less likely to refer family members for testing

Gus Cairns, Thursday, March 04, 2010

A study presented at the recent Seventeenth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) found that Ugandans presenting at a TB clinic grossly overestimated the likelihood that they had HIV. It also found that those who thought they had HIV were significantly less likely to refer members of their household for HIV testing than those who did not think so. And it found that if a study member did test HIV-positive, members of their household were much less likely to accept the offer of an HIV test than members of households with no HIV-positive member.

The survey was jointly conducted by researchers from the University of California, San Francisco and Makerere University, Uganda. The study enrolled 419 patients of unknown HIV status who presented for tuberculosis (TB) evaluation at the Uganda National TB and Leprosy Control Agency in Kampala, Uganda, because their household included someone with active TB. Further details of the study can be viewed on the Makerere University website here. The

patients were part of a study that randomised HIV testing of the patient and members of their household to on-site testing at the TB clinic or to home-based testing by mobile health workers.

Before receiving their test result (in either setting), index patients were asked what they anticipated the result would be and how willing they were to refer other household members for clinic-based or home-based testing. After they received the result, other household members were asked how willing they were to accept an HIV test (regardless of whether the test result was disclosed).

Most participants were male (62%) and their mean age was 31. Just over 40% of participants were married, just under 40% never had been, and the remaining 20% were separated or widowed.

The first striking finding was that far more participants thought they had HIV than actually did. The actual HIV prevalence in the group was 19% (80 individuals), but fully two-thirds of the group (276 individuals) anticipated a positive result. In fact:

- 18% correctly assumed they were HIV-positive
- 33% correctly assumed they were HIV-negative
- Only 1.4% of the group thought they were HIV-negative when they in fact had HIV
- 48% of the group thought they were HIV-positive when they did not have HIV.

The other striking finding was that people who anticipated having HIV were less likely to discuss HIV within their households, 70% less likely to refer other family members for testing at the TB clinic ($p = <0.01$) and 53% less likely to refer them for testing at home ($p = <0.05$).

Furthermore household members of index patients who tested HIV positive were 54% less likely to accept VCT (voluntary counselling and testing) than household members of patients who tested negative, and 78% less likely if the index patient had been tested at home.

The researchers suggest that this is not because HIV was explicitly discussed in households with an HIV-positive member, and people were afraid to test, but rather the opposite: the stigma of HIV meant that HIV testing was less likely to be discussed and normalised in households both where someone did have HIV, and in households where someone did not have HIV but feared they did.

The researchers conclude that “community-level interventions are needed to mitigate the effects of HIV stigma” in order to improve VCT rates and address a situation where the very people more likely to have HIV are those less likely to take a test.

Reference

Charlebois E et al. Impact of anticipated and actual HIV status on referral and acceptance of household testing in Kampala, Uganda. 17th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, San Francisco, abstract 1008, 2010.

Further information

You can view the abstract on the official conference website.

www.aidsmap.com/en/news/7B0F912D-77E7-479C-B302-72321CEB1EEC.asp

Aidsmap Caring for the Caregivers Brochure

Introduction

As HIV testing and ART programmes are scaled up, healthcare workers will be called on to respond to a range of clinical challenges in ways that often go beyond simply treating HIV.

In recognition of this need, HIV and AIDS Treatment in Practice (HATIP) is producing a series of regular clinical reviews focusing on the management of the spectrum of clinical conditions (HIV-related conditions, opportunistic infections, malignancies, drug-related complications and co-morbidities) that affect adults and children with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. But our goal is not only to present the most current information from the medical journals, concerns and leading experts about how to manage these conditions in resource-constrained settings, but to discuss how to respond to these challenges with an integrated palliative care approach.

Palliative care is commonly thought to pertain to pain and symptom relief at the end of life; and while it should include this, palliative care is really about improving the quality of life for people with HIV and their families; and it should begin at diagnosis.

Effective preventative care and treatment, including ART, are essential components of quality palliative care. But palliative care goes beyond that: it considers the physical, psycho-social, economic and spiritual impact of HIV and related illnesses on individuals and their families, and requires the early identification and impeccable assessment of suffering caused by different HIV-related clinical conditions and mitigation of suffering by providing effective pain

management, psychosocial support and when necessary, bereavement counselling.

Each clinical review tries to list resources and identify support mechanisms and systems for help people with HIV live as well and actively as possible, and to help them cope with the long consequences that sometimes result from delayed or inadequate treatment of some HIV-related complications.

Theo Smart, Editor (HATIP)

www.aidsmap.com/files/file1003532.pdf

Aidsmap Factsheets: for people living and working with HIV

These factsheets are a great place to start if you are learning about HIV. They provide an introduction to over 100 topics (including HIV and Children, Immune System, Treatment, and Opportunistic Infections). You can read them online, and follow the links in the text for more information. You can also download a PDF of each factsheet, which we encourage you to pass on to anyone who may find them useful.

