

Dear friends,

In this week's Newsflash! we provide information regarding funding opportunities. The topic of focus in this week's resources is support for children living with elderly caregivers, also known as the skipped generation households.

We know that many of you are working with skipped generation households. Please feel free to share any tools, resources, program designs, or lessons you have learned through your work.

*"The measure of the greatness of a country is determined by: its treatment of its underprivileged, its treatment of its children, its treatment of its aged."*

-- Hubert Humphrey

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- (Call for Applications) EASSI: 2011 Young Women's Leadership Training Programme
- (Call for Nominations) Nestle Prize in Creating Shared Value
- (Call for Submissions) OECD Video Competition

- Background on Skipped Generation Households
- (Resource) Caring for the Elderly
- (Resource) Forgotten Families
- (Resource) Impact of Crises and HIV/AIDS
- (Resource) Salt, Soap, and Shoes for School - Evaluation Summary

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### **(Call for Applications) EASSI: 2011 Young Women's Leadership Training Programme**

Since the year 2000, EASSI has been running the Young Women's Leadership Programme, an internship programme that targets young women aged 18-35. The programme provides opportunities for learning, interacting and networking with women's organizations, with the aim of empowering and preparing the young women to support the women's movement. [http://www.eassi.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&gid=116&Itemid=299](http://www.eassi.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=116&Itemid=299)

**Deadline for applications: March 30, 2011.**

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(Call for Nominations) Nestlé, the world's leading food and nutrition company is offering the Nestlé Prize in Creating Shared Value 2012 to an NGO, individual or

a small business for an outstanding innovation or project in the area of water, nutrition or rural development. The Prize gives an opportunity for the project to become financially sustainable through an investment of up to US \$480,000 for scaling it up among other benefits. <http://www.nestle.com/CSV/CreatingSharedValueAtNestle/NestlePrize/Pages/NestlePrize.aspx>

**Deadline for Nominations: June 30, 2011**

Source Link: <http://www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/nestl-prize-outstanding-project-area-water-nutrition-rural-development#ixzz1EdrFxcQ1>  
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### Call for Applications) **OECD Video Competition**

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has launched the Young people's video competition on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Young people around the world are invited to submit a short video describing their vision of "Progress." The competition is open to young people (18-25 years) in every country worldwide. Three winners will be invited to the OECD Forum in May 2011, with travel, cost and accommodation and daily allowance for five

days. [http://www.oecd.org/document/20/0,3746,en\\_21571361\\_44315115\\_46513044\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/20/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_46513044_1_1_1_1,00.html)

**Deadline for Submission: March 1, 2011.**

Source Link: <http://www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/oced-celebrates-50th-anniversary-launching-video-competition#ixzz1Edthwi22>  
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### **Background on Skipped Generation Households**

Widely termed as **Skipped Generation Households (SGH)**, these are households where the grandparent is the primary guardian of a child. This is different from elderly-headed households, where the middle generation may still be present, but living within the household of a grandparent. A few facts regarding the role of grandparents in caring for vulnerable children:

1. **Grandparents are primary guardians for increasing percentage of**

**orphans:** Data from UNICEF shows that grandparents are increasingly the primary guardians for orphans and vulnerable children. In Namibia, data showed that in 1992 44 percent of orphans lived with a grandparent. That number had risen to 61 percent by the year 2000. The Zambia Situation Analysis also showed a similar growth trend. In 1992, 20 percent of children lived with grandparents. By 2002 that percentage had increased to 33 percent. In Zimbabwe, more than half of orphaned children live with grandparents.

**2. Children Prefer to Live with Grandparents:** A study by Helpage International, Overseas Development Institute, UNICEF and UNAIDS, showed that children living with grandparents are more likely to be looked after lovingly and treated fairly compared to children with other relatives. The study also found that children would rather live with grandparents than other relatives. In Zimbabwe, the study showed that children taken in by grandparents are less likely to be separated than when they are placed with other family members.

