



August 9, 2012

Dear Friends,

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

Sincerely,
The Firelight Team

(Call for Applications) Innovation Prize for Africa 2013 Call for Applications
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(Call for Applications) Youth Employment Network's Fund for Evaluation in Youth Employment
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(Call for Applications) Innovation Prize for Africa 2013 Call for Applications

The Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA) honors and encourages innovative achievements that contribute toward developing new products, increasing efficiency or saving cost in Africa. The The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Innovation Foundation (AIF) are currently accepting applications for the IPA 2013.

The 2013 IPA recognizes innovative breakthroughs that unlock new African potential in the following five priority areas

- Agriculture/agribusiness
- Environment, Energy and Water
- Health and Wellbeing
- Information Communications Technologies (ICTs)
- Manufacturing and Service Industry

Only innovations by Africans for Africa are eligible to enter. Africans in the Diaspora can also apply if their innovations are of significance for Africa.

The 2013 IPA will consist of three Prizes, which will be given following the criteria outlined below:

A. The first Prize of USD100,000

B. The runner-up Prize of USD25,000

C. The special Prize for Social Impact Innovation of USD25'000

D. Nominees: This is a group of the IPA finalists who will be invited to the final face-to-face interview and to the Award ceremony. All nominees will receive certificates, and the IPA team will work with them to mobilize in-kind support to facilitate next steps for their innovation.

Deadline for Submission: October 31, 2012.

For more go to: <http://www.innovationprizeforafrica.org/ipa-2013.asp>

(Call for Applications) United Nations Global Peace Games for Children and Youth

Countries/Region- All Countries

United Nations invites applications for Global Peace Games for Children And Youth for all sports which can take part in this event (not only soccer/football), registration is free and all activities that contribute to the themes of the Games are encouraged.

The Games are an opportunity for young people all over the world to demonstrate their commitment to make the world a better and healthier place and their central role and solidarity in the mission of global friendship, peaceful solutions and nonviolence. The themes of the Games support the goals of the United Nations. They educate about and show support for peaceful solutions, and aim to build global friendship and understanding. They support the improvement of human life, as outlined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals .

The Games recognize and demonstrate the value of sport to-

- Unite, motivate, inspire and educate
- Encourage peaceful solutions and cultural understanding
- Teach essential values such as cooperation and respect
- Promote life-long health and social skills
- Improve health and well being
- Strengthen links between children and adults
- Contribute to the development of communities

Eligibility-

Participation in the Games is free and open to all who wish to take part. Communities, civil society organizations and governments are invited to organize and enjoy the games and events in their own countries and locations, limited only by

their own local constraints of financing, organizing and planning capacity. Different organizations can hold multiple Games in the same country at different sites. Participating communities and organizations select their own sites.

Deadline for Submission: December 1, 2012

For more go to: <http://www.playsoccer-nonprofit.org/global-peace-games.php>

(Call for Applications) Youth Employment Network's Fund for Evaluation in Youth Employment

The Youth Employment Network (YEN), a partnership of the United Nations, International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank has issued a call for applications for the "The Fund for Evaluation in Youth Employment."

The "The Fund for Evaluation in Youth Employment" has been set up to contribute to the evidence gap for effective programme design and delivery. It will provide technical and financial support to qualified organizations for designing and conducting their impact evaluation. The Fund's contribution to the evaluation will range from US\$5,000 to US\$80,000, which means projects will have to bring in co-funding or fundraise to cover the evaluation full costs. Funding will only go to support monitoring and evaluation and will not cover any cost associated with project delivery.

Short-listed applicants will receive the following benefits:

- Expenses paid for one participant in the Tanzania Evaluation Clinic in September 2012
- Intensive training on M&E methodologies and techniques
- Assignment of an evaluation expert who will be focused on the organization's evaluation live case during the clinic
- Exposure to the other clinic participant's experiences and lessons during the work on their live cases
- Access to knowledge sharing portal and a youth entrepreneurship community of practice
- The selected grantees will get all of the above benefits plus seed funding.

Eligible organizations include NGOs / CSOs / CBOs, training organizations, bilateral or multilateral agencies, public-private partnerships, social enterprises or social entrepreneurs as long as they implementing a youth project in Sub-Saharan Africa. Only projects whose objectives involve creating self employment opportunities, developing entrepreneurial and self employment skills and competences, and improving access to finance will be eligible. Applicants must demonstrate a clear project implementation approach and at least 2 years of experience in project implementation. Organizations must also have an annual total operating budget of at least USD\$ 250,000. The working language will be

English.

Deadline for Submission: August, 15 2012.

For more go to: <http://yenmarketplace.org/trading-centre-offer/call-applications-fund-evaluation-youth-employment>

(Report) Grassroots Girls Solutions: Six Grassroots Organizations Transform The Lives of Adolescent Girls

Effective grassroots organizations not only transform the lives of adolescent girls, but go further to win the hearts and minds of parents, educators and community leaders to see the value of girls on a daily basis, thereby transforming the entire community. Despite their proven potential to change the world, girls in poverty, navigating the already tenuous years of adolescence, face additional quicksand such as child marriage, early pregnancy and violence. Perhaps no other segment of society globally faces as much exploitation and injustice.

