# YCoP Links
## Issue 25, April 24, 2008
### 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*: Disaster Risk Reduction and Response**

Disasters—including flooding, drought, earthquakes and other hazards—disproportionately affect the poor. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, more than 90 per cent of deaths related to disasters occur in developing nations. Youth can play an important role in mitigating the risks of disasters as well as actively participating in emergency relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation of communities when disasters strike. In this issue of *YCoP Links* we take a look at how youth are—and how they should be—involved in Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Response.

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*Projects and Initiatives*

**Boat Schools in Northwestern Bangladesh**
http://www.shidhulai.org/index.html
During the five-month monsoon season in the Chalanbeel region of Bangladesh, the roads to school are impassible. Increased flooding in recent years has left families in riverside communities with disrupted education, limited communication services and fragile health and livelihood infrastructures. The non-profit Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha has built new boats, converted old ones, and equipped them with books, computers and solar panels to reach approximately 88,000 riverside village families. Boat schools, introduced in 2002, collect students from different riverside villages and then dock for classes of 30-35 students, incorporating the nation's first river-based environmental curriculum and offering late-shift classes by solar-powered lighting to include children who work during the day.

**Tsunami-Affected Youth Protect Fisheries in Indonesia**
http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/field/2008/1000774/index.html
Twenty-five young people from fishing villages on the west coast of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province in Indonesia recently finished a training program to become Motivator Masyarakat, or Community Motivators. Motivators will serve as a bridge between traditional fishing leaders and the offices of Indonesia's fisheries agency, the Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan (DKP), and promote sound management of coastal fisheries through increased awareness of responsible use of natural resources. The project, financed by the American Red Cross and in partnership with the DKP, aims to train an additional 175 Community Motivators by June 2008. Village councils select youth from their communities to take part in the program.

*Resources for Practitioners*

**Children and the Tsunami. Engaging with children in disaster response, recovery and risk reduction: Learning from children's participation in the tsunami response.**
http://www.planusa.org/docs/Reports/Tsunami36Months.pdf
This resource addresses how to engage young people in emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after a disaster. Based on Plan USA's work after the 2004 tsunami, the report communicates the scope and methodology utilized for consultations with young people. The report illustrates the value of youth input—such as suggestions for improving efficiency of emergency resource distribution, and also reveals the gap between what aid agencies and youth consider "participation." It provides theoretical and practical answers not only to "Why include youth in disaster mitigation and response?" but also to the question: "How is that done?"

**Youth Policy and Strategy: A step-by-step approach**
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_pubs.pl?youth/step_english.pdf
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies often have high youth response in emergencies. More than 90 per cent of the Red Crescent volunteer force in Iraq is comprised of youth and the American Red Cross has more than 290,000 volunteers under 24 years old. This handbook is designed chiefly for use by youth leaders in the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, exploring steps from teambuilding and decision-making to project sharing. It also looks at four quality leadership skills for youth: technical skills, human relations, teaching skills and communication skills, and includes policy statements and a further reading list.

**Resources for Recovery: Young people, service, learning and disasters**
http://www.nylc.org/rc_downloaddetail.cfm?emoid=14:636
After hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast, a contingent of AmeriCorps youth volunteers manned all facets of the volunteer call center in Jackson, Mississippi—they answered calls, rescued trapped survivors and facilitated distribution of goods and services. Unfortunately, many capable youth in the region were unable to find practical ways to take part in reconstruction. Authors Teddy Gross and James C. Kielsmeier, who traveled through hurricane-affected areas to interview residents, call for a collaborative effort by the service-learning community to envision an increased role of young people's skills and ideas in reconstruction.

**DPM: Integrating Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation in your work**
http://www.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/library/M0084_dpmideabook.pdf
This "idea book" for Peace Corps volunteers is also a useful collection for practitioners, addressing how to shift to a "culture of prevention" by integrating disaster preparedness with community development. The book includes chapters on the education and youth sectors, which include ideas for nonformal education, inter-generational activities and youth groups as agents of disaster mitigation. Checklists and accounts of how ideas have been utilized in various community contexts make this guide a practical tool for initiating disaster preparedness integration into programs or for improving existing mitigation projects.

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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.

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