

YCoP Links
Issue 19, January 17, 2008
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: Youth and Conflict

Announcements:

Disney Minnie Grant GYSD 2008

<http://servenet.org/tabid/122/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/463/Disney-Minnie-Grant-GYSD-2008.aspx>

This grant, provided by the Walt Disney Company and Youth Service America, offers up to \$500 for youth from around the globe to plan and carry out community service projects in their local communities. Youth are encouraged to address important issues such as climate change, human rights, malaria and other diseases, literacy, etc. A large part of the youth-service project must take place on Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), April 25-27. The application is due January 21, 2008.

New GlobalUR Website

<http://www.globalur.com/>

This new international development networking site and webzine provides a space for knowledge exchange, where people from around the world can meet to share their experiences and insights, and work together to solve global problems.. Four times a year the GlobalUR site publishes an interactive webzine with a particular focus on a global issue and best practices for solving the issue. The site also offers a global networking forum for professionals working in the field of international development.

Projects and Initiatives:

Youth for Change and Conflict Resolution

http://www.chfhq.org/files/4472_file_YCCR.pdf

This USAID-funded program by CHF International provides support and opportunities for youth living in conflict-affected areas in Colombia. Youth for Change and Conflict Resolution (YCCR) targets particularly vulnerable and at-risk youth for vocational training and leadership empowerment. The YCCR program uses peer-to-peer interactive youth leadership training, pairing youth who have already developed as effective leaders with trainees. In turn, the YCCR has created economic opportunities

for youth, developed youth leaders advocating for peace and stability, as well as enhanced security within local communities.

Never Again Rwanda

<http://www.neveragainrwanda.org/index.php>

This grassroots organization connects young people throughout Rwanda to support conflict resolution and generate ideas and action for peace. Never Again clubs in secondary schools across the country form the base of this organization. Examples of past and current projects include the Youth and Democratic Engagement project to increase knowledge on upcoming elections; the Great Lakes Reconciliation Radio Project to encourage youth to think critically about prejudice, manipulation, peace and reconciliation; and multiple handicraft projects, theater projects, freedom of speech debates and human rights workshops.

Resources for Practitioners:

The Making, and Unmaking, of a Child Soldier

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/14/magazine/14soldier.t.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

This *New York Times Magazine* article brings a youth perspective from a former child soldier to this YCoP. Having survived the civil war in his home country of Sierra Leone, Ismael Beah tells his story of being transformed into a child soldier at the age of 12, and describes the beginning of his repatriation. He is the author of *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* and currently lives in New York.

Children and Armed Conflict, Sri Lanka: Data Collection on Displacement and Recruitment

http://programs.ssrc.org/children/sri_lanka.pdf

This 2006 Social Science Research Council paper on a 12-month study of the impact of conflict on youth in Sri Lanka emphasizes emerging trends and behavior patterns in the Vavuniya region. The paper is part of a larger research project concerning the absence of reliable data on children in armed conflict. The report provides an overview of the political history in Sri Lanka and its impact on younger generations. It also discusses research developed in the country to address knowledge gaps, followed by an examination of research methodologies and tools used in this project as well as the training of local researchers. The paper concludes with research findings and discusses the impact of displacement and recruitment due to conflict on children in Vavuniya today.

Will You Listen? Young Voices from Conflict Zones

http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/720_filename_will_you_listen_090607.pdf

This unique report brings together a collection of voices from young people in countries across the globe affected by war. Some 1,700 children and youth in 92 countries express their struggles, concerns and fears as well as their desire to play a role in the peace and reconciliation process. The youth offer a valuable perspective to international aid organizations by critiquing and recommending improvements to provide assistance. For example, a 19-year old Liberian male comments that community trust should be addressed in the Disarmament, Demobilization and

Reintegration process. The recent report is a companion to ‘Children and Conflict in a Changing World,’ which is a ten year review of the Graça Machel study.

NPR Interview with Peter Singer: Children at War

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4280681>

Peter Singer, former adviser to the U.S. military on child soldiers, discusses his book *Children at War* in this 31-minute National Public Radio interview from January of 2005. The interview discusses how children are recruited and forced into warfare around the world. Practitioners may find this interview particularly useful due to Singer’s discussion of recruitment methods in specific environments.

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 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.
