

**YCoP Links**  
**Issue 13, September 27, 2007**  
**YCoP: Youth Community of Practice**

The Youth Community of Practice (YCoP) global listserv links professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to effective youth development ideas, information and best practices to help:

- \*Design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and
- \*Better integrate youth participation in USAID development projects

**Announcements:**

**New Magazine on Youth Development**

<http://www.iyfnet.org/section.cfm/31/286>

YOUth, the International Youth Foundation's new flagship magazine, offers interviews, personal stories, and essays focused on youth development around the world. Published by IYF twice a year, the magazine seeks to celebrate the power and promise of young people to change the world, while incorporating the varied voices and perspectives from those in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

**In this Links:**

**Youth and Microenterprise Development**

As the global youth population increases, with the largest growth in developing countries, the question of employment for this group becomes increasingly important. One way to increase youth employment that has received increasing attention recently is the field of microenterprise development. This issue of *YCoP Links* looks at projects, initiatives and other documents that may be of interest to practitioners working in the field of youth microenterprise development. Although microenterprise and microfinance are closely related, this issue focuses exclusively on microenterprise; youth microfinance will be covered in an upcoming issue.

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**Youth Microenterprise Conference**

<http://www.ymeconference.org/>

This conference brought together more than 250 experts and practitioners in youth microenterprise, entrepreneurship, and livelihood development from September 10-11, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The three themes of the conference were:

- The Role of Youth Microenterprise in the 21st Century: Facing the Challenge of Youth Unemployment and Vulnerability
- Strategies to Address the Needs of Youth Entrepreneurs
- How to Build Partnerships and Advance Youth Microenterprise to Support Social and Economic Development

Links to conference presentations are available on the website; conference outcomes will be posted in the coming weeks. See <http://www.ymeconference.org/agenda.asp#top>

*Projects and Initiatives:*

**Youth Skills Enterprise Initiative: A Zambian Case Study of Micro-Enterprise and Micro-Credit Support for Street- Based Youth**

[http://www.streetkids.org/assets/pdf/2002/SKI\\_YSEI\\_zambia.pdf](http://www.streetkids.org/assets/pdf/2002/SKI_YSEI_zambia.pdf)

Street Kids International developed a program in Zambia to encourage youth economic empowerment through accompaniment, skills training, credit and savings, and peer support networking. A variety of profitable businesses have resulted, ranging from a catering company to a document processing service. The study outlines the program structure, elements of the model for the business start-up program, and lessons learned.

**Creating Markets: Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment in Five Major Developmental Sectors**

[http://www.yesweb.org/thematic%20publications\\_Kenya%20Summit%202006/creating\\_markets.pdf](http://www.yesweb.org/thematic%20publications_Kenya%20Summit%202006/creating_markets.pdf)

A publication of the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign, "Creating Markets" outlines five sectors related to the Millennium Development Goals: renewable energy, water and sanitation, rural development, HIV/AIDS, and information and communication technologies (ICT). It provides background information on each sector, addresses the specific employment needs of the sectors, and gives examples of projects that have created youth employment, often through microenterprise. For example, in the rural development sector the Community-based Entrepreneurship Program (CYEP) in the Philippines provided training to 150 underprivileged rural youth and women on the skills for establishing and maintaining businesses.

**"Hot Shot Business:" Online Entrepreneurship Simulation Game**

<http://www.kauffman.org/items.cfm?itemID=479>

This award-winning interactive online game, developed by the creative team at Disney Online with the entrepreneurship expertise of the Kauffman Foundation, teaches children and youth entrepreneurial concepts and skills. During the game, players find money to open businesses like a skateboard factory, pet spa or comic shop. They make adjustments based on market trends, customer preferences and news events to make the businesses succeed. Although the game is targeted to children and youth in the US, it could be a fun and useful learning tool for English-speaking young adults around the world.

*Resources for practitioners:*

**Inter-American Development Bank Study: *Is Youth Entrepreneurship a Necessity or an Opportunity?***

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=754097>

This paper highlights the importance of youth entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by young entrepreneurs. The authors estimate the current number of young entrepreneurs in the region and review the scope and quality of policies and programs that governments, development agencies and civil society are implementing to support young

entrepreneurs. Finally, the paper presents conclusions and policy recommendations on issues such as education, financing, the business environment and institutional strengthening.

### **Micro-Enterprise Development Best Practices Training Manual**

<http://www.oicinternational.org/uploads/File/04%20-%20Micro%20Enterprise%20Development.pdf>

This trainer's manual for microenterprise development skills trainers was prepared by OIC International. It is divided into 11 modules that cover key issues for micro-entrepreneurs to know, including assessing potential enterprises, business planning, costing, marketing, and accessing credit.

### **Youth Business International Paper: *Roadmap for Youth Entrepreneurship***

<http://www.youth-business.org/MainFrame.aspx?MenuID=5&pagename=publications.aspx>

This document offers policy guidelines for decreasing obstacles faced by young people on the path to becoming entrepreneurs. The Roadmap is a three-component chart addressing what impedes young entrepreneurs, what would stimulate youth entrepreneurship, and offers links to good practices and publications. It focuses on policies that assist young people to find decent and productive work through entrepreneurship.

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**Looking for YOUR input:** We would like to hear from you! YCoP welcomes ideas, resources, and best practices on effective youth programs and youth participation. We would also like to encourage nominations of other youth practitioners or youth leaders to participate in the YCoP Links listserve. Hit "reply" to send information and feedback to YCoP Links.

To **unsubscribe** from the list, users should send an e-mail to [listserv@info.usaid.gov](mailto:listserv@info.usaid.gov) with only "unsubscribe youthcop" in the body of the e-mail. **(No signatures please).**

**Mission of YCoP:** The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice is an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both the list serve and DC chapter forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves. It is jointly sponsored by the office of education in the bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at USAID and the Education Quality Improvement Program<sup>3</sup> (EQUIP<sup>3</sup>), and implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

**Disclaimer:** The information and opinions expressed in the materials provided through YCoP Links or posted by listserv participants is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Government or EQUIP<sup>3</sup>. For a copy of the guidelines and/or charter, put the request in the subject line of the email and send to: [youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov](mailto:youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov). Participants should be aware that the list is public and not private communication. When participants voluntarily disclose personal information on a list serve, that information can be collected and used by others and may result in unsolicited messages from other people.

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