



YOUTH LEAD REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES AND ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES



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Author: Legee Tamir

Editors: Ikka Noviyanti, Leo Villar, Vanessa Monley

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Youth LEAD, Asia Pacific Network of Young Key Populations 75/20 Ocean Tower II, 17th floor, Sukhumvit Soi 19, Sukhumvit Rd Klong Toey Nua, Wattana District Bangkok 10110 Thailand.

www.youthleadap.org

info@youth-lead.org



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Dear Readers,

I am delighted to welcome you to this report, which highlights the remarkable journey of Youth LEAD and its pivotal role in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The success of global health and development owes a great deal to the involvement of young people who have organized themselves, acquired scientific knowledge, established partnerships with research institutions, and learned how to implement programs in a highly stigmatized environment. The lesson we have learned from this experience is that the future of the HIV response lies in harnessing the energy of young people. They hold the key to shaping our collective efforts.

Youth LEAD is a youth-led organization of young individuals affected by HIV/AIDS who offer invaluable and authentic insights into the crisis. Since its inception in 2011, Youth LEAD's scope of organization, partnerships, programs, and value have only increased despite facing numerous setbacks. Our journey is precisely what Youth LEAD embodies—a continuous succession of young advocates from key populations who take the lead and overcome challenges until the day we eradicate HIV/AIDS as a public health threat.

On a personal level, Youth LEAD has transformed me into a better individual as my peers and I have navigated through a myriad of challenges to sustain an organization committed to making a lasting impact on regional HIV response in the Asia-Pacific.

Having joined the Youth LEAD secretariat, I have witnessed many amazing events and the growth of many young people and youth-led organizations. Firstly, I am writing to express my gratitude to our focal points and country partners who are doing a fantastic job in their own countries and delivering programmes to create a friendly environment for young key populations. To our dear partners, peer regional and global networks who have collaborated on projects and supported each other, thank you for your hard work in creating a better future for all of us. Lastly, thank you to our donors and funders who play a crucial role in our work for understanding the needs of youth and imperfections and enabling us to focus on our job without worrying too much about finances.

Finally, to all of you reading this report, thank you for taking the time to observe Youth LEAD's journey over the past decade. I firmly believe that we will continue to work together to strive for a better future for young key populations. We hope this report enlightens and motivates you to contribute to the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS.

Warm regards,

Ikka Noviaynti
Regional Coordinator of Youth LEAD

Section 01

Background

- Purpose and scope of the document
- Methology

01



Purpose and scope of the document

The purpose of this report is to enhance Youth LEAD's capacity to identify, document, exchange, promote, use, and adapt best practices related to national responses to HIV/AIDS. By effectively identifying and sharing lessons learned with focal points and country partners, Youth LEAD aims to contribute to expanding national HIV responses. The report will provide insights into successful strategies, interventions, and approaches that can be replicated or adapted to various contexts. It will highlight key achievements, such as successful projects, advocacy campaigns, policy changes, and collaborations. By showcasing these milestones, the report will demonstrate the organization's impact and track record, inspiring confidence and trust among stakeholders, partners, and donors. Youth LEAD recognizes the importance of ensuring that all young people have access to support and opportunities.

This report aims to identify and reach out to young people who still need to be adequately supported, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are addressed. By expanding into new communities, Youth LEAD can bridge gaps and create inclusive platforms for young people to actively participate in HIV/AIDS response and other relevant areas.

Lastly, this document will guide other youth-led organizations, providing them with valuable insights, lessons learned, and best practices identified by Youth LEAD. By sharing experiences, challenges, and successes, the report will empower and equip youth-led organizations to enhance their capacities and replicate effective strategies. It will serve as a practical resource, offering guidance on program design, implementation, advocacy, and organizational development. This resource also works to promote Youth LEAD's work. By documenting the achievements of the past decade, the report will showcase the organization's credibility, expertise, and contributions to the HIV/AIDS response. Additionally, the report will identify the organization's next priorities, outlining the focus areas and strategies that Youth LEAD aims to pursue in the coming years. This will guide stakeholders, partners, and donors in aligning their support and resources with the organization's future objectives.

Methodology

The report was developed through a rigorous methodology that involved collecting data from current and previously implemented project programs of Youth LEAD, as well as gathering case studies from five country partner organizations. The data collection process predominantly utilized qualitative methods, including interviews and online surveys.

Extensive data was first collected from ongoing and completed programmes of Youth LEAD. These programmes spanned various regions and addressed HIV/AIDS among young people. This data provided valuable insights into the best practices employed by Youth LEAD and the lessons learned throughout the implementation process.

