
14 August 2014

Dear Friends,

In a recent publication on *Responsive Parenting: A strategy to prevent violence*, the Bernard van Leer Foundation shared a quote from childhood development scientist John Bowlby: "If a community values its children, it must cherish their parents."

As a community of practitioners that work to improve the lives of vulnerable children, that statement reminds us that we cannot improve the lives of children without supporting their parents. We need to think about how to provide that support and what to focus on. A variety of resources and parent support programs exist to draw upon. The question is how to decide which one is appropriate for the families that you work with.

In today's Newsflash we provide a few resources focused on parenting, as well as guidance on selecting the right program.

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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(Resource) Key principles for evaluating programs

Research has documented what works based on programs that have been evaluated and shown to be effective. There are some key guiding principles that should be part of the evaluation of different options and decision on which approach to take. Some key principles to keep in mind:

1. Program goals should be explicit:

What is the problem or challenge that you want to address? What do you want to achieve with the parenting program? How does it complement other efforts that you have established? What will be different if you accomplish your goals?

2. The program must be of sufficient length and intensity to create change

Many programs often fail to make a difference because they are provided for a period that is too short or do not provide the depth of support needed to help families overcome their risk factors. The length and intensity must be decided in relation to the range of challenges that the families face. Programs should provide opportunities to receive support as they practice new skills and new ways of engaging with each other.

3. The program targets a family

In other words, it looks at the family as a system, rather than focuses solely on the parents. This includes the interactions between the parents and the child, by focusing in on parent skills, children's social skills, parent-child activities. Programs should focus on reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors.

4. Program content respects parent authority as well as local culture and context

Understanding cultural values associated with parent practices is critical in designing programs that can address issues of families in a manner that is consistent with their own beliefs and values. By understanding a parent's cultural values, program can be respectful in how they challenge harmful practices, like physical punishment.

5. Effective programs take an ecological approach

Programs must connect to the local context and social supports and connections that are available to the family. They connect families with other support and services that help them to overcome social, livelihoods, health, education, and other local institutions that can provide support and services.

Resource) Parenting in Africa Network

Parenting in Africa Network (PAN) is a Network of organizations, individuals and institutions keen to promote 'skillful' parenting practices in Africa, for the overall wellbeing of children and families. Recognizing that there is a limited source of credible materials and information on parenting education and support in Africa, the network is committed to provide forums and platforms for learning and sharing information regarding parenting with skills, and knowledge, in order to safeguard children. PAN seeks strategic partners to conduct research, document material relevant to local contexts and pilot evidence-based parenting education approaches, all geared towards providing knowledge, information and materials to inform program planning for parents.

Visit the Parenting in Africa Network website at: <http://www.parentinginafrica.org/en/>

(Resource) International Child Development Program - ICDP

This site describes the training model provided by the International Child Development Programme (ICDP). The ICDP is based on the idea that the best way to help children is by helping their caregivers. The focus is on helping primary caregivers to provide good quality care and to release caring feelings towards their children. Practitioners can identify local trainers who can build their skills in the ICDP methodology of working with parents.

View the ICDP website at: <http://www.icdp.info/programme>

(Resource) "Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting" from Save the Children

This publication from Save the Children provides a rights-based approach to parenting, with guidance on goals and techniques for positive parenting. The book describes "positive discipline" as an *approach to teaching* that helps children succeed, gives them information, and supports their growth.

Who this book is for:

This book is for parents of children of all ages. It addresses common issues that arise between birth and the end of adolescence. The information it contains can be helpful for any family.

This book is also for future parents. It can be very helpful to think about parenting ahead of time. When we are knowledgeable and prepared for challenges, we are much more likely to handle them successfully.

This book is also for those who support parents, such as parent educators, parent group facilitators, and family support workers. It can be used with individuals or groups to generate discussion and foster problem-solving.

To view or download the full publication, [visit: http://bit.ly/1kMohra](http://bit.ly/1kMohra)

(Learning Opportunity) Web2forDev: Web 2.0 and Social Media Learning Opportunities Across Africa

Technological innovation is taking place at a breath-taking pace. Simple, open source internet-based applications and services designed to enhance on-line collaboration are now available to the wider public at little or no cost at all. These new online technologies known as Web 2.0 and 'social media' enable people to collaborate to create, share and publish information.

The **Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation EU-ACP (CTA)** has a mandate to facilitate access to and dissemination of information in the fields of agriculture and rural development in 78 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). Supporting the adoption of Web 2.0 applications represents a great opportunity for meeting it.

