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 Development Resources: As awareness of the importance of international youth development programs has grown and more youth development programs are implemented, an increasingly voluminous body of literature on the topic has emerged. These resources can be immensely valuable in understanding past successes and failures, and in allowing more effective youth development programs to be designed and implemented in the present and future. This edition of YCoP Links connects practitioners to some of these valuable resources.

Resources for Practitioners:

Guide to Assessing and Designing Tourism Workforce Development Programs – with a special focus on job and career opportunities for youth
http://www.equip123.net/docs/e3-tourismguideapril2010.pdf
This EQUIP3 publication identifies tourism as a promising industry in which youth can develop their skills and careers, and provides managers from government, NGOs and the private sector with tools to assess and design programs in the tourism sector. The Guide will be especially useful in those countries where managers seek to build a sustainable tourism sector that integrates sustainable approaches to natural resource management while also providing jobs and generating economic growth. The Guide includes a plan for a tourism and youth workforce assessment, guidance on program design, project examples, as well as three survey instruments that can be used to assess the needs of a tourism workforce project.

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment and Livelihoods Development
At Making Cents International’s 2009 Global Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development Conference, practitioners, educators, funders, policymakers, researchers and youth entrepreneurs gathered to review the progress made and the challenges that lie ahead in the field of youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development. This publication is a consolidation and synthesis of the key findings, lessons learned, common challenges, and recommended next steps highlighted by participants during the 2009 conference. The Guide is divided into two main parts: 1) Programming and Policymaking in Youth Enterprise, Employment and Livelihoods Development; and 2) Youth-Inclusive Financial Services. Each part contains lessons learned and practical “where do we go from here” sections on a wide variety of relevant topics.
Growing Together: Youth and the Work of the United Nations
Since the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth by the United Nations General Assembly in 1995, the UN Programme on Youth of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has spearheaded UN efforts to deal with youth issues across the globe. The Programme on Youth is not, however, the only entity within the UN dedicated to serving youth, and “Growing Together” profiles the myriad ways in which the United Nations system as a whole supports youth development with a wide range of programs and activities and a diverse group of partners. Specifically the document chronicles the development of youth programs at the UN, argues for the importance of youth programming, and profiles how more than thirty different UN agencies work to promote youth development.

Literacy for Out-of-School Youth: A Program Guide
http://www.equip123.net/webarticles//anmviewer.asp?a=661&z=123
Literacy can be an especially powerful motivator for young people, building a sense of empowerment, dignity, independence, and efficacy. Putting a premium on youth literacy strengthens and adds stability to ongoing development initiatives supporting basic education, economic growth, health and family planning and social justice. This program guide, produced by EQUIP3, offers a resource for development specialists initiating or strengthening integrated literacy programs for youth ages 15 to 24 who are not involved in formal education. The Guide is divided into three parts. Part I makes the case for investment in integrated literacy programs for out-of-school youth and explores how literacy skills are developed. Part II describes the policy context necessary to ensure the success of literacy programs for out-of-school youth. Part III includes a step-by-step process for designing, implementing, and evaluating effective literacy programs.

Launched by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) in 2001 with support from the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other donors, entra21 provides disadvantaged young people ages 16 to 29 with comprehensive training and job placement services or support to start a micro-business, so they may find decent work. In phase I, entra21 funded 35 projects in 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, benefitting almost 20,000 youth through training. More than half of the program graduates became employed by the completion of their program. This final report of the program describes how these projects have been implemented, the results in terms of employment rates, quality of employment, sustainability, and other indicators, and the lessons learned from these experiences.

Child Trends – Youth Development Resources
http://www.childtrends.org/_portalcat.cfm?LID=C6CDAFF-34FF-4DFD-9CD745889CE5D128
Child Trends seeks to expand information on out-of-school programs in the US that work, implementation approaches that are effective, and approaches to evaluation. In the realm of youth development, this non-profit provides resources in the categories of research briefs, executive summaries and full reports, speeches, presentations and briefings. Topics range from incorporating technology into after school programs, parent involvement in youth development programs, and assessing peer conflict and aggressive behavior, among many others. Child Trends also maintains a searchable database on an even wider array of youth topics at: http://www.childtrends.org/Links/.
Produced by the Act for Youth Upstate Resource Center at Cornell University, the Positive Youth Development Resource Manual provides user-friendly resources and tools to community members and professionals seeking to promote positive youth development. The manual is divided into six different topical areas, each of which includes training activities, handouts, brief PowerPoint presentations and references to other resources. The guide is both extensive and flexible, allowing practitioners operating in a variety of contexts to benefit from the content of the Guide. The guide concludes with a list of websites, references, and other manuals that youth development practitioners may find useful in their work.

YCoP Links: The First Fifty Issues
http://www.equip123.net/webarticles//anmviewer.asp?a=662&z=123
Since 2004, EQUIP3 has been publishing YCoP Links as part of the Youth Community of Practice (YCoP). This e-bulletin has highlighted innovative and promising events, projects, and studies related to international youth development. The YCoP Links compendium serves as reference guide that collects in a single volume the listings from the first 50 issues. It is meant to be a practical tool for youth development policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and other professionals.

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.