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 and Education Series Part I: Education in Emergencies**

The right of all individuals to education is articulated in numerous international treaties and declarations including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948) and the Convention of the Rights of the Child (1981). Education is identified as an enabling right: basic education permits individuals to exercise other fundamental rights. The role of education in development, however, has shifted over time. Historically, education has been seen as part of long-term development efforts rather than as a vital tool of intervention in emergencies, while humanitarian relief traditionally focused on providing food, shelter, health care, water, and sanitation. Yet with conflicts lasting an average of 10 years, and refugees and IDPs typically occupying camps for 17 years or more, the absence of education in these settings leaves entire generations uneducated. For young people affected by emergencies, the right to education goes unfulfilled. There is growing recognition in the field of development that education must be included in the planning and provision of humanitarian relief in emergency settings. Part I of this *Links* series on Youth and Education highlights projects and other initiatives that are focused on education in emergencies.

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**Announcements:**

**New University-NGO Partnership to Create Center of Excellence for Education in Emergencies in East Africa**


In May 2009, the University of Nairobi (UoN), in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), announced that it will launch a new Education in Emergencies initiative in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim of the project is to create a regional hub of expertise in East Africa by offering a Master’s and certificate program for Education in Emergencies at the UoN’s School of Education. Courses will link theory with practice through field placements and research to help students develop practical skills to deliver education in emergencies. The three-year project is made possible with financial support from the private U.S. foundation, Unbound Philanthropy. For more information, contact Mary Mendenhall, IRC Consultant: mary.mendenhall@theirc.org.
Projects and Initiatives:

The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)
http://www.ineesite.org/
Founded in 2000, INEE is a global network of development and humanitarian NGOs, UN agencies, donors, researchers, practitioners and other individuals committed to ensuring the right to education in emergency and post-conflict settings. Today, INEE includes more than 2,700 members who work in cooperation within a humanitarian and development framework to achieve the right to education in emergencies and early recovery. INEE does not act as a formal organization, implement projects or coordinate agencies. Rather, the network aims to provide a dynamic and responsive mechanism to foster partnerships and shared knowledge among those committed to the right to education. Through the INEE listserv and website, and with the support of its core secretariat staff based in the New York offices of UNICEF and the International Rescue Committee, INEE members communicate, self-organize and engage through working groups, task teams, interest groups, language communities, and individual member initiatives and organizations.

Beyond School Books – UNICEF Podcast Series on Education in Emergencies
The UNICEF Podcast series is a new global radio service from UNICEF focusing on the health, education, equality, and protection of young people worldwide. In Podcast #18 of UNICEF’s Beyond School Books Series, the discussion focuses on the efforts of two young women working in their communities to promote the right to education in the face of extreme poverty and violence. Moderator Amy Costello speaks with Brazilian youth Mayra Avellar Neves, and Zambian youth Thandiwe Chama, both recipients of the International Children’s Peace prize. The interview offers a powerful example of youth engaged in pioneering work to bring peace and educational opportunities to young people in their communities, and to children worldwide.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Youth Education Programs in Jammu & Kashmir
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a Swiss-based humanitarian organization and founding member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (1863). ICRC works globally to provide assistance to people affected by armed conflict, as well as to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) among armed forces and police, university students, and other young people. In the conflict-affected state of Jammu and Kashmir in northern India, nineteen schools have been implementing the ICRC’s mission through the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) program aimed at helping young people to integrate the principles of humanity into their daily lives. The EHL program promotes humanitarian values by encouraging teachers to allow their students to express themselves freely through debates, theatre, and open discussion.

Resources for Practitioners:

INEE Global Consultation 2009: Outcome Report
In March and April, 2009, the INEE Global Consultation brought together more than 250 members to explore emerging developments in the field of education in emergencies, chronic crises and early recovery. The outcome report from the consultation is available for download on the INEE website.
Education during humanitarian emergencies: The situation of displaced children and youth in Darfur, Sudan, Brief No. 32, March 2009
http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/TABriefs/PGY_Brief32_Darfur.pdf

Published by the Population Council and the Women’s Refugee Commission, this brief forms part of a series focused on promoting healthy, safe and productive transitions to adulthood for youth. The brief outlines the two-year qualitative and quantitative research and advocacy project on education in emergencies conducted by the Population Council and the Women’s Refugee Commission in Darfur since 2008. The findings from the study will inform recommendations outlined in a series of forthcoming reports focused on improved educational policies and programs to support the needs of displaced children and youth. The reports can be accessed via the Population Council website or by request at publications@popcouncil.org.

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.