
31 July 2014

Dear Friends,

Over the past week, over 14,000 delegates including the world's top AIDS researchers, community and government leaders, people living with HIV and AIDS, practitioners and policy-makers have been gathered in Melbourne, Australia for the Coalition of Children Affected by AIDS (CCABA) Symposium and the 2014 AIDS Conference. There have been high-level speakers including former US President Bill Clinton, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidebe, and artist and activist Sir Bob Geldof.

The CCABA Symposium was titled, "Start Early, Start Now!", and brought together funders and technical experts to advocate for the best policy, research, and programs for children because children are a vulnerable population that has too often been overlooked. The 2014 AIDS Conference was titled, "Stepping up the Pace" and delegates presented new scientific knowledge and offered many opportunities for structured dialogue on the major issues facing the global response to HIV.

There are many resources that have been made available free throughout these events and can be accessed at <http://www.ccaba.org/> and <http://www.aids2014.org/>. This Newsflash will present just a few of the multitude of the resources that have been made available through the symposium and conference. Please take some time to check out their websites and look at all of the free papers, powerpoint presentations, and blogs that resulted from the international gathering around HIV and AIDS.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Article) Protection, Care and Support for an AIDS-Free Generation

(Resource) AIDS: Official Journal of the International AIDS Society

(Call for Applications) The 2014 West Africa Civil Society Leadership Institute

(Request for Proposals) Disability Rights Fund 2014 "Our Voices. Our Rights. Our Future"

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

(Article) Protection, Care and Support for an AIDS-Free Generation: A Call to Action for all Children

Written by unicef, PEPFAR, UNAIDS, USAID, The World Bank, and CCABA

We can only achieve an AIDS-free generation by addressing the social and economic

factors that continue to fuel and impact the HIV epidemic. Inequity, exclusion, poverty, violence, and stigma continue to increase risk, decrease resilience, and compound the impact of the epidemic. Investing in social protection, care and support systems will improve the access, reach and utilization of proven high impact bio-medical interventions to achieve reductions in HIV related morbidity and mortality as well as reduce new infections. These investments will also enhance the quality of life for children and adolescents who are infected and affected, and mitigate the impacts of HIV that drive new HIV infections.

The UNAIDS HIV Investment Approach provides a clear rationale for the importance of addressing social and structural drivers to reduce HIV and its impact, but to date there has been inadequate investment, fragmented programming and low priority for protection, care and support. We can no longer afford to ignore them.

This call to action is for all who are committed to achieving an AIDS-free generation. It is an opportunity to come together across sectors, to bridge the health, economic and social divide, and adopt a life-cycle approach that will ensure HIV infection is halted from the time a child is planned, through childhood and adolescence, into adulthood. It aims to:

- Leverage existing evidence and experience on how protection, care and support of children and adolescents is critical to achieving key HIV outcomes.
- Propose innovative solutions to challenges, seizing opportunities to integrate and link the services needed to achieve an AIDS-free generation.
- Mobilize action, and equip policy makers and practitioners to develop plans that embed protection, care and support in the HIV response and national development plans to achieve an AIDS-free generation.

INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS: START EARLY, START NOW!

Children born into families affected by HIV face a range of challenges. They require integrated services that break down the traditional silos of health, education, protection and social welfare. Each of these services needs to identify HIV affected children and ensure that they are assisted through comprehensive protection, care, and support programmes as early in their lives as possible.

What we know: In 2012, there were 260,000 new infections among children. To achieve elimination we must drop this below 40,000 by 2015. While the clinical interventions required to achieve this goal are well articulated, social and economic barriers continue to hinder access, uptake, and retention in services. Elimination will not be achieved without effective community engagement, and improved linkages between communities and health facilities.

The benefits of engaging community members, including people living with HIV, as frontline providers, facilitators of demand, and forces to reduce stigma are well documented. This requires mobilization of large numbers of people who must be strengthened and retained. Social protection can help reduce access barriers, help

empower women to adopt health-seeking behaviours, and reduce financial and social barriers to service uptake.

