

25 April, 2011

Dear Friends,

This episode covers a mix of topics, from 'care and support' to family farmers to the UN Women's strategic plan. Though they seem disjointed, it is always humbling to realize how interconnected most of these issues really are. We are grateful that organizations like yours are on the ground, flexibly facing multiple challenges and facets at once. Hopefully these resources can enhance your work in some way. Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Firelight Team

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(Call for submissions) Project Inspire: 5 Minutes to Change the World

Project Inspire: 5 Minutes to Change the World is a worldwide community initiative created on the idea of collaboration and inspiration. We hope socially-aware youth from around the world will pitch their ideas - as a 5 minute video or written submission - on how they want to make a difference and help empower women and girls in Asia/Pacific, Middle East and Africa.

We'll help you make your winning idea to empower women a reality with a US\$25,000 grant. Plus, we're offering a special grant of US\$10,000 to the best financial literacy/livelihood program aimed at helping women. Project Inspire is made possible from the support of UN Women Singapore and MasterCard but we need your help to raise awareness for disadvantaged women and girls.

We'd love it if you could help spread the word by inviting your friends to support the Project Inspire movement on Facebook. Inspiration can come from the

simplest of ideas and smallest moments of kindness.

For more information, go here: <http://www.5minutestochangetheworld.org/about>

(Call for applications) Women PeaceMakers Program and Peace Writers

The Women PeaceMakers Program documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. Women on the frontlines of efforts to end violence and secure a just peace seldom record their experiences, activities and insights as generally there is no time, or, perhaps, no formal education that would help women record their work. The Women PeaceMakers Program offers an opportunity for women leaders who want to document, share and build upon their unique peacemaking stories.

For more information, go
here: http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/women_peace_makers/

(Call for nominations) Nestle Prize in Creating Shared Value

The Nestlé Prize in Creating Shared Value is awarded in alternate years to an individual, a non-government organisation (NGO) or a small business to reward an outstanding innovation or project in the area of water, nutrition or rural development.

Do you want to see your innovation or project scale up?
Do you have a focus in Water, Nutrition or Rural Development?
Do you have the ambition to see your project become financially sustainable?
Are you looking for funds to get there?

If the answer is yes, the Nestlé Prize in Creating Shared Value is for you. The 2012 Nestlé CSV Prize nomination period is running from 11 February to 30 June 2011.

For more information, go
here: <http://www.nestle.com/CSV/CreatingSharedValueAtNestle/NestlePrize/Pages/NestlePrize.aspx>

(Article) The war on Africa's family famers
The war on Africa's family farmers
Joan Baxter
Pambazuka 2011-04-06, Issue 524

The opening line in the World Bank's 'World Development Report 2008 — Agriculture for Development' goes like this: 'An African woman bent under the sun, weeding sorghum in an arid field with a hoe, a child strapped on her back— a vivid image of rural poverty.'[1]

With all due respect to the team of World Bank experts who put together this extensive (and no doubt very expensive) 365-page report, there are problems with this picture. Conspicuously absent are the woman's family members and other women with whom she may be chatting and laughing as she weeds. And she may be quite happy to have her baby snuggled against her back – where better for both mother and child?

But its lack of context and narrow focus are not the only problems with this World Bank 'vivid image of rural poverty'. It's a one-dimensional stereotype concocted to arouse pity rather than inspire the respect that Africa's farmers deserve. It ignores their intricate knowledge of local resources, the crop varieties they have developed to cope with a wide range of soil and climatic conditions, their complex and resilient agro-ecological family farming systems. It misses the bigger picture, the myriad other crops that the woman undoubtedly cultivates on a very agro-biodiverse family farm, the valuable trees that she and her family depend on for income, food, fibre, medicine, wood and that the soils depend on for fertility and protection. It perpetuates the false notion that Africa's family farms are inefficient and non-productive.

For the whole article, go
here: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/features/72302>

(Article) The Peace Corps in a Smaller World: A New Model for the Next 50 Years

Charles Kenny takes a look at the Peace Corps, fifty years after its founding. Demand from developing countries for volunteers outstrips the Peace Corps' capacity to respond. Nonetheless, he argues, the agency operates on a model designed for a very different world, and an evolutionary change in that model from a government-operated program to a grant-making system closer to the Fulbright scholarships could result in a higher effectiveness in meeting the Peace Corps' fundamental goals over its next fifty years of life.

