6, June, 2011

Dear Friends,

This week the Newsflash! is about *Theory of Change* and why it is important for every organization to create one. Being able to explain your theory of change will allow you to see the relationship between your organization's impact and the actions and resources required to achieve it. Illustrating the way that you achieve your mission is a key component to successful leadership; being able to clearly explain your path to change will help your organization internally as well increase your opportunities for funding.

So, if you do not already have a theory of change but want one, or have one but want to improve it, read on!

We hope that this week's newsflash will provide you with useful information and resources.

Sincerely,

Firelight Team

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-- (Call for Applications) Synergos Senior Fellows Network: Fellowship opportunity for civil society leaders

-- (Call for Concept Notes) Concept notes invited for USAID's Global Development Alliance

-- (Call for Nominations) Ashoka
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(Call for Applications) Synergos Senior Fellows Network: Fellowship opportunity for civil society leaders

The Synergos Institute – an international nonprofit organization that works with partners to mobilize resources and bridge social and economic divides to reduce poverty and increase equity around the world – has issued a call for applications

for its Synergos Senior Fellows Network program that support and opportunities for enhancing leadership skills for the Fellows to become catalysts and play a major role in partnerships that address problems of poverty and social injustice.

Becoming a Synergos Senior Fellow connects you to a remarkable community of social activists, entrepreneurs, and investors. Members of this community help one another bring their work and their leadership to a higher level, which allows them to take on highly complex and dynamic problems such as public health systems, education reform or child malnutrition. They learn together, inspire and support one another, form inter-institutional linkages, spread best practices, gain international exposure and perspectives and connect to other Synergos Networks.

The Fellowship lasts three years and the Fellows are expected to take part in activities while simultaneously performing their ongoing professional responsibilities. This includes attending Senior Fellows global and regional events, being available for peer consulting, exchange and field service, and contributing to the shared body of knowledge. Synergos covers the costs of the activities during the three years, but Synergos Fellows remain part of the Fellows Network after completion of the three year program.

Who Should Apply?

Synergos is looking for exceptional civil society leaders who:

   * Present a compelling vision for solving complex, systemic problems of poverty, equity and social injustice.

   * Are committed to working in partnership.

   * Have a demonstrable commitment to the participation of and accountability to the community they serve, as well as credibility and legitimacy from that community to speak authoritatively about its issues.

   * Are committed to developing and enhancing their leadership qualities.

The deadline to apply to this opportunity is 1 July 2011.

For more information, visit this link:

http://www.fundsforngos.org/fellowships-2/synergos-senior-fellows-network-fellowship-opportunity-civil-society-leaders/#ixzz1OVwUn1S7

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(Call for Concept Notes)*[1] Concept notes invited for USAID's Global Development Alliance

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking concept notes for the FY2011 Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement.

The Global Development Alliance is an innovative public-private alliance model for improving social and economic conditions in developing countries. It invites interest from prospective partner organizations to form innovative Global Development Alliances that contribute significantly towards the achievement of results for USAID's key initiatives addressing issues of global health, climate change, food security, water, technology and innovation.

USAID is keen to support Alliance partners who will bring significant new resources, ideas, technologies and/or partners to address significant development problems and challenges. "Successful proposals will bring at least a 1:1 resource leveraging to address Agency initiatives or other significant development challenges within USAID's manageable interest. and will clearly articulate the unique value that the private sector brings to a particular development challenge or Agency initiative, such as helping to increase the scale, efficiency, effectiveness and/or sustainability of an initiative."

Through these partnerships, USAID seeks to support high-priority initiatives currently in operation such as Feed the Future (food security), Global Climate Change and the Global Health Initiative. In addition to these, there are other areas under which alliances can propose projects. These areas are:

  * Anti-corruption/democracy and governance/civil society strengthening

  * Humanitarian assistance

  * Disaster preparedness, response and recovery

  * Economic policy and trade and regulatory reform

  * Information technology

Concept notes for discussion have to be submitted to the local USAID Mission located in one's own country. Based upon the review of the concept notes, full applications will be requested from the selected applicants. The concept notes will be accepted through 30 September 2011. More information at this link.

For the benefit of NGOs in developing countries, we have tried to simplify the concept of USAID's Global Development Alliance and how an organization can apply for it.

For more information, visit the following links:

[Simplifying the concept of USAID's Global Development Alliance](#)

[How to submit the concept note for USAID's Global Development Alliance](#)

[Example projects supported under USAID's Global Development Alliance](#)

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(Call for Nominations) Ashoka

Support Social Entrepreneurs

Ashoka invests in people. We search the world for leading social entrepreneurs and at the launch stage, provide these entrepreneurs—Ashoka Fellows—a living stipend for an average of three years, allowing them to focus full-time on building their institutions and spreading their ideas. We also provide our Fellows with a global support network of their peers and partnerships with professional consultants. Once elected to the Ashoka Fellowship, Fellows benefit from this community for life.

Venture

Venture is the mechanism through which Ashoka finds and supports the world's leading social entrepreneurs. Ashoka was founded on the Venture model 25 years ago, and Venture remains the heart of Ashoka—the work upon which all of our efforts depend.

We believe that the growth of a global citizen sector begins with the work of individual social entrepreneurs. These entrepreneurs drive the sector forward, responding to new challenges and changing needs. They are rooted in local communities but think and act globally. They are the ultimate role models and the pillars of Ashoka's vision of Everyone a Changemaker™.

To read more about Ashoka Fellows, [click here](#).

To nominate a fellow, [click here](#).

