

**Collective for Research and Training on
Development Action (CRTD-A)
Independent Resource and Information Services (IRIS)**

Development e -Brief
March 23, 2004

Welcome to the second issue of the **Development e-Brief** Newsletter. We hope you will find this as rewarding as the last.

Please note that there will be a delay in the third issue of the **e-Brief** due to the impending Easter Holidays. We would also like to remind members that we still welcome any questionnaires/ feedback.

HAPPY EASTER HOLIDAYS TO ALL

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EVENTS

1. GENDER:

- **Women's rights and the multilateral trading system: the politics of gender mainstreaming at the WTO.** The International Gender and Trade and Network (IGTN) are organizing a seminar with the title Women's rights and the multilateral trading system; the politics of gender mainstreaming at the WTO. March 12 2004 Geneva, Switzerland. For further info please contact Maria Karadenizli; maria@wide-network.org
- **Third Short Course on Women's Studies for Participants from Middle East, West and Central Asia and the Caucasus.** This is a six day training workshop held in May 2004 in Tehran, by the Institute for Women's Studies and Research (IWSR). For info; info@iwsr.org
- **Call for Contributors: "Encyclopaedia of Women and Islamic Cultures".** If you are interested in participating, please send your CV and a concise writing sample to Loretta Kim: lekim@fas.harvard.edu

2. TRADE/ECONOMICS/MICROFINANCE:

- Meeting on Lebanon and its Relation to the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, Beirut, Lebanon 24/02/04. ESCWA NEWSLETTER: 16/02/04 (www.escwa.org.lb)

3. NGOs:

- **New Sustainable Development Prize:** The Alcan Prize for Sustainability identifies and recognizes not-for-profit, civil society and non-governmental orgs for their contribution to economic, environmental and/or social sustainability. For more info visit: www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com/en/alcan_txt.html
- **Call for Proposals:** “Grant Opportunity: Civil Society Budget Initiative”. For more info visit; www.internationalbudget.org/CSBI.htm
- **Nine positions in Iraq.** The American Refugee Committee is a non-profit organization committed to work for the survival, health and well being of refugees, displaced people those at risk. www.developmentgateway.org//ngo/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=387829&version_id=236051&from=alert
- **Project Together-Dialogue on Palestine.** This is an international voluntary work camp, called “Project Together” in August 2004. All are invited to share and meet with other people from around the world and give assistance to Palestinian children. www.najah.edu/english/Youth%20prog/togetherproject/tgprol.htm
- **April 28, Oxford, UK: “Ethnography of NGOs”.** The meeting will explore notions of power in relation to relative position of Northern and Southern NGOs as well as individuals. www.devstud.org.uk/studygroups/ngo.htm

NEWS

1. ICT:

- **Train –the-Trainer Course on Technology in ESCWA.** ESCWA conducted a “Train-the-Trainer” workshop for its Multipurpose Technology Community Centers (MTCC) to train both trainers and managers. **ESCWA Newsletter: 08/03/04** (www.escwa.org.lb)

2. GENDER:

- **Morocco Adopts Landmark Family Law Supporting Women's Equality.** On January 25, 2004 the government of Morocco adopted a new landmark family law supporting women's equality and granting them new rights in marriage and divorce, among others.
www.learningpartnership.org/events/newsalerts/morocco0204.phtml#adfm doc
- **Asia – Specific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors.** To promote the participation and representation of women in local government, ESCAP has been implementing the multi phase advancement of women in urban Local Government project.
www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=387395&version_id=235764&from=alert
- **Iraqi Women Speak Out for Equal Rights/** Feminist Daily News Wire February 26, 2004. At a congressional briefing yesterday, Iraqi women and female members of congress called for equal rights under the law, increased women's participation and the separation of church and state in Iraq.
www.feminist.org/news/newsbyte/usirestory.asp
- **Women's Commission Approves Draft Resolution on Palestinian Women.** The forty eighth session of the commission on the status of women approved a draft resolution on the situation of Palestinian women. This included one for the tangible improvement of the difficult living situation of Palestinian women and their families. UN press release:
www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/wom1446.doc.htm