“Women represent 50 percent of humanity and countries are holding themselves back in terms of their economic development by discriminating against girls and women,” Desmond Tutu said in a 2012 press conference for The Elders, an international non-government organization of noted and noble public figures. “[The Elders] are saying ‘imagine what would happen when women and girls are set free and can participate in decision-making.’” Investing in adolescent girls is one of the most effective ways to break the pattern of poverty that is handed down from generation to generation. As reported in detail in the Girls Count series, if a girl stays in school, has access to health services and is given an opportunity to earn a dignified wage, she will marry later, have fewer and healthier children and earn an income that she’ll invest back into her family and community.

Profiling six organizations out of the 300 groups supported by the GGI, this report makes clear that quality grassroots organizations not only transform the lives of girls, but also shift the thinking of entire communities to see the value of girls. Unreached adolescent girls, mobilized by grassroots organizations, create visible, measurable change in their own lives and in their families, communities and nations. In this community-wide approach, grassroots organizations found the key to unlocking the dual shackles of poverty and lost opportunity. The girls, their families, the community and the grassroots organization are inextricably intertwined with the success of one depending on the successes of the others. By supporting grassroots organizations with robust, dedicated programming fo

r adolescent girls, entire communities are given a new way to create their own path away from endemic poverty.

Focusing on transforming the lives of adolescent girls and the people and institutions that surround them, the grassroots organizations profiled here, along with many others, share four characteristics that make them successful:

SUSTAINED PRESENCE

Rooted in the community, the staff of grassroots organizations know well the complex dynamics that make up the society in which the girls live and grow. Having themselves experienced the reality and roadblocks that the girls experience—from becoming teenage heads-of-households in communities ravaged by HIV to accessing reproductive health care in remote villages—staff are able to address the specific and compelling needs of girls that change over time, while remaining steadfast in their presence. These grassroots groups purposefully build bridges between generations so that “graduates” from their programs can return to mentor and guide the next generation through similar challenges.

REACHING THE UNREACHED

Marginalized by cultural practices, poverty and discrimination, girls are often outside the reach of larger development projects led by governments and international aid agencies. By utilizing local networks and leveraging relationships within communities, grassroots organizations are able to identify the hardest-to-reach girls, while staff are positioned to know how to find those girls who are hidden and socially isolated from public places. That grassroots organizations are of the community creates a sense of trust and credibility that allows them to reach seemingly invisible girls, like the adolescent girls who leave school in shame due to harassment by their male teachers or the teen mothers who find themselves trapped at home, cut off from the chance at an education and participation in their community. Only grassroots organizations have the trust needed to access, mobilize and strengthen the social capital of girls.

INNOVATIVE, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Grassroots organizations—that know the local landscape, language, culture and challenges that influence and shape the lives of girls—offer the most salient solutions for adolescent girls in their communities. Staff cultivate unexpected interpretations of local problems by listening to girls and the larger community and then use those insights to design appropriate solutions. As programs are

implemented, staff are then able to work closely with girls and the community, monitoring the effectiveness of their programs, and are able to make changes to their strategy and focus based on the needs at hand. This local knowledge best places grassroots organizations to address the urgent needs of girls, giving authenticity to their home-grown, ingenious solutions. From training Muslim girls in photography as an exercise in self-empowerment by capturing the reality of the world around them to teaching rural girls sustainable farming methods to combat soil depletion, which in turn helps girls gain credibility and influence in their villages, change is happening in surprising ways. Communities are buoyed by the contributions of adolescent girls and the unique, form-fitting solutions grassroots organizations design for girls and the world around them.

COMMUNITY-WIDE APPROACH

Grassroots organizations are able to understand and deal with the spectrum of actors and complexities that shape the environment in which girls operate. Rather than compartmentalizing their approaches, grassroots organizations instead employ comprehensive programming in response to girls' multifaceted needs. An effective grassroots organization goes beyond working with local police officers to rescue child domestic workers from abusive situations, to also provide a safe house, educational opportunities and medical care to rehabilitate the girls, facilitate vocational opportunities with local businesses for reintegration back into the community and offer informational sessions for village chiefs to stop child trafficking before it starts. A range of actors—from the government, police, hospitals and schools—are enlisted to create safety nets for the most marginalized population of their community, thus, strengthening the social fiber that enables the entire community to thrive.

Exceptional grassroots organizations have the insight and staying power to see even the most marginalized girls as part of an environment that is integrated and implement innovative strategies to transform their whole environment, to the benefit of the girl and the community. The following examples, from very different corners of the world, show that this approach is not a theory, as profound change is happening now and is revolutionizing the world of girls.

For more go to: http://girleffect.org/uploads/documents/7/Grassroots_Girls_Solutions.pdf

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.

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