

Dear SPRINT trainees and supporters,

We hope this message finds you well! We want to share a few updates from the region and keep you updated on the latest activities of the SPRINT Initiative.

### **Echo Training Update!**

Congratulations to the ***Timor-Leste and Malaysia Country Teams*** for facilitating outstanding trainings in July and August! Over 45 participants attended the two training as well as representatives from the SPRINT Secretariat and UNFPA-HRB.

We are looking forward to seeing more echo trainings throughout the region in the near future and are happy to support the process. Please contact Amy Collins ([ACollins@ippfeseaor.org](mailto:ACollins@ippfeseaor.org)) or Sarah Chynoweth ([SChynoweth@ippfeseaor.org](mailto:SChynoweth@ippfeseaor.org)) for any assistance in planning your country's training.

### **Register by August 31 for reduced rate: 5th APCRSR Conference** **17 - 20 October 2009; Beijing, China**

Don't forget to register for the 5th Asia and Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSR) being held in Beijing, China 17-20 October 2009. If you plan to attend, please register at <http://www.5apcrshr.org/>. You can register at the reduced rate of US\$300 for a delegate and US\$150 for an Accompanying Person/Student/Youth **before 31 August**.

If you applied for a scholarship to APCRSR do not forget to log into your account to check on the status of your application. Please be sure to let the SPRINT Secretariat know if your SPRINT-related abstract has been accepted ([ACollins@ippfeseaor.org](mailto:ACollins@ippfeseaor.org)).

### **Scholarship Form Now Available: SPRINT Annual Review Meeting**

Immediately following the 5<sup>th</sup> APCRSR, the SPRINT Annual Review Meeting will take place in Beijing China from 21-22 October 2009. The scholarship application for SPRINT funding is now available. Please see the attached application form. Scholarships are limited. Applicants must have carried out SPRINT/MISP related activities in-country and/or had an abstract on sexual and reproductive health in crisis settings accepted by APCRSR. Please send this completed application AND your email confirming abstract acceptance (if applicable) to Sarah Chynoweth ([SChynoweth@ippfeseaor.org](mailto:SChynoweth@ippfeseaor.org)) by September 1, 2009. You will be notified by September 15, 2009 regarding your award.

### **Voices of Courage Awards 2010 "Innovating for Change"**

**Accepting Nominations for Honorees**  
**Looking for Refugee Innovators**  
**Deadline: October 15, 2009**

Each year, the Women's Refugee Commission honors individual refugee women and young people who are working on behalf of other refugees. They are now seeking candidates to be honored at the **Voices of Courage Awards** luncheon on May 6, 2010.

In 2010, the WRC will honor cutting-edge innovations in conflict-affected settings led by refugee or internally displaced women or youth, which measurably improve the lives of displaced women, children and young people. An “innovation” can be a product, a service or an approach developed by a person who is leading change in a new way. Some examples:

- Developing a reproductive health response that helps reduce the incidence of maternal mortality
- Pioneering an alternative to detention to improve asylum practice in the U.S.
- Finding a way for refugees to have a place in a thriving market economy and safely earn a living
- Developing an ethanol-fueled cook stove so that women and girls do not have to leave camps to collect firewood, risking rape
- Training refugee youth to run vocational training programs for displaced young people with disabilities
- **Your project here!**

Two refugee or asylum-seeking women or young people (up to age 30) will be selected to receive the Voices of Courage Award. The 2010 Voices of Courage honoree’s organization will receive a \$5,000 grant from the Women’s Refugee Commission to further his or her critical work to benefit refugee and displaced people in his or her community. We will also feature descriptions of the top innovations in our luncheon journal.

For more information on candidate criteria and how to nominate a candidate, please go to <http://womensrefugeecommission.org/about/luncheon/822-voices-of-courage-awards-2010-call-for-nominations>.

### **Australian Advocacy Opportunity: AusAID Community Call to Action**

AusAID have recently launched the Community Call to Action which is a 12 month pilot initiative will provide small to medium funding grants to community activities that seek to raise awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and global poverty.

Funding for individual project activities will range from a minimum of \$25,000 to a maximum of \$150,000. A limited number of large grants will be allocated to high impact activities maximise opportunities for community groups to get involved.

