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GLOSSARY

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome CCM Country Coordinating Mechanism **CRG** The Community, Rights and Gender **CSO** Civil Society Organization **GF** The Global Fund HIV **Human Immunodeficiency Virus** IDU Injecting Drug User **KAP Key Affected Population** MOH Ministry of Health **MSM** Men Who Have Sex with Men **NGO** Non- Governmental Organization **PLHIV** People Who Live With HIV RNJ+ Reseau National Des Jeunes Vivant Avec Le Vih/Sida SI Strategic Initiative **SW** Sex Worker TB **Tuberculosis** TG Transgender **UNAIDS** Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS WHO World Health Organization YKP Young Key Population YOUTH LEAD Youth Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development **YPLHIV** Young People Who Live With HIV **YPLWH** Young People Who Are Living With HIV YLM Youth LEAD Mongolia

INTRODUCTION

In December 2022, the Global Fund sent out allocation letters to the Global Fund recipient countries detailing the allocated amounts countries need to apply for. The allocation letters detailed the number of resources allocated for each of the different disease categories; HIV, TB, and malaria. Many countries in Asia-Pacific and Africa have gathered input from stakeholders after receiving allocation letters, or they have plans to do so, in order to strengthen their submissions to the Global Fund for the Grant Cycle 7, also known as the GC7.



The Global Fund strategy for 2023-2028 has three mutually reinforcing contributory objectives. One critical objective is Maximizing the Engagement and Leadership of Most Affected Communities to Leave No One Behind, which specifically applies to GC7. [1]

As necessitated by the Global Fund funding request processes, different countries scheduled engagement meetings with many stakeholders, including the community. Under the Community Engagement -Strategic Initiative grant, the "Count Me In" Youth Consortium had an opportunity to ensure the meaningful engagement of YKPs and YPLHIV in the 7th Grant Cycle and sufficient focus on gender-based violence and human rights programs. The consortium supported YKP and YPLHIV-led organizations in 9 different countries to engage in and prioritize youth-led and youth-serving programs and activities in the funding proposal submitted to the Global Fund.

The consortium developed a guide that serves as a tool and knowledge-sharing material for young people and YKPs and youth-led organizations for PLHIV. This engagement guide aims to assist youth-led organizations in coordinating and aligning funding applications, specifically focusing on Meaningful Youth and Adolescent Engagement (MAYE) in the 7th Grant Cycle.

On May 11th, 2023, Y+ Global, in collaboration with Youth LEAD, organized a webinar titled 'Young Key Population and Youth Engagement in the Global Fund 7th Grant Cycle'. The webinar aimed to provide detailed information on the new Global Fund grant cycle and ways young people can engage meaningfully. During the webinar, a resource codeveloped by Y+ Global and Youth LEAD was launched. This resource shares effective engagement strategies and lessons learned from organizations and networks of young people living with and affected by HIV. It also introduces additional support mechanisms for youth engagement in the Global Fund processes, particularly in the GC7.

As a final follow-up to these efforts, a case study sharing the experiences and lessons learned from country partners during the GC7 engagement is developed for your information. This case study focused on documenting best practices and lessons learned from four countries that have successfully engaged, as well as to document the barriers and challenges that did not go as planned. Youth LEAD and Y+ Global selected Indonesia and Mongolia from the Asia-Pacific region as well as Burundi and Namibia from the African region to participate in the study. The organizations from the above four countries which received support from the Youth Consortium are Inti Muda Indonesia, Youth LEAD Mongolia, RNJ+ Burundi, and Lidar Community Foundation Namibia. The aim of this case study is to document the YKPs and YPLHIV's engagement for the Global Fund's Grant Cycle 7 and to disseminate this documentation to global, regional, and national networks and partners to advocate for support in relation to YKPs.



[1] <u>https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12892/grantmaking_2023-03-21-information-session-introduction-gc7_presentation_en.pdf</u>

METHODOLOGY

The case study mainly focused on gathering qualitative data through desk review and individual interviews for each of the four countries, namely Indonesia, Mongolia, Burundi and Namibia. The consultant for the case study was tasked to research current materials on NFM3 and other grants from the Global Fund and conduct a desk review of reports and other materials collected through Y+ Global and YL. Furthermore, a comprehensive questionnaire was developed for country partners to collect information on their engagement process in the GC7 of GF.

