



26 September, 2013

Dear Friends,

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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(Learning Opportunity) Free World Bank Teacher Policy Webinar Series
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(Resource) Working with Children and Psychosocial Support Manual

This week we are profiling a facilitator's manual on working with children and psychosocial support from the African Network for Children Orphaned or at Risk. This booklet is an important resource to raise awareness around the need to address emotional trauma among vulnerable children face and how to offer support and build resiliency.

The guide details the needs of children, stages of child development, and children's rights. Additionally, strategies on building resiliency, from how to support children who are facing loss and grief, to coping mechanisms and stress management, are covered. Hands-on PSS tools are provided at the end of manual.

To download a copy of the manual, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/1aUi9rl>

(Learning Opportunity) Free World Bank Teacher Policy Webinar Series

Over the last two decades, the dramatic rise in school enrollment in developing countries has required a significant increase in the number of teachers, placing national systems for teacher provision and management under increased stress. Countries have struggled to recruit a sufficient number of qualified teachers, deploy them where they are needed, and provide the necessary management and support structures to ensure that quality education is delivered. As these new priorities emerge, reviewing the policies that guide the provision and management of teachers is judicious. Teacher policy is a complex and multifaceted area, which often evolves through political and historical events rather than systematic planning.

This course will provide a model of the interlinked nature of teacher policies by: describing policies currently in use in different countries around the world and the impact of those policies; extracting lessons from case studies; providing tools and techniques for analyzing teacher policies; and offering possible suggestions for countries wishing to improve their policy framework for the provision, training and management of teachers.

This course is highly participatory and stimulates critical thinking and reflection as participants apply the skills and concepts to both the course exercises and their daily work in the education sector. Since the course is actively facilitated, participants are expected to contribute to the online discussion and complete all the quizzes for each module. Altogether, the course should take approximately 25-30 hours over six weeks, or approximately 6-8 hours per week. All participants who complete these requirements will receive an electronic certificate of completion from the World Bank Institute.

Target Audience: Officials and technical staff from the public and private sectors, as well as bilateral and multilateral government organizations and nongovernmental organizations that are involved in the design and implementation of education policy. In particular, the course is designed for:

- Heads of programs and departments in the education, finance, and planning ministries of at the national, federal and regional levels
- Staff from academic, research and professional development institutions working in the education sector
- Program managers from nongovernmental organizations involved in the development and implementation of national education policies
- Staff of the World Bank, and international and bilateral agencies, as well as the broader education development community

The deadline to apply for the course is October 14, 2013. To apply, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/16FNEB6>

(Engagement Opportunity) International Day of the Girl Child "Innovating for Girls' Education"

From: <http://bit.ly/18A3wSc>

For its second observance, this year's Day will focus on "Innovating for Girls' Education"

The fulfilment of girls' right to education is first and foremost an obligation and moral imperative. There is also overwhelming evidence that girls' education, especially at the secondary level, is a powerful transformative force for societies and girls themselves: it is the one consistent positive determinant of practically every desired development outcome, from reductions in mortality and fertility, to poverty reduction and equitable growth, to social norm change and democratization.

While there has been significant progress in improving girls' access to education over the last two decades, many girls, particularly the most marginalized, continue to be deprived of this basic right. Girls in many countries are still unable to attend school and complete their education due to safety-related, financial, institutional and cultural barriers. Even when girls are in school, perceived low returns from poor quality of education, low aspirations, or household chores and other responsibilities keep them from attending school or from achieving adequate learning outcomes. The transformative potential for girls and societies promised through girls' education is yet to be realized.

Recognizing the need for fresh and creative perspectives to propel girls' education forward, the 2013 International Day of the Girl Child will address the importance of new technology, but also innovation in partnerships, policies, resource utilization, community mobilization, and most of all, the engagement of young people themselves.

The UN suggests the following possible steps to advance girls' education:

- Improved public and private means of transportation for girls to get to school—from roads, buses, mopeds, bicycles to boats and canoes;
- Collaboration between school systems and the banking industry to facilitate secure and convenient pay delivery to female teachers and scholarship delivery to girls;
- Provision of science and technology courses targeted at girls in schools, universities and vocational education programmes;
- Corporate mentorship programmes to help girls acquire critical work and leadership skills and facilitate their transition from school to work;
- Revisions of school curricula to integrate positive messages on gender norms related to violence, child marriage, sexual and reproductive health, and male and female family roles;

- Deploying mobile technology for teaching and learning to reach girls, especially in remote areas.

