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: Youth, Sports and Development
There is growing recognition among development scholars, practitioners and the private sector alike that sports can be used as an effective tool for humanitarian and development work with youth. The UN for example, has used sports as a tool for development cooperation and humanitarian aid for decades. This Links examines youth programs and that use sports—whether soccer, boxing, or the simple act of play—as a central component of their programming. The highlighted resources focus on research around the use of sports for development and humanitarian aid.

Announcements

Microfinance Opportunities one-day workshop on financial education for youth
http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org/agenda.asp
Microfinance Opportunities will host one-day workshop on its new curriculum for youth, Young People: Your Future, Your Money, developed by the Global Financial Education Program (GFEP) as part of Microfinance Opportunities’ nine-module participatory curriculum package. Participants will gain insights into GFEP's approach to financial education for youth both in terms of content (topics) and how that content is delivered. The workshop will be held in Washington DC on Thursday, October 1st, 2009. For more information, please contact Kate Larson at katel@mfopps.org.

New partnership for sports and development in the Pacific
http://www.ausport.gov.au/media/asc_news/australia_provides_a_major_boost_for_sport_development_through_football_in_the_pacific
The Australian Government, the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), and the Football Federation of Australia (FFA), have announced a $4 million partnership to support and improve the delivery of sports-based programs for community development in the Pacific. Australia, through the Australian Sports Outreach Program (ASOP), will play a lead role in the delivery of these football (soccer)-based programs. One of the primary goals of ASOP (managed by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) in partnership with AusAID) is to help Pacific communities to implement their own sports programs that can have social benefits in the areas of health, cooperation and leadership. The programs will take place in the rural areas of Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and Solomon Islands.
Projects and Initiatives:

**Darfur Dream Team: Sister Schools Program**
http://www.darfurdreamteam.org/content/about-darfur-dream-team
The Darfur Dream Team is a partnership of organizations and professional basketball players that support the Sister Schools Program, an initiative to connect American middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities with sister schools in 12 Darfuri refugee camps in Chad. Founded by the Enough Project and professional NBA player Tracy McGrady of the Houston Rockets, the Darfur Dream Team's Sister Schools Program has two key objectives: 1) to provide quality education to refugee children from Darfur, and 2) to develop connections between students from Darfur and the United States in order to promote mutual understanding. The Sister Schools Program is comprised of a diverse coalition of students, professional athletes, and international, private, and non-profit organizations. Tracy McGrady’s visit to the refugee camps in eastern Chad is chronicled in the movie *3 Points* and can be viewed on the Darfur Dream Team website.

**Grassroot Soccer (GRS)**
http://www.grassrootsoccer.org/
Grassroot Soccer provides African youth with the knowledge, life skills, and support to live their lives HIV-free. Using teambuilding lessons from soccer and professional players as role models, GRS utilizes the popularity of the game to engage hard-to-reach youth. The GRS curriculum combines social theory, public health methodologies, and monitoring and evaluation with three core principles of education: 1) “kids learn best from people they respect,” 2) “learning is not a spectator sport,” and 3) “it takes a village.” The GRS staff deliver programs directly to communities in South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. GRS curriculum is also used by implementing partners in Botswana, Ethiopia, Liberia, Lesotho, Sudan, Namibia, Coe D’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and the Dominican Republic.

**Peace and Sport: Organisation pour la Paix et le Sport**
Based in Monaco, Peace and Sport is an international organization that uses sports to promote and sustain peace among youth in vulnerable communities. Peace and Sport’s peace promotion projects support sports-based events that foster dialogue, collaboration, and cohesion, while the program’s peace-building projects focus on the reintegration of youth into their communities. Peace and Sport uses sports that are popular in the communities in which they work. As a result, the organization has implemented a wide range of sports programming such as a Peace Marathon in Burundi and a judo program in Côte d’Ivoire. Peace and Sport aims to establish local networks, improve sports facilities, and implement national strategies for sports, supervision, and the development of youth. To date, the organization has locally-based projects in Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, and Timor-Leste.

**Play for Peace**
http://www.playforpeace.org/
Now in its 10th year, Play for Peace is an international sports and development organization with initiatives in Guatemala, the Middle East, Northern Ireland, India, and North America. The organization emphasizes importance of youth-adult partnerships, and brings together local leaders and youth facilitators from communities in conflict to teach children, teens, and adults to “live together, play together, and work together.” Play for Peace programming is based on the idea that “play” fosters collaboration and cooperation, enabling young people to connect in a more positive way by overcoming their prejudice and fear.

**Fight for Peace**
Fight for Peace was founded in 2000 as a Viva Rio project by former English amateur boxer Luke Dowdney in the Complexo da Maré, a group of *favelas* (shantytowns) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Fight for Peace uses its prevention and rehabilitation model to confront the problem of child and youth participation in crime, gangs, and gun violence in these disadvantaged communities. Using the sport of boxing and martial arts, combined with education, work-skills training, the promotion of a culture of peace, and leadership development, Fight for Peace offers youth in the *favelas* a positive alternative to violence.

**Boxgirls Nairobi**
http://www.boxgirls.org/nairobi/start.html
Girls and young women in Nairobi’s disadvantaged communities face many hazards including unemployment, early pregnancy, and a lack of educational opportunities. In 2007, Boxgirls Nairobi was founded by girls who wanted to fight for a better future. The program offers girls and young women from the slums of Nairobi Eastland an opportunity to engage in boxing and running. In doing so, female youth are empowered through the friendships they form with one another, and through the development of physical and mental strength, discipline, teamwork, and self-defense skills offered by sports. The program’s participants also learn coaching skills and conflict resolution and communications training, as well as life skills training related to health, HIV/AIDS and domestic violence.

**International Alliance for Youth Sports (IAYS): Game On! Youth Sports Initiative**
http://www.iays.org/who_we_are.cfm
Established in 2003 by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS), the aim of the International Alliance for Youth Sports (IAYS) is to promote the value of sports for children worldwide. The IAYS’s Game On! Youth Sports Initiative attempts to address the obstacles to youth participation in sports such as the lack of trained volunteers and the absence of programming, facilities, and equipment. Game On! Youth Sports Initiative provides communities and schools in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and North and Latin America with sports programming that incorporates life-skills training related to health and conflict resolution skills among children and youth.

**Resources for Practitioners**

**The International Platform on Sports and Development**
http://www.sportanddev.org/
This online platform is focused on enhancing the effectiveness and credibility of the use of sports for development and humanitarian work. The Platform offers an online community for sharing knowledge and best practices, fostering partnerships, and creating a solid network of stakeholders and practitioners committed to sports and development. The Platform also devotes a section of its website to resources focused on the use of sports, education, and child and youth development that include: the healthy development of children and young people through sports; physical education in schools; social and emotional development; policy developments; practical considerations on sports in education; and a selected bibliography of resources and tool kits.

**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.