Visit www.aidsmap.com/cms1044467.asp

Oped Article: Our youth should focus on human rights abuses

Daily Monitor- Truth Every Day

Monday

March 8, 2010

COMMENTARY

Our youth should focus on human rights abuses

By O. Kalinge-Nnyago

Posted Friday, March 5 2010 at 00:00

Youth in Uganda should focus on combating human rights abuses. This is primarily because most human rights abuses are committed against youth, who are the most active and visible section of society. It is the youth that do all the hard work in political parties and in social organisations. They are to be found at

the forefront of every civil and political activity which exposes them to the unkind attention and cruel actions of the regime. They are prime suspects whenever any civil strife occurs and are easily victimised.

Human Rights abuse in Uganda is widespread and endemic. International Human Rights bodies like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have highlighted these abuses over time. Local human rights organisations, like Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, and Human Rights Network including the government's own Uganda Human Rights Commission which has also produced damning reports of Human Rights abuse in Uganda, especially by the members of the security forces.

These abuses have included, but not limited to; illegal detention in un-gazetted places, torture in the so called safe houses, maiming and murder of suspects, detention exceeding the constitutional 48 hours at a police station before being produced in court. Arbitrary arrest of opposition political party workers by security officers as a way of intimidation, breaking up of opposition political activities using excessive force, including use of live ammunition resulting in irreparable injuries and death.

As elections approach, human rights abuses will only rise. A serious effort should be made to educate the public about their rights and to campaign for the strict observance of human and people's rights by members of the security forces who are the most prominent violators. The link between human rights and a free and fair election is not clear to many ordinary Ugandans, especially the youth.

Yet, there is no possibility of a free and fair election unless all players are compelled to respect human rights. Observance of human rights is a pre-requisite for political stability and in that sense, a human rights campaign is actually a conflict prevention activity. This is why it was heartening that youth of the Inter Party Cooperation gathered in Kampala on Monday this week to launch their "Youth for Human Rights" (YouthRight) campaign.

The youth have the chance now to become the vanguard of human rights education among students and other young people and to engage the security forces constantly and to hold them accountable for any abuses they commit. Reference to documented past human rights abuses should become a regular feature of YouthRight activities, lest the nation forgets.

Using non violent methods, the youth can cause the government to compensate the victims of human rights abuse who are alive, and also to compensate the families of those who have died in the hands of security agencies. Naming and shaming known perpetrators of human rights abuses will serve as a deterrent for those same people from committing more abuses and to prevent new actors from contemplating human rights violations. In time, successful prosecution of human

rights abusers will happen, when voluntary human rights lawyers start taking up cases of violations against the poor, who don't have the means to seek redress from the ever increasing monetised legal/ court system.

Through youth human rights activism the veil of impunity by high ranking security officials and commanders of security forces will be lifted and where local courts may be too scared to prosecute, international bodies like the International Criminal Court will have to intervene, at the appropriate time.

These processes don't happen overnight. Some prosecutions can only take place once the perpetrators have lost political power. The important thing is that there shouldn't be any human rights abuse that should go unnoticed and unrecorded.

And a clear message should be sent to those who preside over torture that there will be a day when they will pay for the abuses they committed, and they will have no where to hide. Even the once mighty, like late Habyrimana's wife Agathe, after hiding for over 15 years, get caught. Mr Kalinge-Nyago is an independent researcher and e-learning specialist markalinge@gmail.com

www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/Commentary/-/689364/873310/-/ahneiez/-/

CRINMail Publication: Education: Africa Education Watch - Good governance lessons for primary education [publication]

2 March 2010- CRINMail 1153

Poor governance and management are jeopardising efforts to provide quality basic education in seven African countries according to a new report published by Transparency International (TI).

The report, Africa Education Watch: Good governance lessons for primary education, shows that despite ten years of efforts to increase school enrolment through the Education for All initiative and the Millennium Development Goals, deficient or non-existent governance systems and practices are limiting progress.

"Increasing school enrolment is not enough. To ensure true, lasting progress in education levels and best use of the scarce resources available, oversight and accountability must be improved," said Stephane Stassen, Senior Programme Coordinator at TI, who leads the Africa Education Watch programme.

The report, which assesses primary education management structures in Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda, analyses data from 8,500 questionnaires completed by parents, head teachers, heads of Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and district education officers.

In the past decade, according to UNESCO, more primary school age children in Africa are going to school than ever before, and in many countries primary education is, by law, free of charge. However, TI's report found that parents who can ill-afford it still face fees. In the countries covered, 44 per cent of surveyed parents were requested to pay registration fees for their children. "Poor accounting and reported diversions of budgeted funds clearly show that funding must come with better management capacity and accountability mechanisms," said Stassen.

