

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*: Regional Focus: Delving Into the Middle East and North Africa

The Middle East and North Africa boasts one of the highest youth populations in the world, and the numbers are still increasing. Absorbing this large youth population into the workforce can be extremely difficult. As this *Links* demonstrates, however, various organizations throughout these countries have taken up the task and are running and developing a number of creative programs to address the “youth bulge” in this area. By following the links listed below, you will encounter organizations that teach leadership development, run job placement and/or internship programs, inspire community service, and more. Are you writing a grant for a program in the Middle East? Bolster your proposal with references from the Middle East Initiative for supporting publications and discussion articles by academics, practitioners, youth, and other leaders in the field.

Announcements:

8th Global Conference on National Youth Service, Paris, France

<http://www.icicp.org/ht/d/sp/i/1915/pid/1915>

Hosted by the International Association for National Youth Service (IANYS) from November 19-22, the 8th Global Conference on National Youth Service brings together professionals from the field of youth civic engagement from across the globe to share lessons learned and to discuss the impact of national youth service on community and youth development. IANYS also offers a pre-conference discussion on policy and program development. Kumi Naidoo, the honorary President of CIVICUS, will be the keynote speaker for the conference.

Projects and Initiatives:

RUWWAD, West Bank and Gaza

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

RUWWAD, which comes from the Arabic word for “Pioneers,” is an EQUIP3 program that works to empower Palestinian youth, so that they can become local leaders and change-makers. The program, which is grounded in the concept of community service, works both with Palestinian youth and the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sport. Youth receive training, funding, internship opportunities, and additional support so that they are able to gain professional and leadership experience, in addition to developing grassroots community service projects both large (e.g., national fundraiser for children with cancer) and small (e.g., performing a local beach clean-up). The Ministry of Youth and Sport receives support in the form of staff trainings, which teach employees how to serve and work with youth more effectively, and the creation of youth development resource centers that will offer IT training, media internships, and youth programs.

Youth Leadership Development Foundation, Yemen

<http://www.yldf.org/index.php>

The Youth Leadership Development Foundation works to empower youth, particularly underprivileged and female youth, to participate in Yemen's development. In order to achieve this goal, the Foundation runs two centers: the Youth Economic Development Center (YEDC) and the Girls World Communication Center (GWCC). Through these two centers, Yemeni youth receive training in areas such as leadership skills and business skills. Furthermore, the youth receive information about democracy, human rights, and gender issues.

Fondation Orient-Occident, Morocco

<http://www.fondation.orient-occident.org/>

The Fondation Orient-Occident runs five youth centers—in Rabat, Oujda, Safi, Larache, and Casablanca—which offer professional skills training in order to help youth increase their chances of finding employment. Fondation Orient-Occident offers training both to youth with a high school diploma and youth who were unable to complete their studies. Several trainings include internship opportunities and job placement assistance. The organization is developing a new center that accepts 150 students (50 percent of which are female) and provides them with one year of courses that will assist them with the job search. The center offers career counseling and courses in everything from writing a CV to forming your own micro-enterprise business to combating discrimination in the career search and workplace, particularly for females in rural areas.

INJAZ, Jordan

<http://www.injaz.org.jo/Default.aspx>

Established with Save the Children in 1999, INJAZ has since become an independent not-for-profit organization that focuses on inspiring, empowering and preparing Jordanian youth to enter the global marketplace. INJAZ targets youth between 14 and 24 years old and reaches over 70,000 youth each year. The organization works in schools and universities to teach them everything from personal economics to travel and tourism skills to business ethics. INJAZ also conducts job fairs, job shadowing, internships, and other career counseling-type activities.

Resources for Practitioners:

Middle East Youth Initiative

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

An excellent resource for practitioners, this website, launched by the Wolfensohn Center for Development at the Brookings Institution and the Dubai School of Government in July 2006, offers a number of links to publications, discussion articles, and news and events related to youth, education, employment, marriage, housing and credit, and civic participation. With a mission to “promote the economic and social inclusion of young people in the Middle East,” the Middle East Youth Initiative offers a forum for researchers, practitioners, and leaders to exchange ideas, advocate, and network for youth issues in the Middle East.

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.
