

**YCoP Links**  
**Issue 27, June 19, 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*: Assortment of Issues**

Since not all youth-focused resources and initiatives fit neatly into our themed YCoP issues, this *Links* brings an assortment of projects and planning solutions to your inbox. Read on for information about Shoeshine boys' rights programming in Bolivia, homeless youth initiatives and night schools in India, community ownership of education transformation in Tanzania, and a useful guide for working with youth poverty statistics in national planning.

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*Announcements:*

**International Student Festival in Trondheim focuses on Peacebuilding**

<http://www.isfit.org/article/show/3>

The International Student Festival in Trondheim is the world's largest student festival with a thematic focus, with each bi-annual festival focusing on a politically or socially relevant theme. Peacebuilding, the theme for 2009, will be discussed by over 450 students from around the world, with special dialogue groups for students from Jerusalem, Cyprus and the Abkhazia region of Georgia. Any student who is 18 or older can apply. Housing and food are provided free at the conference, and limited travel support is available.

*Projects and Initiatives*

**Bolivian Shoeshine Boys get lessons on legal rights**

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121010759340771687.html?mod=ONLX>

American law professor James Cooper brought lessons on the law, and some superhero garments, to 30 shoeshine boys in La Paz, Bolivia. Cooper's nonprofit, Proyecto Acceso, specializes in finding creative methods of introducing legal rights awareness in Latin America. The boys, who ranged from eight to 17 years old, participated in a know-your-rights seminar offered by a former shoeshine boy who now serves as a Supreme Court justice in Bolivia, and each "lustrabotas" received a pair of superhero-emblazoned pants for his participation. The boys are encouraged to continue attending Acceso seminars, with clothing incentives (next time with human rights slogans) if they learn enough to hold conversations with their customers about the law.

### **Alternative Realities: Making changes for Mumbai's homeless population**

<http://www.changemakers.net/en-us/node/3609>

Based in Mumbai, India, Alternative Realities coordinates projects such as “My Night Out,” which encourages non-homeless citizens to interact with the homeless community and combat stigma. The organization also works to improve access to health services for the homeless through community meetings and socially just legislation. Youth-specific initiatives have resulted in more than 100 street plays being performed by homeless youth, while youth living on the streets have also coordinated efforts to bring sick homeless adults to the hospital when they need medical attention.

### **Night Schools in India use solar lighting and indigenous knowledge**

<http://www.futurenet.org/article.asp?ID=2414>

Across India, night schools allow children who tend animals or help their families during the day to achieve literacy and numeracy at night. New innovations— such as rain water harvesting to provide clean water and solar lighting instead of kerosene lamps— have increased both school safety and education access, particularly for rural girls. Most night schools are jointly managed by a children’s parliament and a village committee. Local “barefoot teachers,” who have received training but no official certification, incorporate local knowledge and animal husbandry skills into the basic curriculum. For more information and a short video on Indian night schools provided by the non-profits Barefoot College and YESI, please follow the link above.

### **HakiElimu Community Governance Program in Tanzania**

<http://www.hakielimu.org/first.asp>

Established in Tanzania in 2001, HakiElimu was designed to enable communities—including parents, teachers, and students—to transform schools and influence decision-making. Organization members believe that democracy and education will only improve when more people get involved, so rather than solving education problems within the non-profit organization, HakiElimu facilitates community members’ participation in school and community governance. By stimulating public engagement with education issues and developing information sharing and networking throughout Tanzania, HakiElimu works to build Tanzania’s national movement for social and educational change.

### *Resources for Practitioners*

#### ***Putting Young People into National Poverty Reduction Strategies***

[http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib\\_pub\\_file/751\\_filename\\_poverty.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/751_filename_poverty.pdf)

Because many national poverty reduction strategies do not adequately address the needs of young people, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) commissioned this step-by-step “Guide to Statistics on Young People in Poverty.” It shows users how to find existing, relevant statistics on impoverished youth, and suggests ways to use the data to advocate for these youth. Good data can show policymakers how young people are experiencing poverty and indicates who, in terms of gender, location and poverty status, should receive the most attention in poverty-alleviation efforts. The guide looks at the usefulness of various data on the general youth demographic, includes national averages based on Millennium Development Goals indicators, and moves into detailed data that disaggregates youth information by gender, rural/urban locations and socio-economic status.

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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.