

**YCoP Links**  
**Issue 36, October 23, 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*: Resources Galore!**

Often we have more resources than we can include in each YCoP; thus, we have decided to devote an entire *Links* to them! The links in this issue will guide practitioners to sites that list a number of manuals or toolkits related to youth and development. It also allows practitioners to move beyond the practical side of things into theory and academia via journal articles. Finally, in keeping with the spirit of the population we serve, the final link invites readers to peer through the youth lens as they read youth voices and marvel at their art and creativity.

---

*Announcements:*

**SEEP Annual Conference 2008**

<http://www.seepnetwork.org/conference/>

The SEEP Network's 2008 Conference, which will be held in Arlington, VA, from November 4-7, centers on the theme "Powering Connections." The conference brings together microfinance and microenterprise practitioners for four days of connecting, sharing best practices, and discussing the current issues and innovations being used in the field. Workshops and sessions discuss everything from ecotourism to approaches to youth entrepreneurship.

**Field Day 2008: Getting to How**

[http://www.microlinks.org/ev\\_en.php?ID=26808\\_201&ID2=DO\\_TOPIC](http://www.microlinks.org/ev_en.php?ID=26808_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC)

Field Day 2008 helps kick start the SEEP Annual Conference on Nov. 4. Organized by AED as part of USAID's Field Program, Field Day is "designed to explore 'how' to take advantage of key opportunities and overcome critical challenges at the forefront of microenterprise development." Participants choose from three tracks related to economic development: Track 1) Consensus on Conflict? Emerging Guidelines for Economic Development in Conflict; Track 2) Meeting the Needs of Children & Youth: From Targeting Vulnerability to Achieving Economic Well Being; and Track 3) New Horizons in Economic Development. Track 2 specifically focuses on the economic strengthening of young people, discussing youth participation, program design, implementation, monitoring, and measuring.

## *Resources for Practitioners*

### **Market Assessment Toolkit for Vocational Training Providers and Youth**

[http://womenscommission.org/pdf/ug\\_ysl\\_toolkit.pdf](http://womenscommission.org/pdf/ug_ysl_toolkit.pdf)

The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children recently published this comprehensive toolkit based on its research in Northern Uganda. The toolkit is made up of three parts: the Market Assessment Toolkit for Vocational Training Providers, the Analysis Guide, and the Market Interaction Toolkit for Youth. The three step process assists practitioners in targeting their vocational training by learning how to analyze market conditions and employment growth and opportunities, as well as helping youth to become active participants in finding a program that matches their interests. Though the toolkit is based on Uganda, it can be adapted for use in other locales. For the full report on which this toolkit is based—*Youth and Sustainable Livelihoods: Linking Vocational Training Programs to Market Opportunities in Northern Uganda*—please visit the following website:

[www.womenscommission.org/pdf/ug\\_ysl\\_rep.pdf](http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/ug_ysl_rep.pdf).

### **Youth Reproductive Health Resources and Tools**

<http://www.iyfn.org/document.cfm/964>

The International Youth Foundation has recently published two new tools related to youth reproductive health (RH): *Family Planning, HIV/AIDS, and Gender Matrix: A Tool for Youth Reproductive Health Programming* and *A Framework for Integrating Reproductive Health and Family Planning into Youth Development Programs*. A quick and easy-to-use reference tool, the *Matrix* allows practitioners to identify what issues are appropriate for what age, when discussing family planning, HIV/AIDS, and gender. For example, how might you address family planning when talking to 10-14 year olds versus 15-19-year-old, married youth? The *Framework* discusses the integration of RH and family planning into youth-focused health programs, education and leadership programs, and livelihoods and employability programs. In addition to the new tools, this site also contains links to additional websites and resources related to youth reproductive health.

### **The Peace Corps Library**

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=library.comdev>

The Peace Corps library offers a number of easy-to-read manuals and guides originally intended for use by Peace Corps volunteers and their counterparts, but useful for anyone working at a grassroots level. *The Life Skills Manual* and *Working With Youth: Approaches For Volunteers* are of particular interest to organizations working with both in- and out-of-school youth. *The Life Skills Manual*, translated into several languages, provides lesson plans that teach youth about relationships, sexual and reproductive health, communication, and decision-making. *Working With Youth* discusses different types of in- and out-of-school youth and includes practical exercises and games that can be used with young populations. The library also includes guides for gender empowerment, micro-enterprise development, participatory analysis, ICT development, community development, HIV/AIDS-related work, and more.

### **Youth InfoNet 49**

<http://www.infoforhealth.org/youthwg/pubs/YouthInfoNet/YIN49.shtml>

This particular issue of Youth InfoNet, an e-newsletter published by the Interagency Youth Working Group, has compiled a comprehensive list of program resources and research summaries of articles related to youth reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues. The five program resources and 19 journal articles cover more than 15 countries across the globe. In addition to covering the more common challenges of pregnancy and HIV/AIDS, resources and

articles listed in this Youth InfoNet also address issues like sexual violence, early sexual debut, and confidentiality laws.

**TakingIt Global Publications: *Panorama* and *TIG Magazine***

<http://www.takingitglobal.org/express/panorama/index.html> (Panorama)

<http://www.takingitglobal.org/express/magazine/> (TIG Magazine)

TakingIt Global puts out two publications devoted to youth voices. *Panorama* is a monthly e-publication that features youth writers who address issues like sexuality, entrepreneurship, service, and more. *TIG Magazine* comes out somewhat irregularly (only three issues in the past four years); nevertheless, it offers an insightful view into the lives of youth around the world through their writing and artwork. It serves as a showcase for creative young talent, while at the same time addressing difficult issues like violence and climate change. Each issue can be downloaded online for free. These publications offer practitioners an opportunity to reconnect with the youth they are serving by learning both what challenges them and what inspires them.

---

**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 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](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.

---