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*: Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Exposed: Protecting Youth’s Rights
In impoverished countries, children and youth who typically rely on adults for protection and care become especially vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. In some situations parents, if they are present at all, may no longer be able to protect their children; in other cases, their difficult circumstances may lead them to push their children into the sex trade or sell them to traffickers with the naïve hope that they will have a better life. This *YCoP Links* features organizations and resources that work to prevent child and youth exploitation and trafficking, support both current victims and survivors, and advocate for child and youth rights.

**Announcements:**

*YCoP Links* Series Call for Suggestions of Programs, Projects, and Resources: Labor Rights!
The next issue of *YCoP Links* will focus on Labor Rights. We are seeking submissions for suggestions of innovative new projects or excellent resources related to this theme. 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 a year or so.). If you have an excellent, up-to-date link related to labor rights and youth, please send it to skratzig@edc.org.

**Projects and Initiatives:**

**Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities**
http://www.depdc.org/index.htm
Located in Thailand, Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities (DEPDC) primarily focuses on preventing the trafficking of women, children, and youth into Thailand’s flourishing sex industry. DEPDC's projects range from providing shelter for young women who are fleeing sex work to educating vulnerable children and youth who are outside of the education system. The bulk of their projects contain an education component aimed at preventing trafficking and teaching about human rights. For example, one such activity, the Mekong Youth Net, comprises trained youth leaders who educate about trafficking in their communities, in addition to supporting trafficked young women and children as they reintegrate into society. DEPDC also has computer and literacy programs and teaches vocational and life skills to vulnerable youth and their parents.

**Association of Albanian Girls and Women**
http://www.aagw.org/index.html
According to the Association of Albanian Girls and Women (AAGW) website, more than 6000 Albanian girls and women either are survivors or are still victims of sex trafficking. The survivors have come together to form AAGW, an organization that helps recent survivors –
who have an average age of 17 – reintegrate into their communities. AAGW helps these young women through job training and placement and handicraft production programs. More importantly, however, AAGW provides a platform through which these marginalized girls and women can express themselves and educate others about sex trafficking; through their prevention and advocacy activities, the organization’s members hope to reduce the stigma associated with being a survivor.

Grupo Luna Nueva
Grupo Luna Nueva, which translates to the New Moon Group, has been working with sex workers and child and adolescent survivors of sexual exploitation since 1995. Located in Paraguay, Grupo Luna Nueva targets adolescent girls whose boyfriends or parents force them into the sex trade. The organization started a Comprehensive Care Program that provides these girls with opportunities for livelihood training, in addition to psychosocial support. Grupo Nueva Luna’s Center of Integral Attention (CAI [Spanish acronym]) offers medical and health services, nonformal education that includes art and theatre programs, work readiness training, and transitional support, as the adolescents explore ways to leave the streets and reenter school, pursue a non-exploitive trade, or in some cases return to their families. Grupo Nueva Luna’s CAI is the first center of its kind in Paraguay. The website is only offered in Spanish.

Resources for Practitioners:

ECPAT International
http://www.ecpat.net/EI/index.asp
http://www.yppsa.org/ (Youth Partnership Project)
ECPAT International is a global network of organizations that share the mission to end “child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes.” The network includes more than 80 organizations and coalitions in more than 70 countries across the world. ECPAT’s programs, which rely on a rights-based approach, work in the areas of advocacy, prevention, training (e.g., of caregivers, police), and care. Child and youth participation is key to ECPAT’s work. The organization has created a youth network and a youth advisory committee, and their Youth Partnership Project (YPP) in South Asia is an example of a youth-led project that builds the capacity of youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, helping them become leaders and activists in their communities. In addition to implementing projects, ECPAT has produced numerous publications and resources, including training manuals, research reports, child- and youth-friendly publications (e.g., Young Person’s Guide to Trafficking), and journals. Their online resource center contains more than 1000 documents, videos, and CD ROMS related to child and youth sexual exploitation and trafficking. Of particular interest is their “Global Monitoring Report on the Status and Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,” which contains country reports that explain key actors and what they are doing to protect children and youth (see link above).

Smooth Flight: A Guide to Preventing Youth Trafficking
http://www.notrafficking.org/content/web/07publication/072Training_Manual/smooth_flight_a_guide_to_preventing_youth Trafficking_ppat.pdf
Although published in 2003, Smooth Flight: A Guide to Preventing Youth Trafficking is still a useful resource, particularly because of its focus on adolescents. The guide is split into three parts. The first part—“What is Human Trafficking?”—defines and describes youth trafficking. The second part—“Human Trafficking Prevention Strategies”—draws on the lessons learned from the Project for the Prevention of Adolescent Trafficking and includes lesson plans and activities, in addition to information on developing an awareness-raising campaign and
providing counseling for youth who wish to go abroad. The final part—“Advocacy and the Rights of Trafficked Persons”—discusses methods for assisting trafficked youth and partnering with government, law enforcement, and the media to develop anti-trafficking strategies.

**Childtrafficking.com**
http://www.childtrafficking.com/
Childtrafficking.com is a digital library that focuses on child and youth trafficking. The website claims to serve as a “global platform” for the sharing of knowledge and resources on trafficking. The extensive library contains more than 2600 documents, including manuals, journal articles, and reports. Users can search the library by either using key words or phrases or by clicking on one of the catalogue links, which range in topic from “Migration” to “Sex Work” to “Protection and Ethics.” Switzerland’s Terre des Hommes and Nepal’s Ray of Hope are the founding organizations of the library.

**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.