3. TRADE/ECONOMICS/MICROFINANCE:

- **Pakistan and Yemen are about to sign a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** that will be the beginning of a de facto FTA together. This will undoubtedly mean enhanced trade and economic co-operation between the two countries. **WTO Forum Digest Number 459 dated 09/03/04.**
- **Saudi Arabia will be joining the WTO** and it might be as soon as summer. But according to this article Saudi has set some 113 limits before joining.
www.menafn.com/qn_news_story_s.asp?storyid=43490

4. NGOs:

- **Israel: Mass rally of citizens against the wall. AVIVA Newsletter: 04/03/04, (www.aviva.org)**
- **UN-HABITAT Launches \$370 Million Housing Program in IRAQ.** The United Nation's has stated that it needs 369 million dollars for four years in its housing rehabilitation program-Iraq. **ESCWA NEWLETTER: 08/03/04 (www.escwa.org.lb)**

REPORTS & BOOKS

1. ICT:

- **Information society and sustainable development; Exploring linkages.** This is a paper, published in 2003 for the world summit on the information society and sustainable development. www.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=386565&version_id=235193&from=alert
- **Digital Opportunities for Development: A sourcebook on Access and Applications.** www.developmentgateway.org/ict/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=387078&version_id=235530&from
- **The Draft Essentials on E-governance.** UNDP and partner interventions since 1997 from available evaluative evidence. Found in: **surf government newsletter dated 24/02/04.**
- **Fighting the Insidious killer, African Teenagers Battle HIV/AIDS through ICT.** Commentary on how ICT can be used to reach teens that are at the greatest risk of catching HIV/AIDS. www.developmentgateway.org/shared/community-member?user_id=395691
- **Issues Affecting Internet Use in Afghanistan and Developing Countries in the Middle East.** "This paper examines key issues that affect the use of the internet in developing countries in the Middle East. It addresses questions such as 'what social and cultural factors contribute to the digital divide'" www.developmentgateway.org/ict/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=392088&version_id=238920&from

- **A Review of Good Practice in ICT and Special Educational Needs for Africa.** “The aim of this study is to investigate how good practice and experiences from the global use of Assistive Technology (AT) can be shared with African governments and people working in the sector”.
<http://imfundo.digitalbrain.com/imfundo/web/papers/SEN/SENPHASE1FINAL.pdf>

2. **GENDER:**

- **Gender Glossary of Terms.** This is a project that was part of the Indonesian German Development Cooperation.
www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=386991_id=235469&from=alert
- **Fact Sheet on Women and Decision Making.** The UN division for the advancement of women has created a statistical database on women in the executive branch of government.
www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=387049&version_id=235512&from=alert
- **Gender Mainstreaming in Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals: A Handbook for Policy Makers and Other Stakeholders.** The author brings forth a set of arguments, to help explain why gender equality merits special attention. UK.COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, 0850927528 2003 PB 12.99 (Pounds Sterling).
- **Feminist Contestations on Gender and Political Violence.** This publication highlights the structural, political and ethical dimensions in the participation of women in political violence. Paying special attention to conflict in the Middle East and Latin America. For more info contact: balbl116@newschool.edu
- **Trading Away our Rights-Oxfam’s latest report on labour and women.** Big brand companies and retailers in the fashion and food industries are driving down employment conditions for millions of women workers around the world.
www.oxfam.org/eng/pr040209_labour_report.htm

