1 August, 2011

Dear Friends,

The purpose of this week's Newsflash is to introduce a technology called FrontlineSMS.

As you know, large-scale communication is very important for many grassroots organizations working in developing countries. However, the absence of the internet can make this type of communication very difficult. FrontlineSMS was created in order to overcome this problem.

FrontlineSMS is a free, open-source software that allows you to communicate through text messaging with large groups of people anywhere there is a mobile signal; therefore, this enables you to mass communicate without the internet.

This is truly revolutionary, and it is organizations like yours that the creator had in mind. To learn more about what FrontlineSMS can do, how to download and install it and other important information, read on!

We are very excited about this, and we hope that you find it valuable and useful.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

****

(Call for Proposals) UNPFII Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues
(Call for Nominations) Cordaid HIV/AIDS Award 2011
(Call for Nominations) Ashoka's Changemakers, "Making More Health"
(Call for Applications) IFHHRO Global Training of Trainers for Health Workers
(Resource) FrontlineSMS
(Resource) Flip Cam deals
****

(Call for Proposals) UNPFII Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues
Overview
The Trust Fund for the Second Decade was established to promote, support and implement the objectives of the Decade. The Fund will give priority to projects concerning the main areas of the Second Decade: culture, education, health, human Rights, the environment and social and economic development. The Advisory Group for the Trust Fund for the Second Decade consists of members of the Permanent Forum's Bureau.

Indigenous organizations or organizations working for indigenous peoples can

apply for small grants from the Trust Fund. Guidelines to applicants for the Fund will be available when the call opens every year.

It is expected that the Fund will mainly be used for small grants projects with a budget for up to 10,000 US$ covering one year's expenses.

2012 Call for Proposals
Applications for grants under the Small Grants Programme under the Second Decade will be accepted between 1 July 2011 and 1 September 2011. Applications are to be submitted to: indigenousfund@un.org during this time period. The proposals will be assessed by the Bureau of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in December 2011 and successful applicants will receive notice thereafter. A list of organizations awarded grants will also be posted on this website.

Please note:
Use of SPFII application form is mandatory, and all information must be submitted as requested in the application form. Project must have a focus on indigenous peoples. Projects will be disregarded if the required information is not present. Additional information pertaining to the proposal will not be accepted beyond the deadline of submission. Applications submitted outside of this time period or to other email addresses will not be considered for funding.

For more information, please visit: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/tf_ha.html
****
(Call for Nominations) Cordaid HIV/AIDS Award 2011

The Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development (Cordaid) is seeking nominations from organisations actively involved in strengthening the linking between community and formal health and care services for people living with HIV. Cordaid wishes to award two organisations – one Civil Society Organisation and one Faith Based Organisation – showing leadership, commitment and vision in this field. Awards of €10,000 each will be presented to the award winning organisations.

Selection Criteria
The criteria for organisations selected are those who:
-       Display vision and leadership around linking community- and formal health and care services for people living with HIV
-       Provide evidence of substantial impact and/or success achieved in this field
-       Demonstrate innovative ways to strengthen the link community- and formal health and care services for people living with HIV
-       Demonstrate an active involvement of people affected and infected by HIV in programme development and implementation

-        Take into consideration sustainability (and scaling up) of their linking activities at local, national and/or regional levels (through lobby/advocacy/training)

Cordaid HIV and AIDS Award Amount
Awards of €10,000 each will be presented to the award winning organisations:
• 1 Civil Society Organisation (€10.000)
• 1 Faith Based Organisation (€10.000)

Award Delivery
The awards will be handed over to Award Winners on the 1st of December 2011 in the Netherlands at the National STI*HIV*SEX Conference. Award Winners will be invited to give presentations about their work while in the Netherlands.

Responsibilities of Awarded Organisations
The funds linked to the Award have to be used for activities strengthening linkages between community- and formal health and care services for people living with HIV, with a maximum of 7% administration costs. The funds will be made available upon receipt and approval of a detailed description of planned activities and budget (to be presented before January 31, 2012). Upon completion of the project, a brief report will be requested by Cordaid. Last date for submission of nominations is September 1, 2011

For more information and details, please visit: http://www.cordaidpartners.com/publications/?wave_id=cordaid!w+fNEDoZ35Hkyl1

****
(Call for Applications) IFHHRO Global Training of Trainers for Health Workers

Developing Human Rights Training Courses for Health Workers, Utrecht, the Netherlands 21 – 25 November 2011. Apply now for this training course!

