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 Curricula: Because of a lack of access to education and training, young people in the developing world often do not obtain the foundational skills needed to participate in family, civic and community life. There is demand for training in work readiness and life skills, but practitioners often have difficulty finding out what is available. This *YCoP Links* lists resources and programs related to curriculum development and adaptation for young people, including databases listing relevant resources, as well as technical documents designed to assist in the curriculum design and adaptation process.

**Announcements:**

**World Bank Unveils New Youthink! Website**
The World Bank website *Youthink!* is designed to be an interactive space for young people to learn the latest on development, exchange ideas and find ways to get involved in international development, disease prevention, free trade, and other pressing and cross-cutting issues. The website now has an updated design and new features, such as automatic feeds that display the latest blogs, stories, events and other content; polls and quizzes; and associated pages in French and Spanish. Young people are encouraged to visit the site to contribute ideas, comments and opinions. The goal of the new *Youthink!* is to make participation easier for young people.

**11th Annual University of Youth and Development held in Mollina, Spain**
The University on Youth and Development (UYD) is an activity organized by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) and other international youth organizations. The 11th edition took place in Mollina, Spain, from September 12 – 19, 2010, organized around the theme of sustainable development. This event, created in 2000, brings together representatives of youth organizations around the world to discuss global development, to train and be trained, and to take political action around the main issues on the global agenda. The University on Youth and Development is composed of various activities (seminars, training courses, and workshops) organized by more than 10 partners and was attended by close to 300 young people from all over the world. One of the key outcomes of the event was the realization of the African Diapora Youth Network in Europe, a project that began more than two years ago. The issue of diaspora was also featured in the draft declaration that came out of the university, which also highlighted the importance of considering
sustainability in economic growth – both in terms of environmental sustainability and economic sustainability.

World Bank Releases Publication on the Importance of Investing in Youth

The Children and Youth Unit at the World Bank has released “Investing in Your Country’s Children and Youth Today: Good Policy, Smart Economics,” a new publication to emphasize the importance of investing in children and youth. Complementing traditional arguments of demographics and human rights, the publication provides an economic rationale to focus on the young generation. It argues that policymakers should treat public expenditure on children and youth as a public investment that generates returns to society through higher economic growth, reduced social cost, and increased quality of life for all. The publication further emphasizes that under-investments in children and youth are difficult to reverse later in life and that the price for society is high.

Projects and Initiatives:

Preparing for Work Website
www.preparing4work.org

The new EQUIP3 website Preparing for Work is an online collection of materials and training curricula that have been effectively used to provide out-of-school youth in developing countries with work readiness and life skills. Some of the featured curricula are available for download directly from the site; others may be acquired by contacting the authoring organization. The site also offers guidance on how youth program managers can select and adapt curricula for their programs. The site is searchable by a range of criteria (such as literacy level, location, content area) and is organized into four curriculum areas: Work Readiness, Entrepreneurship, Technical Skills, and Life Skills. Examples of curricula featured on Preparing for Work are the GoVenture Idea Book from MediaSpark, Inc., MicroEnterprise Fundamentals from Making Cents International, and the Street Banking Toolkit from Street Kids International.

In addition, EQUIP3 unveiled Preparing for Work at a thought-provoking forum about youth and work. Practitioners from government, foundations, and other implementing organizations participated in the event, both in person and via webinar, on September 27, 2010. The creators of Preparing for Work led a demonstration of the features of the website and encouraged participants to contribute materials and share the site with their colleagues at home and abroad. The event featured a panel discussion with representatives from the International Youth Foundation, Making Cents International, and YouthBuild International. A recording of the webinar is available at http://vimeo.com/15534294, as well as on the Preparing for Work website.

Improving Training for Quality Advancement in National Education (Itqane) Project
http://www.iyfnet.org/Itqane

The Itqane Project in the Fez and Boulemane Doukkala-Abda regions of Morocco seeks to mitigate middle-school dropout rates by improving the quality of teacher training and student learning in local schools. To help improve the quality of teaching and relevance of educational content, IYF is adapting its Passport to Success life skills
curriculum to address the needs of Moroccan middle school students. Itqane combines improved training for middle school teachers and administrators with adaptation of relevant curricula, such as IYF’s Passport to Success Life Skills curriculum, to improve educational quality, a critical factor in the regions’ dropout rates.

**Business Curriculum Training for Rural Youth in Liberia**
http://www.eco-ventures.org/index.php?option=com_bookmarks&Itemid=31&task=detail&catid=1&n avstart=0&mode=0&id=199&search=*  
This EcoVentures project focuses on the adaptation of business and financial literacy curricula for conflict-affected youth in Liberia. The project aims to provide participants with usable skills and knowledge, income-generating opportunities, and financial stability. A primary objective of the adaptation project is to generate greater interest in education, making educational outcomes more relevant to community needs.

**Resources for Practitioners**

**iEARN Curriculum Integration Resources**  
http://www.us.icarn.org/professional_development/curriculum/index.php  
The International Education and Resource Network’s index on Curriculum Integration contains dozens of Project Integration Plans and Success Stories. The database features curricula for the formal classroom, as well as professional development resources for teachers and school administrators. Curricula are organized into disciplines such as Creative and Language Arts; Humanities and Social Science; and Math, Science, and Environment.

**Peace Corps Field Training Materials**  
http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=library  
The collection of online resources is divided into five categories: culture, language, teaching and learning, community development, and volunteer resources and support. The materials may be used to train staff, volunteers, and in-country partners, as well as to raise awareness of international development among U.S. audiences, including in schools.

**Resource Pack for Capacity Building in Curriculum Development**  
http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/services/online-materials/training-tools.html?type=tahrget%3D_t  
This training tool published by UNESCO’s International Bureau of Education (IBE) aims to build the individual and collective capacity of education specialists for decision-making, management, and operational functions and roles related to curriculum policy design, development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and research. It builds on the experience of curriculum development specialists in Southeast Asia, but may be used in many other regions. It is particularly suited to developing countries.

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.