Call for workshop participants

Adolescent Girls Programming, Capacity Building, and Cross-Learning Workshop

Dear Colleague:

I’m writing to you to engage your interest in participating in a workshop entitled “Adolescent Girls Programming, Capacity Building, and Cross-Learning Workshop.” We are extending this invitation to sub-Saharan African NGOs in selected countries who have strong interest in developing effective programming for adolescent girls. We would like to invite your organization to submit a Letter of Interest to participate in this workshop, which is scheduled for the middle of November 2008 (tentatively November 10–14, arriving the day before) in Nairobi, Kenya.

What kinds of organizations are we looking for?
Out of the applicant organizations, we will select 10 organizations (2 representatives each) to participate in an intensive 4 or 5 day work session. We are looking for in-country partner organizations that

- are already working with girls with a vision to expand that work, or...
- are committed to initiating adolescent girls programs within their work;
- are seeking to refine their ability to design programs that reach the most vulnerable adolescent girls, including girls who are:
  - at risk of child marriage
  - not living with parents
  - living in the path of HIV
  - engaged in unsafe work
  - out of school
  - migrants to peri-urban environments
- are willing to openly discuss draft proposals and their work with peer organizations;
- are willing to offer their best ideas to others for working with and on behalf of girls.

The workshop and steps to preparation
The workshop will focus on cross-learning, on developing proposals to either start new or to strengthen existing girls programs, and on sharing program challenges, while offering participants access to an experienced faculty. The faculty will serve as partners and mentors to participants before, during, and

Workshop sponsors
Kenya Adolescent Girls Learning Network
Population Council
International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH-K), Mombasa, Kenya

Letters of interest are due to Jill Benson by 30 April 2008 and should be e-mailed to jbenson@popcouncil.org. Jill can be reached at +1 212 339 0682. We will notify by 22 May 2008.

The Population Council has extensive experience in policy analysis and the design and evaluation of interventions that simultaneously build the health, social and economic assets of vulnerable adolescent girls.

The International Centre for Reproductive Health – Kenya (ICRH-K), an African NGO, focuses its work on the intersection of community-based research and health care services, with a focus on gender-based rights.

The Kenya Adolescent Girls Learning Network is an
after the workshop, assisting with designing, monitoring, and evaluating adolescent girls programs.

The steps to preparing for the workshop are as follows:

1. Each participant organization will identify two people to attend the workshop and will have at least two months prior to the workshop to review program resource materials provided by the Council (see below).
2. Selected participants will work with their assigned workshop faculty member. The faculty member will correspond with you (and will visit, in some cases) and help participants to convert their materials and/or current programs into draft proposals and plans to be brought to the meeting.
3. We will provide support to each organization so that they come prepared to share with the other workshop participants their thoughts and plans for their adolescent girls programming in the form of a draft/working proposal squarely addressing the needs of vulnerable adolescents girls.

The workshop will include several “seminar sessions”, the exact subjects of which will be picked interactively with the selected participants. Potential subjects include how to:

- identify specific vulnerabilities and capacities of adolescent girls, particularly with respect to their ability to claim their rights and health
- expand girls’ access to safe and supportive spaces at home, in schools, and in the community
- build female mentoring structures
- provide strategies for developing an information base designed by girls and their mentors to lay the foundation for appropriate programs
- enhance programs’ effectiveness in changing girls’ self-esteem, abilities, and capacities; the reactions of their communities; and opportunity structures
- build girls’ skills and opportunity structures – addressing their own and their families’ poverty
- address girls’ social isolation and economic vulnerability and increase their capacity to protect their sexual and reproductive health
- promote the inclusion of adolescent girls in youth-serving and other service-giving structures as well as in traditional and emerging entitlement schemes
- develop age-, gender-, and context-specific financial literacy and livelihoods skills
- create country-specific national girls’ agendas and “business plans”

Letters of Intent (LOI)
If you are interested in this workshop and the processes it entails, we would like to invite your organization to submit a letter of intent (LOI) detailing your interest in and capacity for working with adolescent girls. We would appreciate a letter of 2-5 pages, with specific points related to:

- initiative sponsored by Nike Foundation to create a network of adolescent girls and their professional allies from a variety of sectors to engage in a learning process that explores the multiplicity of issues involved in operating a program for adolescent girls in an urban area.
  
  Housed by the Population Council- Nairobi, the Network is comprised of several adolescent girls programs in Nairobi, and aims to exchange program lessons, strengthen each of the programs, and create a forum for adolescent girls in Nairobi to meet and share with each other.