INVESTING IN ADOLESCENTS: SECOND DECADE, SECOND CHANCE

In 2012, an estimated 2.1 million adolescents were living with HIV. The majority do not know their HIV status, and HIV is now the second leading cause of adolescent death globally and the leading cause of death in Africa.

Adolescent girls (aged 15-19) are particularly at risk, accounting for about two-thirds of the 300,000 new adolescent infections. Two million new HIV infections in adolescents could be averted by 2020 through a more holistic, focused investment approach to HIV prevention, treatment and care. A holistic approach would capitalize on the impact of increased investment in development-related interventions targeting adolescents. Protection, care, and support interventions aligned with prevention and treatment programmes will help reduce new infections among the most vulnerable adolescents, and increase ARV uptake, adherence and retention. They will also effectively mobilize communities to address discrimination, exploitation, neglect, and gender based violence, particularly against adolescent girls and adolescents in key populations.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Government leaders, policy makers, researchers and practitioners should seize opportunities to ensure protection, care and support is a priority, now and in the post-2015 agenda. Specifically, they should:

- Ensure that child focused AIDS-free generation targets are embedded in national development policies, plans and budgets. These targets should be aimed at virtually eliminating paediatric HIV, reducing the number of HIV infections among adolescents by half, reducing AIDS deaths among children (0-19 years) by 90%, and ensuring that children grow up with comprehensive protection, care, and support services in an environment free from HIV related stigma and discrimination.
- Ensure that child focused AIDS-free generation targets are embedded in national development policies, plans and budgets. These targets should be aimed at virtually eliminating paediatric HIV, reducing the number of HIV infections among adolescents by half, reducing AIDS deaths among children (0-19 years) by 90%, and ensuring that children grow up with comprehensive protection, care, and support services in an environment free from HIV related stigma and discrimination.
- Increase investment and attention to connecting children and families affected by HIV with essential services and community based support. This can be achieved by strengthening the capacities of community-based organizations and their relationship with local service providers.
- Address the social and economic drivers of the epidemic. More emphasis needs to

be placed on the drivers of HIV risk and infection for both children and adolescents. Particular focus should be on pockets of exclusion where HIV infection is still driven by marginalization, barriers to services and challenging legislation. Achieving an AIDS-free generation will require that critical HIV services are not only included in key health and social service sectors but also accessible to at risk marginalized populations.

- Strengthen research and evaluation to identify and understand gaps, inform policy and strategy reforms and document success. Additional evidence is needed on the impact of social protection on treatment uptake, adherence, and retention for children and adolescents; and on how social protection measures could be leveraged to reduce adolescent vulnerability and risk to HIV infection.
- Support and strengthen mechanisms that enable children and adolescents to participate in the design, implementation and oversight of HIV-related programs that affect them.

To access the whole article visit: <http://bit.ly/1ujP5D2>

Resource) AIDS: Official Journal of the International AIDS Society, July 2014 - Volume 28 - Supplement 3

Prof. Linda Richter, Mr. Ed Cain (Vice President – Grant Programs from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation), and John Miller (the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS) launched the special issue of AIDS, the official journal of the International AIDS Society, on the theme of Children Born into Families Affected by HIV. The special issue is edited by Prof. Linda Richter and Dr. Lynne Mofenson (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, USA).

Here are some of the the articles that can be accessed for **free** within this issue:

-Children born into families affected by HIV
Richter, Linda M.; Mofenson, Lynne M.

-Early childhood development: promoting the potential of all children
Britto, Pia Rebello; Clure, Craig Mc; Stansbery, Pablo; More

-Improving early childhood development outcomes for children affected by HIV and AIDS
Hilton, Steven M.