- **Women, Microfinance, and Savings: Lessons and proposals.** This is a 27 page paper that explores ways to improve the well being of poor women in developing countries through microfinance. www.developmentgateway.org/microfnance/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389912&version_id=237486&from=alert
- **Empowering Women through self-help micro credit programmes.** This paper addresses the issue of whether self help micro-credit programmes are tools for empowering poor women. www.developmentgateway.org/microfnance/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389918&version_id=237490&from=alert
- **Empowering Women through Microfinance.** This paper demonstrates that microfinance programs when properly designed help empower women. www.developmentgateway.org/microfnance/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389930&version_id=237498&from=alert
- **Women and Micro-Finance Programs.** This is a case study that attempts to assess the impact micro finance programs and services have on women's daily and political life. www.developmentgateway.org/microfnance/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389936&version_id=237502&from=alert
- **Some Considerations on Sexuality and Gender.** Gender has become a major conceptual tool for understanding HIV/AIDS. The author uses a sexuality framework for analysis of these issues. www.developmentgateway.org/microfnance/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=38001&version_id=230788
- **Inter Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.** Report on approaches and methodologies for gender mainstreaming. www.developmentgateway.org/microfnance/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=388786&version_id=236719&from=alert
- **“Seeking Accountability on Women’s Human Rights-Women debate the MDGs” at the UN commission on status of Women/Women’s International Coalition for Economic Justice.** This is a new publication now found online. This publication includes various insights of women from around the world debating their views of the MDGs. www.wicej.addr.com/mdg/index.html

- **Women in Afghanistan-Two Years Later.** “It has been two years since the United States’ preliminary efforts to undo the terrorist mechanisms of Al Qaeda. Yet the status of women in Afghan society has yet to improve”. This is an Amnesty International report that details the diverse abuses that Afghan women suffer from. <http://takeaction.amnestyusa.org/ctt.asp?u=610768&l=8157>
- **One Year Later: Women’s Human Rights in ‘Liberated’ Iraq.** From MADRE. “Since the end of hostilities in May, ongoing military violence and a spike in violence against women in Iraq have curtailed all aspects of women’s lives, preventing many from leaving home, even for food, water or medical treatment or to go to work or school”. www.madre.org/art_nl_1_2004.html
- **Gender Equality and the MDGs.** “Progress towards achieving the MDGs has been mixed: the goals for eradicating extreme poverty and providing access to safe water have been met, but...” www.developmentgateway.org/poverty/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389126&version_id=236952&from=alert
- **Gender and Citizenship Overview Report.** This is a report written by BRIDGE from their Cutting Edge Pack outlining how feminists and women’s rights activists have sought to reframe citizenship from a gender perspective. www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389304&version_id=237065&from=alert
- **Gender and Citizenship Supporting Resources Collection by BRIDGE.** This collection “features summaries of key materials on gender and citizenship, including case studies etc...” www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389307&version_id=237067&from=alert
- **ICT for Women’s Economic Empowerment.** ICTs have opened up entrepreneurial opportunities for women. However, there continues to be a gender gap. www.developmentgateway.org/node/133831/dg-highlights/highlight?high_id=9408
- **Press Release: Women exporters Contribute to Development.** In a report on women exporters in the developing world, ‘the International Trade Centre sees a strong link between social commitment and export growth’. www.developmentgateway.org/trade/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=391051&version_id=238246&from=alert

3. TRADE/ECONOMICS/MICROFINANCE:

- **The Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region.** This provides a review and analysis of economic and social conditions in the region for the period prior to its publication. ESCWA Newsletter: 01/03/04, (www.escwa.org.lb)

4. NGOs:

- **Ownership and Partnership: What Role for civil Society in Poverty Reduction Strategies?** This is a development centre publication that analyses how civil-society participates in policy making enhancing efficiency in implementation and also contributing to the creation of more pluralistic and democratic political systems. www.developmentgateway.org//poverty/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=384654&version_id=233804&from=alert
- **International Journal of Not-For-Profit Law.** www.developmentgateway.org//ngo/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=387529&version_id=235880&from=alert
- **Development Co-Operation 2003 Report.** This report presents the Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) analysis of the latest trends in development co-operation. www.wider.unu.edu/public-lectures/public-lectures-2004/oecd-report-
- **The ICRC in Israel and the Occupied/Autonomous Territories.** Articles and news briefs from the ICRC delegation newsletter. www.icrc.org/eng/israel
- **Hunger in Palestine.** According to the U.N Special Rapporteur on the right to food; "the occupied Palestinian Territories is on the verge of humanitarian catastrophe". www.madre.org
- **Failure and Success at the WSIS: Civil Society's Next Moves.** Commentary on the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society: "The depth of disappointment on the World Summit on the Information Society cannot be fully explained..." www.developmentgateway.org//ict/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389391&version_id=237123&from=alert

