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 Hunger: According to a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) report to be published in October, chronic hunger afflicts 925 million people worldwide, including youth. Recognizing the essential role youth play to bring about change, and in light of the International Year of Youth, the WFP has called for young people around the world to take action against hunger. This YCoP Links issue features projects, initiatives and resources that both address hunger and food security among young people throughout the world and explore the role that youth can play in eradicating chronic hunger.

Announcements:

Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
The first Millennium Development Goal is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger – conditions that go hand in hand, as the extremely poor are the most likely to suffer from chronic hunger. Each year, a coalition of partners honors the plight of the world’s poor with an International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. In keeping with the focus of the International Year of Youth, the theme for 2010’s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is “From Poverty to Decent Work: Bridging the Gap.” The theme highlights the vulnerability of young people, who are known to be particularly susceptible to employment instability, poor working conditions and inadequate training and protection. The commemoration on October 18 at United Nations Headquarters in New York will explore ways in which access to decent work and opportunities for learning and training can be developed with people living in poverty, taking into account the existing efforts and experiences of youth, their families, and those working in the informal sector.

9th Global Conference on National Youth Service
www.icicp.org/ianys/9thGC
The International Association for National Youth Service (IANYS) Ninth Global Conference will be held October 25-27, 2010, in Alexandria, Egypt. Hosted by the IANYS Secretariat, Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP), the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at The American University in Cairo, the conference is a venue for policymakers, practitioners and youth civic engagement professionals to discuss issues and exchange insights and resources. The three-day event includes a multi-session track on the connection between youth service and employability; a track for policymakers and others interested in youth
service policy development; and sessions on other theoretical and practical themes of service.

ICRC Young Reporter Competition – Call for Applications
http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/youth-competition-2010
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Young Reporter Competition is an opportunity to learn about ICRC’s humanitarian action. The four best entries will win a one-week mission to ICRC delegations in Georgia, Lebanon, Liberia, and the Philippines. Winners will interview young people affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence and, with the guidance and coaching of an ICRC communication specialist, produce a news report on their mission. The finished products will be presented in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 8, 2011. Deadline for submissions are 1 October 2010. For further information, contact competition@icrc.org.

Youth-to-Youth Fund Proposals
Proposals are now being accepted for the Youth Employment Network’s Youth-to-Youth fund in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Guinea. Youth organizations in developing countries often have strong, innovative ideas for youth employment projects but lack the financial or human capital to implement them. The Youth-to-Youth Fund aims to provide youth-led organizations with funding and capacity building, and help them become active participants in the promotion and creation of youth employment.

Projects and Initiatives:

The Hunger Project’s Youth Initiatives
http://www.thp.org/learn_more/on_the_record/harnessing_the_creativity_and_power_of_youth
The Hunger Project, a global organization dedicated to ending chronic hunger, has several initiatives in various counties to engage young people in its mission and to achieve the goal of youth employment, which The Hunger Project recognizes as crucial to overcoming hunger and poverty. These programs include a youth forum in Bangladesh called Youth Ending Hunger (YEH), a youth leadership initiative in Mexico, and youth health clubs in Uganda.

Education for Rural People
Education for Rural People, an initiative from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), works to empower young people in developing countries to take an active role in sustainable agriculture and rural development. The initiative has included projects in Mali, Burkina Faso, and other countries, as part of the ongoing effort to include youth in establishing food security and sustainable development. Publications detailing some of the group’s findings are available on the website.

International Movement for Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth (MIJARC)
http://www.mijarc.org/index.php?id=9&L=0%22%20onfocus%3D%22blurLink(this)%3B
The International Movement for Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth (MIJARC) is a global organization that helps rural youth (ages 12 to 30) contribute to the sustainable
rural development of their communities. MIJARC provides information and guidance and organizes training to empower young farmers and engage their communities. Some of MIJARC’s recent activities include organizing a rally against land grabbing in India and participation in the FAO-organized World Summit on Food Security.

Sirajgonji Community Development Project in Bangladesh
http://www.gnint.org/board/list.php?mode=read&number=33&gum=&choice=&searching=&start=0&scale=15&board_name=tblboard_casestory
This initiative of international development organization Good Neighbors International focuses on income generation, agricultural development, and social education. The targeted participants are Bangladeshi youth, with special attention paid to young women. An important component of the program is a Young Farmers’ Basic Training module, which provides young farmers with the tools to cultivate food sustainably. Other food security-related components are a cattle and poultry farming programs, and a cash crop cultivation program.

Conservation Agriculture Project with Land Tenure Support for Women and Youth
This three-year project from CARE in Sierra Leone introduces productive and sustainable agricultural practices to 11,000 people, with an additional goal of empowering and granting access to women, youth and other marginalized groups. CARE and its partners (local and international) will implement the project, which will include technical assistance in practices such as conservation techniques, livestock, fish farming, beekeeping, and land access.

Vocational Training and Food Security for Youth
http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/cpo.nsf/vWebCSAZEn/BA07820A8A828467852577580039DFAA
This project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), aims to build and equip a vocational training center for youth in Rwanda. The center provides these underprivileged youth with training sessions to give them the skills necessary to work in vocational trades so they can then enter the job market. The project also includes establishing a rice field to ensure food security for the youth and the community as a whole.

Resources for Practitioners

Feeding Minds Feeding Hunger
http://www.feedingminds.org/
Feeding Minds Feeding Hunger is an “international classroom” that addresses hunger, food security problems, and malnutrition worldwide. The website has lessons for teachers to use with students, activities for young people, and a discussion forum to encourage young people to learn about global hunger and become active in eradicating it. The site has a section called Youth Window, which aims to inform children and young people about hunger and malnutrition, information about past activities related to youth and hunger in various countries around the world, and links to other important resources.
United Nations Global Youth Policy on Hunger and Poverty
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyi/wpayhunger.htm#WPAY
This policy sheet summarizes the United Nations’ stance on hunger and poverty – namely, that hunger and malnutrition remain among the most serious threats to humanity and often prevent youth from becoming productive members of society. The summary also outlines four proposals for action: (1) making farming more rewarding, (2) offering skill training for rural youth, (3) giving land grants to young people, and (4) encouraging cooperation between urban and rural youth in food production and distribution.

Training and Employment Opportunities to Address Poverty Among Rural Youth
This multi-country study by the Food and Agriculture Association (FAO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provides guidance on improving on- and off-farm income for rural youth in order to increase the availability of food and decrease poverty. The report is gleaned from case studies in three countries: the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. An important focus of the report is the reliance on agriculture as a key source of income for rural youths.

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 listserv. 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.