
17 April 2014

Dear Friends,

With the UN's recent release of a report that warns of the risks of climate change, this week's Newsflash focuses on how communities can build resistance and adapt to the effects climate change may have on their lives. The UN report warns that climate change may threaten food security, economic growth, and water supplies while exacerbating current issues such as drought, flooding, violent conflict and poverty. In addition to these dire consequences, most of the effects will acutely be felt by vulnerable communities in the developing world, which have done little to contribute to climate change. Do to this, it is important for communities to start a conversation about ways they can mitigate the potential effects climate change may have on their community. The resources below address challenges and opportunities for communities to adapt to and protect themselves from climate change.

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Report) Climate Change Adaptation: Enabling people living in poverty to adapt

(Resource) The key steps in establishing Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction in South Omo pastoralist areas

(Accepting Expressions of Interest) Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF)

(Call for Letters of Intent) Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)

(Report) Climate Change Adaptation: Enabling people living in poverty to adapt

Source: Oxfam

Climate change is fast pushing the poorest and most marginalized communities beyond their capacity to respond. This report draws on case studies from around the world and on Oxfam's experience working with rural communities. It sets out what is needed to enable people living in poverty to adapt to climate change, and a range of interventions that are available. Oxfam's approach brings together experience in the areas of livelihoods, natural resource management, and Disaster Risk Reduction, with robust decision making in order to manage uncertainty and risk, and to build adaptive capacity from household to national and global levels. The report identifies the combined need for bottom-up and top down processes in order to create the enabling conditions needed for people living in poverty to adapt to climate change.

The report specifically addresses who is vulnerable to climate change, adaptation so far, what is need for future adaptation, and what works for vulnerable communities.

To read the full report, visit bit.ly/1n0JbPA

(Resource) The key steps in establishing Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction in South Omo pastoralist areas

Source: FARM-Africa

This guide, put together by FARM-Africa based off of their experiences in Ethiopia, focuses on how to enact Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) within a local context. The manual is set out as sequential Guide Sheets so that the user can make easy and quick reference to specific steps and topics in the CMDRR process. While the Guide Sheets reference Ethiopia, the essential principals and tools can be apply to many different contexts and locations.

The guide contains the following information:

- A clear guide to the components of CMDRR and the steps for disaster risk management.
- Options for Early Warning Institutions, their establishment and support.
- Options for community development institutions focused on community development/ natural resource management priorities to complement emergency responses.
- Options for technical field methods involved in the four key stages of contingency planning: Investigation; Planning; Implementation; Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Options for disaster mitigation and preparedness activities/ natural resource management and community development initiatives through bottom-up community action planning.
- Templates for key documents in CMDRR, including the Hazard Assessment Form, the Community Contingency Plan format, the Community Action Plan format, Monitoring of the Community Contingency Plan and Community Action Plan.

To read more on implementing CMDRR, visit bit.ly/1sxAHDL

(Accepting Expressions of Interest) Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF)

HIF is accepting Expressions of Interest (EoI) until **May 6, 2014** for Large Grants from non-profit institutions. Request can be made for grant sizes in between £75,000 and £150,000. HIF also accepts applications for Small Grants year round. These grants are made to non-profits for up to £20,000.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Lead applicants must be either a non-profit institution such as a non-governmental organization; or a public or governmental institution; or an academic or research institution.
- The project may be located anywhere in the world and applicant organization can be registered/established anywhere in the world.
- Proposed innovation can be both in the form of consortia application or a single organization.
- One organization can submit up to 2 proposals but one organization can be lead (or single) applicant of only one innovation.
- Proposed innovation must be in a humanitarian response setting as per the definition of humanitarian aid – Humanitarian aid is aid and action designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of emergencies.

For more information on the Large Grant opportunity, visit bit.ly/1pDNuSE

For more information on the Small Grant opportunity, visit bit.ly/1hsIkI6

(Call for Letters of Intent) Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)

VGIF will start accepting Letters of Intent on **June 1, 2014** for their 2015 Grant Cycle. VGIF provides small grants up to \$7,500 USD to grassroots projects that are led by women and that help empower women and girls, in developing countries around the world.

VGIF supports programs that address issues such as:

- Economic empowerment
- Community development
- Health and nutritional support
- Literacy and leadership training
- Educational seminars and workshops
- Promoting education in the sciences for girls
- Women's human rights

VGIF does not provide funding for the following:

- Individual scholarships and tuition
- Political organizations
- Religious groups unless the proposed project contributes to the general good of the community
- The construction of permanent buildings or the purchase of land

- Salaries for board members and permanent staff; however, honoraria for external resource people/trainers may be considered

For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1jWdDKN>

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

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