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

**Development e -Brief**
**June14, 2004: Issue 7**

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

## EVENTS

1. **GENDER:**

- **Call For Nominations: 1000 women for the Nobel Peace Prize. "**The search is on for 1000 women all over the world who will be nominated collectively for the Nobel peace prize in 2005. The idea is to call international attention to the vital role played by women from all walks of life in challenging harmful established social/cultural boundaries, institutions and ideologies and in creating and promoting peace in their communities and in the whole world." Nominations close **June 30**.
www.1000peacewomen.org/eng/html/nomination/index.php

2. **YOUTH:**

- **World Bank Photo Contest for Young People.** Youthink! The World Bank site for youth is sponsoring a photography contest. The contest is open to those aged from 14-20, to depict what they see today and what they hope for tomorrow. Entries must be postmarked by **June 30**.
http://youthink.worldbank.org/photocontest/

## NEWS

1. **ICT:**

- **Development Gateway Grants Available for e-Government Projects.** The Development Gateway Foundation with the Government of Italy are jointly launching an e-Government Grants program to assist countries in identifying and implementing e-government projects. The program will support (over an initial two-year period) information technology projects focused on modernizing and integrating processes and systems to improve public administration. www.developmentgateway.org/aboutus/news/index?#991009

- **Persons with Disabilities and Information and Communication Technology.** This was the title for the ESCWA group meeting in which more than 130 people gathered, from May 25-26, concerned with blind and deaf persons. The main aim of the meeting was to promote equality in the Arab countries through accessibility to "reasonable" information, communication, and ICTs. ESCWA Weekly News 07/06/04.

2. **GENDER:**

- **Kuwait Breakthrough on Votes for Women.** ESCWA describes how the British media announced that the approval of a bill by the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers giving women the right to vote and stand for parliament is a breakthrough and a boost for women's rights in the Middle East. It did state however, that the draft legislation needed to go before the Kuwaiti Parliament, and that it narrowly voted against granting women the vote. ESCWA Newsletter 31/05/04.

3. **NGOs:**

- **2004 GSDI Small Grants Program.** The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Secretariat (GSDI) has announced its small Grants program for the year 2004. The GSDI has allocated resources from the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee to fund this small grants program. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/ict/rc/ItemDetail.do~1002708

- **World Forum on Human Rights, May 2004, Held.** The first world Forum on Human Rights, supported by UNESCO was held in France. The three main themes for the meeting were terrorism and Human Rights; Globalization and the Struggle Against all forms of Discrimination and Exclusion. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/gender/rc/ItemDetail.do~1002816

- **West Bank and Gaza-Public Financial Management reform Structural Adjust Operation-** twenty million dollars are to be given to the Palestinian Authority for budgetary assistance. The Authority is facing severe economic challenges, with a financing gap that is estimated at 650 million for 2004. The fund is a Bank initiative with one of the aims being to enable the Authority to deliver basic services. www.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20208840~menuPK:34464~pagePK:64003015~piPK:64003012~theSitePK:4607,00.html

4. **POVERTY:**

- **West Bank and Gaza-Social safety Net Reform Project-** ten million dollars are going in aid of a Social Safety Net Reform Project, to meet the increasing demand for social assistance.

The money that will be given to the Palestinian authority by way of the Ministry of Social Affairs will provide regular cash assistance, food donations, and health insurance to approximately 120,000 people. www.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,content MDK:20208801~menuPK:344649~pagePK:40651~piPK:4065 3~theSitePK:4607,00.html

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## REPORTS & BOOKS & ARTICLES

### 1. POVERTY:

- **Selling to the Poor**. The main message of this article is that four billion people should not be viewed as victims of globalization but as the largest untapped consumer market on earth. This article discusses the bias that developed nations have adopted. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/poverty/rc/ItemDetail.do ~1002641

- **Working with Disabled People for Positive Change.** A common factor for all disabled in the world is that they make up a higher proportion of those living in chronic poverty. The author is however, suspicious about poverty reduction strategies that focus on those it is easiest to bring out of poverty and not those in chronic poverty. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/poverty/rc/ItemDetail.do ~1002801

