

November 7, 2011

Dear friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call for Nominations) The Humanitarian Water and Food Award 2012
(Call for Applications) OHCHR Call for Applications to the Special Fund
(Call for Proposals) Nordic Climate Facility's Third Call for Proposals
(Article) Contraceptive Used in Africa May Double Risk of H.I.V.
(Article) Africa Blossoms: A Continent On the Verge of an Agricultural Revolution
(Article) Girls are key to food security in poor countries, report says
(Report) Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies.

(Call for Nominations) The Humanitarian Water and Food Award 2012
The Humanitarian Water and Food Award acknowledges and promotes sustainable ways to bring water and food to all people. If you are involved in an initiative that sustainably provides food and/or water in areas where previously there was insecurity, then you can apply to this opportunity.

The Award is given at a prize ceremony held every year in Copenhagen, Denmark. All finalists are invited to the ceremony where the winner is announced. The winner receives the Award statuette as well as prizes provided by the sponsors.

Nominees will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Innovativeness: Definition of problem/Solution
- Sustainability: Will the solution last? How is it governed/managed?
- Local ownership/Empowerment: Who owns the problem and the solution?
- Replicability: Could it be transferred elsewhere?
- Actual or potential impact: How many people benefit from the solution?

For more go to: <https://waterandfoodaward.wordpress.com/we-are-now-accepting-applications-for-the-water-and-food-award-2012/>

OHCHR will accept project applications from eligible applicants aimed at implementing recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) after a visit to a State party.

Eligible applicants include State Parties who requested the SPT to publish their country visit reports and National Preventive Mechanisms.

In addition, applications may be submitted as well by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI), if fully compliant with the Paris Principles and by Non-Governmental organizations (NGO), in particular if the proposed projects are implemented in cooperation with State Parties and/or NPMs.

Applicants may request grants of up to US\$ 20,000, for project applications implemented between 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012.

In 2011, four thematic priorities have been established:

- Notifications of fundamental rights to detainees in a language which they can understand
- Improving recreational and/or vocational activities for juveniles in detention
- Basic training programmes for detention personnel (with the inclusion of a focus on health care)
- Any other specific recommendation in the visit reports that details a pressing and compelling need.

Deadline for submissions: November 30, 2011

For more go to: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/opcat/SpecialFund.htm>

(Call for Proposals) Nordic Climate Facility's Third Call for Proposals

The Nordic Climate Facility has issued the third call for proposals on “innovative low-cost climate solutions with a focus on local business development in eligible developing countries.” The Nordic Climate Facility aims to promote the transfer of technology, know-how and innovative ideas between the Nordic countries and low-income countries facing climate change challenges. The main goal is to bolster the capabilities of low-income countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change challenges and implement sustainable development measures which will lead to the reduction of poverty.

The Nordic Development Fund (NDF) has provided a total of EUR 12 million under the first two calls for proposals under the NCF. The third call for proposals launched in October 2011 has been granted

EUR 6 million by NDF for the theme Innovative low-cost climate solutions with a focus on local

business development.

Financing can be granted to partnerships between Nordic institutions, organisations, companies, or authorities, and qualified local partners in eligible low-income countries. The application should be submitted by the Nordic entity.

The eligible low-income countries for the NCF programme are:

Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Applications shall be submitted in two phases: Concept Phase and Final Phase.

Deadline for submission: January 16, 2012

For more go

to: http://www.nefco.org/en/news/nordic_climate_facility_launches_third_call_for_proposals

(Article) Contraceptive Used in Africa May Double Risk of H.I.V.

The most popular contraceptive for women in eastern and southern Africa, a hormone shot given every three months, appears to double the risk the women will become infected with H.I.V., according to a large study published Monday. And when it is used by H.I.V.-positive women, their male partners are twice as likely to become infected than if the women had used no contraception.

The findings potentially present an alarming quandary for women in Africa. Hundreds of thousands of them suffer injuries, bleeding, infections and even death in childbirth from unintended pregnancies. Finding affordable and convenient contraceptives is a pressing goal for international health authorities.