#### *Eligible applicants and projects*

Non-accredited community organisations, professional and peak bodies and networks with a significant reach into the Australian community, membership-based not-for-profit organisations and small businesses are all invited to submit their applications outlining how they can raise awareness about global poverty.

Creative approaches on how to engage the community or undertake overseas development activities are encouraged. Domestic projects may include networking events that build links between organisations, conferences, seminars, workshops and special events. Some overseas development activities will be considered based on their ability to achieve good outcomes in addition to raising awareness about these important issues.

Applications for 2009–10 will open on 27 July 2009 and will close on **2pm, 7 September 2009**. Projects and activities under this pilot must be completed within a 12 month period. Successful applicants will be announced in mid October 2009. Grant payments will be negotiated on a case by case basis.

For more information please visit:

[http://www.ausaid.gov.au/hottopics/topic.cfm?ID=4159\\_5104\\_7465\\_8410\\_534](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/hottopics/topic.cfm?ID=4159_5104_7465_8410_534)

## **NGO Forum**

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with UNFPA, will organize the Asia-Pacific High-level Forum on ICPD at 15 to be held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok on 16-17 September 2009. The participants of this Forum will comprise of government delegations from Member and Associate Member countries of ESCAP and representatives from civil society organizations. In conjunction with the official Forum, the IPPF ESEAOR will convene the **Asia Pacific NGO Forum: ICPD+15** which will take place on **15 September 2009** at the UN Conference Center Room 4. This NGO forum aims to provide a platform for discussion among NGOs regarding pertinent sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues related to the achievement of the ICPD and MDG goals.

Since all participants are expected to be self-funded (or sponsored), we are encouraging you to contact your government so that you can be included in the official government delegation as civil society representative or as an accompanying member.

As the space is limited, please indicate your interest to attend as soon as possible. Kindly fill up the enclosed reply slip and send to us by fax or email no later than August 31, 2009. We would also like to know what topics/issues you would like to be covered in this NGO forum as well as any expectation on its outcomes.

## **International Seminar Support Scheme**

The International Seminars Support Scheme (ISSS), administered by AusAID, funds attendance at international development-oriented seminars in Australia and overseas. The scheme helps to develop knowledge and technical expertise in developing countries, and builds linkages between the government, academic and community sectors in Australia and in partner developing countries. Only the seminar organizer can apply for support from the ISSS; however, the SPRINT Secretariat may be able to build a strong case for support of a number trainee participation in the APCRSHR and Annual Review Meeting. The funds under ISSS are limited and competition for them is strong. Please notify the SPRINT Secretariat by 31 August 2009 if you like to pursue this opportunity. You can find more information at:

[http://www.ausaid.gov.au/business/other\\_opps/issss.cfm](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/business/other_opps/issss.cfm)

## **RH Research**

RAISE Funding Study Published in PLoS Medicine: Reproductive health needs are particularly acute in countries affected by armed conflict, yet the findings of a new study published in PLoS Medicine show the inequitable distribution of aid for reproductive health activities in conflict-affected countries. The study was commissioned by the [RAISE Initiative](#), a joint initiative of Marie Stopes International and the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, which is catalyzing change in how reproductive health is addressed in crisis situations. The research, carried out by King's College London, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the RAISE Initiative, analyzed aid disbursements for reproductive health activities to 18 conflict-

affected countries from 2003 to 2006. The [full research paper](#) is freely available to read, download, distribute, and re-use, as is a [summary](#) of the research.

*Purdin, S., T. Khan, et al. (2009). "Reducing maternal mortality among Afghan refugees in Pakistan." Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 105 (2009) 82–85.*

**Abstract:** The International Rescue Committee (IRC) strove to reduce maternal mortality among Afghan refugees in Hangu district of Pakistan by improving access to emergency obstetric care (EmOC), community knowledge of danger signs of pregnancy, and the use of health information. **METHODS:** IRC established EmOC centers, trained community members on safe motherhood, linked primary health care with education on danger signs of pregnancy and the importance of skilled attendance, and improved the health information system. **RESULTS:** The maternal mortality ratio among Afghan refugees in the area improved from 291 per 100000 live births in 2000 to 102 per 100000 live births in 2004. The proportion of refugee births attended by skilled staff increased from 5% in 1996 to 67% in 2007. Complete prenatal care coverage increased from 49% in 2000 to 90% in 2006, and postnatal coverage more than trebled from 27% in 2000 to 85% in 2006. **CONCLUSION:** Improved services, community involvement and education, good coordination, and effective systems succeeded in reducing maternal mortality in a traditionally conservative environment.

