



10 October, 2013

Dear Friends,

This edition of the Newsflash focuses on convening. Convenings are different than workshops or trainings in that they are events where a diverse range of stakeholder engage in a collective effort that that serves a specific shared purpose.

We hope you will find these resources on convenings and networks useful to your work.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Resource) Gather: The Art and Science of Effective Convening

(Resource) Network Capacity Analysis: A toolkit for assessing and building capacity for high quality responses to HIV

(Call for Proposals) Convening Partners to Conduct Locally Initiated Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues in the Framework of the "New Social Contract" Project

(Call for Proposals) World Food Programme's New Innovation Fund for NGOs

(Resource) Gather: The Art and Science of Effective Convening

The Rockefeller Foundation has put together a guidebook on the art and science of designing effective convening. It is not a step by step manual, rather it offers starting points, questions, frameworks, and worksheets to guide you through the design process.

What is a convening?

The word can refer to meetings, conferences, workshops, symposia, and many other events. Rockefeller uses it to mean a gathering that is different from these common formats in one important way: for the duration, the attendees are participants in a collective effort that serves a specific shared purpose.

CONVENINGS ARE...

- Composed of diverse stakeholders who represent a range of perspectives on a topic, often from different organizations
- For accomplishing a clear purpose (e.g., drive toward decision-making or

- alignment) and intended outcomes
- Designed to draw on all participants to generate insight and action beyond what any single actor could achieve on his or her own

CONVENINGS ARE NOT...

- Regular, internal meetings
- Focused on administrative, process-related topics
- Solely for delivering information or a single point of view (e.g., a training or a media event)

Over the past several decades, many social entrepreneurs have build organizations that scale new ideas to tackle old problems. Yet there will always be limits to what an organization working in isolation can accomplish. Scaling up a new idea can take many years. And, if an organization's work remains isolated, the impact it makes can erode if progress is not also being made on other facets of the problem.

Convenings are gaining momentum as a means of tapping collective intelligence and enabling change. They combine different perspectives, enabling us to clearly perceive trends and identify promising new ideas. They can reshape how we see a problem, deeply influencing our perspectives on what levers are most effective for creating change. They can help us find new ways to join forces, committing to new levels of strategic and operational alignment across our organizations.

Convenings have long been at the heart of efforts to achieve social progress, but their power has grown dramatically over the past two decades. They are now potent tools in an organization's social change toolkit.

But in many organizations, this "convening power" is still not tapped to it's fullest potential. Building your convening muscles can enable you to bring collective effort to bear in powerful new ways and make the headway we all need against today's increasingly complex challenges.

To view a PDF of the guide, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/1bBjgZX> (22.8 MB) - *Please note that the guide is a graphic-heavy document and may take considerable time to load.*

(Resource) Network Capacity Analysis: A toolkit for assessing and building capacity for high quality responses to HIV

Thinking about organizing a convening? It may be a good idea to analyze the capacity of your network.

This Rapid Assessment Guide from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance aims to build the skills required by civil society networks to develop and strengthen their capacity. They

can be used by networks to help identify their capacity building needs, plan technical support interventions, and monitor and evaluate the impact of capacity building.

The Alliance has developed two formats of this toolkit in order to respond to different needs and to respond to different situations. These have been produced as two separate publications – firstly as a Rapid assessment guide, and secondly as a detailed Workshop facilitation guide. The Rapid guide can be used to plan, steer, and collect outcomes of a meeting or teleconference where, due to specific needs or limited resources, the aim is to do a more rapid capacity analysis. As a general rule, the Workshop facilitation guide can be used, where resources and aspiration allow, to structure, deliver and report on a two to three day workshop. They provide a structured approach to generating both quantitative and qualitative information about the situation of the organisation at the time of analysis. The resulting outcomes can also be used to track progress when developing capacity.

Civil society networks play a vital role in supporting and developing key services required to respond to the HIV epidemic. Those networks that represent communities key to the dynamics of HIV transmission are particularly important, specifically in their involvement in decision making and programming around HIV. It is anticipated that these toolkits will be of particular use to these networks of key populations.