The report identifies where the transfer of funds and supplies from central governments to schools is likely to be diverted. Most schools do not keep complete or even basic records of their finances, the report shows. There is also an overall lack of training in financial management by head teachers and those responsible for managing school budgets.

TI chapters in the seven countries will work with governments and civil society to increase management capacity and strengthen accountability mechanisms, in order to ensure, that Education for All goals are met.

Key Findings:

- Funding for schools is not transparent and external inspections are conducted infrequently. The roles and responsibilities of decentralised authorities managing schools are often unclear.
- Parents in all countries surveyed reported paying registration fees for primary education even though by law primary schooling is free. This ranged from 90 per cent of surveyed parents in Morocco to nine per cent in Ghana.
- Overall, 85 per cent of schools surveyed across all countries had either deficient accounting systems or none at all. This ranged from 100 per cent in Niger to 69 per cent in Madagascar.
- The majority of head teachers in Madagascar (58 per cent), Morocco (77 percent), Niger (92 per cent) and Senegal (59 per cent) and most members of School Management Committees in all countries received no training in financial management though they are responsible for budgets.
- Parents in all countries said they believed the education system was affected by corruption, ranging from 10 per cent in Madagascar to 85 per cent in Sierra Leone.

Strengthening the governance framework in education management results in a more efficient management of resources, and is a necessary step to improving the delivery of quality education. The report recommends Ministries of Education introduce stronger accountability norms. Specifically, clearer and more robust rules for keeping school records are needed, coupled with more frequent inspections to ensure that these rules are respected. It also recommends that Ministries of Education and civil society invest firstly in training to ensure school managers and parents have the capacity to administer and oversee budgets, and

secondly in public awareness campaigns to educate parents about their rights.

Further information

- UNESCO: Education Under Attack 2010
- Education For All: Global Monitoring Report 2010
- More on children's rights and education

For more information, contact:
Transparency International
International Secretariat
Alt Moabit 96, 10559 Berlin, Germany

Visit: www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=22014

CRINMail Article: SOUTHERN AFRICA: Children that slip across borders [news]

[PRETORIA, 26 February 2010] - Zimbabwe's still-limping economy can provide few essential services, so children living along the border cross into South Africa to attend school during the day or even to see a doctor, often at great risk to their personal safety.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional child protection advisor for East and Southern Africa, Cornelius Williams, said the movement of unaccompanied child migrants from Zimbabwe was one of the biggest problems confronting humanitarian agencies in the region. Between 3,000 and 15,000 Zimbabwean children are known to move into and out of their country every month.

"Unfortunately, governments continue to devote most of their resources to child trafficking, where much smaller numbers of children are involved," Williams told IRIN at a meeting of officials from 15 countries in Pretoria from 23 to 25 February to discuss ways of strengthening cross-border co-operation to protect children at risk.

William Duncan, deputy secretary-general of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the Netherlands-based world organization for cross-border cooperation in civil and commercial matters, said an even bigger issue was that "There is no central authority in Zimbabwe to contact to help repatriate the child." The Chief Family Advocate in South Africa's Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Petunia Seabi, said a solution to the problem was being worked out. "We are in talks with the Zimbabwean authorities to set up protocols to protect these children." She said neither of the governments would prevent children from accessing services across the border, but would rather try

addressing the risks the children took while crossing the border unaccompanied. Duncan pointed out that the numbers of Zimbabwean children moving around the region only underlined the need for close cooperation between child protection agencies and "between judges in different countries, and the Hague Children's conventions make this possible." Many African countries have yet to ratify the Hague Conventions pertaining to children, which seek to standardize international legislation and provide a comprehensive legal framework to for the cross-border movement of children; more governments have ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Duncan acknowledged that most countries did not have the resources or the capacity to ratify the Hague Conventions, which include treaties on child abduction, inter-country adoption, protection of children and the international recovery of child support. He said the Hague Conference was trying to build capacity. Delegates at the meeting said the discussion on the need for better cooperation between governments couldn't have come at a better time than on the eve of the FIFA World Cup, which kicks off in South Africa in June. "We will probably see a flood of child migrants to South Africa, not only attracted by economic benefits but a chance to spot their football hero," said Williams. The South African government was gearing up for the challenge, he said. They were planning safe areas for unaccompanied child migrants around the various stadia, and an advertising campaign aimed at visitors, which, they hoped, would deter child prostitution.

[Source: IRIN News]Further information

- Child Migrants with and without Parents: Census-Based Estimates of Scale and Characteristics in Argentina, Chile and South Africa (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, April 2009)
- Zimbabwe: Child migrants seek a better life in South Africa (IRIN, September 2009)
- More on child rights in Zimbabwe

Visit: www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=22001

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.