In addition to internal data, the report incorporated case studies from five partner organizations funded by Youth LEAD in different countries. These organizations were selected based on their exceptional work in HIV/AIDS prevention and support for young people. Through interviews and online surveys, we gathered information about their successful approaches, innovative interventions, and impact on the target populations. These case studies serve as real-life examples of best practices and offer valuable lessons that can be applied to similar contexts.

The qualitative data collected from interviews and surveys were meticulously analyzed to identify recurring themes, emerging patterns, and everyday challenges. Through a systematic review, we synthesized the findings and highlighted the most effective strategies employed by Youth LEAD and its partner organizations.

Section 02

Youth LEAD

- Introduction of Youth LEAD
- Youth LEAD Core Programmes

02



Introduction of Youth LEAD

Youth LEAD is the largest network of young key populations in the Asia-Pacific region, working directly with young key populations and to address their needs. Recognizing that youth-led or youth-serving organizations/networks often have difficulty securing funds, Youth LEAD began providing grants to support the YKP movement and YKP organizations in 2013. As of 2023, Youth LEAD is now supporting 14 organizations across the Asia Pacific through the help of several key funding agencies.

Our vision is to create an inclusive region where the human rights of young key populations are respected, and the impact of HIV and AIDS is mitigated through the meaningful involvement of YKPs to equal and equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. We want to be the catalyst of change and empower young key populations through capacity building, advocacy, and expanding partnerships between local, national, and regional YKP organizations. We want to ensure more meaningful participation and involvement of YKP in all levels of decision-making that impact their lives. We respect diversity and ensure gender balance in all aspects of our organizational structure and decision-making.

Youth LEAD works to empower adolescents ages 14-18 and young key populations ages 18 - 30 at the grassroots level from across the Asia Pacific region.

Youth LEAD was established to strengthen partnerships among organizations working on key population issues across the region and to equip our members with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools to advocate for change.

Adolescent and young key populations bear disproportionate burdens of HIV and are most at risk for HIV infections. Young key population communities are made of:

- *Young men who have sex with men*
- *Young Transgender people*
- *Young people who use and inject drugs*
- *Young people who engage in sex work*
- *Young people living with and affected by HIV*

Our organization and programmes are led, designed, and implemented by young people working for young people. We embrace each other's differences and celebrate our similarities, connected by our values and needs of being young and our shared passion for ending HIV/AIDS.

This is what makes Youth LEAD strong. Our network comprises focal points, network partners, civil society organizations and networks, stakeholders and donors, all coming together to advocate for issues that affect our communities.

Youth LEAD

Youth LEAD Core Programmes

NewGen

NewGen is Youth LEAD's oldest and most-recognised training manual; developed in 2011 and published in 2014, has since been conducted more than 20 times in 13 countries. The flagship manual provides a leadership training course for young people from key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure in the Asia Pacific region. NewGen aims to build the advocacy and leadership skills of young key populations and also builds the institutional capacity of community youth networks and other youth-led/-serving organizations, equipping them with skills to address the needs of YKPs. NewGen takes five days, tackling issues of SRHE and CSE at greater length.

TeenGen

One of Youth LEAD's most prominent training manuals, TeenGen provides a leadership training course for adolescents from key populations in the Asia Pacific region. TeenGen aims to build the knowledge and skills of adolescents on HIV, leadership and human rights. As young people grow and age, Youth LEAD recognises the need to develop the capacity of youth activities at an earlier age, which will help sustain and expand the youth and key population movement. The training generally lasts three days and is aimed at 13-17 year-olds. Thus far, TeenGen has been carried out seven times in six countries since 2016.

Legal Advocacy Toolkit

The Legal Advocacy Toolkit is Youth LEAD's resource focusing on young people and law. The Toolkit was developed in 2016 and has been rolled out in five countries: Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The toolkit is intended to build an understanding of the legal and policy environment and the effects that laws and policies can have on young people's sexual and reproductive health as avenues for advocacy to address identified barriers. It looks at both local and international advocacy focusing on using international human rights mechanisms. The training course is conducted over a space of four days.

Global Fund Training

Making Money Work for Young People in the HIV Response is an advocacy initiative developed to influence the Global Fund to allocate resources for young people. The Global Fund is one of the largest multilateral donors in the world and one of Youth LEAD's central funding agencies. Youth LEAD has played a crucial role in developing the Global Fund Youth Guide, a guide written for young people to understand the Global Fund. The guide helped inspire capacity training to empower young people to better understand the Global Fund processes. The training has since been carried out 15 times in 13 countries in Africa, South America, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Asia Pacific.