But many countries where pregnancy rates are highest are also ravaged by H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS. So the evidence suggesting that the injectable contraceptive has biological properties that may make women and men more vulnerable to H.I.V. infection is particularly troubling.

Injectable hormones are very popular. About 12 million women between the ages of 15 and 49 in sub-Saharan Africa, roughly 6 percent of all women in that age group, use them. In the United States, it is 1.2 million, or 3 percent of women using contraception. While the study involved only African women, scientists said biological effects would probably be the same for all women. But they

emphasized that concern was greatest in Africa because the risk of H.I.V. transmission from heterosexual sex was so much higher there than elsewhere.

For more go to:

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/health/04hiv.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all

(Article) Africa Blossoms: A Continent On the Verge of an Agricultural Revolution

To those who think of Ethiopia primarily as a place of hunger, the idea that the country's first yuppies are food traders will come as a surprise. But much has changed in the quarter-century since Live Aid. A nation that was once the focus of a multimillion-dollar famine-relief effort is now home to a trading floor — the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX) — that sold \$1 billion in coffee, sesame, wheat, maize, peas and haricot beans last year.

The change is emblematic of a much broader transition taking place across Africa: the evolution from subsistence to commercial agriculture. The implications for the continent are radical. Seven out of 10 Africans live off the land. Commercializing agriculture — increasing the scale and profitability of farming — would spur meaningful participation in an economy, often for the first time, by 700 million people. Moving from subsistence farming to more competitive, scalable agriculture could spell the end of chronic poverty on the continent. Studies by the International Food Policy Research Institute and the World Bank suggest that every 1% rise in agricultural income per capita reduces the number of people in extreme poverty by 0.6% to 1.8%. Moreover, while aid agencies warn that high food prices fall hardest on the poor, high prices only sharpen the opportunity for Africa's farmers — if they can manage to hold on to enough of the profits. "This is huge," says ECX chief executive officer Eleni Gabre-Madhin. "This is catalytic. It affects millions. It touches every part of the economy."

The world has had agricultural revolutions before, and their effects can be profound. The domestication of plants and animals 13,000 years ago was a prerequisite for civilization. In 16th century Britain, enclosure, mechanization, crop rotation and selective breeding produced the surplus and the spare workforce that drove the Industrial Revolution. India's Green Revolution, which introduced irrigation, fertilizer, pesticide and high-yield seeds in the late 1960s and the 1970s, ended widespread famine in that country and turned it into a rice exporter.

Now it is Africa's turn. The continent's economies are based on industrial commodities: gold, oil and gas, diamonds, minerals and timber. But much of the wealth from these sectors, which are capital- but not always labor-intensive, has gone to corrupt governments or multinational companies rather than Africans. Food could be different. With just a bit more capital, better infrastructure,

technological help in the form of things like exchanges that create larger markets, and better planning around development and aid, farmers could cash in. Certainly, growing global demand is on their side. Just as higher oil prices have made exploration of difficult-to-extract reserves in Siberia and the deepest oceans economically viable, so sharply rising food prices are making African agriculture look more attractive. Global food prices are up 50% in the past two years, and the World Bank has projected that global food demand will jump by half in 20 years, ensuring they will remain high.

For more go

to: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2097417,00.html#ixzz1bq49Y4di>

(Article) Girls are key to food security in poor countries, report says

In a dusty field in Kitui, eastern Kenya, farmers are being taught how to construct small, semi-circular barriers of earth that control the flow of water, slowing its runoff.

Strikingly, of the 90 farmers, few are men. The rest are women. It is a common sight in rural areas of Kenya and South Sudan, as most smallholder farmers are women. The men have gone to look for work in the towns and cities, leaving the women to tend to the crops. At bore holes – deep wells – it's the same story. Women or young girls have walked for miles to come and fetch water, a time-consuming process. Not only do they have to walk long distances, they may have to wait – an hour is not uncommon – for their turn.

The role of women and adolescent girls is spelt out in a report released on Friday by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, *Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies* (pdf). Its key point is that adolescent girls and women are the key to unlocking the full potential of agricultural development in poor countries and ensuring food security.