Click here for article: [Reducing maternal mortality among Afghan refugees in Pakistan](#)

## **Tools and Resources**

**Engaging Boys and Men in GBV Prevention and Reproductive Health in Conflict and Emergency-Response Settings—A Workshop Module:** Developed by CARE/EngenderHealth for a two-day skills-building workshop, the training guide introduces participants to the topic of engaging boys and men in reproductive health in conflict and emergency-response settings. The module includes a facilitator's guide, handouts, slides for presentations and participant resources for additional reading. The module is intended for personnel working in conflict and other settings who are interested in engaging boys and men in gender-based violence prevention and reproductive health. It is appropriate for staff that have had some training in gender, gender-based violence prevention, and reproductive health. Please click the hyperlink to access the [training guide](#).

**Guide to Monitoring and Evaluation of NGO Capacity Building Interventions in Conflict-Affected Settings:** JSI Research & Training Institute/Astarte Project's guide provides a conceptual framework highlighting the role and importance of high quality M&E of capacity building interventions for NGOs operating in conflict-affected settings. Drawing on case studies, past research in the area of capacity measurement and field testing, the guide offers principles for planning and implementing capacity building M&E; provides a selection of tools by which to measure progress against capacity building objectives; and offers a set of indicators that NGOs can draw upon and adapt in this process. Participatory approaches to capacity building M&E are also emphasized in the [guide](#).

**Guidance on Safe Access to Cooking Fuel in Humanitarian Settings:** Endorsed by the Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) in November 2008, the new guidance tools of the IASC Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings include a matrix on agency roles and responsibilities for developing a coordinated, multi-sectoral fuel strategy and decision tree diagrams on the factors affecting the choice of fuel strategy in humanitarian settings. There are two versions of the decision tree diagrams: one for use in acute emergencies and the second for use in protracted settings. The Women's Refugee Commission will be conducting workshops on the guidance tools in the remainder of 2009, in Geneva, Washington, D.C., New York, Khartoum, Kampala, Nairobi, Bangkok and DRC (to be confirmed).

To learn more about the workshops or to order hardcopies of the [matrix](#) and [decision tree diagrams](#), please contact Erin Patrick at [erinp@wrcommission.org](mailto:erinp@wrcommission.org). More information is also available from [www.fuelnetwork.org](http://www.fuelnetwork.org).

**Monitoring Emergency Obstetric Care—A Handbook:** The Handbook was launched at the landmark [Human Resources for Maternal Survival Conference](#) in Addis Ababa, where some 400 health experts gathered from 29 June – 2 July. This manual is a collaborative effort of the Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program (AMDD, in the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health), UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO, and focuses on the critical role of emergency obstetric care (EmOC) in saving the lives of women and newborns. The Handbook embodies expert technical consultation and experience, following a decade of EmOC needs assessments conducted worldwide. A signal function on treatment of complications in newborns has been added, and there are new indicators on perinatal mortality and maternal deaths due to indirect causes. To download a copy of the Handbook, please click [here](#).

**Repositioning Family Planning—Guidelines for Advocacy Action:** Jointly produced by the WHO Regional Office for Africa and USAID, the toolkit aims to support advocacy activities with influential leaders and decision-makers at national and local levels. This toolkit is intended to help advocates of family planning recognize the range of audiences that can be mobilized to champion family planning, ways to engage each audience, and what each audience can do to advance family planning. It offers latest family planning data and trends, ready-to-use messages, and suggested activities for reaching out and involving target audiences. Please click the hyperlink to access the [toolkit](#).

**Violence against Women and Girls—A Compendium of Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators:** MEASURE Evaluation developed the compendium for managers, organizations and policy makers working on programs for violence against women and girls (VAW/G). Indicators measure the following areas within VAW/G: magnitude and characteristics of different forms of VAW/G; programs addressing VAW/G by sector; under-documented forms of VAW/G, emerging areas and prevention of VAW/G. To access the compendium, please click [here](#).

Best Regards,

**SPRINT Secretariat**

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