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 Media:** Involvement in various forms of media can offer young people opportunities to become engaged in their communities, in the world at large, and with each other. The experience young people gain in analyzing and producing the news helps make them more critical consumers of the news they receive. Media education and training can also be a path to a productive career that allows young people to give back to their communities. This issue of *YCoP Links* explores projects, initiatives and resources surrounding the global effort to engage youth in the media, with a focus on news media production.

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**Announcements:**

**“Your World, Your Future: Voices of a New Generation”: Call for Submissions**

[www.usun.state.gov/youth](http://www.usun.state.gov/youth)

The U.S Mission to the United Nations is now accepting submissions of topics to be debated by members of the Security Council on December 21. The question being asked is: “What is the most vital challenge to international peace and security facing your generation? Tell the UN Security Council what issue you believe deserves more attention, and explain why it is important.” Anyone 21 or under from anywhere in the world can submit his or her answer in a one-minute video, or in written form, in 250 words or less, and the three top submissions will become the topics of debate. The deadline to submit is December 14. Write to youth@state.gov with any questions. The event will be broadcast live at [www.un.org/webcast](http://www.un.org/webcast) from the Security Council Chamber at U.N. Headquarters in New York.

**Youth Employment Subject of ICT Forum in Tunisia**


The ICT 4 All Forum-Tunis+5 wrapped up in Hammamet, Tunisia, on November 12, 2010. The three-day event was held on the fifth anniversary of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and to honor the International Year of Youth, and spotlighted ways to create job opportunities for the younger generation through modern communication and information technologies. More than 700 managers from ICT companies, representatives of international organizations, and young people attended the event. Participants called for international organizations and ICT companies to support programs aimed at promoting youth in the field of ICT, especially in the areas of digital and information literacy, electronic services, and digital culture.

**Web Conference: Mass Media for HIV Prevention in Young People**
UNICEF HIV/AIDS in New York, in partnership with MTV, Johns Hopkins University and PEPFAR, hosted a virtual knowledge-sharing event on HIV prevention for adolescents and young people on November 19 in New York City. The purpose of the online seminar was to present current evidence related to the use of mass media for HIV prevention focusing on young people and to highlight lessons from a multi-country mass media initiative promoting reduction in high-risk behavior, stigma and increased use of HIV testing. The web seminar featured speakers from Johns Hopkins University, MTV, the US Government's Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator and UNICEF.

For more information, please contact Sandrine Flavier at sflavier@unicef.org.

Projects and Initiatives:

**Global Girl Media**
www.globalgirlmedia.org
Global Girl Media (GGM) develops the voice of teenage girls in underserved communities by training them to become citizen journalists by harnessing the power of new digital media to inspire self-esteem, community activism and social change. By linking young women internationally with reporters, educators, and filmmakers, GGM works to empower girls to develop media, improve media literacy, and encourage the promotion of healthy media messages about girls and women. GGM works to foster new and innovative models of reporting, disseminating and amplifying news, with a concentration on promoting and developing the female voice.

**Global Youth Media Council**
http://globalyouthmediacouncil.com/who-are-we/
The Global Youth Media Council is made up of more than 30 young people from more than 20 countries, including the United Kingdom, Bolivia, Zambia, and Sweden. Council members aim to address and respond to issues involving young people and media with the use of communication tools such as text messaging, e-mail, Skype, and others. The council presented at the World Summit on Media for Children and Youth in Karlstad, Sweden, in June of this year. There, the council made recommendations to global organizations including Save the Children, UNICEF, and UNESCO, among many others.

**Lao Youth Radio Project**
http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/media/4598.htm#story1
The Lao Youth Radio Project, initiated in 2006 by Equal Access, is an organization that works for social change through community and media engagement. The project’s radio show, “Peuan Jai Vai-Noom” (“Youth Heart Friends”), is a 30-minute series that combines music, drama and youth conversation to convey and discuss life skill issues. The project also provides a creative outlet to rural youth who have few such opportunities during or after school.

**Latin American and Caribbean Network of Young Communicators (LACVOX)**
http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/media/explore_4289.html
LACVOX is a network of more than 30 children and adolescents from 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The network’s goal is to strengthen children and youth’s voices in the mass media, and promote intercultural exchange among young communicators. At a UNICEF-
sponsored workshop in El Salvador, youth exchanged ideas and stories about their work in media programming by and for young people in the various countries that are represented in the network.