For more go to: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/oct/07/girls-key-food-security-report?newsfeed=true>

(Report) *Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies*.

TAKE ACTION FOR RURAL GIRLS

1. Expand opportunities for rural adolescent girls to attend secondary school.

Nationally mandate and provide funds for universal primary and secondary education. Make schools girl friendly—including increasing safety standards, improving educational facilities, and employing more female teachers in rural

areas—to support completion of primary and secondary school. Improve the quality of teaching and relevance of rural school curriculum. Provide incentives to parents to keep girls in school to help offset costs. Enhance adult literacy programs in rural areas to increase school enrollment among girls.

2. Equip rural adolescent girls to be entrepreneurs, workers, and managers in the rural economy and beyond.

Develop and promote time-saving technologies so girls can both attend school and focus on skill development. Incorporate practical knowledge and skill-building programs into both formal and nonformal rural economic development initiatives and education. Empower girls to be nontraditional extension agents, equipping them to offer agricultural, health, education, and adult literacy training to their families and communities. Offer innovation awards and incentives for creation of girl-friendly and supportive technologies. Support organizations, policies, and legal frameworks that eliminate discrimination against female workers and that support equal pay, safety, and security for working adolescent girls and women.

3. Prepare rural adolescent girls to be major stakeholders in agriculture and natural resource management.

Include adolescent girls in country-level agriculture investment plans. Ensure equitable inheritance and land rights for adolescent girls and women by supporting efforts to change and enforce relevant national and customary laws. Increase adolescent girls' access to assets such as financing and agricultural inputs. Encourage donors to disproportionately dedicate climate change adaptation and/or mitigation monies targeting natural resource management to programs that ensure participation of girls.

4. Empower and provide opportunities for rural adolescent girls to have an active voice in household, community, and national decision making.

Provide “safe spaces” and youth development programs—both girl-only and girls and boys—to build confidence and skills, develop peer connections, and provide mentoring. Support platforms for rural girls to participate in public dialogue and develop civic leadership skills. Use radio and television to inform and empower girls. Create more opportunities for girls' mobile phone ownership and Internet access.

5. Provide rural adolescent girls with comprehensive health information and services.

Integrate adolescent health as a priority in national systems and policies. Increase rural girls' access to information and services using schools and community centers as entry points. Encourage growth of highly nutritious indigenous foods, local manufacturing of vitamins, local food processing, and addition of micronutrients. Provide greater services to young expecting mothers.

6. Improve rural adolescent girls' safety and security.

Educate men and boys about the value of girls. Strengthen local and national practices for bringing perpetrators to justice. Educate girls on existing laws and offer services to those affected by violence. Find travel and time-saving solutions to girls' walking.

7. Count girls and measure progress.

Record all births and disaggregate household and population data by age; gender; marital, educational, and socioeconomic status; and geographic location. Establish benchmarks by developing or refining specific measures for recommended actions and then report on progress at international and regional public venues biannually for the next ten years.

BECAUSE:

Women and girls living in rural areas of the developing world play a vital yet unrecognized role as agricultural producers and hold the potential to be agents of food and nutritional security and economic growth. In the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where a significant portion of Gross Domestic Product is dependent on agriculture, women and girls living in rural areas comprise nearly half of the region's total agricultural workers. However, less than 10 percent of total official development assistance for agriculture explicitly addresses gender issues, and only 33 percent of girls in rural areas of the developing world attend primary school. As the international community renews its focus on the importance of agriculture and rural economic development, the success of its efforts will be significantly enhanced if it includes a major emphasis on rural adolescent girls.

Rural adolescent girls are positioned to become powerful agents of change in their communities and nations.

- They are many of the world's current and future farmers who will help increase the productivity of the land and serve as protectors of precious natural resources.
- They are the untapped talent pool that will support development of the broader rural economy, helping to raise family incomes and lift communities out of poverty.
- They are decision makers who will help tackle the economic, social, political, and environmental challenges of their rural homes.
- They are the mothers of tomorrow with the power to break the cycle of poverty and change the lives of their children.

For more read:

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/files/Studies_Publications/TaskForcesandStudies/Girls_and_Rural_Economies.aspx

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.