Available Trainings

- National Library Service (NLS) - Lilongwe, Malawi, 01-05 September 2014
- Department of Information and Communication Studies, University of Namibia - Windhoek, Namibia, 08-12 September 2014
- National University of Lesotho (NUL) - Roma, Lesotho, 08-12 September 2014
- Mananga Centre for Regional Integration and Management Development - Ezulwini Campus, Ezulwini, Swaziland, 15-19 September 2014
- National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) - Aiyura, Papua New Guinea, 22-26 September 2014
- Bowen University - Iwo, Osun State, Nigeria, 22-26 September 2014

Programme of the Learning Opportunity

- Web 2.0 and Social Media: concepts and principles;
- Selective access to information via (i) advanced multilingual search options; (ii) RSS and (iii) automated alerts;
- Content curation: Tagging and Social Bookmarking;
- Photos for the web;
- Remote collaboration (e.g. GoogleDrive, Dropbox);
- Online conversations (Skype, Google Hangouts, Viber, Whatsapp);
- Online mapping (New Google Maps);
- Blogging (Blogger or WordPress);
- Micro-blogging (Twitter);
- Social networking (LinkedIn and Facebook), risks and mitigation measures;
- Online Communities of Practice;
- Web 2.0 and Social Media for Agri-business and marketing.

Participants – Eligibility and responsibilities

Participation in the Learning Opportunity is free of charge, but subject to acceptance by the organisers. 25 participants will be accepted for the event.

Eligibility criteria

- be computer literate and conversant with browsing the Internet;
- have regular access to a computer (ownership of a computer is an advantage);
- be competent in the use of the English language;

- have an active e-mail account;
- be actively engaged in agriculture and rural development / natural resource management / biodiversity conservation in the domains of ICT for development (ICT4D), policies, markets; publishing, communication and media;
- be in a position to take along a WIFI-enabled laptop to the training;
- be a resident of the Country where the Training will take place(Africa)

Entitlements

During each event, the organisers will provide lunch and refreshments and distribute copies of CTA publications and instructional material.

For More Information: <http://bit.ly/1u1VrpB>

(Call for Contributions) Make Every Woman Count Blog Relaunch

Do you have something to say about women's rights in Africa? Are you working on the ground to help promote women's empowerment in Africa? Have you got a story to tell? Then Make Every Woman Count would like to hear from you!

Please note that this is NOT a paid opportunity.

Make Every Woman Count (MEWC) is looking for individuals who are eager to share their views, analysis, ideas, and personal stories on our blog, which is going to be relaunched by the end of August 2014.

MEWC's blog aims to build a wide and diverse collection of ideas, views and contributions to the knowledge base on women's issues across the African continent. The blog primarily strives to engage women in taking part in discussions and provides a space for participation in the development of gender equality across Africa.

Background information

The goal of the MEWC blog is to provide a platform for the voices of African women and other individuals interested in women's rights issues in Africa.

Through the blog, individual women and men, organisations, and women's rights activists can share their stories, ideas, analyses, theories and experiences. All views and opinions related to gender issues are welcome as a way to fulfill the aim of contributing to a more diverse discussion.

The blog is unique in terms of its specific clientele and focus areas. Not only does the blog value a wide range of views and opinions, it strives for a varied range of contributors, from different socioeconomic strata, cultural backgrounds and geographies. In addition,

the blog encourages a wide range of submission styles.

MEWC accepts traditional written submissions as well as photo essays, films, poems, video and art. The blog encourages contributors from various media outlets, not just the traditional journalism background. Overall, the goal of the blog is to create an inclusive space that allows for views and opinions to be shared in a safe and positive platform.

If you would like to be considered to participate in the discussion please follow the detailed instructions below. Previous blogging experience is not necessary.

Submission Instructions:

1. Attach your article to the email in Microsoft Word format. We will not accept PDF files or articles copied in an email. Below is our criteria for submitting:

Length: The article should be between 500-1000 words. Please Use British English and Articles should be furnished with links from reputable sources - news websites, blogs, books, etc.

Style: MEWC welcomes all forms of writing ranging from different academic frameworks, personal narratives, poetry and journalism. This blog is meant to ignite informative, critical and meaningful discussion. Pictures and videos are strongly encouraged, as they help to engage your target audience.

However, please be sure to cite any pictures or videos not taken by you. Please submit them as separate file attachments and include the links in the body of the word document. Properly cite your sources through links and introductory statements such as “According to Human Rights Watch (link to the piece).... Do NOT use footnotes (this is a blog, not an academic journal). Include links within your text. Ex: Subject line should read: “Submission: Firstname Lastname, Country of origin, Thematic area” (for example: Nadia Akabo, Benin, Human Rights of Women).

