

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*: International Women's Day: Celebrating Young Women

On March 8th, people around the world celebrated International Women's Day (IWD). IWD was first officially declared by the International Socialist Congress in Copenhagen in 1911 to commemorate 15,000 women working in New York City's needle trade industry who took to the streets to demand better pay, shorter workdays and improved working conditions. This issue of *Links* celebrates International Women's Day by focusing on projects and programs for young women worldwide.

Announcements:

Global Youth Enterprise Conference.

www.youthenterpriseconference.org

Making Cents International has announced that the Global Youth Enterprise Conference will take place in Washington, DC on September 15-16, 2008. Designed as a participatory learning event, this conference is an opportunity to share promising practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. It will build on the outcomes of the first-ever Global Youth Microenterprise Conference, held in September, 2007. You can submit a proposal, become a sponsor or exhibitor, and/or register now! Proposal submission deadline is April 18, 2008.

Projects and Initiatives

Moving the Goalposts Kilifi (MTGK)

<http://www.mtgk.org>

Moving the Goalposts Kilifi is a Kenyan organization that tackles gender disparities. It began operating in Kilifi District in 2001 with 120 soccer players, all young women and girls. Now MTGK has 3,000 players and organizes three tournaments each year; one each for primary school, secondary school and out-of-school youth. Committees of girls organize the tournaments and budgets and all games are officiated by young women trained as referees. MTGK aims to train girls for the FIFA Women's World Cup as well as to offer employment and volunteer opportunities and leadership skills. Through MTGK, 237 young women have been trained as coaches and 136 trained as referees, while others have learned to be first aid providers and peer educators for health rights and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Tostan

<http://www.tostan.org>

Meaning “breakthrough” in Wolof, Tostan has brought its Community Empowerment Program (CEP) to more than 2,600 African communities. Currently in Senegal, Guinea, The Gambia, Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, the CEP is a 30-month education program that uses a holistic approach to help communities inform themselves about Female Genital Cutting (FGC), early marriage, sustainable development and human rights. Tostan’s Community Empowerment Program facilitates concurrent classes for adults and adolescents in human rights, health, literacy and more for communities who request the program. Community-led decisions have resulted in more than 2,500 villages abandoning FGC practices in areas where Tostan operates.

Victory Way

<http://www.victoryway.org>

Created in 2003 in Parakou, Benin to provide free legal counsel to women, Victory Way is now working to fight sexual harassment in approximately 50 secondary schools. Victory Way has teamed up with Peace Corps volunteers to create adult and adolescent forums in secondary schools. The community-participation module asks parents, teachers and students “What are obstacles to finishing school for girls?” Victory Way facilitates discussions on the causes and consequences of “grades for sale” sexual harassment that is a widespread problem hampering girls’ education. The NGO also provides legal information and offers training and support for adult and student watchdog groups in each school. Other Victory Way programs include technology internships for impoverished girls, technical training for women’s groups and radio programs against domestic violence.

Resources for Practitioners

2008: Year of Sanitation

http://www.wateraid.org/documents/iys_issue_sheet.pdf

The United Nations has named 2008 the Year of Sanitation, partly due to the critical role improved sanitation has in meeting many of the Millennium Development Goals. Girls are particularly affected once they reach puberty, with many young women missing class each month if menstrual hygiene is not possible at school. According to the UK’s Department for International Development, 11% more girls attend school when sanitation is available. This WaterAid Issue Sheet outlines sanitation’s high returns on investment and links between sanitation and the MDGs.

In Brief: Gender Bulletin

http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/bri_bull.html

Published by BRIDGE, the gender and development research and information service within the Institute of Development Studies in the UK, the *In Brief* bulletin focuses on topical gender themes and is targeted at busy policymakers and practitioners. Issues address different themes, with each comprised of an overview and two articles written by Southern-based practitioners. *In Brief* is available in printed copy or via e-mail in English, French and Spanish. Recent issues, including “Gender and Indicators” and “Gender and Sexuality” can be downloaded through the link listed above. Though not targeted specifically to young women, many of the themes are relevant for this group.

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.
