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: Gender Series Part One: Young Women, Leadership, and Justice

YCoP Links is making new strides by producing in-depth, monthly series focused on one thematic area. In honor of International Women’s Day, the inaugural series focuses on Gender. Part One of the March Gender Series focuses on young women, leadership, and justice. The links below lead to innovative programs around the world that train young women and girls in leadership skills, advocate for their rights, and empower them through vocational training. The resources in this Links are Pandora’s boxes, providing links to papers and publications from academia and NGOs that explore issues such as gender and poverty, working with boys and men, and masculinities in non-Western societies. Stay tuned for Part Two of the Gender Series on gender-based violence, which will come to your inbox on March 26.

Announcements:

YCoP Links Series Call for Suggestions of Programs, Projects, and Resources!
The April series of YCoP Links will focus on Health. Part One will be specifically devoted to sexual and reproductive health issues (including HIV/AIDS). Part Two will focus on other health issues (e.g., mental health, malaria, TB, malnutrition). We are seeking suggestions of innovative new projects or excellent resources that would fall into either of these categories. Links should be fairly up-to-date (i.e., the program, project, or organization should still be active, and the resource should either be one that is regularly updated or, if a publication, should not be older than two years). If you have an excellent, up-to-date link related to health and youth, please send it to skratzig@edc.org.

Conference: “Ways of Implementing the EU Directives on Violence against Women, Children and Youth: Good Practices and Recommendations”
http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/fakulteta/dejavnosti/ziff/daphneeng/default.htm
This conference is part of the two-year research project — "Ways of Implementing the EU Directives on Violence against Women, Children and Youth: Good Practices and Recommendations" — funded by the EU Daphne II Programme. In the course of the project, the research team is evaluating the process of changes in the legislation on violence against women, children and youth in new EU Member States in the period from 1991 to 2006. The conference will present preliminary research results and hopefully generate new knowledge regarding violence. Plenary sessions and panels will provide a platform for interdisciplinary debates for researchers, policymakers, NGO activists, and other experts working in the fields of domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking in persons, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women, children and youth from the European Union, EU candidate countries and countries included in the European Neighbourhood Policy. The conference will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from March 20-22, 2009.
2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference: Accepting Presentation Proposals!
The 2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference will take place in Washington, DC, September 29-30, 2009. This participatory and demand-driven learning event will convene 350 leading stakeholders in the fields of youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development; microfinance; education; and health. Members of all sectors will share promising practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. Registration is open, and you are invited to submit a proposal during the Call for Proposals process, which closes April 17th. For more information on this global learning event, please visit: www.youthenterpriseconference.org, and to connect to the proposal submission guidelines, please visit: http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org/themes.asp.

Projects and Initiatives:

Sisterhood for Change, Kenya
http://www.kmet.co.ke/projectpages/y4y.htm  
Kisumu Medical and Education Trust (K-MET) has been implementing the Sisterhood for Change (SFC) program since 2006. The program’s mission is to empower girls through education, advocate for behavior change, and equip them with skills in order to achieve the overall vision of creating a community where teenage mothers/girls are kept safe, know their rights, have access youth-friendly sexual reproductive health services, and find their voice. SFC activities include training girls living in slum areas of Kisumu as peer educators and mentors, using drama to pass on safe sex and reproductive health information, and providing financial literacy and vocational training. K-Met is also piloting a new program called the Safe Spaces program, where SFC graduates will engage in income-generating activities (i.e., tailoring, hairdressing, catering) and, at the same time, be responsible for educating their peers in reproductive health issues. Later in the program, they will begin entrepreneurship classes.

Justice for Girls, Canada
http://www.justiceforgirls.org/
Justice for Girls (JFG) is a Canadian non-profit organization “that promotes freedom from violence, social justice and equality for teenage girls who live in poverty,” a significant percentage of whom are indigenous. The organization works in the following areas: criminal justice monitoring, advocacy, anti-poverty and housing, and education. The Criminal Justice Monitoring program assists girls and young women who have either been victims of violence or are being prosecuted for a crime, ensuring that the girls receive adequate access to justice in Canadian courts. JFG’s Girls Access to Education program works to improve education access for homeless and/or marginalized girls and young women. JFG also runs an internship program, through which impoverished and/or homeless young women can gain work experience and receive overall career support.

Young Women’s Learning Partnership
Women’s Learning Partnership (WLP) began the Young Women’s Learning Partnership (YWLP) with the goal of developing the leadership capacities of young women and girls. As part of the initiative, WLP is adapting their leadership manual Leading to Choices: A Leadership Training Handbook for Women (see http://www.learningpartnership.org/en/publications/training/ltc) for use with young women and girls. Using the manual, WLP leads training workshops that help young women and girls “create a shared vision, build consensus, strengthen their communication skills, and create action plans to achieve common goals.” The YWLP web page features profile stories of YWLP young women leaders, such as Olena Prykhodko, a Ukrainian girl who formed a youth council and helped advocate for child welfare policies at the national level.
Founded in Jerusalem in 1992 (and later relocated to Ramallah and Gaza), the Women’s Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) is a coalition of seven women’s organizations, three women’s centers and individual women activists that aim “to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, to develop the role of women in society, and to empower women to assume decision-making positions.” In addition to conducting programs and advocacy activities for women of all ages, WATC has a few programs that specifically target young women. As part of its implementation, the Empowering Young Leaders for Democracy and Governance project aims to bridge the gap between old and young leaders of the women’s movement. The Empowerment of Young Leaders for Community Awareness project trains 50 young women in leadership skills and helps these young leaders learn to network with youth and women’s organizations. The Empowering Young Women Lawyers and Social Workers project trains young women in communication skills, human rights, gender analysis, and other skills. WATC’s web site is also an excellent resource, as it contains links to reports, statistics, laws, and organizations that focus on women’s and girls’ issues in Palestine.

Resources for Practitioners:

Poverty, Gender, and Youth Working Papers
Published by Population Council, Poverty, Gender, and Youth Working Papers explore topics such as gender and family dynamics, fertility and reproductive behavior, policy development, transitions to adulthood, and urban poverty and health. For example, Guhman and Lloyd’s article “Teacher absence as a factor in gender inequalities in access to primary schooling in rural Pakistan” examines the effect of absent teachers on the gender gap, particularly as Pakistani schools are frequently single sex, and absent rates for female teachers far outnumber those of male teachers. In “Terms of marriage and time-use patterns of young wives: Evidence from rural Bangladesh,” Amin and Suran discuss the relationship between adolescent wives’ marriage arrangements and daily activities.

The Men’s Bibliography, Ninth Edition
http://mensbiblio.xyonline.net/index.html
The Men’s Bibliography is an excellent gender resource. When working on gender issues, practitioners often focus on girls; however, working with boys and young men is key to bettering gender relationships and creating sustainable change on gender and development issues. Michael Flood created The Men’s Bibliography, which addresses a wide range of issues related to boys, men, and gender. The bibliography was recently updated and includes about 22,400 books and articles, sorted into over thirty major subject areas. Examples of subjects covered include: men and masculinities, growing up male, working with boys and men, race and ethnicities (including masculinities in indigenous, tribal, and non-Western societies), fatherhood and families. Visitors to the site can easily search the bibliography using key words and phrases.

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.