For the article, go
here: http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424955/?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_04052011&

(Website) Huairou On-line Resource Library

Women and Human Settlements is currently developing a collection of documents, articles, news stories, research, case studies and other documents. You can access resource pages on each theme of the portal here by following the links below.

For more, go here: <http://www.womenandhumansettlements.org/global/resource-and-information-152.html>

(Resource) Hesperian 'publishing for community health and empowerment'

Hesperian is a non-profit publisher of books and newsletters for community-based health care. Our first book, *Where There Is No Doctor*, is considered to be one of the most accessible and widely used community health books in the world.

Simply written and heavily illustrated, Hesperian books are designed so that people with little formal education can understand, apply and share health information. Developed collaboratively with health workers and community members from around the world, our books and newsletters address the underlying social, political, and economic causes of poor health and suggest ways groups can organize to improve health conditions in their communities. In addition, Hesperian relies on a multi-faceted distribution strategy to ensure our materials reach those who need them most.

Hesperian publishes all of our books in English and Spanish and our open copyright policy facilitates adaptations and translations into many other languages. Our books are available for purchase or free download.

For their online resources, go here: http://www.hesperian.org/publications_download.php

(Resource) HIV Clinical Resource: Prevention with Positives: Integrating HIV Prevention into HIV Primary Care

The goals of preventing HIV transmission include both decreasing transmission from those known to be infected and preventing those with established HIV infection from acquiring new strains of HIV (superinfection) or other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). HIV/AIDS care systems should include prevention as part of comprehensive HIV care and should partner with primary care systems and community prevention providers to promote coordinated health care and prevention services for newly diagnosed patients.

This chapter focuses on the importance of ongoing secondary prevention efforts, sometimes referred to as “prevention with positives.” HIV prevention requires a combination of strategies that includes medical, behavioral, programmatic,

individual, and community-level interventions.

For strategies for use by clinicians and clinic staff to prevent HIV transmission, go here: <http://www.hivguidelines.org/clinical-guidelines/hiv-prevention/secondary-prevention-of-hiv-transmission/>

(Resource) 'Care and Support: the forgotten pillar of the HIV response'

UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development presents this resource called 'Care and Support: the forgotten pillar of the HIV response'. This publication focuses on the provision of care and support in resource-poor countries. It highlights where care and support is provided and who is involved, what the need is for care and support and its effect, and looks at the link between the care and support and other elements of the HIV response.

For further information, please contact the Consortium's Communications Manager Richard Walker at Richard@aidconsortium.org.uk who we thank for this update. (Note: this publication is quite large and may take a while to download)

For the resource and more information, go here: http://www.aidconsortium.org.uk/Care&Support/Care&Support_ForgottenPillar.htm

(Call for contributions) UN Women on-line strategic plan

Below is a letter from Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign.

They are announcing that the UN Women strategic plan draft document is on-line for the next two weeks. Feel free to access the document and contribute your comments before the draft moves forward.

Dear all,

The UN Women On-line draft document on elements of the strategic plan will go on-line today Monday April 25th (<http://www.unwomen.org/>).

Those who wish to submit comments on it can do so until next Monday May 2nd.

Unfortunately this draft will only be available from UN Women on line in English (<http://www.unwomen.org/>).

Attached also is the UN Women paper, "Summary of Strategic Plan Consultations" - the document that UN Women is using to inform the Executive Board and NGOs of what they learned from the consultations. It was also

background for the elements of a draft strategic plan which they presented to the Executive Board on April 20th and which the

Executive Board will discuss again in NY on April 27th if you wish to get comments to your government. The final

draft of the plan must be finished by May 16th in order to be translated and go to the Executive Board meeting the last week of June for its approval.

This is the framework of the global strategic plan and civil society can expect that the regional and national level plans for UN Women will begin to be developed around July-September. Please be in touch with UN Women offices on the ground to get included in that process when it begins.

Please share this summary from the consultations and elements of the strategic plan draft with

constituents and let them know about the on-line process.

Best, Charlotte Bunch

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GEAR Campaign

For more information, go here: <http://www.gearcampaign.org>

or here: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

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.