YKP Guidance Manual

The YKP Guidance Manual was developed by young people for young people to highlight the unique needs of YKPs in the Asia Pacific region. The manual promotes sharing, learning, reflection and critical thinking to inspire the development of comprehensive regional and national programmes for sexual reproductive health and rights. The YKP Guidance had its first regional training in October 2019, followed by two in-country trainings in November. The guidance manual was formally launched in early 2020.

Organizational Development and Change Manual

In 2019, Youth LEAD and the 4Youth consortium, comprised of Youth LEAD, Y+ Global, Y-PEER Asia Pacific Centre and Youth RISE, through the support of the Robert Carr Fund, came together to consult on the development of an Organizational Development and Change (ODC) manual. This initiative targets YKP-led organizations to improve organizational problem-solving and strengthen processes through a collaborative management culture for youth organizations. The manual was developed and finalized by Youth LEAD in 2020.

Regional Healthcare Worker Sensitisation Training Manual

Adolescents and young key populations (YKPs) face a higher risk of HIV due to limited YKP-friendly services, stigma, and lack of comprehensive HIV knowledge. Policy and legal barriers further impede their access to healthcare. The absence of integrated HIV and SRHR services leads to additional risks like STIs, unintended pregnancies, and mental health issues. YKPs have low HIV testing rates, limited access to harm reduction services, and engage in unprotected sex. To address these challenges, a comprehensive guideline or training manual was needed to develop healthcare workers' capacity to provide YKP-friendly services. With support from the Global Fund Multi-Country grant (SKPA) and UNAIDS RST, Youth LEAD is leading this initiative in the Asia Pacific region.

YKP and Youth Engagement in The Global Fund 7th Grant Cycle

To support youth-led organizations in coordinating and aligning funding applications to The Global Fund, this engagement guide is intended to support youth-led organizations on Meaningful Youth and Adolescent Engagement (MAYE) in the Grant Cycle-7. Under the CRG-Strategic Initiative grant, the Count Me In Youth Consortium led by Youth LEAD has been awarded funding to ensure the meaningful engagement of young key populations in the 7th Grant Cycle and sufficient focus on gender-based violence and human rights programs. The main purpose of the guideline is to serve as a detailed step-by-step guide for youth-led organizations across the Asia-Pacific and African regions on how to bring YKPs and YPLHIVs together and meaningfully engage and involved in the funding request development process, including the community priorities in the funding request.

LGBTIQ+ Youth Leadership Training Module

In partnership with the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) under the project funded by the Robert Carr Fund (RCF), "Transcending Borders: Strengthening trans and gender diverse movements towards transformative leadership, legal protection and trans-competent healthcare in Asia-Pacific and Africa", Youth LEAD developed the LGBTIQ+ Youth Leadership Training Module to equip young LGBTIQ+ people, especially trans youth, with the skills needed to take up leadership positions and participate in decision-making bodies within the context of HIV response and programming. The LGBTIQ+ Youth Leadership Training Module covers the issues and needs of LGBTIQ youth in HIV response, specifically focusing on trans youth in the Asia-Pacific region. This module emphasizes storytelling and the power of bringing people together toward the same cause.



Youth LEAD Decade Highlights



Section 03



Establishment of Youth LEAD: Youth LEAD began as a project to address the needs of young key populations in 2010 under the Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV and AIDS (7 Sisters), which UNFPA financially supported.

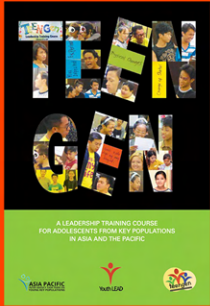
It later gained support from various UN agencies, such as UNICEF EAPRO, UNAIDS RST, and UNESCO, as the project expanded across the Asia Pacific. The project's success established Youth LEAD as an independent network in 2012 after the development of a three-year strategic plan and governance handbook. In 2014, Youth LEAD became a legally registered organization in Thailand through the financial and technical support of the Robert Carr Fund and UN partners.

KEY PROGRAMME LAUNCHES



NEWGEN

2011



TEENGEN

2016



LEGAL ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

2016



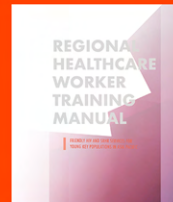
GLOBAL FUND TRAINING

2019



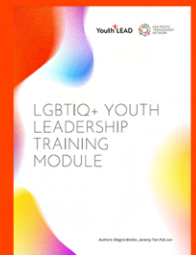
ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE

2019



REGIONAL HEALTHCARE WORKER TRAINING MANUAL

2021



LGBTQ+YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING MODULE

2023

YKP AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE GLOBAL FUND 7TH GRANT CYCLE



2023

Apart from core programmes and trainings, we have hosted regional Youth Forums:

1. The Asia Pacific Youth Forum



17 Countries. 150 Delegates. 1 Shared Vision.

Youth at the front of the HIV response: Engaging in meaningful partnerships to meet the 90-90-90 targets in the region.