**Open Society Youth Citizen Journalism Initiative**  
[www.soros.org/initiatives/youth/focus/journalism](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/youth/focus/journalism)  
The Open Society Institute’s Youth Initiative sponsors youth citizen journalism workshops to accompany the Moving Walls International documentary photography exhibit in the Middle East and North Africa. Together with local partners, the OSI has sponsored workshops in Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, the West Bank, and Egypt.

**Partners 2: Media and Youth for Community Participation**  
[http://www.internews.org/regions/mena/default.shtm](http://www.internews.org/regions/mena/default.shtm)  
Through a grant from USAID-Egypt, Internews Network is implementing this 18-month program aimed at inspiring the next generation of Egyptian citizens about the power of democracy and media. This grassroots civic education and media project trains professors at Egyptian universities, as well as print and radio journalists. The combination of civil society and media trainings will give hundreds of teachers and thousands of students across the country the techniques they need to participate in shaping the future of Egyptian society. These same teachers and students will also be trained to mobilize the power of mass media on the themes of democracy and governance.

**World Youth News**  
World Youth News is a global online news project for secondary school students from around the world. Adhering to journalistic standards, students select the issues they want to report on, and write, edit and publish their articles on the web-based news service. Any secondary school student (between 14-19 years old) can join this project as a reporter after successfully completing an online training and certification course.  
World Youth News aims to take students beyond basic media literacy to becoming international correspondents for student publications. Its worldwide team of reporters and editors works collaboratively while researching, writing and editing articles. With an emphasis on unbiased reporting and respect for a diversity of views, World Youth News hopes to not only develop journalistic skills among students but also broaden cross-cultural understanding and provide an important global youth perspective. This initiative was launched in 2004 as a partnership between [iEARN](http://iearn.org) (International Education and Resource Network) and the [Daniel Pearl Foundation](http://www.danielpearl.org).

**Youth Media and Communication Initiative (Nigeria)**  
[http://ymci.info/](http://ymci.info/)  
The Youth Media and Communication Initiative (YMCI) works to facilitate the expansion of communication infrastructure to children and youth in Nigeria and increase their access to information about their rights. A major component of YMCI’s work is the establishment of youth media centers, which offer training in media education and production, after-school programs, and digital resources. Other components of YMCI are a Media in the Classroom program, Family Media Forum, Young Voters Initiative, and a Book of the Month Club.

**Radio ABAJENE! Rwanda**  
Population Services International and the National University of Rwanda (NUR) have launched a youth radio program entitled Radio ABAJENE!, funded by the USAID. Radio ABAJENE! airs every Saturday afternoon for one hour, and is part of the ABAJENE! DUSHISHOZE movement, meaning “Youth! Think About It” in Kinyarwanda. The movement targets in-school and out-of-school youth aged 15-24, but also aims to reach their parents/caregivers, younger siblings, teachers and local youth leaders who provide social support to youth.

**Resources for Practitioners**

**Voices of Youth**  
This UNICEF initiative is a communication tool for young people around the world to exchange ideas, and for youth programs practitioners to access important resources. The website, which had an initial objective of connecting young people around the world when it began in 1995, now has interactive games, discussion boards, and features on youth-oriented programs, with a special focus on youth in media. A key component of Voices of Youth is the Media Magic digest, which is produced with the help of the International Children’s Day of Broadcasting (ICDB). The digest is updated several times per year and highlights a new youth-related media project with each issue.

**International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth & Media**  
[http://www.nordicom.gu.se/clearinghouse.php](http://www.nordicom.gu.se/clearinghouse.php)  
This website, run by the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, is a place to access publications, links, databases, and other materials relating to youth and media. An important task of the International Clearinghouse is the publication of yearbooks on various themes. Some of the clearinghouse’s latest titles are *Children and Youth in the Digital Media Culture*, *Youth Engaging with the World*, and *African Media, African Children*.

**Children, Youth and Media Around the World: An Overview of Trends & Issues**  
This overview of trends and issues concerning young people and the media is based on a broad review of existing print and electronic sources, interviews with child media experts from different regions, and analysis of media research group InterMedia’s surveys in transitional and developing countries. The trends and issues highlighted here — from young people’s media options and behavior, to the quality and influence of media aimed at them — all point to the need for more effective use of the vast positive potential of mass media and new technologies to advocate for, and enrich the lives of, young people worldwide.

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.