The YKP and YPLHIV engagement processes in the GF GC7 were documented retrospectively to provide the overview of the engagement. The data was collected through desk review and key informant interviews. A total of four individuals/organizations were interviewed as key informants. The interviews were transcribed for analysis, and key information was extracted based on some previously sorted themes such as advocacy efforts and strategies, inclusivity of the GF GC7 in each country, and challenges and opportunities. The findings are interpreted utilizing quotations from the interviews to consolidate the argument and the description.



OVERVIEW OF YKP AND YPLHIV ENGAGEMENT IN GC7

INDONESIA

HIV AND YKP IN INDONESIA

Since 2003, the Global Fund has signed 38 grants totaling US\$1.1 billion, of which US\$901 million has been disbursed to date across the three diseases and for Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health. Indonesia has a significant expenditure in HIV response domestically and the remaining funds are provided by international sources. The remaining funding comes from bilateral and multilateral sources (Global Fund, USAID, UN System) or foreign foundations. Global Fund remains the biggest international donor in 2014, accounting for 60% of international funding sources.[2] In Indonesia, there were an estimated 640,443 persons living with HIV (PLHIV) in Indonesia with 49.000- 50.000 new HIV infection cases in 2019. The Ministry of Health reported 377.564 cases in 2019 and 86.5 percent of the cases are the productive ages.[3]

BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF INTI MUDA

Inti Muda Indonesia is a national network for YKP and YPLHIV in Indonesia. Inti Muda Indonesia works in 3 main areas: capacity building, advocacy, and partnerships. Currently, Inti Muda Indonesia have 10 provinces as the constituents; North Sumatera, Riau, Jakarta, West Java, East Java, East Kalimantan, Bali, South Sulawesi, Maluku, and Papua, with the main vision of "Young People are Empowered and Have Their Rights Fulfilled".

HIV AND YKP IN INDONESIA

A YKP focal point and program manager at Inti Muda Indonesia, Agatha Syailendra Hamdan, serves as a CCM member in Indonesia and they oversaw the YKP engagement and inclusion of the Indonesian YKP priorities in the GF GC7 through the entire process. The Inti Muda program manager has shared in the interview that during GC7 Indonesian YKPs were informed very well about decision making processes and they were part of the technical working groups. They also have a close partnership with UNAIDS in Indonesia and had many sources to get information. Therefore, they assessed the overall inclusivity in GC7 as very good, and they were well equipped with information to be involved in the processes.

^[2] https://www.aidsdatahub.org/sites/default/files/resource/shift-natl-situational-assessment-hiv-financing-indonesia-2018.pdf

^[3] https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-jakarta/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms 742623.pdf



As for representing YKPs, there is only one representative slot in the decision-making process such as CCM, but Inti Muda Indonesia used their network successfully to form a coalition and gather all community priorities with the support from Youth LEAD. The funding was used to conduct consultations among representatives of nine different provinces of Indonesia.

After gathering data on how people are impacted by HIV and the current HIV response, they identified some gaps that could be addressed through GC7. A highlight was that their coalition consisted of 46 community based organizations with each of them raising various issues of concern during these consultations. One main priority was having Indonesia's HIV response synchronized with the recent legislation passed by the Ministry of Health in Indonesia which allows STI/HIV prevention services for people under 18 years old without parental consent.

In February 2023, the GC7 concept note successfully included four different areas put forward by YKPs in the funding request. Those were:

- 1. Demand creation for services
- 2. Providing healthcare supplies
- 3. Combating discrimination and stigmatization
- 4. Data collection as a basis for further advocacy work

Their most impressive outcome was that all of the four areas of priority were included in the funding request. They trace this success to having an advocacy strategy where an evidence-based approach is taken.

The most challenging part of the GC7 engagement process was that GF wording and procedures are extremely technical and time consuming despite having to fit all required activities within the window that is dedicated to the country. It can cause an individual to have a workload that is hard to recover from. Fortunately, with the help from regional and international partners such as Youth LEAD and UNAIDS, the Indonesian YKP accessed technical and financial assistance. Going forward, YKP in Indonesia recommends enough resources and funding be allocated for all YKPs and also a longer time period to involve everyone and leave nobody behind.