5. POVERTY:

- **Improving the Social Protection of the Urban Poor and Near-Poor in Jordan: The Potential of Micro Insurance.** This study examines the potential of micro-Insurance as an approach to reducing the vulnerability of urban population groups that are difficult to cover in Jordan. [www.die-gdi.de/die_homepage.nsf/6f3fa777ba64bd9ec12569cb00547f1b/5b3bee9132fbc3a0c1256c38002\\$file/Micro-Insurance%20in%20Jordan%20Loewe%20et%20al.pdf](http://www.die-gdi.de/die_homepage.nsf/6f3fa777ba64bd9ec12569cb00547f1b/5b3bee9132fbc3a0c1256c38002$file/Micro-Insurance%20in%20Jordan%20Loewe%20et%20al.pdf)
- **Comparing Effects of General Subsidies and Targeted Transfers on Poverty: Robustness Analysis Using Data set from Tunisia.** This paper analyses how effective food policies are on reducing poverty in Tunisia. www.erf.org.eg/uploadpath/pdf/0125.pdf

6. YOUTH:

- **How is Leadership and Poverty linked and what is the role of youth in this process?** Insights into the World Bank Institute's recently held e-conference exploring the views of young people on the importance of building sustainable development. See AWID newsletter 05/03/04 (www.awid.org)

WEBSITES

1. GENDER:

- **Women and Literacy: Special Collection.** Website designed to provide an overview of literacy and basic education issues and practices in an international and cross-cultural context. www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=386201&version_id=234921&from=alert
- **Girls, Women + Media Project.** This innovative project provides resources for awareness and education about the media. Teaching people to analyze and interpret messages conveyed by the media. www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item-id=386665&version_id=2352&from=alert
- **Empowering Women through Microfinance.** www.developmentgateway.org/content/item-detail?item_id=379989&version_id=379989&version_id=230774

- **Urban Policies: Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing.** This is the urban policies page of the website for women in informal employment globalizing and organizing (WIEGO). www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=387395&version_id=235764&from=alert
- **Women’s participation in Iraq Post –Conflict Reconstruction.** This is a page from the Peace Women website providing up to date news and projects regarding women’s initiatives in Iraq. www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=38808&version_id=236242&from=alert
- **Women’s World Wide Web.** Free Monthly Webzine. www.aviva.org
- **SURF- Regional Knowledge Facility: Gender. One of a series of special focus areas stemming from the UNDP.** www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389283&version_id=237053&from=alert
- **Women’s Feature Service.** This is the ‘only international women’s news feature syndicate. Producing opinions on development from a gender perspective’. www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=389340&version_id=237087&from=alert
- **Gender and Development portal and information resources.** This is a new web portal that was launched by the French Foreign Ministry. Its aim is to connect all those involved in development- both from the North and South. www.developmentgateway.org/gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=391565&version_id=238558&from=alert

2. TRADE/ECONOMICS/MICROFINANCE:

- **For NGOS interested in sector-specific TRADE/Development daily news/analysis Digest.** The Brussels based NGO International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA) has been advocating for a just and sustainable international system. www.icda.be/wtoimpactlist/5dayfocus.htm

3. NGOs:

- **Become a Partner.** If you are interested in becoming an advisor or a cooperating organization or would like to learn more about partnership opportunities with dgpoverty, write to; poverty@dgfoundation.org

4. YOUTH:

- **Empowering rural youth through ICT and Entrepreneurship.** World corps is an international; non-governmental org headquartered in the U.S to bridge digital divide. www.developmentgateway.org/ngo/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=388187&version_id=23630&from=alert

CRTD: NEWS & EVENTS

1. VOLUNTEER/INTERNSHIP POSITIONS:

- **CRTD-A is seeking dynamic Volunteers/Interns to undertake innovative work** in the area of social development and gender development in Lebanon and the Middle East. For more info please contact; info@crted.org

2. RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- **CRTD-A is seeking an E-readiness Consultant.** The position is offered on a consultancy basis for approximately 30 working days. No strict office hours are required. For more info, please visit: www.iris-lebanon.org

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