

**YCoP Links**  
**Issue 40, January 8, 2009**  
**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*: Hope for the New Year: an Assortment of Initiatives**

To ring in the New Year, we offer you an assortment of projects, initiatives, and resources to give you a glimpse of what *YCoP Links* might uncover in 2009. This issue looks at a number of organizations that confront youth issues from a variety of angles. One organization uses hands-on activities in an effort to change society as a whole. Another organization hopes that family-based development will better the situation for youth. A third initiative desires to give youth a place to use their voice, and a fourth seeks to work with a particular population that still needs to find their voice. The resources remind us why these and other organizations need to keep going. All of the features in 2009's first *YCoP Links* bear witness to the hope that each new year brings.

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*Announcements:*

**World Creative Youth Forum, Philippines**

[http://worldcreativeyouthforum.net/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://worldcreativeyouthforum.net/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

With "One Life, One Earth" as the primary theme, the World Creative Youth Forum kicks off on May 5 in the Philippines. The Forum, which focuses on Education for Sustainable Development, has several subthemes: Peace and Human Rights, Climate Change, Sustainable Lifestyle, Entrepreneurship, Ethical Living and Technology, and Advocacy for Sustainable Development. Youth ages 18-35 are invited to apply for the conference, with a cap on numbers of youth per region of the world. The final application deadline has been extended to January 31 for aspiring participants from all regions except Africa.

*Projects and Initiatives*

**Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, South Africa**

<http://www.nmcf.co.za/index.php>

The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) "strives to change the way society treats its children and youth." The Fund implements programs in four key areas: Wellbeing, Leadership and Excellence, Skills Development, and Disability. Under each rubric, NMCF runs several projects that tackle problems related to children and youth. Key projects under Wellbeing, for example, focus on children/youth rights, street children, and refugees. The Skills Development program partners with existing organizations to support out-of-school, unemployed, and marginalized youth (e.g., those with disabilities) via training, life skills, and

entrepreneurship education programs. NMCF also has a youth parliament and youth clubs, as well as information about the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital, a corporate giving program, and the Advancement of the Status of Women initiative.

### **Alashanek ya Balady Association for Sustainable Development, Egypt**

<http://www.ayb-sd.org/home.html>

Alashanek ya Balady Association for Sustainable Development (AYB-SD), founded and run by youth, uses a "family-based development" concept that focuses on developing whole families, which will in turn develop youth and women. It runs three primary development programs in economic empowerment, education, and cultural and health development. Some initiatives under these programs include: training youth in soft and technical skills via a capacity-building project, teaching poor communities basic Arabic and math through an illiteracy eradication project, and helping children and teens learn to express and solve problems through the use of art in the Art Expression program.

### **Speak Africa**

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

Africa is a large continent with a multitude of youth voices. Speak Africa aims to capture them all in one place: a website that allows youth to express and exchange ideas and experiences about everything from the recent Ghana elections to a simple school day. The website is a platform for a variety of media. On the Xpression page, members exchange photos (e.g., of March for Peace on African Youth Day) and videos (e.g., public service announcements on clean water in Ghana, film clips from Kids Film Festival in Kenya) and original music. The Xchange page offers a discussion forum, and blogs are another way for members to share their opinions. While the bulk of the website is in English (though the site does use the Google Translator Gadget), Speak Africa voices are truly pan-African, stretching from the West to the Horn to the South.

### **Baladna Association for Arab Youth, Israel**

<http://momken.org/baladna/en/>

<http://www.momken.org/baladna/> (Arabic)

Baladna works with Arab youth, a minority population in Israel, on issues related to democracy, pluralism, and tolerance through projects that promote leadership and skills development. The organization conducts leadership trainings, and organizes youth groups, historical field trips, debates, international exchanges, and advocacy campaigns. Additionally, Baladna youth learn about journalism through the publication of a monthly magazine. The organization also manages two websites for Arab youth and has published manuals on teaching identity in non-formal educational programs and debate. The site is available in French and Spanish.

### *Resources for Practitioners*

#### **Youth and Employment in Africa: The Potential, the Problem, the Promise**

[http://ineesite.org/uploads/documents/store/doc\\_1\\_ADI-2008-final-11-12-08.pdf](http://ineesite.org/uploads/documents/store/doc_1_ADI-2008-final-11-12-08.pdf)

This year's publication of the Africa Development Indicators 2008/09 includes an essay on youth and employment on the African continent. Published by the Africa Region of the World Bank, the Forward of the ADI publication names youth unemployment as "surely one of the continent's greatest challenges." The report introduces facts about youth and labor markets, analyzes past interventions and potential policy responses, and offers case study examples from Burkina Faso and Kenya.

## **Too Little for Too Few: Meeting the needs of youth in Darfur**

[http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/df\\_youth.pdf](http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/df_youth.pdf)

The latest publication from the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, *Too Little for Too Few* is a comprehensive report detailing the education and skills training opportunities for youth in Darfur. While refugees in Chad receive some amount of educational training, the displaced who remain in Darfur receive very little. Based primarily on desk research and interviews with organizations and individuals currently working in Darfur, the report provides information on both the challenges of and the opportunities for Darfurian youth. The report examines available programs and initiatives and offers recommendations for organizations to consider before beginning a new initiative in the area. *Too Little for Too Few* is the latest report of the Women's Commission's three-year Global Initiative on Displaced Youth.

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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 listserv. 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.

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