The YKP-led organizations noted that the Global Fund has a complicated administrative process that might seem extremely hard to navigate for many young people. To avoid burden and stick to the main aim of activism and advocacy, some organizations - especially those led by YKPs are reluctant to become a sub recipient of GF without proper guidance and technical assistance. Moreover, young people's perception of GF is not very nicely figured, particularly the workload, technicality and administrative burden continue to be obstacles for youth-led organizations in Indonesia. Inti Muda expressed their will to become a technical advisor/assistant for the programming.

YKP CCM member from Indonesia:
For us at Inti Muda, it was very important to navigate the national context such as the removal of requirement to obtain parental consent in testing for STIs. Taking into account the national environment as well as the willingness of our international partners and stakeholders, we collaborated with crucial partners and strategized on advocating for YKP priorities in the GC7 funding request and ensured that all our priorities were included in the funding request.

MONGOLIA

HIV AND YKP IN MONGOLIA

Global Fund is the only international provider of funding on national HIV response in Mongolia. Overall, the GF grants make up most of the HIV/AIDS financing in the country according to figures from 2007 to 2021. Young people aged 15-34 make up around 30% of the country's population.[4] HIV prevalence is highest among men who have sex with men at 13.7% (2014)[5]. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs), meanwhile, are becoming a significant public health challenge in this country. (WHO in Mongolia)

BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF YLM

YLM is a national youth-led NGO that does advocacy work towards the empowerment, health, and wellbeing of the YKP at the risk of HIV and LGBTIQ+ youth in Mongolia. Since its establishment in 2014, YLM has implemented various projects through small grants. Since its establishment, YLM has been working in the areas of: Capacity building and meaningful engagement of YKPs in decision making processes regarding HIV in Mongolia, Digital comprehensive sexuality education and in-person SRHR training for all young people, Educational media campaigns on STI, HIV/AIDS prevention, Human rights protection, education and psychosocial support for LGBTIQ+ youth.

ENGAGEMENT IN GC7 PROCESSES

A YKP representative from YLM served as an intermediary between CCM and young keep populations during GC7. Having a member in the CCM has been an invaluable asset in delivering YKP's priorities to the proposal development because information dissemination has been effective and timely within the CCM which led YKP networks and communities to be informed of GC7 effectively.

YLM organized YKP consultation independently with the support from Youth LEAD Asia Pacific and co-organized the national HIV dialogue in collaboration with CCM Mongolia. Through these consultations, Mongolian YKP and YPLHIV came up with various priorities that they set out to include in the funding request to be submitted to GF. YLM categorized and grouped the YKP community priorities into five different areas: Improving accessible HIV/STI prevention and healthcare services, Collaborating on human rights advocacy and ensuring gender and social inclusion, Increasing accessibility to condoms and lubricants, Psychological help and support groups, and Working on policy documents. A notable outcome was that four of those community priorities were included and prioritized during the funding request development process.YLM was promptly informed on these areas by the international consultant working on the funding request and held close communication with them.

^[4] https://www2.1212.mn

^[5] https://www.aidsdatahub.org/country-profiles/mongolia

A challenging aspect of engagement with GC7 was the short period of time that YLM had to utilize in order to ensure the YKP and YPLHIV needs and recommendations were reflected. Another challenging aspect was the communication between the lead consultant and their approach towards youth opinions and recommendations. Fortunately the international consultant working on the funding request engaged with YKP and YPLHIV proactively. Therefore, YLM believes that the community priorities section was fulfilled successfully and this works as a leverage for YKPs to get involved and engaged in global fund processes. However, there still needs to be some improvement in enforcing the principle of meaningful engagement of communities especially on the national level, whether it is on awareness raising or training for national stakeholders or consultants to follow global fund guidelines.

Youth CCM member from Mongolia: The entire engagement process had a tight timeline. Therefore, having a CCM member as a focal point and utilizing the support provided by Youth LEAD Asia Pacific was crucial in ensuring YKP and YPLHIV meaningful engagement in the GC7. Almost all of our community priorities were properly reflected in the funding request. However, we also encountered obstacles. It was a bit challenging to work with the national consultant working on the funding request because she was censoring YKP priorities regarding IDUs and was not notifying or inviting YLM to the CSO or KP discussions.



