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: Collecting and Analyzing Data on Youth: This year’s United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) State of the World’s Children report focuses its attention on youth. The report, Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity, notes that although there have been “enormous gains” for young children up to the age of 10, there have been fewer gains in areas critically affecting adolescents, especially school participation. Its findings stress that with the majority of the world's 1.2 billion adolescents living in developing countries, investing in their education and training could break entrenched cycles of poverty and inequality. The UNICEF report contends that a major challenge to youth development is the limited data available on young people around the world. Strides have been made in population-based household surveys, and the importance of youth participation has become clearer in recent years. Still, data on adolescents, especially early adolescents, in developing countries is relatively scarce, and a deeper level of analysis of disaggregation and causal analysis is still needed. This issue of YCoP Links features guides, reports, and organizations that address the collection and analysis of data on youth in developing countries.

Announcements:

http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_57468.html
The 2011 edition the UNICEF’s State of the World’s Children report examines the global state of adolescents; outlines the challenges they face in health, education, protection and participation; and explores the risks and vulnerabilities of this pivotal stage. The report highlights the opportunities that adolescence offers, both for adolescents themselves and for the societies they live in. The accumulated evidence demonstrates that investing in adolescents’ second decade is our best hope of breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and inequity and of laying the foundation for a more peaceful, tolerant and equitable world. The report includes Country Panels with thematic looks at youth in such countries as Haiti, Mexico, and Jordan; a section on technology; and essays by national leaders, celebrity athletes, and young people themselves.

YouthActionNet Global Fellowship Program Accepting Applications
Launched in 2001 by the International Youth Foundation (IYF), YouthActionNet strengthens, supports, and celebrates the role of young people in leading positive change in their communities. Each year, 20 exceptional young social entrepreneurs are selected as YouthActionNet Global Fellows following a competitive application process. The yearlong program includes, among other components, a leadership retreat; instruction in organization management skills; networking with international and national aid agencies, NGOs, and corporate partners; access to resources; and training in and innovative uses of new media technologies. Fellowships are open to all young people aged 18-29 (as of October 1, 2011) who have founded existing projects/organizations, or have led a project within an organization. Proficiency in English is required; applications must be submitted in English. Applicants must be available to attend full retreat (all expenses paid) at the beginning of October 2011. The deadline for 2011 applications is March 11, 2011. Selected semi-finalists will be notified by April 30, 2011. The 2011 retreat will take place during the first two weeks of October 2011.

Young Women’s World Forum 2011
The Young Women’s World Forum 2011, taking place March 19th to 26th, is the second in a series of events which are part of the global centenary celebrations of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. The first Young Women’s World Forum 2010 was organized by Girlguiding UK and the final event will be organized with Girl Scouts of the USA in 2012. All three events will aim to address the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The program will include the opportunity to develop advocacy skills, the design of a process plan for change by each delegate, and field visits with partners and UN agencies. The opening ceremony will be held simultaneously in all four World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts World Centers and mark an official beginning of the event. The ceremony will be broadcast online.

WHO: Call for Applications – Building Effective Youth Investment Programs
A key strategy pursued by the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH) is to ensure that proper attention is paid to the health needs of young people within all relevant areas of public health as well as other sectors. In an effort to build capacity among colleagues in other sectors, WHO has partnered with the International Labour Organization, the World Bank, UNICEF and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to organize the 3rd edition of the Inter-Agency course “Building Effective Youth Investment Programs” to be held April 11th to 15th, 2011 in Turin, Italy. This course provides technical training with a global focus to government officials from various ministries, staff from bilateral and multilateral agencies, and NGOs working with governments on adolescent and youth issues. The course is currently accepting applications.