For more information on the Population Council’s work with adolescent girls worldwide, see http://www.popcouncil.org/ta/index.html

For a list of briefs available in the Council’s Transitions to Adulthood series, see http://www.popcouncil.org/gfd/TA_Briefs_List.html

No. 1 Leveling the playing field: Building girls' sports programs in the developing world

No. 2 Introducing adolescent livelihoods training in the slums of Allahabad, India

No. 3 Supporting married girls: Calling attention to a neglected group
why your organization wants to work with girls (which girls have the highest priority, and why)
past experience working with girls and/or anticipated capacity to work with girls in the future
initial ideas of what your girls’ program activities would look like
short bios of the two participants who will attend (ideally one would be from the management level and the second would be a staff member working “on the ground” with girls to implement the proposed program after the workshop).

Resources provided
All organizations who successfully submit a letter of interest (LOI) – including but not limited to those selected for the workshop – will be offered resources that we hope will assist in the process of formulating plans, proposals, and questions to be explored in the context of the seminar. The resources provided will include:

- fact books specific to your country, which present basic profiles of adolescent girls (using principally DHS and MICS data, but not exclusively) on their social, economic, and health conditions, capabilities, and vulnerabilities
- country-specific visual maps highlighting indicators of girls’ vulnerability, showing regional and sub-regional variations
- documentation of interventions that have been successful in reaching adolescent girls in challenging settings

Goals
Our goals for each organization selected are: (1) to come to the workshop to share, to learn, and to expand the organization’s vision for addressing girls’ vulnerability from vital girl-networks already in sub-Saharan Africa, and (2) to leave the workshop with the following achievements:

- a near-to-final proposal for adolescent girls program activities
- increased skills and capacity in adolescent girls programming
- connections to funders interested in adolescent girls work
- a sense of belonging to a network of adolescent girls advocates and programmers
- a reliable relationship with a faculty or program mentor to support you in your ongoing work.

Participant organizations will be selected based on their capacity for implementing new ideas, their interest in evidence-based work, and their willingness to engage in a dialogue and learning process with colleagues engaged in similar work in other sub-Saharan African countries. For those selected we will underwrite expenses associated with travel, ground transportation, lodging, and meals for the duration of the workshop.

We look forward to receiving your letter of interest. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jill Benson by email, and if you would like to contact any of the workshop sponsors via their contact information below,
please also copy Jill on those communications.

Best regards,

Judith Bruce, Karen Austrian, and Catherine Maternowska

Judith Bruce, jbruce@popcouncil.org, Population Council, Poverty, Gender, and Youth, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017

Karen Austrian, kaustrian@popcouncil.org, Population Council, Kenya Adolescent Girls’ Learning Network, General Accident House, 2nd Floor, Ralph Bunche Road, Nairobi, Kenya

Catherine Maternowska, maternowska@obgyn.ucsf.edu, International Centre for Reproductive Health, Mombasa, Kenya; University of California, San Francisco

No. 15 Tap and Reposition Youth (TRY): Providing social support, savings, and microcredit opportunities for young women in areas with high HIV prevalence

No. 16 Assessing the multiple disadvantages of Mayan girls: The effects of gender, ethnicity, poverty, and residence on education in Guatemala

No. 17 Enhancing the benefits of girls’ livelihood initiatives

No. 18 Influencing girls’ lives: Acceptability and effectiveness of a livelihoods skill building intervention in Gujarat

No. 19 Addressing early marriage in areas of high HIV prevalence: A program to delay marriage and support married girls in rural Nyanza, Kenya

No. 20 Reaching disadvantaged rural girls, creating social support, and discouraging child marriage in Amhara, Ethiopia

No. 21 Biruh Tesfa: Creating a “Bright Future” for migrant girls in urban areas of Ethiopia

No. 22 Sexuality and HIV education: Time for a paradigm shift

No. 23 Girls left behind: Redirecting HIV interventions toward the most vulnerable

No. 24 Girls' schooling in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. 25</th>
<th>Obtaining more accurate and reliable information from adolescents regarding STI/HIV risk behaviors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 26</td>
<td>The changing context of sexual initiation in sub-Saharan Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 27</td>
<td>Reducing the social exclusion of girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 28</td>
<td>Assessing equity of access in youth programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 29</td>
<td>Expanding safe spaces and developing skills for adolescent girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 30</td>
<td>Identifying sources of adolescent exclusion due to violence: Participatory mapping in South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 31</td>
<td>Reforming marriage practices in Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 32</td>
<td>Education during humanitarian emergencies: The situation of displaced youth in Darfur, Sudan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>