The Asia Pacific Youth Forum was held on the 2nd and 3rd of December 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand. It was co-organized by the Ministry of Public Health Thailand together with UNAIDS Asia Pacific, UNICEF EAPRO, UNDP, UNFPA APRO, UNWOMEN, Youth LEAD and the Inter-Agency Task Team on YKPs (IATT). Youth LEAD, UNAIDS RST, UNICEF EAPRO and UNDP took the lead in organizing the forum on behalf of the IATT. The forum brought together 150 delegates from 17 countries, including former heads of states, government officials, UN representatives, health professionals and young people to explore how young people are at the front of the HIV response and how to establish meaningful partnerships to meet the 90-90-90 targets in the region.

2. 2022 Asia Pacific Youth Forum



Putting Young Key Populations First On 20-21 October 2022, Youth LEAD, UNAIDS, and the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand jointly organized the 2022 Asia Pacific Youth Forum: **Putting Young Key Populations First to End AIDS by 2030, with support from UNESCO and UNDP.**

Over 30 youth participants from around the Asia Pacific came together to discuss the issues of young people and young key populations in HIV response in the region. The Asia and Pacific region has the second-highest number of people living with HIV globally. According to UNAIDS, young people aged 15–24 accounted for 26 per cent of new HIV infections in 2020.

Count Me In Consortium

Youth LEAD, as the Asia Pacific Young Key Population Network, has been a Community Right Gender (CRG) Strategic Initiative (SI) grant recipient since 2015. In 2018, Youth LEAD collaborated with Y+ Global, the global network of Young People Living with HIV (YPLHIV), and Youth RISE, the global network of young people who use and inject drugs, to form the Youth Consortium.

The Youth Consortium has successfully bid on the CRG-SI grant for two consecutive rounds starting in 2018. The grant was instrumental in bringing YKPs to the country coordinating mechanisms (CCM) in different countries, as well as becoming engaged in the national Global Fund proposal development process and playing watchdog roles during the programme implementation phase. Some youth-led organizations have also become implementing partners/sub-recipients of The Global Fund.



4Youth Consortium

The consortium known as 4Youth, formed by Youth LEAD, Y+ Global, Youth RISE, and YPEER, is a collaborative initiative under the Robert Carr Fund. Their collective vision is to strengthen youth-led response and advance the global movement of young key populations within the context of HIV. By pooling resources and expertise, these regional and global networks aim to amplify the voices of young people living with HIV, advocating for their rights and needs. Through collaboration and shared efforts, 4Youth seeks to enhance access to services, address challenges faced by youth, and contribute to the goal of ending the HIV epidemic among young key populations.



Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations

Youth LEAD joined the Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Young Key Populations in 2012. The IATT is a coordinated mechanism for advocating for the rights of young key populations between UN agencies, and young key population-led regional networks. Through the IATT, Youth LEAD has been a part of various joint regional projects such as regional youth forums and, most recently, the YKP Data Report titled Putting Young Key Populations First.

Trans Asia Pacific and Africa Solidarity (TAPAS) Consortium

Youth LEAD agreed with the Asia-Pacific Transgender Network (APTN), Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network (PSGDN), and African Transgender Network (ATN) to form the Trans Asia Pacific and Africa Solidarity (TAPAS) Consortium funded by the Robert Carr Fund. Under the TAPAS consortium, Youth LEAD has produced training modules and research reports for young trans people in the Asia Pacific, as well as increased trans youth capacity on HIV/AIDS, LGBTIQ rights, and Trans healthcare.

Funders



50

We have made partnerships with more than 50 focal points

19

We have supported more than 19 country partners in the past ten years

24

We have implemented over 9 long-term projects and more than 15 short-term projects

10

We have produced more than 10 reports and studies

7

We have provided more than 7 regional trainings

5

We have hosted more than 5 AGMs

Section 04

Best Practices in the Asia Pacific Region

- Mongolia
- India
- Indonesia
- Vietnam

04





@Mongolia

1. MONGOLIA

Introduction

Youth LEAD Mongolia (YLM) is a dynamic Mongolian youth non-governmental organization (NGO) that advocates for the rights and well-being of young key populations (YKPs) and LGBTIQ+ youth.

Best Practices and General Programs

Meaningful Participation: YLM actively involves YKPs in decision-making processes by including them as organization members. This allows their perspectives and experiences to shape priorities, programs, and advocacy efforts.

Volunteer Engagement: YLM recruits YKPs as volunteers, providing them with opportunities to participate directly in activities and programs. This engagement helps YLM understand their unique challenges, aspirations, and requirements while fostering leadership skills and a sense of ownership.

