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 After Conflict*: Youth represent one of the most vulnerable segments of the population in post-conflict societies. They have a tendency to be recruited for fighting or to be otherwise exploited, and they often need to provide for themselves as well as their families in the absence of responsible adults. Still, the potential of young people to be a positive force for development is great – in many situations, young people make up a considerable proportion of a post-conflict population. Youth, then, should be viewed as a resource in post-conflict rebuilding, rather than as a barrier to development. This issue of *YCoP* Links focuses on the role of young people in rebuilding communities, infrastructure, and government in post-conflict zones.

**Announcements:**

**Conference on National Youth Service Held in Alexandria, Egypt**
http://www.icicp.org/ht/d/sp/i/1206/pid/1206
The 9th Global Conference of the International Association for National Youth Service (IANYS) closed last week in Alexandria, Egypt. Among the conference’s highlights was a video message from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about the importance of supporting youth civic participation; the launch of Egyptian musician Ehab Abdou’s book, *A Practitioner’s Guide to Social Entrepreneurship in Egypt and the Arab Region*; and the launch of Innovations for Civic Participation’s resource of information on youth civic participation programs and policies around the world. This resource, available in print and online at http://icicp2.org/ycpworldwide2010/, comes as more countries develop programs to provide opportunities for young people to build skills for success while also addressing critical community needs.

**7th World Conference on Sport, Education and Culture: Giving a Voice to Youth**
http://www.olympic.org/en/content/The-IOC/Commissions/Culture-and-Olympic-Education/7th-World-Forum-/ The International Olympic Committee is organizing a World Conference on Sport, Education and Culture, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to be held in Durban, South Africa, from December 5-7, 2010. The conference’s aim is to promote the role of youth as key actors in strengthening civic engagement and citizenship to further the objectives of the 2010 International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding.

**Forum on Information and Communications Technologies for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals – Moving from Advocacy to Action**
www.un-gaid.org
The United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) will hold its annual global forum on Information and Communications Technologies for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals – Moving from Advocacy to Action, on December 5-6, 2010, in Abu Dhabi. The forum will feature panel discussions and interactive presentations, which will showcase existing ICT-based projects and solutions that are enabling progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. The forum will bring youth together with ministers, leaders from the private sector, international organizations, civil society, and academia who are committed to and believe in the use of ICT for the achievement of the MDGs. The event will close with a gala organized in collaboration with the World Summit Youth Award that will have its meeting back-to-back with the Global Forum.

Projects and Initiatives:

Forgotten Diaries
http://www.forgottendiaries.org/
Forgotten Diaries (FD) works to empower youth to be effective agents in promoting peace and nonviolence in communities otherwise torn by war and conflict. FD recently sponsored nine youth-led projects in “forgotten” conflict zones aimed at teaching peace to youth who have grown up seeing only conflict. The aim of the Forgotten Diaries project is to raise awareness about under-reported “forgotten” conflict zones and to empower young people in these areas to bring about positive community development and build a culture of peace. Currently, 50 young people from participate as citizen journalists, blogging about life in conflict zones and helping raise awareness of issues on the ground.

Center for Peacebuilding International
http://www.cpbinternational.org/
The Center for Peace Building International (CPBI) was founded to shed light on young people in conflict-affected areas of the world. The organization’s mission is to enhance local capacities for peace by understanding the role of young people in fragile environments; promoting youth engagement in peace processes and development; and by strengthening connections between youth around the world. The organization’s work focuses on Asia, with particular emphases on Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Nepal. Among the organization’s activities are the Evaluating Youth Programs in Areas of Conflict meetings among organizations involved in youth programming. The Center for Peacebuilding International also has developed a curriculum toolkit, Rwanda Peace Narratives, which tells the story of young people affected by conflict with the aim of motivating young students to make positive change in their own communities. The Rwanda Peace Narratives toolkit was designed with American youth in mind, but can be adapted for use in developing countries as well. The toolkit is available for download at http://www.cpbinational.org/images/stories/pubs/RwandaPeaceNarratives.pdf.

Resources for Practitioners:

Youth in Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Agents of Change (2010)
This book, written by a youth expert at the United States Peace Institute of Peace Center for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, examines three cases of post-conflict
reconstruction — Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Kosovo — to explore how young people affect the post-conflict reconstruction process, and how domestic policy, NGO programming, international interventions, and cultural contexts affect that role. These comparisons were designed to be useful to practitioners in guiding future research on youth’s role in post-conflict reconstruction as well as in helping facilitate the youth population’s transition from war to peace during reconstruction.

**The Role of Youth in Developing After Conflict: A Case Study — Iraq (2007)**

This ACDI/VOCA paper investigates the role of youth in developing post-conflict Iraq, where more than 60 percent of the population was younger than 25 in 2006. In particular, the paper investigates young Iraqis’ opportunities to contribute in economic sectors; skills needed for meaningful contribution; and the perception of adult leaders of young people as a source of positive, constructive energy and leadership. The paper also looks at contributions made by the USAID-funded Community Action Program I and II, which emphasized the role of underrepresented groups — including youth — in promoting democracy and effective governance along with community development.

**Youth in War-to-Peace Transitions: Approaches of International Organizations (2005)**

This study from the Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management in Germany assesses the role of youth in peace-building processes as well as the efforts of international organizations to integrate youth into their policies and programs. It explores several themes, including the approaches that international organizations have developed regarding youth; the assumptions about youth and their role in violent conflicts that these approaches are based on; and whether the different approaches affect program development.


This paper discusses the challenges of youth development in West Africa, the global dynamics of youth development programming, and key recommendations for youth programming in the post-conflict countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d’Ivoire. The paper’s recommendations include an integrated approach to youth development programming, investing in education (especially for girls), establishing youth-friendly health services, and including youth as part of delegations to international meetings and processes. Also recommended is the formation of a national youth peace corps that brings together all stakeholders in the country to educate youth on peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

**Starting from Scratch: The Challenges of Including Youth in Rebuilding Southern Sudan**

This report for donors, policy makers and field practitioners is based on an assessment in Southern Sudan in June 2010 to identify young women and men’s skills-building
needs, challenges and opportunities; extract lessons learned from existing training programs; and document current and emerging demand for skills in the Southern Sudanese labor market. The assessment sought to establish how vocational training and alternative education programs could be designed to better suit the demands of the Southern Sudanese economy and accommodate the specific needs of different subgroups of youth. It was part of the Women’s Refugee Commission’s global research and advocacy project that aims to increase the scope, scale and effectiveness of educational and job training programs for displaced, conflict-affected young people aged 15-24 years.

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 Program 3 (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.