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, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding**:

In December 2009, the United Nation’s General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/64/134 that proclaimed the year leading up to International Youth Day (IYD) on August 12th, 2010 as the International Year of Youth (IYY). The theme of International Youth Day is Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, which aims to promote peace, respect for human rights, and solidarity among youth across generations, cultures and religions. This **Links** celebrates International Youth Day and features a diverse array of youth programs and initiatives that are linked by their common commitment to building dialogue and mutual understanding among the world’s youth.

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**Announcements:**

**August 12, 2010 is International Youth Day**


The aim of the International Year of Youth (IYY) is to advance the full and effective participation of youth in all aspects of society. More information can be found on the IYY website including an IYY Brochure and the United Nation’s World Programme of Action for Youth that outlines the UN’s fifteen priority areas, proposals for action, and means of implementation. Nearly 100 youth events are taking place around the world during the lead up to and after International Youth Day on August 12, 2010. These range from a Youth Forum on the 2010 General Elections in Dar El Salaam, Tanzania, to policy events such as the OECD High-Level Policy Forum on on Jobs for Youth in Oslo, Norway. A full calendar of youth events can be found on the UN IYY website.

**Visual Voices – Youth Perspectives on Global Issues**

[http://www.shootnations.org/events/visual-voices-exhibition-united-nations-nyc](http://www.shootnations.org/events/visual-voices-exhibition-united-nations-nyc)

From August 1 until early September 2010, Visual Voices will showcase photos from youth around the world. The exhibit will “capture their views” on key topics identified by the UN that are particularly relevant to youth: Governance, Climate Change, and Gender. The exhibit is open to the public and will be on display in the UN Visitors lobby in New York City. Visitors are invited to engage in dialogue about these topics using the video booth or comments board.
Third Arab Women Youth Dialogue Program in Hammamet, Tunisia
http://allafrica.com/stories/201007050877.html

The Arab Women Youth Dialogue Program on July 1-7, 2010 brought together nearly 37 young girls and boys from different Arab countries for the purpose of dialogue, encouraging cultural exchange among Arab youth, and deepening their knowledge of women's issues. In recognition of the International Year of Youth, the event sought to enhance youth's contribution to the modernization of society and the promotion of Arab women's status. The events agenda included a survey of Arab youth's views on women's status and their role in the sustainable development process.

Projects and Initiatives:

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations - Youth

The Alliance of Civilization (AoC) was established in 2005, at the initiative of the Governments of Spain and Turkey, under the auspices of the United Nations. The aim of the Alliance is to explore the roots of division between societies and culture, and to recommend action to address them. The AoC Secretariat works cooperatively with States, international and regional organizations, civil society groups, foundations, and the private sector to help mobilize efforts to promote cross-cultural exchange among diverse nations and communities. In keeping with the International Year of Youth, the AoC has identified youth as one of the key priorities for the work of the alliance. Youth are directly involved with the work of the AoC in the form of collaboration with broad networks of youth organizations.

Salto Youth
http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/cultural-diversity/

Founded in 2000, SALTO-Youth stands for Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities within the European Commission’s (EC) Training Strategy for its Youth Action program. The SALTO-Youth.net is a network of eight Resource Centers located throughout the EC, whose work is focused on European priority areas within the field of youth. These centers offer young people opportunities for work and training resources. Among them is the SALTO - Cultural Diversity Resource Center that provides training, learning and resources for youth leaders across Europe dealing with issues related to intercultural learning (culture, identity, faith, and ethnicity). The center’s cultural diversity priority areas include advocacy and support to Roma youth, conflict management, and intercultural competence.

Cultural Waves, Uganda
http://www.culturalwaves.org/

Cultural Waves Uganda uses ICT and creative arts to create dialogue among youth of different cultures and religions in the Masaka district of Uganda. Linking youth forums and ICT, the program fosters youth participation by gathering their knowledge, ideas and experiences through group emails, e-news, and social networking blogs. Cultural Waves Uganda’s art programs use theatre as a tool for youth development and education with the aim of fostering a positive perspective of youth as assets in their communities, especially in rural and urban slum areas. In addition, the program teaches and uses Ugandan music, dance and drama to exhibit Uganda’s diverse cultural heritage among youth.
Seeds of Peace
www.seedsofpeace.org
Seeds of Peace is an international conflict resolution and leadership program for youth from regions of conflict. Established in 1993 with 45 youth from the Middle East, the Seeds of Peace leadership network now encompasses over 4,000 young people. Currently, the organization is actively working in the Middle East and South Asia. Seeds of Peace’s internationally-recognized program model begins at its summer camp in Maine and continues through programming in regions around the world with conferences, regional workshops, educational and professional opportunities, and an adult educators program. The program encourages youth to develop empathy, respect, and confidence as well as leadership, communication and negotiation skills—all critical components that will facilitate peaceful coexistence for the next generation.

Interfaith Youth Corps
http://www.ifyc.org/
Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) is a global organization that works to builds mutual respect and multicultural awareness among young people from different religious traditions. The program empowers youth to work together to serve others. The primary focus areas of the IFYC are Public Advocacy, Outreach Education & Training, and Leadership. These three program components work cohesively within the framework of the organization’s goals that include building widespread public support for interfaith youth work; equipping youth-focused institutions to positively engage their religious diversity; and cultivating long-term impact by emerging leaders in this movement.

Global Youth Village International Summer Program
http://globalyouthvillage.org/
Operated by Legacy International since its founding in 1979, the Global Youth Village has served as a US-based international youth camp that brings together youth from around the globe. Camp programs include Peace Building and Cross-Cultural Immersion. To date, the camp has hosted young people from 102 countries. Legacy International is a non-profit, educational organization affiliated with the United Nation’s Department of Public Information as a Non-Governmental organization. It has more than 3500 alumni circle the globe.

Resources for Practitioners:

2010 Edition of the World Programme of Action for Youth
The World Programme of Action for Youth serves as a reference guide for the International Year of Youth and outlines the UN’s 15 priority areas and their corresponding proposals for action. In addition, the publication includes the means for implementation at the national, regional and international levels. The publication was developed in response to requests by youth-focused non-governmental organizations, youth policy practitioners, and youth themselves.

International Year of Youth Brochure
The IYY Brochure provides an overview of the International Year of Youth and its underlying goals for the promotion of youth development and the achievement of the
Millennium Development Goals. The brochure will eventually be available in six official languages.

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.