Community Events: YLM organizes and participates in community events that bring together YKPs to share experiences, build networks, and express their concerns. These events enable YLM to interact directly with YKPs, identify their needs, and tailor programs and services accordingly.

Consultations and Surveys: YLM conducts regular consultations and surveys to collect the opinions and feedback of YKPs. This input allows YLM to design responsive and effective interventions addressing the specific needs and aspirations of YKPs.

Online Participation: YLM provides digital platforms for YKPs to share their stories, voice concerns, and engage in dialogue. These online spaces enable YKPs to participate in discussions and decision-making processes, regardless of location, ensuring their contributions are heard and valued.

Collaboration with Stakeholders:

YLM collaborates with various stakeholders to maximize its impact in supporting young people affected by HIV. Government agencies are engaged to advocate for youth-specific interventions and inclusive policies. Partnerships with NGOs and youth-led organizations enable YLM to reach a wider target population, including hard-to-reach groups. Active participation in the Mongolian Youth Council ensures representation of young key populations (YKPs) in national youth development agendas. A strong alliance with the LGBT Center of Mongolia strengthens advocacy efforts for human rights and inclusivity for LGBTIQ+ youth. Collaboration with educational institu-

young people with essential knowledge and skills.

Success Stories:

Mental Health Support: YLM launched a mental health support project, offering free psychosocial counselling to YKPs. Through collaboration with Outright International and securing funding, YLM extended the project's reach to support over 100 individuals. This initiative showcased YLM's commitment to addressing pressing mental health needs among YKPs.

Combating Cyberbullying: YLM implemented a project to combat cyberbullying among LGBTIQ+ youth and YKPs. This initiative raised awareness about the detrimental effects of cyberbullying and promoted a safe online environment.

Youth LEAD's Contribution

Youth LEAD's initiatives and support have been instrumental in the growth of regional youth organizations. They have provided capacity-building opportunities through workshops and training programs, fostering networking and knowledge-sharing among youth organizations. Youth LEAD has also empowered these organizations in advocacy work, amplifying youth voices and influencing policy changes at local, national, and regional levels. Through funding opportunities and knowledge sharing, they have helped implement impactful projects and disseminate research and best practices. Additionally, Youth LEAD has facilitated representation and engagement of youth organizations in important discussions and decision-making processes. Overall, their efforts have strengthened youth organizations, enabling them to serve young people and contribute to positive social change effectively.

Looking ahead, YLM remains committed to intensifying and expanding our mental health support activities, ensuring broader accessibility and reach for YKPs and LGBTIQ+ youth. Our aim is to provide ongoing free therapy sessions, fostering the emotional well-being and resilience of our community. By combining financial support, strategic partnerships, advocacy, and innovative approaches, we strive to make a lasting impact on the mental health landscape, promoting holistic well-being and support for these marginalized communities.



@India

2. INDIA

Introduction

Ya_All is an independent inclusive youth network that focuses on youth health and education, particularly addressing gender, sexuality, health, and wellbeing. The organization's key objectives include creating a safe space for the LGBTQIA community, strengthening peer support groups for youths, initiating conversations on sexual and mental health, and building capacity through skill-building programs and self-help groups formation.

Best Practices and General Programs

Ya_All identifies and addresses the needs of young key populations (YKPs) through its youth-based and youth-led approach. The organization establishes a Peer Support Network to understand the challenges faced by YKPs and designs activities to tackle those issues. The participation and representation of YKPs in program implementation ensure their voices are heard and needs are met.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

To enhance its impact, Ya_All collaborates with government agencies, NGOs, and other youth-led organizations. The organization exchanges resources, ideas, and collaborates on programs, events, functions, and campaigns with various stakeholders. Ya_All involves key representatives from the government to advocate for the needs of YKPs and highlight the initiatives taken by grassroots organizations like theirs.

Success Stories

One notable success story is the Strengthening Peer Support System project, where LGBTQIA community members received advocacy training. One group initiated a social media advocacy campaign on sexual violence and consent. Through their Instagram page called "KHANGMINASHI," they spread awareness on sexual and reproductive health, consent, healthy relationships, and prevention of sexual assault. The advocacy efforts reached approximately 14.5k individuals, showcasing the leadership and impact of YKPs in advocacy initiatives.

