

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: Education and Refugee Youth

Announcements:

The World Bank 2008 Essay Competition

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

“Shaping the City of Your Dreams” is the theme of this year’s World Bank international essay competition. The theme reflects the growing need for solutions to pressing issues created by increasing populations in urban areas. Young people between the ages of 18-25 are eligible to participate and are asked to write about what can be done to shape the city of their dreams in ten pages or less. The deadline for submissions is March 23, 2008. See the above link for rules and guidelines.

Global Campaign for Education Action Week

http://www.campaignforeducation.org/action/2008/action_2008.html

This year’s action week theme will be “Quality Education to End Exclusion” and will take place April 21st-27th. In order to recognize the millions of children and adults who have missed out on educational opportunities for various reasons, Global Campaign for Education is attempting to enter the Guinness Book of Records by organizing “The World’s Biggest Lesson” on April 23rd. Campaigners can download leaflets, posters and planning and resource packs for the 2008 action week at <http://www.campaignforeducation.org>.

Projects and Initiatives:

Education in Darfur: A Critical Component of Humanitarian Response

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

This Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children report offers recommendations to provide displaced children and youth in Darfur with an education. Findings from previous education missions in the region are highlighted, providing a background on the affect the current conflict has had upon youth. The report emphasizes the unmet educational needs of children and youth, issues surrounding teacher compensation, and the desire to bring education into IDP camps.

Resources for practitioners:

Sleepless in Gulu: A Study of the Dynamics behind the Child Night Commuting Phenomenon in Gulu, Uganda

www.redbarnet.dk/Admin/Public/DWSDownload.aspx?File=Files%2FFiler%2FKrig_Katastrofer%2FSleepless.pdf

This 2004 Save the Children study analyzes child night commuting in Northern Uganda and provides insights into alternatives to protect children affected by armed conflict and displacement. Recommendations are made for donors and shelter management on issues ranging from the overcrowding and standards of shelters to education. The study also aims to create a framework for the development of child protection measures that target child night commuters.

Determining the Best Interests of Unaccompanied and Separated Children: Lessons from Guinea

<http://www.theirc.org/resources/determining-the-best-interests-of-separated-and-unaccompanied-children-lessons-from-guinea.pdf>

This 2007 publication from the International Rescue Committee builds off of UNHCR's Best Interest Determinations (BID) guidelines for unaccompanied and separated children. The report provides practical recommendations for the creation and implementation of BIDs and identifies durable solutions for Sierra Leonean refugee children in Guinea. Case examples demonstrate the process of evaluation and assessment before a placement decision is reached. Practitioners may find this piece of particular interest due to the correlation between placement decisions and educational opportunities. Based on the experience in Guinea, the report recommends establishing a formal BID process from the beginning of an emergency.

An Evaluation of the Education Programme in Refugee Camps in Western Tanzania

http://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/Tanzania_2004_004_Education_Refugee_Camps.pdf

This 2004 UNICEF report evaluates established formal and non formal education programs in refugee camps in Western Tanzania. Attention is given to the implementation process, quality of education, and the influence educational inputs have on measuring the success or failure of the programs. This report relays various topics ranging from the impact of peace education on children to parental stigma towards special education. Practitioners and researchers may find this study of particular interest due to its best practices, lessons and challenges, and wealth of data provided.

After the Storm: Economic Activities Among Returning Youths

http://www.ineesite.org/uploads/documents/store/doc_1_57_fafo.pdf

This 2006 report discusses the types of formal and informal work that Liberian refugee children and youth returning to Voinjama in Lofa County are involved in. Particular attention is given to the youths' family and educational backgrounds as well as their domestic and economic workloads. Findings of youth economic activities are then placed into the wider context of research and policy implications. This report is an example of the backgrounds and economic activities refugee youth are likely to come from and engage in during a return situation in a post-conflict or fragile environment.

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.
