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: Regional Focus! Exploring Sub-Saharan Africa
The geographical area of sub-Saharan Africa is large and encompasses some of the most impoverished countries of the developing world. This issue of YCoP Links highlights a number of programs from the Sahara deserts in the West to the rolling plains of the East. In this issue, read about how you can nominate someone for a Top30Under30 award that celebrates young African entrepreneurs; discover how South Africa assists its youth in receiving training, finding jobs, and creating businesses; listen to music recorded and produced by Zambian youth; and learn about best practices in youth livelihood programs from the Women’s Commission on Refugee Women and Children.

Announcements:

International Young Professionals Summit
http://www.iyps.org/iyps08/index.htm
The 3rd International Young Professionals Summit (IYPS), hosted by the International Young Professionals Foundation (IYPF), brings together young professionals from around the world to share ideas on the theme: “How young professionals can help to achieve the UN Millennium Goals.” Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General, professor and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and director of the UN Millennium Project, is the Keynote Speaker for this year’s Summit, which focuses on governance, economy and education; women and gender equality; healthcare and HIV / AIDS; and environmental sustainability. The Summit will take place August 19-22, in Manchester, U.K. As of the writing of this Links, there were still a limited number of places available.

Youth Financial Services Course
With funding from the MasterCard Foundation, Making Cents International is developing a 2.5-day course titled: Youth Financial Services: Emerging Best Practices. This course will be offered September 17-19, 2008 in Washington, DC, immediately following the Global Youth Enterprise Conference. The goal of this course is to bridge the gap between Youth-Serving Organizations interested in providing financial services to youth and their capacity to do so. By the end of this course, participants will be: a.) familiar with different ways of offering credit
and savings products to youth, and b.) better prepared to decide which service and delivery mechanisms are most appropriate for their youth populations and program objectives. For more information and to register, please contact Jan Duhamel (jan@makingcents.com; 202-783-4090).

Projects and Initiatives

**African Regional Youth Initiative (ARYI)**
http://www.africaninitiative.org/af/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1
ARYI is an ‘organizing network’ that links together youth and community-based organizations across the continent, in addition to providing them with technical and financial support. ARYI and its member organizations focus on the Millennium Development goals. In addition to the MDGs, ARYI focuses on the following areas of development: HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health, Community Development, Leadership and Governance, and Communication and Technology. Check out their list of [organizational members](http://www.africaninitiative.org/af/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1) to browse the numerous organizations from North, West, Central, East, and Southern Africa with which they partner.

**Chawama Youth Project, Zambia**
http://chawamaskills.wordpress.com/about/
Based in Lusaka’s Chawama Township, the Chawama Youth Project (CYP) opened a skills training center in 2001 to improve the ability of Chawama’s youth to create sustainable livelihoods for themselves. In addition to providing courses in carpentry, tailoring, agriculture, and other vocational skills, CYP responded to the desires of the youth community and opened a recording studio for the community. This eventually turned into the ICT Integration, Multi-Media & Recording Project, which teaches youth about record production, marketing, and distribution. Follow the elearning link above to find recordings by Chawama youth!

**Top30Under30**
http://www.top30under30.com/
Top30Under30, an initiative of a Nigerian NGO called ThoughtWorks, aims to bring together entrepreneurs under 30 years old from across the African continent to participate in an awards show, Innovation Exhibition (InEx), and a documentary. Top30Under30 is currently seeking nominations of young African entrepreneurs who have the potential to create lasting African brands that will change the economic and social landscape of African business. Young entrepreneurs from across the continent can also apply for the opportunity to participate in InEx, a business expo were they may pitch their ideas to investors and venture capitalists. The 35 finalists for Top30Under30 will be featured in a documentary.

**Umsobomvu Youth Fund**
Created by the South African government in 2001, the Umsobomvu Youth Fund (UYF) works to promote entrepreneurship, job creation, skills development and skills transfer among South Africans between the ages of 18 and 35. The organization assists youth via Youth Advisory Centres, career counseling services, job registries, mentor programs, micro loans, training, internships, and more.
Resources for Practitioners

Youth and Sustainable Livelihoods: Linking Vocational Training Programs to Market Opportunities
This report, prepared by Columbia University’s School for International and Public Affairs (SIPA) for the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children, is an excellent resource on vocational training (VT) and market analysis. Focusing on Northern Uganda, this report analyzes a variety of youth VT programs at each stage of a VT programming cycle, identifying best practices and lessons learned. The report also promises a Market Assessment Toolkit for Vocational Training Programs and Youth, which will be released in September.

Youth Employment Network and Youth Employment Network for West Africa
http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/
The Youth Employment Network (YEN) is an initiative of the United Nations in response to the global challenge of youth unemployment. In addition to implementing its own youth employment projects around the world, YEN offers a wealth of resources, including a best practice database (http://www.yengateway.org/). Furthermore, in 2006, the YEN decided to create Youth Employment Network for West Africa (YEN-WA), a sub-unit that focuses directly on increasing employment opportunities for youth in West Africa. One of YEN-WA’s key initiatives is to develop private sector and civil society partnerships in order to create additional employment opportunities for youth. For more information about the Private Sector Initiative, view their brochure at http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/download/yenwa-psi.pdf.

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.

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.