Due to the nature of their profession health workers inevitably play a role in the protection and realisation of health-related human rights.
-What exactly does this role mean in practice?
-What do health workers need to know about human rights?
-How can human rights best be explained to health workers?
-What are ways to stimulate health workers to take up their role in relation to human rights?

These are the leading questions which will be addressed during the IFHHRO Global Training of Trainers on Developing Human Rights Training Courses for Health Workers.

At the end of the training, participants will:
  • have a practical understanding of a rights-based approach to health
  • have insight in the different dimensions of the human rights role of health workers
  • know how to stimulate health workers to undertake action in the field of health and human rights
  • be able to design and adapt human rights training materials for their own target group
  • be able to execute a structured, interactive human rights training course for health workers
So spread the word through your networks and apply for the 2011 Global Training of Trainers!

To download the application and to learn more, please visit: http://ifhhro.org/news-a-events/251-call-for-applications-ifhhro-global-training-of-trainers
****
(Resource) FrontlineSMS

About the Software
FrontlineSMS is award winning, free, open source software that turns a laptop and a mobile phone into a central communications hub. Once installed, the program enables users to send and receive text messages with groups of people through mobile phones. What you communicate is up to you, making FrontlineSMS useful in many different ways.
  • It does not require an Internet connection.
  • Attach a phone and SIM card, and pay your local operator per SMS as usual.
  • It stores all phone numbers and records all incoming and outgoing messages.
  • All data lives on your computer, not on servers controlled by someone else.
  • You can send messages to individuals or large groups, and reply individually – useful for fieldwork or during surveys.
  • It is easy to install and requires little or no training to use.
  • Developers can freely take the source code and add their own features.
  • It can be used anywhere in the world simply by switching the SIM card.

The current version of FrontlineSMS (1.6) comes with on-screen language support for English, Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bengali, German, Spanish, Finnish, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili and Chinese

What FrontlineSMS can do
So, what is FrontlineSMS? Well, FrontlineSMS turns a laptop – or desktop –

computer and a mobile phone or modem into a two-way group messaging hub. Since it works anywhere there's a mobile signal, it doesn't need the Internet, a major advantage for many grassroots NGOs. Once you have the software running on your computer, you can send messages to wide groups of people, and collect responses to any questions or surveys you might want to run, all via text message.

An introduction to FrontlineSMS from Ken Banks, kiwanja.net Founder
What can FrontlineSMS do for me?
Are you a locally- or internationally-based NGO looking at the potential to use mobile phone text messages to reach specific groups of individuals within a target community? Or to run an awareness raising campaign? Or to run a competition, or carry out a text-based survey? Or to simply keep in touch with your fieldworkers or staff?
FrontlineSMS is the complete text messaging solution for the non-profit sector:
> Create and manage all of your SMS-related contact groups
> Send and receive messages via special on-screen consoles
> Provides incoming and outgoing message history for each contact
> Engage with your contact groups – run surveys, competitions etc. via the SurveyManager
> Run your own text-based information service via the automated ReplyManager
> Export data to Excel and other programs
> No need to be on-line – works on any GSM network via your own PC or laptop

If you have already identified applications for text messaging within your organisation and are looking for a simple, comprehensive, affordable and complete entry-level system then you're in the right place. If you think text messaging could work for you but don't know where to start, and are looking to try a service without having to dig too deep into your pockets, then you're also in the right place.

Step-by-step guide
To access this guide, please
visit: http://www.frontlinesms.com/aboutthesoftware/frontlinesms-step-by-step/

Downloading the software
To download and get started, please
visit: http://www.frontlinesms.com/resources/download/

Resources for users
To access resources for users, please
visist: http://www.frontlinesms.com/resources/resources-for-users/

*The above information is taken from FrontlineSMS

website: http://www.frontlinesms.com/
****

Flip Cam Deals

Cisco has launched a new Flip Video donation program with TechSoup. Eligible nonprofits and libraries can now each request up to five bundles of MinoHD and UltraHD video cameras.

About the Cameras
With Flip Video cameras, you can take up to one hour of high-quality digital, high-definition video anywhere. These lightweight, pocket-sized cameras are ideal for documenting or sharing your organization's work in action. With one-button operation and flip-out USB arm, even staff or volunteers with little technical knowledge can record, edit, and upload video to the web.

  • Bundle of six MinoHD cameras (admin fee: $55)
  • Bundle of two UltraHD cameras plus a tripod (admin fee: $28)

For more information, please go here: http://forums.techsoup.org/cs/community/b/tsblog/archive/2011/07/15/flip-video-is-now-a-donation-program.aspx?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=npa
****

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.