



January 24, 2013

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash! Firelight is now open for Letters of Inquiry in Tanzania. Please see the content below for details!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call for Letters of Inquiry) Firelight Foundation - Organizations Improving Learning Outcomes for Children in Tanzania

(Article) Sustainable Energy For All

(Resource) Water and food security

(Call for Letters of Inquiry) Firelight Foundation - Organizations Improving Learning Outcomes for Children in Tanzania

If your organization is a charitable organization working to improve learning outcomes for pre-primary and primary school children in TANZANIA, Firelight Foundation invites you to send a letter of inquiry and provide us with basic information about your organization. We will give particular priority to organizations working in the Moshi/Arusha, Iringa, Mbeya, and Morogoro regions.

Under this funding, we seek to identify organizations that are focused on improving children's learning by creatively engaging family and community to help children to succeed in school, while also building a stronger relationship between what is happening in-school, outside of school, and what happens at home. Over a period of three years, Firelight will work closely with organizations to demonstrate the effectiveness of their innovative approaches to improve learning outcomes. Firelight will facilitate adoption of the most effective approaches among a network of community-based organizations.

Please submit your letter of inquiry by February 18, 2013. Please forward all letters of inquiry via mail, fax, or e-mail to:

Firelight Foundation

Phone +1 831

429 8750
740 Front Street, Suite 380
429 2036
Santa Cruz, California 95060 USA
E-mail: loi@firelightfoundation.org

Facsimile: +1 831

Full guidelines are available here:
http://www.firelightfoundation.org/files/1513/5829/7843/Firelight_LOI_guidelines_TANZANIA_-_final.pdf

(Article) Sustainable Energy For All

Today, 1.4 billion people still do not have access to modern energy, while 3 billion rely on “traditional biomass” and coal as their main fuel sources. And nearly 7 in 10 people living in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to electricity or modern energy sources.

The majority of these people have to heat their homes and cook on open fires, using traditional fuels like wood. The smoke and fumes produced from these traditional energy sources contributes to nearly two million deaths every year across the world, mainly affecting women and children.

It also means that huge groups of people have no evening light, limited access to modern communications and inadequate education and health facilities – which are all vital for reducing poverty.

There is a way to change this. Countries like Thailand have shown how it can be done, increasing the share of the population with access to electricity from 25% to almost 100% in just over a decade.

The same can be done in Africa, but unless we urgently change direction, 645 million people in sub-Saharan Africa will still not have electricity in 2030.

Recognizing the importance of energy for sustainable development, the United Nations General Assembly has designated, by its resolution 65/151, the year 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.

The International Year of Sustainable Energy for All presents a valuable opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of increasing sustainable access to energy, energy efficiency, and renewable energy at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Energy services have a profound effect on productivity, health, education, climate change, food and water security, and communication services.

Lack of access to clean, affordable and reliable energy hinders human, social and economic development and is a major impediment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Access to energy, particularly sustainable energy, is indistinguishable from a sustainable future for the developing world. Not only does access to energy transform the lives of the energy-poor by raising living standards, it also:

- Enables income generation – for example, through solar pumps for irrigation or electricity for a small business;
- Provides power to community health clinics, and refrigerators to store medicines, as well as cell phones, which have transformed commerce;
- Reduces the time and drudgery of collecting fuel wood, supporting cleaner, more efficient cooking and heating options;
- Provides lighting, so children can study after dark;
- Enables businesses to operate and creates new opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Thus, there is an inextricable link between energy and sustainable development and modern, cleaner and more efficient energy is relevant in the eradication of poverty.

Access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries is essential for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for achieving sustainable development, which would help to reduce poverty and to improve the conditions and standard of living for the majority of the world's population.

Therefore, the General Assembly of the UN emphasized the importance of investing in access to cleaner energy technology options to achieve a climate-resilient future for all and also pointed out the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development.

It also stressed that the wider use and exploration of available and additional cleaner, new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and dispersal on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. It also emphasized the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy.

Further, it reaffirmed the importance of national policies and strategies to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy sources and low carbon emission technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy services, and enhancing national capacities to meet the growing energy demand, as appropriate, supported by international cooperation in this field and by the promotion of the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable energy technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms.

With leadership from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN-Energy – a coordinating group of 20 UN agencies – is undertaking a new global initiative, Sustainable Energy for All.