- **Support for Palestinian Emergency -**Islamic Relief Worldwide is seeking support for a situation described as a "humanitarian catastrophe" by the UN. More than 1,000 people have been left homeless in recent home demolitions in Rafah. Islamic Relief is currently asking for support for 12, 600 Gaza residents who are now homeless. The estimated cost of re-housing have been said to be in the thirty million dollar range. For support, e-mail info@islamic-relief.co.za

- **Unemployment, Poverty Grips Palestinian Workers.** In this article the ILO relates how high unemployment continues to grip Palestinian communities. Reaching an average of thirty-five per cent. A recent high –level mission also found that severe restrictions on the movement of persons, goods and services were causing "severe losses in production,

employment and income", stated in a report on the situation of workers of the Occupied Territories.
www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc92/pdf/rep-i-a-ax.pdf


2. <u>YOUTH:</u>

- **Can Developing Countries Afford to Ban or Regulate Child Labour?** The main premise of this paper is that poor countries can afford to ban and regulate child labour. The authors compared the GDPs of developed countries in the 19th -20th century, when most states abolished child labour.
http://topics.developmentgateway.org/poverty/rc/ItemDetail.do~1001944

- **Children and Young People Participating in PRSP Processes: Lessons From Save the Children's Experience.** This paper summarises from Save the Children UK's experience in facilitating children and young people's participation in PRSP processes, highlighting in particular experiences from Vietnam and Honduras. It discusses the effectiveness of a range of approaches, highlights challenges, outlines learning points and raises questions about the impact and cost benefit trade-off of children and young people's participation in PRSPS.
www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC14750

- **At What Age … Are School- Children Employed Married and Taken to Court?** This is a publication that analyses legislation to determine whether minimum age legislation protects children's right to education, as established by the UN. It does this through an updated analysis of the most recent reports presented by states parties to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC14863

- **Being, Becoming and Relationship: Conceptual Challenges of a Child Rights approach in Development.** This paper argues that making children central to development and social analysis requires a person centred rather than a category – centred approach, recognising the fundamental importance of relationship to people's actions, entitlements and well being. The author also suggests practical implications for development policy.
www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC14858

- **Children, Youth & Media around the World: An Overview of Trends & Issues.** In this research paper, which was presented at the World Summit on Media for Children and Adolescents, an overview of trends and issues concerning young people in the media is given. The report is based on surveys, expert interviews, grey matter and other printed material. www.comminit.com/ctrends2004/sld-9993.html

3. <u>NGOs:</u>

- **Building Institutional Capacity for Conflict –Sensitive Practice: The Case of International NGOs.** This paper is based on research and interviews with policy and field staff of 12 large international development NGOs, and draws out cross agency learning on building institutional capacity for conflict sensitive practice. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/ngo/rc/ItemDetail.do~1003296

- **USAID: Asia and Near East Education**. This USAID report describes the challenges in education that the Asia region faces today. These include poor quality of basic education; gender disparities in access to education; low primary school enrolment in some countries such as Bangladesh, and India. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/aideffectiveness/rc/ItemDetail.do~1002468

- **The International Aid System 2005-2010; Forces For and Against Change.** This article describes how the year 2005 is very important for the international aid domain. For instance; the U.N special Assembly will assess progression of the MDGs, and many countries will undergo elections etc. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/aideffectiveness/rc/ItemDetail.do~1002500

- **New Israel Democracy Index.** Based on quantitative measures, international rankings and surveys, this index is an annual survey of democracy in Israel. The special focus this year is youth. Youth attitudes in Israel can be compared against each other, such as attitudes of youth born to immigrant parents towards those of Arab youth etc. Revelations of the index show how approximately 43 per cent of youth support the right to refuse an order to evict settlers from places where they have established themselves. This document will be available soon at:

www.idi.org.il/english/article.php?id=205bf79ab2a9fdbc8aa2b819f733b9da

4. **GENDER:**

- **From Premises to Action: Recommendations for Gender Equality and the empowerment of Women.** The Millennium project interim Report on Gender identifies six strategic priorities for international and national level action that should be achieved by the year 2015. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/gender/rc/ItemDetail.do~1003167