BURUNDI

HIV AND YKP IN BURUNDI

Burundi's National HIV/AIDS Program (PNLS) was created in 2011 to lead the long-term implementation of the Burundian Ministry of Health's HIV and AIDS programs. Since December 2003 the Global Fund has signed over US\$512.92 million and disbursed more than US\$499.69 million to Burundi (as of April 2023).[6] Therefore, the Global Fund remains a significant financer in the country's HIV response. In Burundi, about 2.9% of the population are PLHIV, more than four times the global average. (Agence Française de Développement).

BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF RNJ+

RNJ+ is a national network of YPLHIV which was legally registered in 2006. The YKP groups of RNJ+ serves involve FSW, TG, and MSM. The organization employs three different strategies for advocacy work. Firstly, peer education has been proven efficient in engaging all their communities effectively. Secondly, they provide health facilities through their holistic center. The third approach is capacity building among YPLHIV to help them express themselves freely. Their annual forum of YPLHIV involves youth from all rural and urban areas of the country and they discuss new intervention ideas, their lived realities and gaps in the HIV response as well as their needs that have to be addressed.

ENGAGEMENT IN GC7 PROCESSES

The government stakeholders and the CCM did not involve YKPs when they were first drafting the funding request for GC7. Nevertheless, RNJ+ reached out to CCM and other stakeholders to be actively included. Four individuals from the organization and YKP communities were successfully included in the working groups as a result of this effort.

During the Global Fund GC7, RNJ+ was part of the drafting committee of the concept note and a part of the national committee to fight HIV. Therefore, the organization was well-equipped with the information and platform, which provided an opportunity to directly engage youth. They organized several focus group discussions for YKPs. The entire country was represented through these discussions and everyone's opinion among the YKP community was considered. RNJ+ also leads a consortium of different youth-led and youth-serving organizations, called Ubuntu to get all the YKP and YPLHIV recommendations.

The key recommendations that came out as a result of these discussions were about primary prevention of HIV, testing for HIV, mother to child transmission prevention, and HIV treatment such as health facilities and antiretroviral treatment. YKPs are mostly marginalized in Burundi. Therefore setting the stage within this framework and mitigating the issue was also included as a priority. Other additional recommendations were to integrate Human Rights in HIV prevention programs, integrating differentiated services into healthcare establishments, including sexual reproductive health services, create more holistic youth centers to improve peer education for TB/HIV and HVC/HIV coinfection among adolescents and young people living with HIV. RNJ+ shared that receiving funding from Y plus global was crucial in ensuring our engagement processes ran smoothly.

The biggest challenge for them was the political climate in the country. Key populations are not recognized and they suffer from unsafe environments. However, their advocacy strategy to overcome this hurdle is to use an approach of having an umbrella term for YKPs and advocating for YKPs in a broader coalition.

RNJ+ Executive Director: The participation of young people was effective because they themselves were there to defend the priorities defined. For example, for priorities are included in the concept note and to finish, in the note.



NAMIBIA

HIV AND YKP IN NAMIBIA

The Government of Namibia is the main funder for HIV, TB, and malaria. Between 2021 and 2023, the Government contributed 50% of funding needs, followed by other development partners, including the United States Government (41%) and the Global Fund (9%).[7] Namibia has a generalised epidemic, where HIV is primarily transmitted through heterosexual and mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). HIV prevalence amongst people aged 15-49 is estimated to be 16% and the total population of PLHIV aged 15 and above is estimated at 260,000. (UNAIDS)

BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF LIDAR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Our organization operates in the biggest slum of Namibia and we work with teenage people adolescents young single mothers people affected by HIV and AIDS and STI's also people who are engaged in sex work our organization has been active since 2010 but was officially registered in 2017 and we are a community based organization under the section 21 of the law of Namibia



ENGAGEMENT IN GC7 PROCESSES

Before engaging in GC7, Lidar Community Foundation was not involved in any of the Global Fund decision making processes despite working in combating HIV among the most vulnerable population in their region. They were approached by Y+ Global through being referred by Her Voice Fund grant and we got involved in the national HIV response and decision making processes. The organization and the staff learned a lot of valuable lessons and their main aim was encouraging young people to have their needs and voices heard through focus group discussions and several consultations.