Projects and Initiatives:

Demographic and Health Surveys: Youth Corner
http://www.measuredhs.com/Topics/youth/start.cfm
The Youth Corner of the Demographic and Health Surveys website highlights DHS findings about youth and features in-depth profiles of young adults ages 15-24 from more than 30 countries worldwide. The data comes from surveys conducted in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe since 2000. DHS has interviewed thousands of young people and gathered valuable information about their education, employment, media exposure, nutrition, sexual activity, fertility, unions, and general reproductive health, including HIV prevalence. Youth Corner is part of the broader effort by the Interagency Youth Working Group (IYWG) (http://www.infoforhealth.org/youthwg) to help program managers, donors, national and local governments, teachers, religious leaders, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) plan and implement strong, relevant programs to improve the reproductive health of young adults.

**Population Council’s Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (ACASI)**
http://www.popcouncil.org/projects/246_ACASI.asp

Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (ACASI) was developed by Population Council researchers and information technology specialists to allow for increased privacy and standardization in interviews. Using ACASI, a respondent listens to prerecorded questions from a computer through headphones and records his/her responses using a touch screen or key pad. The respondent may or may not simultaneously read the questions from the computer screen. The Population Council has developed its own software to make use of this technology. ACASI can accommodate many question or response types, can be used with literate or illiterate populations, and is configured for use in 13 languages and dialects. The technology is supported by PDA and tablet/laptop computers for more flexibility in research design. ACASI has been used in a variety of surveys, clinical trials, and studies, including: a safety and effectiveness study of two microbicide candidates in Malawi; a school-based longitudinal study of adolescents, also in Malawi; and a simulated clinical trial to explore willingness to participate and methods for improving reporting of adherence in India.

**Resources for Practitioners:**

**The Adolescent Experience In-depth: Using Data to Identify and Reach the Most Vulnerable Young People (series)**
http://www.popcouncil.org/publications/serialsbriefs/AdolExplInDepth.asp

The purpose of this series, which draws principally on data from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), is to provide decision-makers at all levels—from governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and advocacy groups—with data on the situation of adolescent girls and boys and young women. The age range covered is 10–24 years. The data are presented in graphs, tables, and maps (wherever possible), providing multiple formats to make the information accessible to a range of audiences. The Adolescent Experience In-depth series began as a continuation of the Facts about Adolescents series in order to provide decision-makers, planners, and advocates with an evidence base about the diversity of experiences of young people in the developing world. While this series provides a wider range of variables to highlight the vulnerabilities that many young people experience, the two series can be used side-by-side to gain an understanding of how the issues may have changed from one survey year to the next. More than 50 countries are profiled in the series.
Out-of-School Youth in Developing Countries: What the data do (and do not) tell us (2010)
http://www.equip123.net/docs/e3-OSY.pdf
This newest EQUIP3 publication offers the first systematic analysis of out-of-school youth populations. In so doing, it estimates the youth bulge worldwide and measures key characteristics of out-of-school youth for sub-Saharan African countries. The report points out the value and limitations of an existing data set—the Demographic and Health Surveys—administered in 75 countries every five years since 1984. In addition, as examples of how existing data can be used for analysis at the national and subnational levels, the report constructs country statistical profiles for out-of-school youth in Kenya and Ethiopia. These profiles examine indicators related to four sectoral dimensions of out-of-school status: education, employment, livelihood, and health. The analysis pays particular attention to age, gender, and urban versus rural status—all key factors that shape the lives of out-of-school youth. In addition, the study distinguishes patterns between and within countries, challenging the conventional wisdom that youth populations are a monolithic cohort. The report is meant to help policymakers and practitioners improve the effectiveness of youth policy and programming.

Survey of Young People in Egypt (2010)
http://www.popcouncil.org/projects/234_SurveyYoungPeopleEgypt.asp
Population Council researchers have conducted a nationally representative survey covering 15,000 young people in Egypt aged 10–29 to update the state of knowledge on youth and adolescents in Egypt on issues of health, education, employment, family formation, and civic participation. In the coming decade, Egypt will have the largest demographic cohort ever making its way to adulthood. Young people are important catalysts for development and change, and investment in this crucial age group provides an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate growth and reduce poverty. Success or failure in policies in the areas of education, employment, or health will have a decisive impact on this cohort of young people.

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.