This initiative will engage governments, the private sector, and civil society partners globally to achieve three major goals by 2030:

- Ensure universal access to modern energy services.
- Reduce global energy intensity by 40 per cent.
- Increase renewable energy use globally to 30 per cent.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/sustainableenergyforall/background.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/sustainableenergyforall/>

<http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/>

(Resource) Water and food security

Agriculture uses a large amount of water, with irrigation alone accounting for about 70 per cent of freshwater usage. To meet demand for a world population expected to top 9 billion people by 2050 will require a 10 per cent increase in water for agricultural use. Enormous efforts will be needed to reduce water demand and improve water use efficiency.

Water is critical not only for food security but for general security as well. Water scarcity has been a cause of civil unrest and conflict. And water consumption has increased at more than twice the rate of population growth over the past century. But water is a finite resource. By 2025, around 1.8 billion people will be living in

areas with absolute water scarcity. Access to water is not evenly distributed. It is the poorest people in the remotest areas of developing countries who usually have the most limited access to water and the fewest water rights. Water scarcity and low soil fertility curb the productivity of the land cultivated by poor smallholder farmers, and climate change is worsening the situation.

Of the world's 1.29 billion very poor people, about 70 per cent live in rural areas of developing countries. Agriculture is the main employer in many of the poorest developing countries, and small farms provide up to 80 per cent of food in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia.

Commercially viable interventions – sustainable business models – can produce multiple benefits. A low-cost technology such as micro-irrigation equipment made locally from available materials creates jobs for small businesses while also giving poor farmers access to technology and post-sales services that could be too expensive at import prices. For example, the IFAD-supported Scampis project (2009–2012) changed the lives of 30,000 vulnerable farmer households after they adopted low-cost, user-friendly technologies. Old flip-flop sandals were collected by otherwise unemployed people and used as material to make parts for micro-irrigation equipment in Madagascar. As well as providing a local source of materials for irrigation, this activity promoted recycling and created jobs for street workers who collect the old sandals, and for small businesses that make the irrigation parts. The main agricultural development goal of getting farmers to use a technology like micro-irrigation is only one part of a commercial system involving many players, including traders and retailers in the private sector. If all players see a stake – and a livelihood – in the activity, then a sustainable intervention results.

Successful projects are not enough – they need to be broadened or scaled up to reach more people. This is often more complex than just making them bigger. The various modalities have to be selected and tailored according to the context (institutional, cultural, political) or they will not work. In the water sector, IFAD sees three avenues for scaling up:

- Expansion — Taking a successful approach and casting it over a wider area, reaching more beneficiaries.
- Adaptation — Transporting an approach that has worked in one context (a country or community) and adapting it so that it works in another.
- Policy embrace — When an approach piloted by a development organization or private actor is embraced by government and institutionalized.

Real scaling up, at a level that addresses food security, needs field testing to prove to farmers and governments alike that the innovation actually works. For example, when IFAD introduced improved traditional planting pits in Niger to combat water run-off and gully erosion, it first took a group of local farmers to Burkina Faso so they could see how the pits worked. On returning home, some of the Niger farmers

decided to revive their own planting pit, using a field next to the road so that travelers could see the impact. The results were so impressive that the use of these pits grew, year by year, bringing thousands of hectares back into production. Yields increased and barren land was rehabilitated. The technique is now also being used in Cape Verde. Once an innovation has been proven, it must be supported by the creation of favorable conditions and policies so that it can be adopted and mainstreamed through local and national institutions.

Key Facts on Water Security

- The world population is expected to rise from around 7 billion people today to 9.1 billion in 2050.
- To meet demand from a larger and more affluent population, annual cereal production will have to grow by almost a billion tons from 2.1 billion tons, and meat production by over 200 million tons to 470 million tons in 2050.
- 70 per cent of global water withdrawals go to irrigation. Irrigated agriculture represents 20 per cent of total cultivated land but contributes 40 per cent of food produced worldwide.
- Water scarcity affects every continent, and more than 40 per cent of the people on our planet. By 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity.
- The future of farm production will depend on improved use of rain and irrigation water, combined with good agriculture practices.
- We can make precious water resources go further by reducing wastage. Around 30 per cent of the food produced worldwide – about 1.3 billion tons – is lost or wasted every year. This can be changed by improving storage and transportation in developing countries and raising consumer awareness in developed countries about the resources needed to produce food.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.ifad.org/events/waterweek/water_food_security_factsheet.htm

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/newsflash.php>. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.

For more information contact:

Firelight Foundation
740 Front Street, Suite 380
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA
www.firelightfoundation.org
+1 831-429- 8750