

12 February 2015

Dear Friends,

We recently created a platform on our website to share tools that we use in our work, as well as learnings that have come out of our work. This weeks resources are featured on this platform, which we are calling The Learning Spot. We will continue to add new resources to The Learning Spot, so make sure to check it out here: [www.firelightfoundation.org/about/resources/learning-spot](http://www.firelightfoundation.org/about/resources/learning-spot)

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

*(Resource) Firelight Foundation Adolescent Girls Survey*

*(Resource) Planning Form for Trainings*

*(Call for Nominations) Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life from WWSF*

*(Accepting Applications) African Development Foundation*

(Resource) Firelight Foundation Adolescent Girls Survey

The purpose of the survey is to understand how the girls are experiencing your program, in order to design a program that more effectively responds to their needs. The guidelines below will help to make the survey a positive experience for the girls and encourage open and honest feedback.

- In order to facilitate honest feedback from the girls, the survey is anonymous, meaning the girls do not put their names on the survey. There should be no attempt by staff to associate a survey with a girls' identity. This would break trust.
- Create an easy, fun, and warm environment. Keep the process informal. Do not make it serious and high pressure. Start off with some fun activities that get girls to relax, have fun, and connect to each other before they start
- The survey should be provided to the girls when they have their regular meeting. If possible, staff from the organization can introduce the survey, then allow the girls to fill it out on their own. Perhaps a volunteer trusted by the girls can be available to respond to any questions as the girls complete the process.
- Before they start the survey, staff should explain the purpose of the survey and how the information will be used. The summary of what is learned should be shared with the girls in appropriate ways.

- Affirm the girls, the importance of their voice and their perspective, experience and insight. Let them know that they are the drivers of change and that this facilitates their input and perspective to improve the program. Encourage girls to be frank and to add notes if they need to explain something.
- Girls should have enough time to complete the survey. They should not be rushed. For any girls with low literacy, support from girls that they feel comfortable to share their information with should be provided.
- Give the girls space and time to reflect on the experience of completing the survey. If they prefer, let them do this with a volunteer. Ask them to talk about how the experience was for them and if it brought up any challenges. If they have suggestions for how to improve the survey, for example to bring up issues that were not asked, get their perspective on that.
- If the girls do this as the last item of their agenda for a meeting, make sure they have another closing activity. It can be something fun, or something reflective. Let the girls choose and lead the activity if they have ideas.
- Information should be aggregated and analyzed to identify key patterns. Identify key findings, but also any areas of mixed opinion. Surface any questions that arise from analyzing the data. Consider the implications on the programs. If possible, identify specific action that will be taken as a result of the data analysis.

Write up the findings and share them with the girls. Ask girls for their perspective on interpreting the data. If they are comfortable, ask them to use specific examples to help shed light on key patterns. Share how the findings will inform changes in the program.

To access this survey, visit: <http://bit.ly/1DKSpHY>

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#### (Resource) Planning Form for Trainings

Many of our partners incorporate a variety of training workshops for staff, families, and community members in their programs. Firelight developed a simple planning form as a way to help them thoughtfully plan, implement, and evaluate the success of these trainings.

To access this planning form, visit: <http://bit.ly/1zE46zp>

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#### (Call for Nominations) Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life from WWSF

Awarded since 1994 by WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation - an international, non-profit, humanitarian NGO, serving the implementation of women's and children's rights and the UN development agenda - the Prize (US\$ 1000 per laureate honors women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities (403 prizes awarded so far). The Prize aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions

to sustainable development, household food security and peace, thus generating recognition and support for their projects. While rural women are vital in providing examples of sound practice in their communities, they still do not have full access to tools needed for development, such as education, credit, land rights and participation in decision making. By highlighting and awarding creative development models, innovations and experiences enhancing the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in addressing the eradication of rural poverty, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

## **Eligibility**

- Nominees should be women and women's groups currently active in rural life whose efforts have not yet been acknowledged by other awards. They may not nominate themselves.
- The nominating organization or individual must have direct experience of the nominee's work. The nominator may not nominate a family member, be a member of the nominated organization, nor can an organization nominate its senior officer (i.e. founder, president etc.). No more than 3 nominees may be presented by the same person/organization in the same year. The nominator commits to organize an award ceremony if the candidate is selected for the Prize and invite the media.

## **Nominations must include the following items:**

- Original signed letter of nomination indicating how the nominator knows the nominee and for how long.
- Biographical data on the nominee (full name, age, education, place of work, background) and a detailed history of the nominee's creative project (written by the nominator) including her motivation, innovative aspects, any obstacles overcome, and the impact in the community. Nominations must specify whether the nominee has received or is currently being nominated for other awards.
- Two original and signed endorsement letters from organizations or individuals other than the nominator and, if possible, additional supporting materials such as newspaper articles or publications.
- A few labeled photographs clearly showing the nominee(s) for possible publication.

## **Criteria**

The long-term impact of the Prize depends on the integrity of the nominators and the quality of their nominations. The Prize is an award for successful accomplishments rather than a fund for future projects. The nominee's history (2-3 pages) should demonstrate the creativity, courage and sometimes sacrifice in her efforts at the grass roots to improve life in rural communities. Descriptions should be as specific as possible.

## **Any of the following elements should be emphasized:**

- Exceptional courage and perseverance in improving rural life

- Creativity in the approach
- Preservation of and respect for the environment
- Continuing impact on the community

Laureates are selected by an international Jury composed of WWSF Board of Directors; are announced officially in September and celebrated in their countries on 15 October – International Day of Rural Women. WWSF has a commitment to award annually 5 to 10 creative rural women and women's groups around the world.

Nomination materials should arrive no later than **30 April 2015** through the post. E-mail nominations are not accepted.

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

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(Accepting Applications) African Development Foundation

USADF has two major priorities when considering a request for funding a project:

- Does the application comes from an African community group or organization that represents its own development priorities and includes the participation of the poor in setting project objectives?
- Does the application represent a project that could provide maximum benefit to an underserved and underserved population group?

Project applications are evaluated on the basis of potential benefits to the community, potential for job creation, workers income improvements, long term profitability, and managerial strengths and capabilities. Other application selection criteria follow:

#### Organization Requirements

- The organization must be 100 percent African-owned and managed.
- The organization must be a legally recognized African entity (or in the process of becoming legally registered. Registration must be completed before any funding may be provided)
- The organization must demonstrate that it has successfully worked together and has the potential to productively utilize development funds.
- The ownership and management must be in agreement on the problem to be addressed and have a commitment to benefit their community.
- The organization must have basic functional management and controls to use and account for USADF funds.

#### Benefit Requirements

- The proposed project should represent both the applicant's and targeted

beneficiaries identified needs.

- The outcome of the project must provide real (measurable) benefits to the community. Benefits include job creation, increased incomes levels, improved market access, and quality of life improvements.

#### Other Considerations

1. The project is consistent with USADF's host country strategies and partnerships.
2. The goals of the project can be implemented realistically with USADF funds.
3. There are sufficient management, technical and financial resources available for project success.
4. The organization can demonstrate long-term viability after USADF funding ends.
5. The organization can meet all licensing/regulatory and environmental requirements.
6. The project has potential for broader replication.
7. The level of funding from self and other sources (local, foreign, donors) committed to or available to the organization.

For more information, visit: <http://1.usa.gov/14v3N8x>

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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](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org)

#### **For more information contact:**

Firelight Foundation  
740 Front Street, Suite 380  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA  
[www.firelightfoundation.org](http://www.firelightfoundation.org)  
+1 831-429- 8750