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(Resource) TechSoup's Donation Program

Many of the donation programs at TechSoup allow organizations to receive a fixed quantity of technology products between July 1 and June 30 of each year (TechSoup's fiscal year). Then, on July 1, organizations again become eligible to place requests for these products.

TechSoup's current fiscal year began on July 1, 2010, and you can place a request for products from any of the partners listed in the left column below

anytime before June 30, 2011. You will then become eligible for donations again on July 1, 2011, since that is the start of a new donation year for these programs.

NOTE: Your organization may be eligible to place more than one donation request in a fiscal year from different donation programs, because each program has its own eligibility guidelines.

For more information, go here: http://www.techsoup.org/stock/fiscal.asp?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=npa
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(Resource) Engage and organize volunteers with VolunteerMatters

Manage your volunteer operations and outreach with VolunteerMatters' cloud-based service (admin fee: $69). Administrators can coordinate a database of contact information for up to 1,000 volunteers, track their attendance, and send group emails. Volunteers can search for opportunities, sign up for assignments, and manage their personal profile information using any web browser.

For more information, go here: http://home.techsoup.org/Stock/Pages/Category.aspx?category=VolunteerMatters&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=npa
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(Article) Turkey's Changemakers: Human Rights in Mental Health Initiative makes a difference for its community based approach in mental healthcare
Friday, May 20, 2011 Daily News & Economic Review
Hurriyet Daily News

On May 12, Sabancı Foundation's "Turkey's Changemakers" hosted the Human Rights in Mental Health Initiative, a civil society organization that aims to get the rights of mental health patients recognized by the society and encourage their participation in social life in Turkey.

Published in 2008, the "Human Rights Report on Mental Health in Turkey" points out the fact that there are 450 million people around the world with mental health issues. While 30 percent of all countries in the world do not spend any money on mental healthcare, 20 percent of all countries only allocate less than 1 percent of their budget for mental healthcare. The situation is not any better in Turkey. According to the same report, there are 800,000 people in Turkey diagnosed with schizophrenia. While 39 percent of them fight their disease by consulting a psychiatrist, 33 percent consult specialized doctors, 20 percent practitioner doctors and 3 percent religious healers.

The Human Rights in Mental Health Initiative was established in 2006 by a group of mental health patients' relatives and professionals working in this field. Their main objective is to adapt community-based mental healthcare model, which has been implemented in Europe for more than 30 years, in Turkey. The initiative argues that if not well managed, the hospitalization process isolates mental health patients from rest of society and therefore causes repetitive hospitalization. In a community-based mental health model, on the other hand, the rights of patients are taken into account, patients practice participation to decision-making processes and therefore receive their treatments in a small community rather than a hospital.

For this goal, the initiative's members inform patients about their rights, while trying to raise the state and the private sector's awareness on the topic. The initiative also provides patients with one-on-one consultancy, psychological and legal support through various educational programs. Professional and volunteer members of the initiative also hold meetings, conferences and presentations across Turkey to raise awareness on community-based mental healthcare model in the community at large. Through various programs the Human Rights in Mental Health Initiative has reached approximately 1,200 people today. "It is not like the world outside; I am respected here, I feel like a human in here," says a mental health patient and a member of the initiative.

For the article, go here: http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=turkey8217s-changemakers-human-rights-in-mental-health-initiative-makes-a-difference-for-its-community-based-approach-in-mental-healthcare-2011-05-20&utm_source=Open+Society+Institute&utm_campaign=e01fa369b8-health-20110526&utm_medium=email
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(Resource) Theory of Change

What is a theory of change?

• A theory of change defines and illustrates all of the building blocks that are required to achieve a long-term goal;

• *"Theory of change explains how the organization's intended impact will actually happen, the cause-and-effect logic by which organizational and financial resources will be converted into the desired social results"* (Colby, Stone and Carttar, 2004, p.11);

• A theory of change maps the way an organization intends to achieve its mission; it identifies the outputs (a thing) and outcomes (a change in behavior)--both intermediary and final--and the assumptions and resources that influence them;

Why create a theory of change?

• Being able to create and explain your organization's theory of change will allow you to have a better understanding of the roadmap your organization takes to get to its end goal;

• A theory of change allows an organization to link the needs of the beneficiary population to its solutions for meeting those needs, to analyze the relationships and connections among them, to identify weaknesses and make improvements, and to measure progress;

• Stakeholders value theories of change as an important step in the program planning and evaluation processes because they show a commonly understood vision, steps to achieving it, and what factors will be used to measure progress along the way.

How to create a theory of change:

A theory of change requires a meeting in which your organization creates its theory of change *together.* Creating a theory of change requires that you have knowledge of:

The beneficiary's needs; What is required to meet those needs (resources); Your organization's solutions to those needs; The measurable outcome of those solutions**.**

While there is no fixed template for a theory of change, it is recommended to build up from assumptions, to primary and intermediary inputs (interventions), to primary and intermediary outputs, and ultimately to outcomes (the final goal that demonstrates a change in behavior). Following the logic of the flow chart enables organizations to see the inconsistencies, gaps and structural flaws, and to readjust the framework accordingly.

For more information, click on the links below from www.theoryofchange.org

[Theory of Change Background](#) (Basics, Origins, Benefits, FAQs)

[Theory of Change Process](#) (Overview, Example, Glossary, When to Use)

*Although a theory of change flowchart looks linear, it is important to remember that development and change are not simple, linear processes; rather they are highly complex and influenced by constantly changing internal and external environments. It is important to keep in mind the complex dynamics that shape your organization's work.
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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 newletter@firelightfoundation.org.

[1] Concept Note