- **Trafficking in Women, Girls and Boys: Key Issues for Population and Development.** More than 700,000 people are trafficked each year. "Trafficking in persons, their transportation and sale for labour of any kind, whether within or outside national boundaries, is a modern form of slavery and a violation of the human rights of the victims". http://topics.developmentgateway.org/gender/rc/ItemDetail.do~1003504

- **WLP Training Handbooks.** These training handbooks are available in six languages, including Arabic, English and French. The curriculum is one that has been used in leadership training workshops around the world; throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle –East. You may also purchase culture- specific handbooks for certain regions. www.learningpartnership.org

5. **ICT:**

- **Meta-Survey on the use of Technologies in Education in Asia and the Pacific.** This document provides a snapshot of the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in education in Asia and the Pacific. Gender based issues and trends in ICT applications in education and Asia and the Pacific are explored, and examples of how ICTs can increase access to and improve the quality of learning experiences for girls and women including non-formal education are provided. www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC14840

- **"Disabled People and the Internet: Experiences, barriers and opportunities".** Summary of report: "An investigation of whether the internet helps or hinders disabled people. The UK government aims to make all its information and transactions available electronically by 2005. General use of the internet

also continues to grow."
http://topics.developmentgateway.org/ict/rc/ItemDetail.do~1003582

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## WEBSITES

### 1. NGOs:

- **Arab Science and Technology Foundation.** The Arab science and Technology Foundation is an NGO with headquarters in the UAE. It is relatively new and aims to identify and support research and development efforts by both men and women in the Arab world. http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do~1002532

- **New Democratic Governance Practice Newsletter.** This newsletter can be found at www.undp.org/newsletters/demgovmay04.htm . It is a useful resource for those interested in the democratic governance process. This month spotlights Rwanda "a decade later", it also provides a list of relevant events and gives a book and article review, as well as providing other interesting articles in this seventeen page newsletter.

### 2. GENDER:

- **Siyanda.** "Siyanda" is an online database of gender and development resources. It also offers an online information sharing space where gender practitioners can share ideas, experiences, and materials. There is also a useful newsletter that is open for subscription, and the May issue is focused on water and women's role. www.siyanda.org

- **Gender at Work.** This is a knowledge and capacity building network focused on gender and institutional change. The network has as aim to develop new theories and practices on how organizations can change gender – biased institutional roles. www.genderatwork.org

### 3. TRADE/ECONOMICS/MICROFINANCE:

- **The Microfinance Gateway.** The Microfinance Gateway is the premier source of information for and about the

microfinance industry. The Gateway includes research and publications, specialized resource centres amongst many other things.
http://topics.developmentgateway.org/businessenvironment/rc/ItemDetail.do~1003101

4. **POVERTY:**

- **Video-Scaling up Poverty Reduction Conference.** This is an archive site that deals with the opening session and other key documents, (such as the opinions and comments of key development practitioners from their poverty reduction strategies around the world), of the Poverty Reduction Conference in Shanghai that took place in May.
http://info.worldbank.org/etools/bspan/index.asp

**TOP ↑**

## Development e-Brief Information Sources

*Development e-Brief* receives and comprises of material from various sources for its publication. Should you wish to refer to these sources/ sites directly, (NB: some sites could not be found), the list includes publications from: AVIVA, www.aviva.org, AWID: www.awid.org, CSID, Democracy Digest: www.freedomhouse.org, Development Gateway: www.developmentgatway.org, Dignity: www.dignity.org, e-Civicus: www.civicus.org, Eldis: www.eldis.org, ESCWA: www.escwa.org.lb, GDB, IGTN: www.IGTN.org, ILO: www.ilo.org One World: www.oneworld.net, Siyanda: www.siyanda.org, The Daily Star: www.dailystar.com.lb, The Drum Beat: www.comminit.com, The Soul Beat: www.comminit.com,The World Bank: www.worldbank.org, , UNDP: www.undp.org, Wicejilist: www.wicej.addr.com, WLP: www.learningpartnership.org .

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