
15 January 2015

Dear Friends,

The theme of this week's Newsflash is sexual and reproductive health. We hope you find these resources useful in your work!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Resource) WHO Family Planning Fact sheet

(Resource) Auntie Stella: Teenagers talk about sex, life, and relationships

(Call for Proposals) World Bank's SIEF Call for Proposals for Early Childhood Development

(Call for Proposals) PACF Small & Large Grants for NGOs Worldwide (Special Focus: Sub-Saharan Africa)

(Resource) WHO Family Planning Fact sheet

EXCERPT

Key facts

- An estimated 222 million women in developing countries would like to delay or stop childbearing but are not using any method of contraception.
- Some family planning methods help prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.
- Family planning reduces the need for unsafe abortion.
- Family planning reinforces people's rights to determine the number and spacing of their children.

Benefits of family planning

Promotion of family planning – and ensuring access to preferred contraceptive methods for women and couples – is essential to securing the well-being and autonomy of women, while supporting the health and development of communities.

To access the full fact sheet, visit: <http://bit.ly/1BFPIIm>

(Resource) Auntie Stella: Teenagers talk about sex, life, and relationships

The 'Auntie Stella' website is a place where you can read young people's letters to Auntie Stella, like the 'agony aunt' pages you find in many magazines. There are 40 letters – all drawing on the experiences and stories of young people in southern and east Africa. The letters, and Auntie Stella's replies, deal with all kinds of personal, emotional, and social issues that affect young women and men's lives and sexual health and their relationships with partners, family, peers and society.

And these letters aren't just something to read – what's really important is what YOU discuss and do as you use them. Each letter and reply has activities to help you talk about your own lives, look at your options, work together and get the skills and support you need. They're fun too. You can get off the computer and do a whole variety of things - roleplays and quizzes, debates and interviews, songs and stories to write, maps and diagrams to make. You can also find out what's happening in your communities, and make plans to get involved.

To access this resource, visit: <http://bit.ly/1BMOJE8>

(Call for Proposals) World Bank's SIEF Call for Proposals for Early Childhood Development

The Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF) pleased to announce a Call for Proposals for impact evaluation of programs to improve early childhood development (ECD). This call is financed by the British government's Department of International Development and the London-based Children's Investment Fund Foundation. SIEF is a multi-donor trust fund at the World Bank promoting evidence-based policy making in areas critical for human development.

SIEF is seeking applications for rigorous impact evaluations of new or ongoing early childhood development programs, as well as longitudinal impact evaluation follow-ups of early childhood development programs. Impact evaluations of World Bank supported programs are welcome, but no program affiliation with the World Bank or the funding organizations is required. Programs to be evaluated can be government or non-governmental. While the call is focused on the impact of programs for low-income countries, research in middle-income countries will be considered as long as results will be clearly relevant to low-income countries.

Specifically, SIEF is interested in innovative proposals that will inform the following question: Which early childhood programs – whether a single intervention or a combination of interventions – improve the cognitive and socio-emotional development of young children, especially ages three to six, including their readiness for school; and how can these programs be delivered at scale in low- income countries?

Deadline to submit is 30 January 2015

For more information or to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/1w4wqpC>

(Call for Proposals) PACF Small & Large Grants for NGOs Worldwide (Special Focus: Sub-Saharan Africa)

The Positive Action for Children Fund (PACF) invites Concept Notes on large and small grants from non-governmental and community-based organizations that can deliver change at a community level. The Fund aims to support global efforts towards Countdown to Zero: The Global Plan Towards the Elimination of NewHIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive. It also aims to alleviate the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and children's health by supporting interventions that engage affected communities, developing their capacity to participate and lead.

Funding Levels

- Large Grants – £60,000 to £300,000 over three years
- Small Grants – £6,000 to £40,000 over two years

Technical Assistance (TA) is provided to eligible organizations across three priority areas for the PACF: developing organizational capacity, improving PMTCT and HIV knowledge and understanding and supporting development of partnership skills.

For more information or to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/1egWxB4>

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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