We would like to hear from you-- how do you think education could be improved to better serve girls? And, how you plan to commemorate International Day of the Girl Child?

Write to us at: newsletter@firelightfoundation.org and we will share your ideas on our blog.

(Opportunity for Exposure) 'End GenderDiscrimination Now!' Global Competition

A new global competition called 'End GenderDiscrimination Now!' is seeking ideas and experiences about ending gender discrimination. If your submission is selected, you will not only get an opportunity to highlight your work, but also get support to attend events related to tackling gender discrimination around the world.

Organized jointly by Gender at Work, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), BRIDGE, and Gender Society and Policies Area, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales – FLACSOArgentina, this competition aims to gather both formal and informal strategies for tackling gender discrimination. It is interested in how the internal cultures of organizations change, as well as how the impact or products of an organization's work become more gender equitable.

For instance, do you know about schools that have put measures in place to create equal opportunities for girls and women and have changed deep-seated attitudes of students and teachers in the process? Have you seen government agencies or private sector companies change their procedures in ways that reduce discriminatory attitudes of their staff and make it easier for women to access benefits on an equal basis with men? Have you changed the time or locations of meetings in a community group or in your company to make sure that women can participate more effectively and had good results in terms of ideas and inclusion?

There are three categories in this competition:

- The GenChange Award: Stories about changes that organizations are implementing that are chipping away at gender discrimination in your workplace and in your communities.
- The GenTruth Award: Stories about strategies that have been implemented and why they have not worked to reduce gender discrimination in your organization, community or country.
- The Gen-novation Award: Your ideas about innovative ways to end gender discrimination that you haven't yet had the opportunity to try out.

If your entry is selected, your example will be featured on the websites of AWID, FLACSO, BRIDGE and Gender at Work, and in Gender at Work's upcoming publication: Making New Rules: Secrets and Stories from the House of Gender. Winners will also be supported to attend and/or feature their experience at: a) a Gender at Work Collaboratory, a venue where practitioners, activists and academics working on gender equality issues meet to share strategies and build collaborations, OR b) the AWID Forum 2016, where they will have an opportunity to present their experiences during a relevant workshop. Winning selections will also receive a year-long subscription to the IDS Bulletin and a back catalogue of BRIDGE publications.

Submissions will be accepted from any individual or organization that has a good story to tell about gender and institutional/organizational change. You do not have to be working in the organization to tell the story.

Submissions are invited from diverse types of organizations: governmental and non-governmental, private sector companies, municipalities, donor organizations, media organizations, academic organizations, schools, places of worship, police stations and others.

The deadline to submit is: October 15, 2013. For more information, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/1a566CR>

(Call for Proposals) National Endowment for Democracy (NED) funding for activist organizations in transitional authoritarian countries

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a private, nonprofit foundation based in the United States provides grants to support NGO projects around the world for the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions. The foundation was founded in 1983 and it provides more than 1000 grants per year to NGOs promoting democracy in more than 90 countries. NED also offers fellowships and undertakes research and international exchange for democratic activists, human rights advocates, journalists, professors and researchers.

NED is now accepting grant applications from NGOs working around the world working for the promotion and advancement of human rights, an independent media, the rule of law and other democratic goals. Activist organizations in transitional authoritarian countries working to promote democracy, liberalization and the protection of human rights can also seek financial support from NED through its grants program.

Funding decisions are made on a quarterly basis by the NED Board of Directors. In addition to evaluating how a program fits within the Endowment's overall priorities, the Board considers factors such as the urgency of a program, its relevance to specific needs

and conditions in a particular country, and the democratic commitment and experience of the applicant.

The proposal and budget guidelines are available at NED website to develop and submit the proposals. As the next meeting of the NED Board of Directors is scheduled January 2014, the deadline set to accept proposals this year is 4 October 2013. For more information, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/19grpz8>

Welcome to our new subscribers this week!

INCODev, Uganda
Charity Centre for Children and Youth Development, Zambia
Imagine Scholar South Africa, South Africa
Entrepreneurship for Socio-Economic Empowerment Initiative (ESEEI), Kenya
Special Hope Network, Zambia
Made in Africa TV, Kenya

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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