**3. As Grandparents Age, Children Take Increased Burden:** The age of the grandparent does, however, affect well-being of the household. In households with older grandparents who show a decrease in quality of their health and physical capacity, there is less income in the households and more burden placed on children to take on household duties but also to earn an income or find food. Elderly-led households face an increased risk of poverty. This has an impact on the children's health, nutrition, school attendance and opportunity to play.

**4. Few Organizations Have Programs Responding to Needs of Elderly Caregivers:** Findings show that although NGOs report that grandparents are more reliable in care of children, few of them provided programs to support elderly caregivers. For example few organizations provide support and training for livelihoods for elderly caregivers, more often targeting youth or other adults.

**5. Older People Also Left Out of HIV, AIDS Care, Prevention and Treatment:** Data from UNAIDS and from national surveys show that a number of older people are living with AIDS, yet they are often left out of health services and support programs.

**6. Older people socially isolated:** As they grow older, and face death of their children, older people are vulnerable to social isolation. This is especially true as they become more frail and less physically mobile. This can increase their vulnerability to emotional stress and abuse.

**7. Challenges in Taking on a Parenting Role:** When grandparents find themselves taking on a parenting role in their old age, they face some challenges. The generational gap between them and their grandchildren means

they may not always find it easy to relate to each other. It also means adjusting the relationship from one of doting grandparent to disciplinarian. But at the same time, the child also provides care to the grandparent as much as the parent is providing care to the child. Support for navigating these challenges strengthens the household and the relationship.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Better Data is Needed: There is a lot that is unknown about skipped generation households. With better data, there is increased understanding of the needs of skipped generation households, which can inform program and policy design.
2. Household assessments help to increase understanding of the factors creating vulnerability in a household and understanding the inter-generational aspects when there is a grandparent as primary guardian/caregiver.
3. Social protection programs for the elderly, in the form of pensions or cash transfer programs help to alleviate poverty for grandparents. This has a positive effect on health, nutrition, school attendance for children in the household. Social protection programs should be linked to the government in order to be sustainable.
4. HIV/AIDS programs need to include care, support and treatment for the elderly.
5. Creating support for grandparents through support groups, or community support mechanisms reduces. This is important to the mental health of the elderly caregivers.
6. Livelihoods programs for the elderly should be designed to tap into their skills and knowledge, but also to accommodate their particular vulnerabilities and physical capacity.
7. Facilitating Dialogue on inter-generational relationships helps grandparents and grandchildren to find constructive ways to overcome some of the challenges that are part of their relationship.

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Here are a few publications with information on the elderly and skipped generation households:

(Resource): **Caring for the Elderly**

This brief provides an overview of the HIV/AIDS related risks for people over the

age of 50 and the reality of being excluded from the HIV/AIDS response. The brief provides recommendations of how to respond to their needs.

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(Resource): **Forgotten Families**

A publication by International AIDS Alliance and HelpAge International provides an overview of the issues identified by older people and orphans and vulnerable children themselves; examples of community-based programs that are improving the lives of older people and orphans and vulnerable children; recommendations that will help to prioritize orphans and their carers within HIV/AIDS and wider development policies, programs and research.

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(Resource): **Impact of Crises and HIV/AIDS**

A summary of research conducted by Helpage International and Overseas Development Institute. The research reveals that the limited livelihood opportunities for 'skipped generation' households increases their vulnerability and reduce their ability to cope and recover from crises. It suggests that humanitarian and development agencies assess intergenerational issues and incorporate them into programming at all stages.

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(Resource): **Salt, Soap and Shoes for School - Evaluation Summary**

This report summarises the evaluation findings of the KwaWazee project, supporting older people and their dependents in Tanzania's Kagera region. It shows that even small pensions are effective in bringing stability and dignity to the lives of older people and will greatly improve the well-being of the grandchildren in their care.

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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/newsflash.php>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at [newsletter@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).