Receiving support from Y+ Global was extremely helpful in conducting the consultations and sharing information among young people who were never involved in GF-related activities before. During the three focus group discussion sessions which involved 120 people in total, three girls aged between 20 to 26 were chosen to represent the constituency. They accompanied the Lidar Community Foundation in different meetings and engaged with decision makers starting from the Global Fund CCM as well as the Ministry of Health. The Lidar Community Foundation's status and role in the national HIV response was elevated to a level where they were invited to regional AIDS meetings and other fora.

In Namibia, the Ministry of Health is the principal recipient of GF and there are organizations that are community based that are sub-recipients. Thanks to their involvement in GC7, Lidar Community Foundation is now hopeful that they will also be involved in implementation of the HIV response in Namibia. Their ongoing advocacy strategy in order to improve girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights since 2021 and previous skills and empowerment has been extremely helpful for them to be involved in GC7 in a meaningful way.

A coalition with other community based organizations and civil society organizations and those from rural and informal settlement communities as well as inadequately served communities. Through the CSO coalition, Lidar Community Foundation was referred to be involved in proposal writing events. They met with Society for Family Health, RAM, Rights not Rescue Trust, Diversity Alliance of Namibia, NAPPA, Woman Solidarity Namibia, IntraHealth Namibia, Walvisbay Corridoe Group and Wings to Transcend Namibia. A highlight for them was attending the Webinar and sharing with our Global colleagues what we really expect from the GC7 this year.

The current GF processes have flaws such as exclusion, limited funding and lacking proper systems to involve YKPs. Especially organizations like Lidar Community Foundation have some disadvantages such as not being able to afford regular auditing or not being recognized despite excellent efforts in community outreach. In 2023, Y+ Global has supported them to enter the HIV area formally.

YKP ENGAGEMENT IN 7TH GRANT CYCLE 15

The most challenging part was to reach high level officials especially in the Ministry of Health due to the officials' schedule or workload. Their shortcomings was not succeeding in contacting some individuals that were necessary. Especially the CCM and technical working groups were hard to access and overall tiring to engage with.

Nevertheless, despite starting the GF engagement processes at a late stage after the proposal was already submitted, their achievement was that they kickstarted their GF engagement path and their voices were delivered to the right people in order to achieve overall inclusion that was previously absent.

Moving forward, the Lidar Community Foundation aims to ensure enough resources are allocated for all YKPs and definitely more time is needed to involve YKPs and YPLHIVs in all their diversity. They recommend decision makers to bolster their trust in community based grassroots organizations and include them in all decision making stages and encourage different stakeholders especially youth.

Lidar Community Foundation Executive Director: It was the very first time for our organization to participate in a project like this. The young people were very excited to learn and to choose their own representatives to represent them throughout the process. GC7 Funding through Y+ Global opened many doors for us as an organization.



CONCLUSION

Through this case study, many similar challenges and opportunities were identified in all four countries and the YKPs engagement in GC7. All four countries have found the submitting window for GF to be extremely time limited but the proposal development time consuming. Therefore, in each country, there was a significant need for technical expertise in order to professionally convey all the messages of needs, gaps and ways to address them.

A valuable asset in the four organizations was their unique advocacy strategies and the key population networks they maintain that are otherwise not reached adequately by the national HIV response. However, decision makers such as those working in government bodies we're still reluctant to include YKP priorities or hear their voices. The similarity between YKPs in Indonesia and Mongolia was that through being a member of CCM they accessed information on a much faster scale and were empowered to advocate for YKP and YPLHIV.

The main key lesson learned was that all key informants expressed the need for more funding to include the priorities and needs of YKP communities that are ever growing. In many country contexts, the YKP or community organizations already have the extensive network of beneficiaries and they are truly aware of the lived realities and needs of their communities. Therefore, they are the most reliable sources to engage when ensuring the needs of YKP are reflected in the HIV programming. However, the process of mobilizing YKP networks, holding discussions and consultations as well as formulating the priorities require more funding in order to ensure nobody is left behind during planning of HIV programs.

