

YCoP Links
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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

In this Links:

Assortment of Current Youth Issues in Development

This issue of YCoP Links covers publications and projects in a variety of thematic areas, including employment, health, the aftermath of conflict and funding sources.

Publications

Jobs for the 21st Century: Synthesis Paper

http://www.gwit.us/Products/USAID_SnthesisPaper_NEW3.pdf

This is a user-friendly document written for economists and non-economists alike, seeking to better understand the complex issue of youth unemployment in the Asia Near East Region. As a part of the Jobs for the 21st Century Initiative, a project under the Asia and Near East Bureau of USAID, the paper summarizes key findings and lessons learned from an assessment of five countries (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Sri Lanka) in light of youth job creation and workforce programs and policies. As it synthesizes the findings of these studies, the paper clearly maps out the main reasons for youth unemployment in the region while offering key recommendations for each geographic area of interest.

The paper points to four broad factors that have influenced youth unemployment in the five countries including: job creation and labor demand, demographic and labor supply factors, skills mismatch and shortage due to supply-side factors, as well as social networks and youth expectations. Although the assessments are country-specific, the lessons learned also provide practical and insightful policy implications for unemployed youth across the region and the developing world.

Involving Young People in Efforts to Combat HIV and AIDS in Africa: The Importance of Income-Generating Strategies

http://hhd.org/documents/combat_hiv_in_africa.pdf

This new publication from EDC's Division of Health and Human Development aims to inform policymaking about HIV/AIDS. It notes the inextricable links between poverty, unemployment, and the spread of HIV and AIDS, and looks at increasing youth participation in the fight against HIV/AIDS through meaningful, paid work. It profiles organizations that involve young people in income-generating activities to ultimately fight HIV/AIDS and the

extreme burden of poverty. For example, Ethiopia's Wegen AIDS Talkline is an anonymous hotline staffed by a combination of volunteers and paid employees, providing free information on HIV, AIDS and other STIs to the community.

This paper also provides a discussion of key issues faced by organizations when developing strategies to involve youth. Case studies from three different organizations operating in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia highlight successful and innovative approaches to involving youth in HIV/AIDS services, while providing them with income-generating opportunities. The Youth Action Rangers of Nigeria (YARN) is an example of this type of youth-run non-profit organization, which has devoted itself to empowering youth through information sharing, education, communication, training, advocacy, and policy development. The article concludes by suggesting areas for further research and consideration including the role national and international agencies might play in targeting their training and funding towards youth employment opportunities in health care and other HIV/AIDS related fields.

Listening to Youth: The Experiences of Young People in Northern Uganda

http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/ug_machel_short.pdf

This May 2007 summary report, published by the Woman's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, reveals findings from an assessment from Northern Uganda in which young people were asked to express the impact of war on their lives, prospects for the future, and their recommendations to local, national and international actors. To ensure young people play an active role in rebuilding their country, the report emphasizes immediate action and highlights critical lessons the international community can use to support all regions affected by violent conflict. In addition, a "Report to Contributors" was created to inform the youth interviewed how their response will be used and what impact it will have. The report can be viewed at:

<http://www.womenscommission.org/resources/index.cfm?limit=sector&limitID=1>.

Projects and Initiatives:

"Youth Fund"

<http://www.fondodejuventud.org/youth2/default.asp>

To enhance participation among marginalized and disadvantaged youth in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank and Microsoft's Unlimited Potential Technology Skills have partnered to create the Youth Development Program for Innovation and Social Action or "Youth Fund." The Youth Fund provides support for innovative initiatives that focus on information and computer technology as well as human capital building to increase the employment potential of low-income youth. The website, available in both English and Spanish, provides a comprehensive overview of the application process in addition to evaluation criteria.

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 listserv. 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 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 Program3 (EQUIP3), 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 EQUIP3. 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. 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.
