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 Urban Development: Youth comprise a significant and growing proportion of the world’s population, and are the majority in many developing countries, most especially in their rapidly expanding urban centers. The recent release of the United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN-HABITAT) State of the Urban Youth report (link below) calls attention to the inequalities facing youth around the world. The report was a response to calls from young peoples’ organizations across the world to respond to emerging global challenges with analysis and realistic policy recommendations. This issue of YCoP Links addresses issues surrounding youth and urban development around the world.

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**Announcements:**

**UN-HABITAT Adopts New Resolution on Youth**
[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)
The 23rd Governing Council of UN-HABITAT has adopted a new resolution on Urban Youth Development. The resolution encourages the Executive Director to work toward the goal that the United Nations Human Settlements Program lead joint efforts on urban youth issues within the United Nations system. It further requests United Nations agencies to explore the possibility of enhancing the substantial involvement of young people in sustainable urban development.

**PLURAL+: Third Youth Video Festival on Migration and Diversity**
[http://www.unaoc.org/pluralplus/](http://www.unaoc.org/pluralplus/)
Organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with many partners, PLURAL+ supports the role of young people as powerful agents of social change in a world often characterized by intolerance, cultural and religious divisions. PLURAL + is a youth-produced film contest for youth from all over the world to submit short videos on their thoughts about migration, integration, inclusiveness and identity. Youth are encouraged to explore sub-themes such as youth migration, refugee issues, cross-cultural dialogue, diversity, human rights, conflict prevention, etc. The deadline for submissions is 1 July. For more information on submission rules, visit the website.

**Urban Youth Research Network Launched**
[http://www.globalyouthdesk.org/Research/ArticleList.aspx](http://www.globalyouthdesk.org/Research/ArticleList.aspx)
The Urban Youth Research Network was formally launched at UN-HABITAT’s 23rd Governing Council with the presentation of three urban youth research papers. The
The purpose of the network is to bring together leading agencies in the area of urban youth policy and research. Papers were presented by the Norwegian Centre for Child Research, the Norwegian School of Sport and Sciences and the Children, Youth and Environments Centre, University of Colorado.

Projects and Initiatives:

**UN-HABITAT’s Urban Entrepreneurship Program**
http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=5956&catid=531&typeid=13&subMenuId=0
UN-HABITAT Partners and Youth Section and Environmental Youth Alliance established the Urban Entrepreneurship Program in Nairobi, Kenya, drawing from the learning and findings of the Environmental Entrepreneurship Program (GPI-EEP). The program, started in 2008, combines vocational and entrepreneurship training to a cross-section of urban youth groups, with the goal of enhancing and strengthening their capacity to generate income and sustainable livelihoods through socially and environmentally sound business activities in their communities. As the implementing partner, Environmental Youth Alliance will focus most of the activities on engaging youth in entrepreneurship and livelihood activities.

**Bahamas Urban Youth Development Center**
http://www.bahamasurbanyouth.org/
The mission of the Bahamas Urban Youth Development Center is to educate and empower children and young people through early intervention trainings, academic support and youth development programs that will prepare them for economic self-sufficiency. Specifically, the foundation runs extended after-school care, youth employment services and financial literacy workshops, HIV/AIDS prevention and substance abuse education programs, among other youth-centered activities.

**Urban Centre International – Kenya**
http://orgs.tigweb.org/urban-centre-international
Urban Centre International (UCI) in Nairobi is an independent, nonpartisan, non-governmental organization working towards community development and sustainability. The main themes of UCI’s work are: HIV/AIDS and reproductive health, democracy and governance, environment, entrepreneur and community income activities, and ICT. The organization also offers information about internship opportunities for local and international youth. The organization is run by and for young people — the majority of the staff are youth, as is the CEO of the organization.

**One Stop Youth Information and Resource Centers**
http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=5955&catid=531&typeid=13&subMenuId=0
The Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth Development (GPI) is collaboration between selected cities and UN-HABITAT. The project, which operates in Nairobi, Kenya; Kampala, Uganda; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and Kigali, Rwanda, aims to address the growing need for the engagement of youth as full partners in urban development and governance issues. One Stop Youth Information and Resource Centers are the first major activity of the GPI project. The concept of One Stop centers grew out of a collaborative process with key stakeholders including youth, municipal leaders, and UN-HABITAT. The centers were envisioned to provide youth with safe spaces in urban communities for accessing information, education, training and services.
settings where they can meet and take the lead in their own development as well as that of their urban environment.

**Opportunities Fund**  
A project of UN-HABITAT, the Opportunities Fund for urban youth-led development is designed to improve understanding, and lead to more effective ways of involving young people in sustainable urban development. The Fund aims to facilitate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and their youth-related targets by helping young people in the poorer neighborhoods of cities in the developing world find new opportunities, especially when it comes to employment and entrepreneurship. It will also be used to strengthen youth-related policies, help governments, civil society organizations and the private sector address youth concerns, and support new information and learning channels for young people. It will help pilot innovative ideas on employment, governance, shelter and secure tenure; share best practices, and assist vocational training and credit mechanisms to promote entrepreneurship and employment for young people. It will also seek to ensure that gender concerns are incorporated into all policies.

**Urban Youth for Africa**  
Urban Youth for Africa is a program of the Kalamazoo Deacons Conference, an organization based in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The program began in January 2009 out of a desire to give underprivileged youth in Kalamazoo a chance to step out of their circumstances and realize the incredible power they possess to change their world for the better. In July and August 2009, Urban Youth for Africa took eight teens from Kalamazoo Public Schools to spend 19 days working alongside a group of teens from Sierra Leone. Urban Youth partnered with an organization called Word Made Flesh in the capital city of Freetown. The teens built relationships while helping paint and restore a church in Kroo Bay, the poorest slum in Freetown. Word Made Flesh uses this church for their weekly children’s programs, which benefit more than 300 young members of the community. Urban Youth for Africa’s work has expanded to include Senegal and another partner organization, Africulturban. The program plans to work with Africulturban in July 2011.

**Urban-In - Serbia**  
[http://orgs.tigweb.org/urban-in](http://orgs.tigweb.org/urban-in)  
Serbia’s Urban-In program promotes the civic, cultural and democratic education of citizens from Novi Pazar and Sandžak through the organization’s educational, cultural and psycho-social programs, with the goal of building an open, democratic civil society that encourages youth participation. Urban-In’s main programs are youth and children programs, including debate clubs and a youth parliament; educational programs, including a project called Learn to Teach for teachers of English; women-centered programs; and others.

**Resources for Practitioners:**

**State of the Urban Youth 2010/2011: Leveling the Playing Field**  
This report is based on data from UN-HABITAT’s Global Urban Indicator Database, as well as surveys of, and focus group discussions with, selected representative groups of young people in five major cities located in four developing regions: Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Mumbai (India), Kingston (Jamaica), Nairobi (Kenya) and Lagos (Nigeria). The report makes a number of policy recommendations, including a call on governments to allocate more resources to education and to target underprivileged and more vulnerable groups with special support. The report also advocates a review of those Millennium Development Goals that address young people and education. Another major finding in this report is that access to land and safe urban space is important for the protection, voice and empowerment of young people; it calls on public authorities to meet these needs.

Young People, Participation, and Sustainable Development in an Urbanizing World (2011)

Although the proportion of young people in cities is growing rapidly, few studies take into account the diversity of and views on their urban experiences. This working paper from UN-HABITAT examines the lives, capacities, and agencies of urban youth in the developing world and identifies significant gaps for research.

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.