Future plans:

Moving forward, YKPs in Indonesia plan to effectively utilize their position in the CCM and continue to advocate for YKP needs. They also would like to contribute to the national HIV response in all their diversity to ensure that there is inclusiveness and accuracy in the programming.

As for the YKPs in Mongolia, the future plan is to consolidate their role in decision making processes regarding GF in Mongolia and amplify their voices through capacity building, strategy making, careful planning and securing funding in the next GF Grant cycle.

In the future, the YKPs in Burundi plan to continue their advocacy and effective engagement in GF processes through securing more resources and mobilizing their capacity in nationwide outreach.

The key informant organization of YKPs in Namibia plans to scale up their involvement in the national HIV response and maintain their coalition with an extensive number of CSOs in the country to advocate for meaningful engagement of their communities in the national HIV response and decision-making processes related to GF.

Youth LEAD and Y+ Global aims to continue their support for youth-led and YKP organizations in the partner countries to expand the influence of YKPs in the GF-related processes.

The four key informants recommended the following recommendations:

- To YKPs: Being more understanding, engaging and active in having your own voices heard, formulating them into ideas and being brave to express your needs and the solutions that you think is important
- To decision makers and government bodies: engaging young people and always try to include their voices in all stages of decision making
- To decision makers and government bodies: removing potential obstacles and requirements for youth-led organizations to access GF-related information, discussions, and decision-making processes
- To GF and other international stakeholders: enabling YKP-led organizations to access funding having flexible requirements when working with them
- To GF and other international stakeholders: supporting youth led organizations and community members in capacity-building and other activities as needed to involve them in HIV programming on a national level
- To GF and other international stakeholders: equipping them with the technical knowledge and skills in order to navigate the administrative obstacles or formalities empowering grassroots organizations working with underrepresented underserved communities
- To GF and other international stakeholders: enforcing a more effective accurate interpretation of the communities priorities When handling funding requests in the next grant cycle

ANNEX 1

Interview questions for country-level activists and YKP representatives to document GC7 engagement processes

1. Introduction:

- a. Can you please introduce yourself and the organization or community you represent?
- b. How long have you been involved in advocacy work or working with YKPs and YPLHIV?

2. Engagement in GC7:

- a. Can you describe your and your organization's role or engagement in the Global Fund GC7? (Also share how you were informed/notified in the first place)
- b. What motivated you to get involved in this process, specifically in relation to advocating for YKPs and YPLHIV specifically in the context of GF GC7?
- c. What have you done within this program? (summaries of interventions have been made within this program)
- d. Any remarkable outcomes/results?

3. Advocacy Efforts:

- a. What advocacy strategies or initiatives have you and your organization/group undertaken to ensure that the needs of YKPs and YPLHIV are considered in Global Fund decisions?
- b. Have you engaged with key stakeholders, such as government officials, CCM or Global Fund representatives, to advocate for the inclusion of YKPs and YPLHIV? If so, what were the outcomes? What were the roles that YKP/YPLHIV played in these processes?
- c. How have you collaborated with or formed an alliance with other local or international organizations or networks to amplify the voices and concerns of YKPs and YPLHIV?

4. Overall inclusivity:

- a. How has the decision-making bodies such as CCM involved YKPs and YPLHIV in the decision-making and consultation processes for Grant Cycle 7?
- b. Do you believe that the voices and perspectives of YKPs and YPLHIV have been adequately represented in these processes? Why or why not?

5. Challenges and Opportunities:

- a. What are some of the key challenges that you or your organization faced in this process/engagement? And how did you overcome these challenges?
- b. Can you share any success stories or opportunities that have emerged during GC7? (for example, successful inclusion of community priorities in the funding request etc.)
- c. What would you do differently if you had the opportunity to engage in a similar process in the future?
- d. How do you plan to sustain/ continue these initiatives to ensure meaningful participation of YKP and YPLWH in the decision-making mechanisms of the Global Fund?

6. Recommendations:

- a. What recommendations do you have for your government and local decision makers to enhance its responsiveness to the unique needs of YKPs and YPLHIV in the future?
- b. What recommendations do you have for other YKPs and YPLHIV in other countries?