Please send a Headshot photo and short bio for profile in one paragraph (approx. 2-3 sentences) consisting of where you’re from, what you do, how you have fun, what you love etc and your twitter handle if you have one.

All submissions must be sent to: blog.makeeverywomancount@gmail.com

To view the original call for contributions, visit: <http://bit.ly/XIpbdz>

(Call for proposals) ICPD Small Grants 2014

2014 marks the twentieth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). 2015 is the year the successor to the Millennium Development

Goals will be negotiated and adopted. The outcome of these processes will greatly impact future Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) policy, funding and programming priorities at global level and at national level.

Civil society (CS) has a critical role to play in influencing government priorities and positions for the post- 2015 regional and global negotiations. To ensure that CS engagement in these processes is strong, meaningful and has impact IPPF is launching round two of a small grants facility. The facility will support CS engagement in post 2014/15 policy processes. This fund will support CSOs who are working with their governments, at country level, to develop strong positions in support of SRHR. This will enable governments to champion SRHR and population dynamics in forthcoming global policy opportunities related to the Operational review of the ICPD and all the processes that feed into the development of the post- 2015 development framework.

Taking the ICPD beyond 2014, to position SRHR and the priorities of the ICPD in the next development framework

The third round of proposals are open to CSOs working at national or regional levels in South, East, and South East Asia, Africa including North Africa, and Central Asia. The maximum grant amount for all grants is \$9,500. For CSOs based in Central Asia it is \$10,900. IPPF Member Associations are not eligible to apply. All grantees must provide 10% match funding. Multi- partner applications are welcome.

The deadline to apply is **17:00 GMT, Sunday 17 August 2014**

For more information, and to download the application guidelines and application form, visit: <http://bit.ly/1kpnfAO>

(REMINDER - Call for Letters of Inquiry) Firelight Foundation "Safe Communities, Resilient Children" in Tanzania and Zimbabwe

*Please note that the deadline for Letters of Inquiry in Tanzania has been extended. **The deadline for both Tanzania and Zimbabwe is now 29 August 2014.** Please share this opportunity within your networks!*

BACKGROUND

Firelight Foundation believes in the power of African communities to create lasting change for children and families affected by poverty, HIV, and AIDS. We identify, fund, and strengthen promising community organizations that support the health, resilience, and education of children in Africa.

Firelight partners with community-based organizations (CBOs) for seven years, providing small annual grants of \$1,000 to \$15,000 USD. Throughout the partnership, we engage

with our partners in an intensive process to strengthen organizational and programmatic capacity. Our goal is that at the conclusion of the partnership, our partners are in a stronger position in terms of organizational management, resource mobilization, networking, and sound programming. In this initiative, we will focus on building program competency in child rights, child protection, and programs that build children's emotional health.

FUNDING CRITERIA

Firelight is only able to support a small percentage of the 1,000 or more requests for funding we receive each year. In order for us to focus our efforts in an effective manner, we will only accept letters of inquiry in 2014 from organizations that meet the criteria outlined below.

- Under this request for proposals, Firelight seeks to fund grassroots organizations working to keep children safe in their communities, including within their homes and in schools. We will prioritize organizations already working on **child rights, child protection, or activities that help build children's emotional health**. However, we welcome applications from organizations that work to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children, families, and communities and want to integrate child protection, child rights, or emotional health into their work.
- We are seeking to fund a cohort of partners in **Shinyanga Region, Tanzania** and in **Zimbabwe** in the following districts: **Kadoma, Kwekwe, Gokwe North, Gokwe South, Nkayi, Lupane, Binga, and Hwange**. Only organizations based in these areas are eligible to apply. Organizations based in other districts/regions will be declined.

THE DECISION PROCESS

The deadlines for receiving letters of inquiry is **29 August 2014 (Tanzania and Zimbabwe)**

We will notify you by **October 2014** if we are interested in receiving a full proposal from your organization. Because we are a small foundation with limited resources, we cannot support all of the qualified organizations that submit inquiries. If we decline your request, we will try our best to explain why. We expect funding awards to be made in January 2015. **Please forward all letters of inquiry via e-mail, mail, or fax (e-mail is preferred) to:**

Firelight Foundation
740 Front Street, Suite 380
Santa Cruz, California 95060 USA

Phone: +1 831 429 8750
Facsimile: +1 831 429 2036
E-mail: loi@firelightfoundation.org

To view the guidelines and download the Letter of Inquiry Template, visit our website at: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/impact/apply-grant/>

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/resources/newsflash>

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org

For more information contact:

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