Youth LEAD's Contribution

Youth LEAD has played a crucial role in Ya_All's overall development by providing knowledge, professional working structures, and bridging the gap in youth welfare issues. The support from Youth LEAD has empowered Ya_All to carry out targeted programs for YKPs, contributing to positive outcomes at the grassroots level. Youth LEAD offers financial aid, program manuals for YKPs, resources for organizational capacity strengthening, and a platform for youth-led representation. These resources and tools have assisted Ya_All in its development processes and have been instrumental in their success. Through the projects supported by Youth LEAD, Ya_All has built a strong network with YKPs, who serve as points of referral and linkages. Organizational strengthening remains a priority, with regular visits and sessions by resource persons to keep the team equipped and updated, ensuring continuous growth as an organization.

In conclusion, Ya_All's focus on youth health, education, and wellbeing, particularly for YKPs, has led to impactful initiatives. Through collaboration with stakeholders and support from Youth LEAD, the organization has created safe spaces, provided advocacy training, and initiated successful social



@Indonesia

3. INDONESIA

Introduction

Inti Muda Indonesia is a national network focused on empowering young key populations in Indonesia through advocacy, capacity building, and building partnerships. With nine province-level constituents across the country, their goal is to ensure that young key populations are empowered and have their rights fulfilled.

Best Practices and General Programs

To identify and address the needs and aspirations of young key populations, Inti Muda Indonesia holds monthly coordination meetings with their constituents at the provincial level. They also use WhatsApp groups to stay connected and address current issues and trends affecting young key populations in Indonesia.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

Inti Muda Indonesia recognizes the importance of building a wide network and collaborates with various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and youth-led organizations. By leveraging personal networks and connections, they enhance their impact and expand opportunities for collaboration.

Success Stories

In 2022, Inti Muda Indonesia organized DISPORSEMUDA, a virtual sport, art, and academic competition for their constituents. This event received positive reviews, as it provided a space to celebrate the talents of young key populations in Indonesia, who often face limited opportunities for recognition. The success of DISPORSEMUDA strengthened the national network and fostered stronger bonds among its members.

Youth LEAD's Contribution

Youth LEAD has been a valuable supporter of Inti Muda Indonesia's overall development. Apart from providing grants, Youth LEAD offers technical assistance and opportunities to participate in regional and global forums. This support enhances the representation of Indonesia's young key populations at higher levels. Youth LEAD offers a rich knowledge bank that assists organizations like Inti Muda Indonesia in identifying their needs and addressing challenges. They also provide templates for reporting and documenting best practices, streamlining the organization's development processes. One successful practice initiated by Youth LEAD is the TeenGen leadership training module developed in 2014. This program has produced some of the best leaders in the National Movement, including individuals who currently hold significant positions in various organizations, such as Alip (Youth LEAD board member), Oldri (UNFPA Malaysia), Ayu (National Coordinator of Indonesia Positive Women's Network), and Ikka (Youth LEAD's current Regional Coordinator).

In conclusion, Inti Muda Indonesia's focus on empowering young key populations in Indonesia yielded positive outcomes. Their coordination meetings, collaborations with stakeholders, and successful initiatives like DISPORSEMUDA showcase their dedication to addressing the needs and aspirations of young key populations. With support from Youth LEAD, they continue to develop and make a significant impact in Indonesia.



@Vietnam

4. VIETNAM

Introduction

Lighthouse Social Enterprise is a community-led organization in Vietnam that has been advocating for the Rights, Equity, Health, and Development of young key populations (YKPs) and the LGBTI+ community since 2004. The organization's goals include reinforcing social justice, promoting holistic health, and bolstering sustainable development within the LGBTI+ movement. Lighthouse engages in various activities such as community mobilization, capacity building, research, intervention design and delivery, and policy advocacy.

Best Practices and General Programs

To address the needs and aspirations of YKPs, Lighthouse employs a range of methodologies. They organize community consultations, dialogues, and webinars, as well as the annual Vietnam National LGBTQ Summit, to understand the evolving needs of YKPs. Community-engaged action research studies, including surveys on sexual orientation, gender-based violence, mental health, and sexualized drug use, provide valuable data for program development. Lighthouse conducts informational and behavior change-focused campaigns on social media, empowers YKPs through capacity-building workshops, and designs programs based on community-engaged data. They also leverage evidence to advocate for policy reforms and equal rights for YKPs.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

Lighthouse adopts a collaborative approach by partnering with government agencies, NGOs, and youth-led organizations to enhance its impact. They work closely with the Vietnam Authority of HIV/AIDS – Ministry of Health to coordinate support from various health institutions. Strategic partnerships with bilateral stakeholders and regional and global youth-led networks strengthen government support for Lighthouse's initiatives and amplify the voices of YKPs at high-impact events. Additionally, Lighthouse collaborates with key population-led and people living with HIV networks in Vietnam to foster information exchange and organize national-scale community consultations.

