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 Humanitarian Emergencies*: The recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan is a high profile reminder of the humanitarian crisis caused by natural disasters. Across the world, the headline-making unrest in Libya has made it difficult to supply refugees and displaced people in the region with the aid they need. At the same time, fighting in Cote d'Ivoire has human rights groups calling for greater vigilance. Such conflict can make it difficult for supplies and assistance to reach those who need it most. Although young people are often thought about as either the targets or the perpetrators of such violence, they can also play an important role in abating these crises. This issue of *YCoP Links* focuses on the role of youth in humanitarian aid, coinciding with the release of UNICEF’s 2011 Humanitarian Action for Children Report.

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**Announcements:**

**Call for Session Proposals Open for Making Cents’ 2011 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference**

[http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/overview.asp](http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/overview.asp)

Making Cents International invites you to submit a proposal to lead a workshop-style technical session at the 2011 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference. The conference will take place in Washington, DC from September 7-9, 2011. Submit a proposal to share your *breakthroughs* in one or more of the following focus areas: workforce development; adolescent girls and young women; youth-inclusive financial services and financial capabilities; monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment; and youth enterprise development. The submission deadline is April 15.

**World of Children Annual Humanitarian, Health, and Youth Award**


Through three distinct awards, the World of Children advocacy organization seeks to honor children’s advocates and the work they do, as well as to raise awareness about the issues affecting the world’s children. The Youth Award recognizes youth that are making extraordinary contributions to the lives of other children. The nominee must be under the age of 21 by the nomination submission deadline, April 1st, 2011. The nominee must have an existing non-profit organization in good standing, which can receive grant funds if awarded, and must have been doing this work for a minimum of three years by the nomination submission deadline.

**UNICEF Re-Launches “Voices of Youth” Website**

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is re-launching its website “Voices of Youth,” an online forum for young people around the world to explore, discuss and take action on global problems. The site contains information on global issues such as human rights, education, hunger, and the environment; blog posts by youth; interactive games; and discussion boards. The site’s content is available in English, French and Spanish.

Projects and Initiatives:

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Youth Commission**
The Youth Commission of the IFRC is responsible for advising on matters that relate to young people. It also promotes the implementation of the International Federation Youth Policy and seeks youth opinions worldwide to ensure that they are considered by the federation’s leaders. The commission is made up of young volunteers and staff of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. There is a chairperson and eight members, all younger than 31 years old at their appointment, which is for a four-year term. Appointments are made at alternating IFRC General Assemblies.

**Global Citizen Corps**
Global Citizen Corps is Mercy Corps’ youth initiative, prompting discussion and taking action on not only humanitarian aid, but also climate change, education, and other issues. The organization’s website has blog posts, contest and volunteer opportunities, and provides information about global issues. The initiative also operates a young leader program, which trains thousands of youth worldwide to help organize events and projects in their schools and communities. The program is a year long and uses Mercy Corps tools, training and resources.

Resources for Practitioners:

**UNICEF Releases Humanitarian Action for Children Report 2011**
The United Nations Children’s Fund has released the Humanitarian Action for Children Report (HAC) 2011, in which the international body requests $1.4 billion in its annual appeal to donors to assist children and women caught in the throes of crises. This year’s appeal highlights 32 countries and emphasizes the increasing importance of strengthening the resilience of communities.

**Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies Minimum Standards Toolkit: Focus on Youth and Adolescents**
This document presents resources for enhancing the quality of educational preparedness and response in emergencies, increasing access to relevant learning opportunities, and ensuring humanitarian accountability in providing these services. The tools featured in this document are a selection from the INEE Minimum Standards Toolkit, which has been developed in response to a growing need for clear, practical
tools to guide humanitarian aid workers, government officials and educationalists in implementing the INEE Minimum Standards.

**Voices of Hope: Adolescents and the Tsunami**
http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_28137.html

Soon after the December 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia, young people mobilized, helping to distribute aid, assisting with clean-up and rebuilding, and caring for those younger than themselves. This UNICEF publication highlights young peoples’ enthusiasm, creativity and energy in times of crisis and suggests the potential of this population to help in rehabilitation and development efforts is not fully realized. The report states that it is time to engage them as key partners, as they have repeatedly proven that they can provide innovative solutions in the midst of complex humanitarian crises.

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 listserv. Hit “reply” to send information and feedback to YCoP Lists.

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.