For more information and a link to download the toolkits, visit: <http://bit.ly/1bBjlgc>

(Call for Proposals) Convening Partners to Conduct Local Dialogues for NGOs

CIVICUS, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation – an international alliance of members and partners which constitutes an influential network of organisations at the local, national, regional and international levels, and spans the spectrum of civil society – has announced a call for expressions of interest to convene partners to conduct locally initiated multistakeholder dialogues in the framework of the New Social Contract project.

CIVICUS believes that many of the problems and challenges faced by societies around the world can be addressed through improved dialogue, exchange and co-construction amongst all actors. For this purpose, it has launched the action-based research project called, the New Social Contract.

The New Social Contract project seeks to:

- stimulate the co-creation of new frameworks to reshape roles and responsibilities of public, private and civic sectors in a more aware and intentional way;
- share new patterns of civic engagement addressing common challenges

that could ultimately pave the way to new social contracts.

CIVICUS is looking for potential partners to organise and oversee the conduction of locally initiated multi-stakeholders' dialogues, following the methodological approach proposed by the New Social Contract project. More specifically, we are looking for:

- A relevant challenge (social, economic, environmental) existing in a given community, that – if properly tackled by a group of diverse stakeholders joining hands and bringing their added value to the table – could lead to a systemic change;
- A convening partner (or a small group of co-convenors) that is directly affected by this challenge, is able to articulate the potential impact of an inclusive dialogue and identify and engage relevant stakeholders.

CIVICUS is looking for civil society actors (NGOs, CBOs, CSOs, umbrella organisations and other relevant entities) across the world to get involved in this project. All ideas are welcome but CIVICUS is particularly interested in:

- gender issues,
- youth concerns,
- environmental challenges,
- concerns of marginalized communities, persons with disabilities and indigenous groups,
- inter-faith dialogue,
- community-driven projects,
- community development projects, and
- innovative local governance.

Each partner will receive a financial contribution of 4000 USD, which will support the costs for the dialogues' preparatory activities, organisation, facilitation and documentation, as well as the reporting and conduction of interviews with involved stakeholders. The payment will be done in two instalments – 80% upon signing of a Partnerships Agreement and 20% upon submission of the technical and financial reports due.

Deadline: Must submit online form by **15th of October 2013** - Fill out the online form here: <http://bit.ly/1a43DrZ>

For more information on the call for proposals visit: <http://bit.ly/1caaWTJ>

(Call for Proposals) World Food Programme's New Innovation Fund for NGOs

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has announced a new Fund

for NGOs called ‘the Cooperating Partners’ Innovation Fund’ (CPIF). This Fund aims to promote collaboration with NGOs in the design and development of new tools and approaches for food assistance.

WFP has recognized that NGOs have pioneered “market-based programming approaches that amplify the impact of food assistance programmes. NGOs have also been first movers in adapting private sector technology and business models to social programming and food assistance generally, and specifically to cash and voucher programming.

The focus of this Fund in 2013 is the ‘Cash and Voucher’ programming as a key opportunity for collaboration.

Eligible applicants include national and international NGOs with valid registration in the country from where the application is initiated and, if different, with documented authorization to work in the country or countries where the proposed innovation will be developed. If selected applicants are not already WFP Cooperating Partners, WFP will undertake standard due diligence to ensure suitability of a partnership relationship prior to issuing an award.

There is no application format or template. Applicants should prepare a proposal in English of not more than 2250 words including a maximum 250 word summary.

For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1dYs0KI>

Welcome to our new subscribers this week!

Goods for Good, Malawi
Fishers Union Organisation, Tanzania
Arusha Community Initiative Support Trust (ACIST), Tanzania
Wellbody Alliance, Sierra Leone
Caritas-Développement Kongolo, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Swahili Waterworks Farming Limited, Tanzania
East African Forum for Migrant Rights (EAFMR), Uganda

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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