Success Stories

One of Lighthouse's success stories is the culturally adapted education intervention called IN-Clued. With support from Planned Parenthood Global Program, Lighthouse implemented this evidence-based intervention from 2021 to 2022. The project aimed to increase Vietnamese LGBTQ youth's knowledge of sexual and reproductive health rights and combat stigma and discrimination in sexual health care facilities. The intervention also focused on promoting SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics) knowledge and youth-friendly practices among local sexual health care providers. The project involved meaningful youth participation and leadership, with LGBTQ young people being consulted for curriculum adaptation, receiving training on intervention delivery, and leading workshops. The project achieved high participant satisfaction and reported positive changes in attitudes towards handling stigma and discrimination in healthcare.

Youth LEAD's Contribution

Youth LEAD plays a vital role in the overall development of youth organizations. They provide technical assistance, strategic planning advice, and consultation on youth-led programs to selected youth organizations in the Asia Pacific. Youth LEAD acts as a liaison between youth organizations and various stakeholders, fostering partnerships and advocating for youth issues at the global level. They also provide catalytic funds to support youth organizations' community mobilization, capacity building, networking, programming, and organizational development needs.

Together, these efforts contribute to the advancement of LGBTI+ rights and the sustainable development of the LGBTI+ movement in Vietnam.

Next Steps

In the next ten years, we envision Youth LEAD as the leading force in empowering young key populations and adolescents across the Asia Pacific region. We will continue our current work while prioritizing the following areas: strengthening partnerships, building capacity, advocating for change, generating research and data, and promoting inclusion and diversity. These pillars will guide our efforts as we strive to create a more inclusive region where the human rights of young key affected people are respected and the impact of HIV and AIDS is mitigated.

Strengthen Partnerships: Youth LEAD will focus on building and expanding partnerships with local, national, and regional youth-led key population (YKP) organizations. This will involve actively engaging with existing partners and identifying new opportunities for collaboration. By strengthening partnerships, Youth LEAD aims to enhance the collective capacity of YKP organizations to address HIV and AIDS and promote the meaningful involvement of young key affected populations.

Capacity Building: Youth LEAD will continue prioritising capacity-building initiatives for young key populations and adolescents. This will involve providing training, resources, and mentorship programs to empower them with the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for their rights, access HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support, and contribute to decision-making processes at all levels. By investing in capacity building, Youth LEAD aims to create a pool of skilled and informed young leaders who can effectively drive change in their communities.

Advocacy: Youth LEAD will further strengthen its advocacy efforts to ensure that the rights of young key affected populations are respected, and their voices are heard. The organization will actively engage with policymakers, governments, and relevant stakeholders to advocate for equal and equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support for young key populations. By advocating for policy changes and promoting meaningful participation of YKP in decision-making processes, Youth LEAD aims to create an enabling environment that supports and protects the rights of young key affected populations.

Research and Knowledge Generation: Youth LEAD will prioritize the production of research reports, studies, and evidence-based resources to contribute to the knowledge base on issues related to young key populations and HIV/AIDS. By conducting research and generating knowledge, Youth LEAD aims to inform and influence policies, programmes, and practices that affect the lives of young key populations. This will contribute to evidence-based decision-making and the development of effective interventions.

Promoting Inclusion and Diversity: Youth LEAD will continue to foster an inclusive and diverse organizational culture that respects the rights and needs of all young key populations. The organization will ensure gender balance and diversity in its organizational structure and decision-making processes. Moreover, Youth LEAD will actively promote the meaningful participation and involvement of young key populations from different backgrounds, including those from marginalized and underrepresented communities. By promoting inclusion and diversity, Youth LEAD aims to create an environment that values and embraces the unique perspectives and experiences of all young key populations.

Conclusion

One of the priority actions in the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 is scaling up youth leadership by empowering and resourcing young people as change agents to unlock the progress needed to end inequalities and end AIDS by 2030. This is particularly pertinent in the Asia and the Pacific region, where young people between 15 and 24 years old are disproportionately affected by HIV, making up 26% of the new HIV infections in 2021. In six countries,¹ the proportion is significantly higher, with over 40% of new HIV infections being young people. Young people from key populations accounted for 99% of the total new HIV infections among young people in into risk of HIV, as such experiences lead to the avoidance of accessing lifesaving HIV services.

In order for the Asia and Pacific region to end the AIDS epidemic, countries should have a greater focus on young key populations, including by having programmes that are tailored to the young key population's needs. For this to be reality, it is crucial that young people are empowered to be the new generation of leaders in the HIV movement. The "Best Practices and Organizational Milestones Report" demonstrates how Youth LEAD has and continues to play its critical role as the regional network of young key populations to make this vision a reality.

