



27 February 2014

Dear Friends,

Firelight's mission rests on a strong belief in the power of communities to create lasting change. That can only happen when communities own and drive the process of addressing the challenges in their communities.

At times, organizations talk about engaging or involving the community. Further discussion reveals that what that means is that they had a discussion with community members and got their input. But in those communities where there is full community involvement, organizations have a specific approach and set of tools that facilitate a community planning process.

One of those approaches and tools that is widely used is Participatory Rural Appraisal.

Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) is a label given to a growing family of participatory approaches and methods that emphasize local knowledge and enable local people to conduct analysis of their own situation, prioritize the key challenges, and create plans for how they will work together to address those challenges. PRA uses group animation and exercises to facilitate information sharing, analysis, and action among stakeholders. Although originally developed for use in rural areas, PRA has been employed successfully in a variety of settings. The purpose of PRA is to empower local people to work together to plan context-appropriate programs.

PRA is particularly concerned that the multiple perspectives that exist in any community are represented in the analysis and that the community itself takes the lead in evaluating its situation and finding solutions. Outsiders may participate as facilitators or in providing technical information but they should not 'take charge' of the process.

In PRA, a number of different tools are used to gather and analyze information. These tools encourage participation, make it easier for people to express their views and help to organize information in a way that makes it more useful and more accessible to the group that is trying to analyze a given situation. Some features of PRA which make it well-suited as a learning and problem-solving tool for the rural poor are:

- It encourages group participation and discussion
- The information to be processed is collected by group members themselves
- It is presented in highly visual form, usually out in the open and on the ground,

- using pictures, symbols and locally available materials
- Once displayed, the information is “transparent rather than hidden” - all members can comment on it, revise it and criticize it. This assists in cross-checking and verifying collected data.

Several manuals exist to guide the facilitation of Participatory Rural Appraisal. Below, we provide links to a couple that might be useful in helping you work with your community you serve to work and plan together.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Resource) Rapid Rural Appraisal and Participatory Rural Appraisal: A Manual for CRS Field Workers and Partners

(Tool) PRA Tool Box

(Symposium) Children and HIV: Start Early, Start Now!

(Accepting Submissions) Adobe Youth Voices Award

(Accepting Applicants) Un-Habitat Urban Youth Fund

(Request for Proposals) SportsUnited: International Sports Programming Initiative

(Resource) Rapid Rural Appraisal and Participatory Rural Appraisal: A Manual for CRS Field Workers and Partners

Catholic Relief Services (<http://bit.ly/1fDG1ff>) offers a number of technical resources, including a Rapid Rural Appraisal and Participatory Rural Appraisal manual available here: <http://bit.ly/1jTtwTM>

The purpose of this manual is to familiarize users with RRA and PRA methods, to demonstrate the applicability of these methods to CRS funded projects, and to encourage the rigorous application of the methods in order to obtain the best results. Volume one addresses the generic use of RRA and PRA in development projects. The information here is relevant to people working in any sector. Volume two focuses on the use of these methods to address specific sectoral concerns.

(Tool) PRA Tool Box

This resource from the FAO Corporate Document Repository (<http://bit.ly/1jO2MRw>) includes a number of PRA Tools, including tools for Resource Maps, Social Maps, and Venn Diagrams on Institutions.

To access the PRA Tool Box, visit: <http://bit.ly/1mfC4TB>

(Symposium) Children and HIV: Start Early, Start Now!

The symposium **Children and HIV: Start Early, Start Now–Integrated interventions for young children born into HIV-affected families** will examine proactive, integrated approaches that focus on early childhood and HIV.

The two-day symposium, jointly hosted by The Teresa Group, the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS and local hosts Living Positive Victoria and Straight Arrows, will be held on July 18th and 19th, 2014 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Melbourne, Australia. It will create a forum for service providers, donors, researchers, advocates and policy leaders. Delegates will share information, explore data, and build consensus about best practices and advocacy for early interventions for children and families.

IMPORTANT: Symposium space is limited. Preference will be given to applicants working in the field of children affected by HIV and AIDS.

Applicants will be informed via e-mail if their application is successful. There is no registration fee for this symposium.

If you are applying for a scholarship please ensure that the scholarship application form is completed as well.

VISA REQUIREMENTS: Most individuals travelling to Melbourne, Australia will require a visa. Please visit the Visa Information page to find out what the visa requirements are.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1bqUP4Y> for more information or to register for the symposium.

(Accepting Submissions) Adobe Youth Voices Award

The Adobe Youth Voices Awards is a global challenge that invites youth to creatively express their vision for driving change in local communities and to present potential solutions through visual storytelling. **Media must be submitted by April 18, 2014.**

Adobe Youth Voices Awards recognizes media with original, high-quality youth-produced content that creatively express the vision for driving positive change in local communities. Eligible projects must be created by youth between the ages of 13-19 and demonstrate the power of media to give voice to youth issues and concerns. Media must have been created between 2010-2013 and submitted by an eligible adult educator. Participation is completely free and does not require the use or purchase of Adobe products.

Submissions are now open!

- Youth ages 13-19 are eligible to participate by teaming up with adult educators who are from any school or youth organization worldwide. In order to submit media, all educators are welcome to register with Adobe Youth Voices Community at no cost.
- If you are an educator affiliated to Adobe Youth Voices through one of our partner organizations please submit your media via the Adobe Youth Voices online community.
- The competition offers seven standard content categories representing various forms of visual storytelling.

For more information visit: <http://adobe.ly/1jhZdDr>

(Accepting Applicants) Un-Habitat Urban Youth Fund

This Fund supports urban youth in developing countries. It aims to advance the achievements of the Millennium Development goals and the Habitat Agenda by providing grants up to USD 25,000 to youth-led projects piloting innovative approaches to employment, good urban governance, shelter and secure tenure.

To register visit: <http://bit.ly/NfARPD>

For questions or support email to support@unhabitatyouthfund.org

(Request for Proposals) SportsUnited: International Sports Programming Initiative

Programme objectives

Public and private non-profit organisations may submit proposals for exchange projects designed to reach underserved youth and/or their coaches/sport administrators who manage youth sport programmes. These exchanges between the United States and select countries will be either reciprocal or one-way, and will employ sport to address specific themes. Eligible themes are: sport and social change, sport and health and sport and disability.

The SportsUnited: International Sports Programming Initiative uses sport to help underserved youth around the world develop important leadership skills, achieve academic success, promote tolerance and respect for diversity. The focus of all programmes must be on both male and female youth ages 7-17 and/or their coaches/sport administrators. Programmes designed to train elite athletes or coaches are ineligible.

Eligible countries

- **Africa:** Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia (one-way exchange in Ethiopia), Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania
- **East Asia and the Pacific:** Australia (Northern Territories focused on aboriginal populations), Burma, Peoples Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand
- **Europe and Eurasia:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Kosovo, Russia and Turkey
- **Near East and North Africa:** Algeria, Israel, Jordan and West Bank/Gaza
- **South and Central Asia:** India, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- **Western Hemisphere:** Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Venezuela

Deadline to apply is **28 February 2014**. For more information visit:

<http://bit.ly/1nRDL8x>

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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