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*: **Informing the Future: Ten years of experience in global education in development.** On November 8, 2011, practitioners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors gathered to reflect on the past 10 years of USAID-funded EQUIP123 programs. This one–day symposium used the lessons of EQUIP to move the discussions within donor–driven education in international development forward. Sessions centered around three themes:

- Measuring and Improving Learning for All
- Sustaining and Scaling–up Change: New knowledge and understanding for the future
- Youth, Gender, and Conflict: Making education and employment a reality for the hardest to reach

This issue of *YCoP Links* continues the conversation of the first theme with resources and initiatives from within the EQUIP mechanism and beyond dedicated to developing and improving monitoring and evaluation systems for youth-focused programming.

**Announcements:**

**South Sudan Youth Convention**
An estimated 150 youth from across South Sudan will gather in Juba from November 24-27 to participate in a strategy conference including workshops and interactive discussion sessions. According to a 2008 census, youth represent 70% of the South Sudanese population; this conference is intended to mobilize this force to find innovative ways to address youth unemployment and ensure security in the new nation.

**Financial Services for the Poor Professional Development Course in Microfinance**
The “Financial Services for the Poor” course, combining classroom instruction with observational field visits, will take place in Bangladesh from February 3-17, 2012. Leading academics from the microfinance field will conduct lectures and discussions, and visits will be made to a number of NGOs including BRAC, Grameen Bank, and SafeSave. The course fee is $2,900, including tuition, lodging, local transportation, and course materials. Registration is capped at 20 participants, and interested individuals are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

**Human Development Report 2011: Sustainability and Equity, A Better Future for All**
[http://hdr.undp.org/en/]
UNDP’s annual *Human Development Report* has been released and is available for download. In addition to updating the Human Development Index, the Gender Inequality Index, the Inequality-Adjusted HDI, and the Multidimensional Poverty Index global indicators, the 2011 report focused on the interconnectedness of sustainability and equity, and offers policies recommendations to empower nations to support the most disadvantaged people. It also looks ahead at the need for new approaches to global development financing to ensure continued work towards equality and sustainability.

Projects and Initiatives:

**Child Status Index Manual (Global)**
http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/tools/child-health/child-status-index
The Child Status Index (CSI) toolkit was designed by MEASURE Evaluation at the UNC Population Center to assess the vulnerabilities, needs, and outcomes of orphaned and other vulnerable children (OVC). CSI has successfully been field tested for inter-rater reliability and construct validity in Kenya and Tanzania, and is being adapted to local languages and contexts in Ethiopia, Rwanda, India, and Cambodia. MEASURE EVALUATION has also tested and evaluated its use with youth, and found the CSI to be successful at collecting youth wellbeing information, assessing youth-serving programs, and comparing youth issues within and across programs, countries, and cultures.

**Restless Development (sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia)**
Restless Development is a youth-led development agency working full-time in India, Nepal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe with offices in London, Melbourne, Lusaka and Delhi. Through Restless Development, programs are delivered in fifty countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, designed and delivered by young professionals with an average age of 21. One program currently underway is the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation of programs for youth, by youth. In July of 2011, the Restless Development team trained 19 regional and district youth officers from Sierra Leone’s Ministry of Employment, Youth, and Sport on monitoring, evaluation, and database session plans. The training has empowered young Ministry employees to monitor and evaluate youth programming in the public and non-profit sector to improve delivery of services to Sierra Leonean youth.

**The Reproductive Health Response in Crises Consortium (Global)**
http://www.rhrc.org/about/what.html
The Reproductive Health Response in Crises (RHRC) Consortium consists of seven international agencies working together to promote, advocate, and encourage reproductive health in humanitarian crises. RHRC’s objectives include developing guidelines for the design, monitoring, and evaluation of health programs in humanitarian settings, and capacity building for local and national organizations to assess, implement, monitor, and evaluate programs. RHRC has many tools to assess, monitor, and evaluate youth-focused health services, including A Rapid Assessment of Youth Friendly Reproductive Health Services, a Reproductive Health Focus Group Discussion Guide for Adolescents/Youth, and a report on Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Strategies for HIV Prevention targeting in- and out-of-school youth.
Resources for Practitioners:

**A Comparison of Two Methodologies: Digital and Paper-based**
http://www.equip123.net/docs/e1-DigitalDataCollection.pdf
In this white paper, the American Institutes for Research (AIR) launched a comparative study of paper versus digital data collection approaches. Global Relief Technologies’ (GRT) digital data collection was compared to UNICEF’s Child Friendly Schools (CFS) paper-based data collection. Applicable to data collection for any program, the study strays away from endorsing one method over the other, instead comparing the data collection along multiple standards: materials, time, accuracy, transportation, security, flexibility, cost, and ease of data entry.

**Measuring Learning Outcomes in Developing Countries: A Primer**
http://www.equip123.net/docs/e2-MeasuringLearningOutcome_IssuesBrief.pdf
In this Issues Brief, EQUIP2 explores the need for measurement of learning outcomes at multiple levels and presents a framework for developing assessments and measuring learning outcomes. The paper offers common features of high quality assessment programs, and places learning outcomes in the global context of international testing. The paper concludes with an appendix of adaptable sample items across multiple grades and subject areas, case studies, and additional resources.

**Guide to Cross-Sectoral Youth Assessments (2009)**
http://www.equip123.net/docs/e3-CSYA.pdf
The guide is intended for use by monitoring and evaluation specialists, USAID Mission Staff, and program designers to provide foundational data for developing country-based youth strategies or youth program. The guide offers instructions in both qualitative and quantitative data, conceptual framework, instruments, and tools for designing and implementing youth assessments in developing countries. The guide is designed to be followed sequentially, but tools and sections can easily be pulled, and a reference guide is included for more in-depth documents within certain themes.

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.