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 the Fight Against Infectious Diseases: This issue of YCoP Links commemorates the World Health Organization’s World Health Day 2011, which is today. The theme this year is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), the resistance of a microorganism to an antimicrobial medicine to which it was previously sensitive. AMR is of particular concern for people in developing countries, where malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases are especially prevalent and difficult to treat. This issue of YCoP Links features resources, projects, and links related to infections among youth, and health issues affecting young people in general.

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Announcements:

New World Health Organization Website Launched on Adolescent Health in the European Region

A renovated World Health Organization (WHO) website on adolescent health in the European region has been launched. It aims to give readers more information about the approach to adolescent health programming and the nature of support that WHO Europe has provided to countries. Most recently, the website issued a news release highlighting the dangers of drug-resistant tuberculosis and the persistence of tuberculosis among children.

Youth and HIV/AIDS

The UN Programme on Youth hosted a briefing session March 25th, 2011, on HIV/AIDS at the UN Headquarters in New York, including a panel discussion on the role of youth in HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and management, in addition to the impact of HIV/AIDS on young people. Pierre Robert, UNICEF Adolescence and Health Specialist, noted that in the top nine countries with HIV/AIDS, all located in Southern Africa, at least one in 20 young people are living with HIV. The panelists emphasized the importance targeting youth, particularly young women, as they account for a large portion of the epidemic. The panelists also stressed the need to create programs to help prevention and the spread of HIV.
Youth and United Nations Global Alliance Website Updated

http://www.yunga.org/

The Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) website has been updated with new information and resources. YUNGA is intended to facilitate collaboration between UN agencies and other organizations working with children and young people (such as schools, youth and civil society groups, NGOs and government institutions). The objective is to create a gateway to facilitate the engagement of young people in activities of key environmental and social concern at the local and international levels.

Projects and Initiatives:

**Youth Health Corps**
http://www.children.org/YouthHealthCorps.asp?sid=429FDA0D-4BEB-4782-BAB3-3B78F12F6EE1

The Youth Health Corps is a Children International program using peer education to increase knowledge of health topics among youth in various communities around the world. Trained youth ambassadors teach children about proper hygiene and fellow youth about reproductive health and pregnancy prevention. The YHC enlists young volunteers to deliver life-saving information, keeping in mind that when the subject is sensitive, often the best teachers for youth are the youth themselves.

**Youth Agents of Change to Stop Tuberculosis**
http://www.comminit.com/en/node/301125/3499

This initiative draws on the popularity of soccer and one of its prominent players to inspire young Latin Americans to join in the global fight against tuberculosis (TB). In this 2009 spinoff of the MTV Latin America “Youth as Agents of Change” program, the Stop TB Partnership and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)’s Youth Program (or “BID Juventud”) worked with soccer player Luis Figo and MTV to create a special report, a public service announcement (PSA), and a comic book about TB. The initiative is meant to inspire and spur youth to take action and become protagonists of social progress in their communities and to themselves become agents of change.

**Malaria No More’s Theatre in Education Program in Tanzania**

Malaria No More is a nonprofit group dedicated to ending deaths from malaria. The group’s Theatre in Education initiative is a pilot program that holds performances in secondary schools in malaria-endemic communities. These malaria-themed performances are conducted by young, well-recognized artists from the Tanzania House of Talent, a nonprofit arts organization for youth. The shows include theater, song and dance to not only educate youth on malaria prevention, but also encourage students to take an active role in preventing malaria in their community. The program also educates teachers about malaria and provides them with a malaria education toolkit that includes a lesson plan and photo cards that feature questions and information about the performance.
Resources for Practitioners:

Young People: Health Risks and Solutions
This World Health Organization Fact Sheet presents some of the health issues facing young people, with an overview, a key facts section, and a description of WHO’s response to the challenge of youth health. The sheet lists the main issues affecting young people around the world: early pregnancy and childbirth, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, mental health, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, violence, and injuries. WHO also created a Fact File called “10 Facts on Adolescent Health,” to inform and educate about the main health issues facing young people worldwide. See the slideshow at http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/adolescent_health/en/index.html.

Adolescent Health Programs
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11778/#A8956
This is a chapter in the book Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries, published by the World Bank. The chapter on adolescent health reviews the main direct causes of loss of productive life years among adolescents and the range of interventions to address these causes. It pays special attention to sexual and reproductive issues, which can have a direct effect on young people's immediate health, as well as potential long-term consequences.

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.