-PEPFAR: bringing research and practice together for children by predicting long-term outcomes for children affected by AIDS
von Zinkernagel, Deborah

-Evidence of impact: health, psychological and social effects of adult HIV on children
Sherr, L.; Cluver, L.D.; Betancourt, T.S.; More

-Implementation of a safer conception service for HIV-affected couples in South Africa
Schwartz, Sheree R.; Bassett, Jean; Sanne, Ian; More

-Individualizing the WHO HIV and infant feeding guidelines: optimal breastfeeding duration to maximize infant HIV-free survival
Ciaranello, Andrea L.; Leroy, Valeriane; Rusibamayila, Asinath; More

-The contribution of schools to supporting the well being of children affected by HIV in eastern Zimbabwe
Pufall, Erica L.; Gregson, Simon; Eaton, Jeffrey W.; More

Check out these articles and more. Follow this link for an open-access copy of the special issue: <http://bit.ly/1tGVmoi>

(Call for Applications) The 2014 West Africa Civil Society Leadership Institute

The West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) with support from the Ford Foundation is inviting applications from suitably qualified candidates to its maiden edition of the Civil Society Leadership Institute (CSLI) for West Africans. This programme is designed in response to the need to consciously and consistently groom the next generation of civil society leaders in the region.

The Institute seeks to empower middle-level practitioners within civil society in the region with competencies to occupy leadership positions within the sector.

Course Dates: October 13 – 24, 2014.

Target Countries: Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Nigeria

Target Group and Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants must meet the following criteria;

- Be at the middle management (or a level lower than the executive director position)
- Be nationals from and/or working in The Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia.
- Must have a minimum of two years of work experience in their current organisation.
- Must have demonstrated leadership or critical problem-solving skills in their current or previous job.
- Must be willing to return to their current organisations and stay for at least one year.
- Must have an excellent understanding of the English language.

How to Apply: Applicants must submit the following documents on or before 30 August 2014 to capacitybuilding@wacsi.org

- Detailed curriculum vitae.
- Filled and signed application form submitted in word or pdf. format.
- A letter of motivation stating why you should be considered for this programme and how it will add value to your current role and prepare you for the next level. Applicants should indicate how the skills gained would enhance their leadership skills. This must be written in not more than 500 words.
- A letter of endorsement from the head of your current organisation stating how your participation in this programme would benefit the organisation.

Deadline to apply: 30 August 2014

To download the call for application and the application form, visit: <http://bit.ly/1jW6zkk>

(Request for Proposals) Disability Rights Fund 2014 "Our Voices. Our Rights. Our Future"
- Rwanda & Pacific Island Countries

Grant Guidelines: Overview

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) seeks to strengthen the participation of Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) in the advancement of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at country level in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, the Pacific Islands, and Eastern Europe.

Round Two of the 2014 "Our Voices. Our Rights. Our Future" grant cycle is currently open. The second grantmaking round includes a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for Pacific Island Countries and Rwanda, described in more detail below. Deadline for applications is 21 August 2014.

Explanation of the Request for Proposals process follows:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For applicants from Rwanda and 14 Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu).

- a) Single organizations or partnerships for Small Grants OR
- b) Mid-Level (state, regional, provincial, district, or country- Pacific Island countries only) DPO-led coalitions for Mid-Level Coalition Grants OR
- c) National DPO-led coalitions for National Coalition Grants

Small Grants

The Small Grants funding stream helps organizations to build a broader movement to advance the CRPD at state and local levels. Organizations can use funds from DRF to broaden or diversify their membership, strengthen their capacity with respect to the CRPD, participate more actively in decision-making processes, or address specific articles of the CRPD. While DRF welcomes applications from any disabled persons' organizations (DPOs), we encourage grassroots, emergent and more marginalized groups to apply. Small Grants are one-year grants ranging between USD 5,000-20,000 which support activities under the following priority areas:

1. Increasing DPO Participation in Decision-Making Processes Regarding the CRPD at State or Local Levels
2. Addressing Implementation of CRPD Articles
3. (Pacific Island Countries only) Ratification Campaigns

Mid-Level Coalition & National Coalition Grants also available - visit DRF website for more details

Proposal Submission Deadline: 21 August 2014

For more information and to download the Application Form, visit: <http://bit.ly/1pgF1Cr>

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

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 are:

Tanzania - 15 August 2014

Zimbabwe - 29 August 2014

We will notify you by **30 September 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
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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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