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 Leadership: Whether serving as peer-advocates for better health, promoting civic engagement, or advocating for better youth policies in their home countries, around the world youth continue to demonstrate their capacity for leadership on a variety of issues that affect them and their communities. For disadvantaged youth in developed and developing nations alike, however, these opportunities may not be readily accessible. Leadership camps and other youth programs can offer young people a chance to develop and apply their leadership skills; through interaction with their peers, and exposure to new ideas and perspectives, youth build the confidence they need to make positive social contributions and become successful adults. This Links features projects and initiatives that focus on fostering youth leadership on issues that range from health advocacy, tolerance, human rights, and community service.

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Announcements:

**21st Annual International Youth Leadership Conference**
http://www.czechleadership.com/
The International Youth Leadership Conference (IYLC) is a week-long youth forum on politics, international relations and justice. The forum provides college and university youth with an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and to develop their engagement with international relations through debate, speech, and policy formation. The primary objective of the conference is to provide an opportunity for a diverse range of socially responsible young leaders to exchange their ideas with and learn from one another. IYLC 2011 will welcome 100 youth from 35 countries. Applicants may apply directly via the IYLC website.

**2010 Global Youth Enterprise & Livelihoods Development Conference**
http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org/
The 2010 Global Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development Conference will be held September 14-16, 2010 in Washington, D.C. This event will bring together more than 300 leaders in youth enterprise, employment, livelihoods development, and youth-inclusive financial services from more than 45 countries. The conference's tracks include: Workforce Development; Youth-Inclusive Financial Services & Financial Capabilities; Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact Assessment; Youth Enterprise
Projects and Initiatives:

**Advocates for Youth – International Youth Leadership Council**

Formed in 2000, the International Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is a project of Advocates for Youth, an international non-profit focused on advocating for adolescent sexual health for youth ages 14 to 25 in the US and overseas. The YLC is comprised of youth leaders with family ties to and interest in the developing world. Members of the council develop their leadership and advocacy skills by working to improve the reproductive health and well-being of their peers around the world. Youth interested in serving on the council in 2011 can apply through the Advocates for Youth website.

**Areté Youth Foundation**

Areté Youth Foundation provides opportunities in education, leadership development, and diversity training. Areté focuses its investments on promising but economically disadvantaged youth by providing them with opportunities to attend summer camps that foster leadership, and through direct student investment in the form of sponsorships for university. Currently, Areté focuses its work in Bulgaria, with plans to expand its programming throughout the Balkans. At present, the foundation supports Camp Glow (Girls Leading Our World) in Bulgaria, and Forward Together, a camp for Roma youth.

**Camp Glow (Girls Leading Our World)**

First founded in Romania in 1995 by Peace Corps volunteers, Camp Glow (Girls Leading Our World) first began as an initiative to address the emotional and educational needs of young girls. Camp Glow Bulgaria was founded in 2000, and in 2004, to help ensure the camp’s sustainability, GLOW achieved 501(c)3 status. Today, Glow is a female-run NGO that focuses its work on providing a week-long camp for young Bulgarian women ages 14-18 from all communities. The camp is held each summer in Veliko Tarnovo for approximately 70 young women, and conducted with the goals of fostering leadership, teamwork, and self-esteem. Participants join interactive sessions on different issues that affect their lives, such as decision-making, tolerance, health issues and human trafficking, human and women’s rights and leadership.

**Camp Zaedno Napred (Together Forward)**

Camp Zaedno Napred (Together Forward) is a summer program for Roma youth from throughout Bulgaria. The camp helps young people build leadership skills, self-esteem, and to find ways to overcome discrimination that many Roma youth experience in their community. Since its founding in 2000, more than 240 Roma youth have participated in Camp Zaedno. A number of camp participants have subsequently started youth groups of their own, furthered their education, and have become more positively
engaged members of their community. In addition, eight former campers will return as leaders, giving these youth the opportunity to take on more responsibility and to positive role models to younger campers.

**Siraj Youth Leadership**
Siraj Youth Leadership is a USAID-funded project that offers promising youth leaders from the Middle East and North Africa with opportunities for training, resources, and networks to help them develop their potential to contribute to their communities. “Siraj” means “torch” in Arabic, and through activities that include regular leadership and advocacy training as well as a regional support network, the program provides youth with practical examples of how they can have a positive impact on their societies. Siraj operates in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen. The program works with youth between the ages of 14 and 30, youth development practitioners, and youth-focused organizations.

**Youth Leadership Project Africa (YLPA)**
http://youthleadershipprojectafrica.org/
Based in the UK, the Youth Leadership Project Africa (YLPA) aims to provide leadership opportunities to African youth and to migrant African communities living in the UK. YLPA focuses its work on establishing and supporting grass-roots youth leadership projects in the countries where it operates through strategic partnerships with local community organizations, businesses, and local and international agencies. At present, YLPA has three subsidiary projects: Zimbabwe Young Leaders (ZYL), South African Young Leaders (SAYL), and a project in Malawi called Young Leaders Project (YLP). More information about YLPA's field projects can be found on its website.

**Resources for Practitioners:**
**Youth Councils: An Effective Way to Promote Youth Participation**
http://www.equip123.net/webarticles//anmviewer.asp?a=660&z=123
This EQUIP3 publication focuses on the role of youth councils as valuable forums for youth participation that develop youth’s critical social and interpersonal skills, connect them to their communities and to the global arena. The paper illustrates various types of youth councils, including their challenges and successes, through case studies of youth councils in sub-Saharan Africa. It also includes a step-by-step guide to work with existing or create new youth councils.

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.