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 HIV Prevention: Every day, an estimated 2,500 young people are newly infected with HIV, according to a global report on HIV prevention released this week. The report, “Opportunity in Crisis: Preventing HIV from Early Adolescence to Young Adulthood,” is a joint publication by the United Nation’s Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Program on AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. (See the link to the report in the Resources section.) Although HIV/AIDS has declined slightly among young people, there remains an urgent need to inform and protect youth worldwide from the disease. This issue of YCoP Links is dedicated to highlighting a sampling of projects, resources and organizations that address preventing HIV/AIDS in young people.

Announcements:

2011 United Nations High-Level Meeting on AIDS
Ten years since the landmark United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, the world will come together to review progress and chart the future course of the global AIDS response at the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS on June 8-10, 2011, in New York. Member States are expected to adopt a new Declaration that will reaffirm current commitments and commit to actions to guide and sustain the global AIDS response. There will also be side events on youth, including the day-long Youth Summit on June 7, which presents an opportunity for young leaders to join, and gain an in-depth understanding of the High-Level Meeting and the Declaration of Commitment; to discuss youth priorities in the context of this HLM; to strategize on how to advocate during the meeting to ensure that youth voices on HIV issues are heard, and; to produce a post-meeting action plan.

http://www.globalhealth.org/conference_2011/
The Global Health Council's 2011 Annual International Conference on Global Health, "Securing a Healthier Future in a Changing World," will focus on the challenges of and innovative solutions to addressing the demographic changes that have shifted the global burden of disease - from acute to chronic diseases, and from infectious to non-communicable diseases, like cancer, diabetes, heart disease and acute respiratory disease. The conference will feature concurrent panels and sessions, including those on youth health and networking sessions for young professionals. The conference will be held June 13th-17th, 2011, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.
Projects and Initiatives:

**Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS**  
http://www.gyca.org/  
The mission of the advocacy group Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS is to improve HIV and AIDS policies and programming geared toward young people around the world by facilitating the inclusion of youth voices. GYCA has coordinated the inclusion of young leaders on government delegations who have addressed the United Nations General Assembly and worked directly with government ministers of health and education. GYCA has secured advocacy opportunities for young leaders affected by or infected with HIV, such as the opening ceremony and plenary sessions at International AIDS Conferences. GYCA also connects young people to opportunities in their home countries, such as employment with national AIDS control organizations, leadership at NGOs, and work focused on designing prevention and outreach programs.

**YouthAIDS**  
http://www.psi.org/youthaids/  
YouthAIDS is an HIV/AIDS fundraising and awareness campaign of PSI targeting young people ages 15-24. The campaign, which began in 2001, solicits help from corporations, celebrities, the media and individuals to leverage the power of media, pop culture, music, theatre and sports to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. YouthAIDS-related information has been featured in various magazines, newspapers, and websites, and the campaign has hosted various star-studded events to raise money and awareness for AIDS prevention. Most recently, H&M held its Fashion Against AIDS campaign, which featured clothing with AIDS awareness-related messages to raise awareness of the disease’s prevalence and prevention methods. YouthAIDS has also worked with ALDO, National Geographic, and celebrities such as Ashley Judd, Tina Fey, and Timbaland.

**HIV Prevention for Vulnerable Adolescent Girls – Ethiopia**  
This project in Ethiopia, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, is designed to delay sexual initiation by promoting social change, delayed marriage, and increased awareness of the risks of HIV transmission and negative health outcomes for married adolescent girls. The project is implemented by Population Council. The project addresses the vulnerability to HIV of young girls in Ethiopia, where marriage is a feature in the lives of many adolescent girls. A number of factors may increase HIV risk among girls married at a young age in areas with high HIV prevalence. At marriage these girls make a transition from virginity or infrequent sex to a very high frequency of sex. The most common HIV-prevention strategies—abstinence and condom use—are not options for married adolescents, who are under tremendous pressure from family and society to bear children. Few programs for adolescents reach this large group of girls, and very few programs have been implemented in rural areas of Ethiopia. This project seeks to fill this programming gap.

**Youth AIDS Filipinas Alliance**  
http://www.youthaidsfilipinasalliance.org/  
The Youth AIDS Filipinas Alliance was founded in 2008 in the Philippines as a platform for young people to do advocacy and awareness raising work on HIV/AIDS. The organization has grown to include young Filipinos not just in the Philippines, but worldwide. The organization engages in advocacy work, including by participating in World AIDS Day events and candlelit memorials; education and counseling for HIV-positive youth, including online counseling; and trainings and conferences.
Resources for Practitioners:

Opportunity in Crisis: Preventing HIV from Early Adolescence to Young Adulthood (2011)
This publication by UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO, WHO, and the World Bank relates findings on the prevention of the spread of HIV in young people throughout the world. It presents data on HIV infections among young people and highlights the risks adolescents face as they transition to adulthood. The report’s findings include the following:

• People aged 15-24 accounted for 41 percent of new infections among adults over the age of 15 in 2009. Worldwide, an estimated 5 million (4.3 million to 5.9 million) young people in that age group were living with HIV in 2009.
• Among the 10- to 19-year age group, new data shows, an estimated 2 million adolescents (1.8 million to 2.4 million) are living with HIV. Most of them live in sub-Saharan Africa, most are women, and most do not know their status.
• Globally, young women make up more than 60 per cent of all young people living with HIV. In sub-Saharan Africa that rate jumps to 72 percent.


Steady, Ready, Go! Advocating for Effective Youth HIV Prevention Interventions
http://who.tigweb.org/
Steady, Ready, Go! is a WHO-supported website on HIV prevention geared toward young people, with a specific focus on advocacy. Young people can explore the site to learn why young people are especially vulnerable to HIV, and to discover which HIV prevention interventions the WHO recommends. The site also features a glossary of important terms, a “crash course” on HIV prevention strategies, information about getting involved in the youth AIDS prevention movement, and links to other relevant resources.

We Can Empower Young People to Protect Themselves from HIV (2010)
This UNAIDS publication on HIV in youth people is part of the agency’s Outcome Framework/Business Case series. Each publication in this series focus on a priority area of UNAIDS — one of which is youth. This report cites information about HIV prevalence in youth worldwide and addresses the vulnerability of young people to infection because of a lack of access to sexual and reproductive health programs that provide the information, skills, services, commodities, and social support needed to prevent HIV. Young people are put at even greater risk by laws and policies go as far as to exclude young people from accessing sexual health and HIV-related services, such as HIV testing and counseling, the provision of condoms, and age-appropriate sexuality and HIV prevention education. The report goes on to list effective prevention measures, including strengthening the availability and use of strategic information on young people and HIV, and developing essential capacities among service providers and establishing strong civil society partnerships.
This report calls attention to young people ages 10-24 within the populations considered most at risk of HIV infection: men who have sex with men, those who sell sex, and those who inject drugs. Despite the growing attention that has been given to programming for these groups, little explicit focus has been given to the needs of young people in these populations. At the same time, efforts to prevent HIV among young people have tended to focus on the general population. As a result, young people in most-at-risk groups are often not targeted in either type of programming. This report is based on the 2nd annual meeting of the IYWG in 2009, which focused on young people most at risk of HIV, and on additional material from literature reviews and field experiences. The paper concludes with suggested actions for addressing the needs of vulnerable and most-at-risk 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.