



Tsunami Terror Alert: Voices of Youth

13 January 2005 / New York / *Voices of Youth* – Young people are continuing to use the Voices of Youth discussion forums as a space to express their deep concern, search for understanding and collectively look for ways to take action and help the millions affected by the 26 December tsunami.

Below is a summary of their concerns, suggestions and recommendations since the 10 January 2005 update.

Keep the long term perspective

Young people on Voices of Youth are concerned that when the media attention dies down, so will the attention and dedication to relief to rehabilitation. We are reminded that this is a long term investment and that will take commitment over many years.

“But remember this is not a “three week long ordeal” these people need help for another year minimum. So keep your generosity and sympathy flowing. Put yourself in their position would you get through?” *Rusiru, Sri Lanka*

“u need support throughout out for the next whole year to work things back to normal and lets just hope that governments and people continue their efforts till that time because usually the trend is for the fervour to die out as soon as the media hype is cooled up.” *Emmen, Pakistan*

A return to normalcy

The focus needs to be on helping to regain a sense of normalcy to the lives of the children affected including:

- Get children back into their homes and out of refugee camps
- Rebuild and equip schools
- Toys and sporting equipment for play and to help with trauma

Security

It is unfathomable that children affected by the tsunami are now vulnerable to other forms of violence including trafficking, exploitation and abduction. Members of Voices of Youth are calling for the international community to protect children from these dangers.

“develop a system where a group can collect and secure the orphaned and lost children from the region and secure them in a fashion which would prevent the prostitution rings, slave trades and such from occurring. Somehow there must be a way for the children to be protected as well as reunited with family members.” *Marina, USA*

Taking action

Here are just some of the ways in which young people are taking action for the victims of the tsunami.

“At my school, all of the student organizations, such as our Student Government, Habitat for Humanity, Japanese Club, National Honor Society, etc. are planning a huge event. We are collecting money during homerooms for 2 weeks, possibly more, and having a Student/Teacher dodge ball game...”
KateKat2416, USA

“students are volunteering to pack and organize packages at a warehouse in Jakarta today.” *J.O.Y, Indonesia*

“Hi everyone.. my school (YVC) is going 2 help aid the tsunami.. yes.. we have so many awesome ideas.. like a penny drive... bake sale.. dance-a-thon...the other classes are selling (going 2) livestrongs, mott's bracelet's and more.. and they are doing a cultural fair.. student council has a bunch of ideas.. the money will go to UNICEf and the American Red Cross” *Tranquility13, USA*

Thanks! To UNICEF and Voices of Youth

Participants thank UNICEF for this online space to come together, share ideas and encourage each other to make change.

I'm part of the youths' town council of my village, we want to do something to help children in Asia and thanks to you we have very good ideas!! Continue! we can make things change! *Nina, France*

You can read more of the Voices of Youth discussions on the Voices of Youth discussion forums at: Tsunami Terror: <http://www.unicef.org/voy/discussions/forumdisplay.php?f=68>. We request you to please use available channels to publicise this e-space with your staff, partner organisations and especially youth organisations and networks in your country and region.