

World E-News November 2013



empowering young people
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Katerina, YMCA Change Agent from Macedonia

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Emergency Appeal for the Philippines and UPDATE

- November 29, 2013



The World Alliance of YMCAs (WAY) is coordinating efforts with the Asia and Pacific Alliance (APAY) and the YMCA of the Philippines to provide emergency solidarity support to the people of the Philippines. Survivors urgently need immediate assistance for basic necessities like food, water, clothing, blankets, medicine, temporary shelters and other relief assistance.

We ask you to please support the Emergency Appeal for the Philippines. This is an appeal to raise USD \$80,000 in emergency assistance for devastated persons and communities in the area. We ask you to please give financial support so that the families devastated by this disaster can try to rebuild and recover.

The number of displaced families reached to hundreds of thousands of individuals staying in evacuation centers, people are seeking shelter in other regions near the area. Power and communication lines are still down in the area and it would likely take a month to restore power lines in the centers while several months in the remote areas of the region.

Kindly send your contribution to the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs directed for the Disaster Response to Survivors of Typhoon Haiyan.

Bank Details :

**Bank holder: Asia & Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
23, Waterloo Road
Kowloon
Hong Kong - SAR**

Name of the Bank: Bank of East Asia
Bank Account No: 015-515-20-05004-5
Swift Code: BEASHKHH

[For donations with credit card, please go the page we created : "Disaster Philippines" and indicate the amount.](#)

The YMCA will provide support to 1,000 households who are staying in the YMCA Village in Ormoc and 1,000 households who are very seriously affected in Concepcion, Iloilo. These are children, youth, adults, and elderly people. These persons belong to the most vulnerable populations where assistance has not reached so far. The YMCA will also work with 200 evacuees from Tacloban City whose properties and belongings have been greatly damaged or totally lost.

The support and solidarity of our YMCA friends around the world helps to save the lives of those who survive the calamity. Your offer of support helps them to care for their families and rebuild their communities.

We ask you to please share this information and to keep the people of the Philippines in your prayers. Our hearts and minds are with the people of the Philippines.

[Read the full version of the appeal >>](#)

Thank you for your caring and solidarity!

[UPDATE FRIDAY NOV. 29 - Philippines Emergency >>>](#)



Influencing our new strategy - We need your response

- October 15, 2013



STRATEGY CONSULTATION
WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE!

We need your response.

See below the draft for a new strategy for the world movement of YMCAs for 2014-2018. The Executive Committee has expressed its vision for the future and so has the meeting of the National General Secretaries.

Now the question is: What do you think?

We would be very happy if you would help us to distribute this paper widely in your movement, to discuss this paper with your colleagues and friends and to send us a written feedback before November 20. In this way you will influence our joint future as YMCA in the world.

The final debate and decision will take place at World Council June 29- July 5 2014 in Estes Park. This will help all of us to be well prepared for that important decision.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik
Secretary General

[Strategy Directions document in pdf format](#)

Who Cares? COP 19 Warsaw, Poland

- November 18, 2013



Being at the UN climate talks can be frustrating, to say the least.

“I care” is the slogan of the host nation Poland. The phrase was used by the COP 19 president, Polish Environmental Minister Martin Korolec, as he announced the conference officially opened.

Quite frankly, there is a big gap at the moment between the rhetoric and the reality. There is a clear lack of ambition in the negotiations. Unfortunately, climate change does not wait for [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) and nations to come up with an agreement about how to tackle this great challenge of our time. That is not to say that we do not need an international agreement because we very badly do. Nevertheless, it is the efforts and progress made on the political levels that are far from satisfying.

Climate change needs action and ambition on many levels. Internationally, locally, individually, collectively, politically, economically. The issue is too complex to be solved in a single one of these areas. For this reason, grass roots movements play a key role in creating change. When politicians refuse to act the people need to make their voices heard. The energy in the youth climate movement is stunning. Focused, knowledgeable and determined to create change.

As the world’s largest youth organization, we in the YMCA have the network and capacity to deliver real, sustainable change in our communities. We empower young people. Let us empower young people to be environmentally aware and responsible as well. Let us empower young people to a lifestyle based on sustainable values and societal and economical structures. These young people already exist within our diverse movement. They only need to be given the space and the opportunities. Imagine empowered young people changing the premise and

From Subject to Citizens in Armenia (S2C)

- November 19, 2013



“I have learnt to believe in myself, and evaluate my capabilities and opportunities that I have not seen inside me before.”

This is the conclusion of one the Armenian participants at the From Subject to Citizen Seminar. 50 youth from YMCAs of Armenia and Norway ([YGlobal](#)) where gathered for a week end training on S2C. It was in October in Vanadzor, Armenia.

Flip charts, colored pens and post-its everywhere. Countless cups of coffee and tea. The youth have participated in plenary discussions on gender roles, corruption, apathy of youth and much more. They underwent deep reflection on root causes of problems in their societies and how they can be part of the solution and what we can do to create a more just society. “I learned how I as a person can change myself and then change others” commented one of the participants. It’s about having claiming space, transformation of yourself and others, to create an impact.

Gil Harper, Africa Alliance of YMCA’s Executive Secretary for Communications and International Affairs facilitated the training. She had come all the way from Durban, South Africa.

One of the main results of the debriefing session was a question and a conclusion “How many other organizations could get youth together who are from such different backgrounds but within 2 days can reach an understanding of their differences and commonalities, knowing that we are all on the path to youth empowerment? This is our power - this is our difference.”

Want to know more? Got to:

<http://africaymca.org/who-we-are/itemlist/search?searchword=gil+harper&categories>

By Sven Larsen

YGlobal Norway | World YMCA Staff Placement