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: Enabling Disabled Youth. In June 2011, the World Bank and World Health Organization’s World Report on Disability stated that 15% of the total global population experience some form of disability. Considered some of the hardest-to-reach youth, youth with disabilities in developing countries face the same issues as their peers, exacerbated by additional barriers to education and possible societal prejudice. Nearly 80% of disabled youth live in developing countries, and there are an estimated 93 million disabled out-of-school children and youth. In this issue of YCoP Links, we look at projects and initiatives providing disabled youth with the skills they need to be included in society, seek education and employment, and pursue a productive life.

Announcements:

Training Course "Diverse You(th)"
http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/training/training-course-diverse-you-th.2313/
There will be a training session for international youth workers who serve disadvantaged children and youth October 31-November 7 at the Krzyzowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding, in Krzyżowa, Lower Silesia, Poland. The training will focus on the identity of international youth-serving organizations and diversity within the youth community. Twenty-four facilitators from 9 different countries (Germany, Poland, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Estonia, Hungary, Greece) will be there to assist in the reflection on the diversity in youth work and a sharing of best practices in working with youth, and a discussion on adapting best practices to local contexts.

Financial Inclusion for Youth: Reaching the Next Generation
USAID has uploaded the presentation from the September 1st After Hours Seminar #55, which focused on “Financial Inclusion for Youth: Reaching the Next Generation.” Viewers can “attend” the webcast and hear and see presenters from BRAC, SEEP Network, and Making Cents International discussing program results, scaling up, and creating stronger linkages to youth.
Programs and Initiatives:

Leonard Cheshire Disability—Global
http://www.lcint.org/livelihoods
Leonard Cheshire Disability is a UK-based global organization supporting 250 independent Cheshire “partner organizations” in 54 countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe. In addition to providing education and health care opportunities, Leonard Cheshire organizations offer livelihoods training for disabled young people. Programs include self-employment in places lacking a strong formal economy, and providing vocational training matching local markets, such as a computer training course in Bangalore. Leonard Cheshire Disability also focuses on supporting the creation disabled-owned businesses through entrepreneurship support to foster disability-friendly hiring and training in local developing markets.

Young Voices—Global
http://youngvoices.lcdisability.org/
Young Voices is a UN-supported initiative implemented by the Leonard Cheshire Disability organization gathering and training youth with disabilities from 21 developing countries in Africa and Asia. The Young Voices program trains these groups in campaigning, advocacy and human rights while teaching them marketable media skills. The young people then produce videos on their own experiences as youth with disabilities which are broadcast publicly and used to advocate for disabled rights in the youth’s home countries.

ABILIS Foundation—Global
http://www.abilis.fi/
ABILIS Foundation is a non-profit development organization founded in 1998 by people with disabilities in Finland. ABILIS offers small grants ranging from $700 to $14,000 to projects initiated by and serving people with disabilities in developing countries; ABILIS has granted more than 100 organizations micro-grants in 2011 alone. Many of these grantees serve disabled youth through livelihood and life skill training, including the Ethiopian National Association on Intellectual Disabilities project training 20 young people in modern weaving techniques; the Albanian Help the Life Association’s photography and handicraft training; and Vietnam's Noang Mai Blind Association’s computer training for visually-impaired youth.

Welfare Associations for Rehabilitation of Disabled and Society (WARDS)—India
http://wardsbengaluru.org/ourservices.html
WARDS is an Indian non-profit founded in 1991 supporting individuals with autism, cerebral palsy, and intellectual disabilities from Bangalore slums. WARDS operates out of a community center in Jeevan Bima Nagar, and currently serves 35-40 children and youth. In addition to providing therapy and home-support to more severely disabled individuals, the WARDS “day program” offers basic education, life skills, and vocational training. WARDS participants learn basic literacy, numeracy, and computer skills as well as candle-making, bag-making, and other handicrafts to use as income-generating activities.

Persons with Disabilities Initiative (PWDI)—Montenegro
http://globalaid.ort.org/europe/montenegro/disabled-horseback-riding/
Through USAID-funded grant, World ORT is implementing a two-pronged approach to increase employability of young people with disabilities in Montenegro. PWDI assists businesses by providing a job-matching service between disabled young people and employers. PWDI also provides legal and financial advice to businesses to understand the rights of the disabled as well as the financial tax benefits for employing youth with disabilities. The second prong of the program is a partnership with a local Montenegrin NGO, Koraci, to convert a
lodge in the Durmitor national park to become a location for therapeutic horse riding programs for young people with disabilities. Capable of serving 160 youth per summer, the program provides disabled youth from rural areas an opportunity to meet other disabled youth while also training the youth in horse care. By learning to care for horses, youth leave with additional skill set for potential employment in rural areas.

**Handicap International—Algeria**

[http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/where_we_work/africa/algeria](http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/where_we_work/africa/algeria)

Handicap International (HI) is an international NGO operating in 60 countries, assisting people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations in situations of poverty, conflict, and disaster. HI has been promoting disability rights and policies, enhancing the capacity of local associations, supporting inclusive education, and supporting youth organizations in Algeria since 1998. Through awareness campaigns, HI aims to reduce the exclusion of people with disabilities, enabling them to play a full role in society. HI also supports the activities of youth organizations with an emphasis on projects relating to exclusion, social inclusion and prevention of disability.

**Resources:**

**Inclusion International**


Inclusion International is a federation of non-governmental organizations advocating for rights for people with intellectual disabilities. It currently represents more than 200 member federations in 115 countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa, Europe, Africa and the Indian Ocean, the Americas, and Asia Pacific. Inclusion International supports inclusion in society, full citizenship, self-determination, and family support for people with disabilities through advocacy, member support, knowledge sharing, research, partnership building, and communications.

**African Youth with Disabilities Network**


African Youth with Disabilities Network provides an online portal for advocates and to share opportunities for youth activism and participation in the disability movement on the African continent. Based out of Kampala, the network consists of more than 50 members sharing resources, links, tools, and engaging in discussions to how to affect a more inclusive Africa.

**The Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development (DCDD)**

[http://www.dcdd.nl/default.asp](http://www.dcdd.nl/default.asp)

The DCDD is a coalition of persons and organizations working in development cooperation with people with disabilities. While not specifically geared towards youth, the site serves as a clearinghouse of information on improving the lives of people with disabilities in the developing world, the place for disabilities services in international education policy, and integrating people with disabilities into the workforce in developing economies.

**UN Enable: Youth and Disabilities in Development**


This brief article provides an overview for where the cross-cutting youth agenda and the enforcement of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities overlap. UN Enable
provides statistics and data to support interventions for youth with disabilities, and then provides links to organizations and further documents on the issue of disabilities in other cross-cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS and advancement for women.

**SALTO: Resources for Mixed Ability Youth Work**


Support, Advanced Learning, and Training Opportunities within the European YOUTH program (SALTO) has created a toolkit for designing work and training programs for youth with disabilities. SALTO provides resources on mixed ability youth work projects, funding for disability projects, preparing a disability project, and logistics support for traveling and work venues that are disability-friendly. SALTO also provides documents on best practices in integrating people with specific disabilities into youth work programs.

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**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.