

YCoP Links
Issue 29, July 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*: Toolkits and Youth Programming Guides

This issue of *YCoP Links* explores useful toolkits and guides on youth development. Topics range from livelihood development to leadership and corruption in business, and some, such as the INEE toolkit below, offer interactive incentives such as context-specific materials contributed by users. Policy-makers and youth program designers will find variety of options, including a policy toolkit for at-risk youth, a youth and conflict programming guide, and the illustration-rich toolkit for combating HIV stigma. Other featured toolkits are designed for use by youth themselves—the reproductive health campaign and youth activism toolkits include guides and sample materials to jumpstart youth organizing and action.

Announcements:

ReGeneration 2008: 4th World Youth Congress

<http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca/index.php?rand=804563009>

The World Youth Congress, a celebration of youth-led development, will take place in Quebec City from August 10-21, 2008. The year's conference will bring together 600 activists in the field of sustainable development, from 120 different countries. Delegates will help shape international policy by documenting and showing governments what young people are doing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

5th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations

http://www.faf.org/programs/unyouthassembly/ya_home.htm

Hundreds of young people from around the world who seek practical ways to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, global networking, and social entrepreneurship skills will attend this year's UN Youth Assembly from August 11-14 in New York City. The assembly includes keynote speakers, workshops, networking events, and leadership training. Registration deadline is August 5, 2008.

Resources for Practitioners

Supporting Youth at Risk: A Policy Toolkit for Middle Income Countries

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCY/Resources/395766-1187899515414/SupportingYouthAtRisk.pdf>

This 2008 policy toolkit published by the World Bank identifies the following five key risk areas for youth in middle income countries: Youth unemployment and underemployment; Early school leaving; Risky sexual behavior; Crime and violence; and

Substance abuse. It includes information about core policies that have proven track records in preventing disadvantaged youth from engaging in risky behavior, such as designing youth-friendly pharmaceutical services. In all, the kit explores 22 policies deemed effective in addressing risk areas, from general policy frameworks to promising approaches, and then offers suggestions for moving from policy creation to a well-implemented youth portfolio.

Understanding and Challenging HIV Stigma: Toolkit for Action

http://www.aidsalliance.org/custom_asp/publications/view.asp?publication_id=255

This toolkit evolved out of a two-year research project on HIV stigma conducted in Zambia, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Now the International HIV/AIDS Alliance has released this revised version with two new modules, “Children and stigma” and “Young people and stigma.” Both were developed through a partnership with PACT Tanzania to improve understanding and action for HIV stigma among youth. The printable images included are especially useful for peer-to-peer facilitation.

Youth Livelihoods Development Program Guide

<http://www.equip123.net/docs/e3-LivelihoodsGuide.pdf>

This Educational Quality Improvement Program 3 (EQUIP3) guide addresses misconceptions and offers suggestions and reference materials to improve youth livelihood development practices. For example, research in a variety of countries has disproved the myth that poor youth without jobs are idle and economically inactive—most contribute to their household incomes with work in the informal sector, in activities such as family farming or petty trading. The guide also expresses the need for the development community to move from a “learning, then earning” approach to “learning while earning” opportunities, as many youth use informal work to subsidize their education costs, support family members and build informal peer networks that can bolster their entrepreneurial projects.

Youth and Conflict: A Toolkit for Programming and Intervention

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/conflict/publications/docs/CMM_Youth_and_Conflict_Toolkit_April_2005.pdf

This programming and intervention document explores the linkages among young people, development aid and conflict in an effort to increase integration of conflict-specific perspectives in development programming. The kit examines key issues of youth participation in violence and discusses lessons learned in at-risk youth program development while providing policy makers and programmers with a range of program options to consider. The monitoring and evaluation tools included are tailored to conflict programs, with tie-ins to relevant USAID mechanisms and partners.

My Voice Counts! An Advocacy and Organizing Toolkit for Youth Reproductive Health Campaigns

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/youth/advocacy/yan/toolkit/toolkit.pdf>

This kit by Advocates for Youth is aimed at teens, giving them practical suggestions for advocating and organizing to protect their sexual health rights. Topics addressed include arranging community forums, petition gathering, working with print and electronic media, and lobbying policy makers. The toolkit includes sample petitions and links to online resources. While geared toward American youth, the youth organizing tips in particular are of practical use across a range of contexts.

Leadership and Corruption in Business: Youth Assess Their Future Roles

<http://www.leapafrica.org/pdf/Effective%20Leadership%20in%20Business-%20A%20Toolkit.pdf>

This toolkit, produced by LEAP Nigeria, begins by addressing different views of leadership, stressing that leadership is evident in one’s actions, not through one’s title or position of power. LEAP’s goal is to inspire, empower and equip a new cadre of African leaders,

facilitating youth in their personal growth as well as in transitions to greater leadership roles. The kit includes tools for youth to assess their roles as leaders while taking a closer look at leadership roles in business, specifically addressing leadership policies, ethics and corruption.

Youth Activism Toolkit by Amnesty International

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/what-you-can-do/activist-toolkit/page.do?id=1031046&n1=4&n2=63>

This activist toolkit is youth-appropriate and includes tips on organizing local or student groups to campaign for human rights, from recruiting members to sidewalk chalking and letter writing campaigns. Online topics include “How to Hold a Teach-In” and downloadable sample constitutions. In addition, links connect youth to an online library of resources and Amnesty International country specialists for specific projects.

Education in Emergencies: An Interactive Toolkit

<http://www.ineesite.org/toolkit/>

The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) has made its Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies interactive with this on-line accessible toolkit. The collection of tools includes the INEE Minimum Standards handbook, training materials, relevant resource links and translations of most materials, plus region-specific files to help field staff and Ministry of Education officials contextualize and implement the standards. The Minimum Standards and this toolkit were designed with input from hundreds of INEE members worldwide, making the toolkit a great combination of theoretical resources and field-friendly tools such as guidelines, checklists and case studies. Cross-cutting issues such as gender and HIV/AIDS are explored across topical categories ranging from Teachers to Education Policy and Coordination.

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.