Since its establishment, Youth LEAD has been a consistently reliable partner and leader in the Asia Pacific region, representing and advocating for young people from key populations. The exponential growth of Youth LEAD as a network throughout the last ten years is not only a notable achievement, but it exemplifies the strong spirit of youth to end AIDS.

Rooted on its deep understanding of their community, Youth LEAD has become the go-to source for critical tools and resources to empower youth-led organizations and young key population communities. The guidelines and modules that Youth LEAD has developed have become key references in the design of youth programmes in countries around the region.

UNAIDS is proud to contribute to several of these resources, most recently the development of the "YKP and Youth Engagement in The Global Fund 7th Grant Cycle", as well as the "Regional Healthcare Worker Training Manual" rollout in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. These knowledge products are equipping young key populations at country level to be able to mobilize more resources, advocate for better solutions, call for spaces in decision-making platforms, and demand the fulfillment of their human rights.

In addition to its strength in generating knowledge, this report also highlights Youth LEAD's exceptional strengths in networking and partnerships. UNAIDS is pleased to have worked with Youth LEAD both bilaterally and as part of collaboration platforms like the Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations and the seven Regional Networks of Key Populations and People Living with HIV.

We know that as Youth LEAD continues to grow, the region will be better placed to respond to the issues surrounding young key populations. UNAIDS is honored to be one of Youth LEAD's main partners for the last decade and we thank them for their dedication and professionalism in bringing youth perspectives to ensure that young key populations are not further left behind in the region's HIV response.

Eamonn Murphy,
UNAIDS Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific
and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

¹Myanmar (52%), Thailand (49%), Indonesia (48%), Philippines (47%), Cambodia (42%), Lao PDR (41%).

Appendix 1. Country Partner Questionnaires

The provided information will be utilized to document the best practices of Youth LEAD country partners over the past decade. This documentation aims to capture and showcase the successful approaches, strategies, and initiatives implemented by Youth LEAD partners in various countries. By highlighting these best practices, the document will serve as a valuable resource for knowledge sharing and learning within the Youth LEAD network and beyond. We kindly request that you provide answers to each question within a word limit of 500 words. It would be greatly appreciated if you could provide specific examples, including program names, years of implementation, and any relevant details. Your valuable input in completing this questionnaire will be of immense significance to Youth LEAD and will greatly contribute to the development of the Youth LEAD Best Practice document.

Thank you for your time and cooperation

Name of the organization:

Hereby I agree to use this data in the document production of Youth LEAD “Best Practices and Organizational Milestones Report of Youth LEAD”

Person’s name who filled this form:

- 1** What are the key objectives and goals of your organization? Could you please introduce your organization?
- 2** How does your organization identify and address the needs and aspirations of young key populations?
- 3** How does your organization collaborate with other stakeholders, such as government agencies, NGOs, and youth-led organizations, to enhance its impact?
- 4** Could you share some success stories or case studies that demonstrate the positive outcomes of your organization’s youth development efforts?
- 5** How has Youth LEAD contributed to the overall development of youth organizations?
- 6** What resources and tools does Youth LEAD provide to assist organizations in their development processes?
- 7** Can you provide examples of successful practices that organizations have benefited from Youth LEAD’s initiatives?

Appendix 2. Youth Network Establishment Tips

Here are ten tips we provide to youth groups that are trying to establish themselves and work with youth or young key populations in HIV response and beyond:

- 1** Develop a clear vision and mission for your organization and identify the specific communities or groups you aim to serve or collaborate with.
- 2** Reach out to other organizations working with youth and learn from their experiences. Establish connections and build relationships with peer organizations.
- 3** Understand the requirements of funders and donors. In most cases, they will require official registration and a bank account. While this may be challenging in some countries, make efforts to register your organization officially and open a dedicated bank account.
- 4** When preparing project proposals for funding, gather relevant data, information, and statistics about your target community. This will strengthen your case and demonstrate the need for your initiatives.
- 5** Highlight your organization's successful past experiences in implementing projects. Share this information with donors, funders, and potential partner organizations to showcase your capabilities.
- 6** Explore opportunities for collaboration with partners at the national or regional level. Regional networks like Youth LEAD are often willing to support new youth networks and provide funding for initial projects.
- 7** Maintain organized financial records, archive documents, and reports from previous and ongoing projects. These records will be valuable evidence of your organization's experience and accountability.
- 8** Celebrate achievements and milestones to recognize the efforts of your members and inspire continued engagement. Host events, share success stories, and acknowledge contributions within your network.
- 9** Establish strong communication channels within your network. Utilize digital platforms, social media, and newsletters to engage and update members regularly.
- 10** Connect, learn, and share experiences with other youth organizations in your region or globally. This collaboration will strengthen the youth network as a whole and provide opportunities for knowledge exchange.