YCoP Links
Issue 94, September 29, 2011
YCoP: Youth Community of Practice

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 Violence. Each day, 565 young people die as a result of interpersonal violence. From drug trafficking in Guatemala to political rioting in Kenya, from street gangs in Thailand to sectarian attacks in Northern Ireland, youth are the victims and perpetrators of violent crime at an increasing rates. Research has shown that violence among youth is linked to lack of economic opportunity, lack of political voice, and lack of community support. In this issue of YCoP Links, we look at programs combating youth violence around the world and offer resources that demonstrate how best to support youth in order to prevent and combat violence.

Announcements:

2011 Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Meeting
www.cies2012.psu.edu
CIES has announced their annual conference to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico on April 22-27, 2012. This year’s theme is “the worldwide education revolution,” and represents the inclusion of more and more people into both formal and non-formal education mechanisms over the past 150 years. The CIES 2012 Conference Committee is now accepting proposals for individual paper submissions, group panel submissions, and workshops. Proposal criteria are available on the website. Early bird submission deadline is October 1, 2011 and final submission deadline is October 31, 2011.

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies Global Meet-up
In late September and early October, informal “meet-ups” will be happening for INEE members about the world. These events are a chance to meet fellow INEE members, network, share ideas, and discuss current work in emergency and conflict areas. Meet-ups are free, voluntary, and casual. Location, time, and contact information for local meet-up organizers can be found on the INEE website.

Microlinks coverage from the Making Cents Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference
The Making Cents Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference was recently held in Washington, DC from September 7-9. Microlinks has posted photos, blog post recaps, and written accounts of plenaries and round tables. Microlinks also compiled video interviews with Ambassador Donald Steinberg, Peter Coy from Bloomberg
Businessweek, Ali Farou from Palestinian Monetary Authority, and many others, providing an overview of key points for anyone unable to attend or wishing to revisit it.

Projects and Initiatives:

Armando Paz—Latin America
http://www.armandopaz.com
Armando Paz (Arming Peace) is a collaboration between USAID and the Organization for American States (OAS) to mobilize young people in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama to build a “culture of peace.” Part of the USAID-funded Central American Regional Security Initiative (CARI), Armando Paz engages government officials and youth-serving organization, offering trainings to mitigate conflict and promote peace. It also uses multiple new media outlets to interact with at-risk youth and offers one “Seed Grant” of $5000 per country annually to youth with innovative ideas to prevent drug and gang-related violence. This year, the first class of grantees included a documentary on young Nicaraguans who have turned their lives around, a radio and television series for Guatemalan children to prevent family violence, and the creation of safe public spaces with organized neighborhood sports and team-building activities for young people in inner-city San Salvador.

Proyecto Alcatraz—Venezuela
http://www.proyectoalcatraz.org/english/proyecto.htm
Proyecto Alcatraz is a project of the Santa Teresa Foundation in Aragua, Venezuela. The initiative identifies gang members to participate in a three-month program. The program includes intensive labor, skills training, and work readiness, as well as psychological assistance, community service, and opportunities for positive social activities. In providing gang members options for a life within mainstream society, Proyecto Alcatraz not only prevents gang violence among youth, but effects change at the community level by adding qualified workers to local economies. To date, Proyecto Alcatraz has contributed to five local gangs disarming, assisted in job placement for more than 30 project members, and formed a rugby team of rehabilitated youth that has traveled throughout Latin America to participate in tournaments.

Youth Upliftment Through Employment (YUTE)—Jamaica
http://www.yutejamaica.com/
The Youth Upliftment Through Employment (YUTE) program originated as the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica’s response to the May 2010 armed conflict between civilians, drug gangs, and the military that resulted in the death of 73 civilians and the arrest of more than 500 citizens. YUTE developed a two-year project to address the violence among youth in Kingston through mentoring, life skills development, and employment support for youth identified as at-risk for violence. Based on background and education level, youth are placed into tracks to receive work experience, entrepreneurship training, or in the case of the most high-need violent youth (YUTE “U-TURN” participants) mentorship, counseling, and life skills. YUTE plans to reach 2,200 youth from January 2011 through December 2012.
Chiang Mai Youth Community Center—Thailand
http://www.ashoka.org/fellow/laddawan-chaininpun

In response to rising crime perpetrated by Chiang Mai's growing street gangs, Laddawan Chaininpun decided to tap into the leadership and youth potential already existing in these ready-made youth organizations. Founding the Chiang Mai Youth Center (CYC) in 2001, her community center reaches out to gangs and works with gang leaders to build capacity for positive outlets. The Community Center, which is strictly drug and violence free, holds meetings for youth gang members to engage in healthy socialization, take advantage of basic psychological and health services, and learn about non-formal education options in Chiang Mai. The CYC also holds leadership camps, where former gang leaders are trained in conflict resolution and brought to drug rehabilitation centers, orphanages, and the Juvenile Justice Center to foster positive mentorships among vulnerable youth.

The Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP)—South Africa

The Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP) is a an off-shoot of the Open Society Foundation South Africa, and formed to conduct research, advice policy-makers, and provide programming in innovative and evidence-based crime prevention practices. CJCP currently implements three programs through partnerships in the Northern and Western Cape provinces offering constructive mentorship in the criminal justice system, community support centers to strengthen families, and conflict mitigation training to ease tensions between South Africans and non-South Africans. CJCP also offers training to government departments and community-based organizations to build management capacity in crime prevention. CJCP has produced two dozen research papers, bulletins, and presentations studying youth violence and is currently expanding to do research in Namibia, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Congo on the effect of violence on education.

Resources for Practitioners:

Beyond Suppression: Global Perspectives on Youth Violence (2010)
http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=4_XkrDXM53UC&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&q=youth+prevention+gangs+global&ots=dl.WnX5AZwP&sig=BN72bQmo1kut8isRjPz3mDTaEa3Qv=onepage&q=youth%20prevention%20gangs%20global&f=false

This text published by the AFL_CIO offers a comprehensive overview of youth violence, including background information that defines the problem internationally, a conceptual framework for understanding approaches to youth violence, examinations of multiple case studies, and examples of prevention programs. The final section presents conclusions and suggested strategies for dealing with interpersonal violence and recommendations for future policy.

Understanding Political Violence among Youth: Evidence from Kenya on the Links between Youth Economic Independence, Social Integration, and Stability (2011)

Following the disputed presidential election in December 2007, many street gangs of armed Kalenjin and Kikuyu youth engaged in street violence, incited by politicians and community members who urged them to “defend their community.” Pressure to retaliate perpetuated gang violence on the basis of tribe and community for years to
This research report takes a methodological look at the demographic that took to the streets, drawing conclusions about the effectiveness of employment, education, peace dialogue, community strengthening, and conflict mediation that are applicable to any community where youth violence threatens local stability.

**The Prevention of Youth Violence in Latin America: Lessons Learned and Future Challenges (2009)**


In 2008, citizens throughout Latin America cited crime as the most important problem their communities face, ahead of unemployment. In response to this rising concern, the Woodrow Wilson Center's Latin American Program and the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence (IACPV) sponsored a 2009 meeting of experts, practitioners, researchers, and government officials to address the current state of youth violence, cultivate lessons learned, and brainstorm possible policies for the future. The papers written by participants of “The Prevention of Youth Violence in Latin America: Lessons Learned and Future Challenges” as well as executive summaries and a webcast of the proceedings can be found online.

**Locally and Nationally - Preventing Violence Affecting Youth in Honduras (2011)**


**12 Strategies for Youth and Youth Gang Violence Prevention for Guatemala (2011)**


The Central American Youth Programme is a series of studies focused on preventing gang violence and rehabilitation of violent youth in Central America. These three policy proposals are specifically developed for governmental and civil society decision-makers and are the fruit of Interpeace's many consultations with government institutions, civil society organizations, and youth groups. Each report explores the causes and results of violence in each specific country, overviews the projects currently in place, and prescribes policy options to comprehensively support prevention among vulnerable youth, address violence in schools, and reintegrate former violent gang members in youth society.


The CLEEN Foundation, based in Lagos, Nigeria, is a civil society organization promoting public safety and justice reform through research, advocacy, and publication. Its *Report of Youth and Policing in Lagos State* contains proceedings from a summit bringing together stakeholders in the fight against youth violence to discuss the challenges at-risk youth face and how they can be addressed through strengthened relationships between youth and police. The publication reviews summit addresses and roundtables as well as publications presented during the summit. It closes with agreements and resolutions reached during the summit and how these can be used to create workable solutions to the problems of both youth and police.
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.