



Youth LEAD

Annual Report 2022

Youth LEAD

Youth LEAD is the regional network of young key populations (YKPs) that works with young people at high risk of HIV exposure and young people living with HIV in the Asia Pacific region. Youth LEAD aims to empower young key populations and ensure more meaningful engagement of YKPs in all levels of decision-making that impact their lives.

Scan the QR code for Youth LEAD's socials:





Foreword

The year 2022 is the second year after the start of the COVID 19 pandemic. Although the pandemic was difficult for all of us, 2022 is the year we continue moving forward and past the pandemic's challenges. Several organizations have resumed programs that were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some also analyzed and sought and innovated the needs of the community after the pandemic.

For the first time after two years, Youth LEAD held face-to-face meetings as well as field visits which could not be done during the COVID 19 pandemic. Some highlights for this year included conducting YKP health worker sensitization training and organizing the first face-to-face Board meeting post-pandemic in Nepal.

Another highlight was Youth LEAD's participation in the 2022 International AIDS Conference in Canada where we heard discussions about new data on HIV remission as well as the practical and policy implications of new science around HIV/AIDS. Youth LEAD also had the honor of joining a panel discussion on adolescent girls and young women in the context of HIV response.

Through collaborative efforts, Youth LEAD supported The Global Fund's fundraising campaign for their Seventh Replenishment Cycle by involving other youth organizations around the world such as Y+ Global, Youth RISE, and Y-PEER. As a result, we have been able to raise the voice of young people to donor governments, such as the UK and Canada, and urge them to pledge funds to The Global Fund.

In our commitment to build the capacity of youth-led organizations in the region, Youth LEAD also developed a number of new resources on country coordination mechanisms (CCM), dealing with crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, youth mental health and YKP, digital security and digital HIV interventions for youth, and YKP data reports in collaboration with UNAIDS.

As a board member, I feel that there are still many unmet needs for young people in the Asia Pacific region. We need to continue empowering young key populations and advocate for their access to adequate and appropriate health services and comprehensive sex education. As a proud member of a young key population group, I hope we can continue empowering and collaborating with each other to make a better future for young people affected by HIV.

Sincerely,

Muhammad Alip – Youth LEAD Board Chairperson



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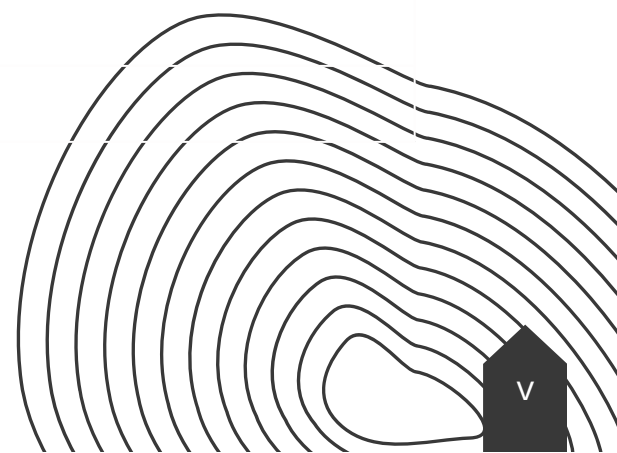






Abbreviations

CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
CMI	Count Me In Youth Consortium
CRG-SI	Community, Rights and Gender – Strategic Initiative
C19RM	COVID-19 Response Mechanism (Robert Carr Fund)
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
HLM	High-Level Meeting
EOF	Exceptional Opportunity Funding
IATT	Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations
INPUD	International Network of People Who Use Drugs
NSWP	Global Network of Sex Work Projects
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
RCF	Robert Carr Fund
SKPA	Sustainability of Key Populations in Asia-Pacific Programme
TA	Technical Assistance
UNAIDS RST	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Regional Support Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
YKP	Young Key Populations



1. Introduction

This 2022 the world is starting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and countries begin to open up their borders. This has allowed many community-based and -led organizations to slowly but surely resume operations while understanding what it means to work in the new post-pandemic normal. For Youth LEAD, recovery from COVID-19 has meant that the Youth LEAD secretariat was able to hold face-to-face meetings, site visits, and other activities that were not possible in 2020 and 2021.

This is also the year for The Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Cycle. Youth LEAD supported The Global Fund's campaign to raise funds by engaging with other youth-led organizations around the world such as Y+ Global, Youth RISE, and Y-PEER. Through our collaborations, Youth LEAD was able to raise youth voices to donor governments, such as the UK and Canada, and urged them to pledge funds for The Global Fund.

1.1 Youth LEAD updates

In 2022, Youth LEAD went through a few staff and board member changes.

- Gaj Gurung, who has inspired many youth advocates in the region passed on the torch of leading the Youth LEAD Secretariat to Ikka Noviyanti. Ikka replaced Gaj as Regional Coordinator after his 5 years of leadership.
- A new Communications and Project Officer, Leo Villar, has joined the Secretariat.
- Youth LEAD conducted a Board Election to identify a new batch of Board Members and youth leaders. These new board members will drive Youth LEAD's direction from 2022 to 2024.



1.1 Youth LEAD Board Members



Muhammad Arif Hidayatulloh (Alip), Chair Munuu Davaajav, Vice Chair
(He/Him)



(He/Him)



Dit Manggang
(He/Him)



Tshering Yangden
(She/Her)



Ariana Tran
(She/Her)



Jeremy Tan
(He/Him)



Pooja Kunwar
(She/Her)

1.2 Youth LEAD Secretariat



Ikka Noviyanti, Regional Coordinator Vanessa Monley, Programme Officer Legee Tamir, Networking Officer
(She/Her)



(She/Her)



(She/Her)



Leo Villar, Communications Officer
(He/They)



**Nounvan Suwanviwatana (Yui)
Finance Officer**
(She/Her)

2. Youth LEAD Strategic Priorities



Strategic Priority 1

Build capacity and implement tools that enable adolescent and young key- populations at higher risk of HIV exposure to contribute to the HIV response at a national, regional, and international level.



Strategic Priority 2

Strengthen and expand formal and informal networks, new YKP organizations and the organizational capacity that brings together young people from key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure to a common platform at a regional and national level.



Strategic Priority 3

Advocate for an enabling policy and legal environment for adolescents and young people from key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure and hold governments accountable to enabling policies and laws to ensure universal access to comprehensive HIV and SRHR information and services for adolescents and young people from key populations.



Strategic Priority 4

Strengthen both external and internal communication strategies within the Youth LEAD network. This includes plans to enhance training, fieldwork, and access to information while also strengthening information sharing within the Youth LEAD network and within the secretariat.



Strategic Priority 5

Ensure there is a knowledge transfer system whereby information can be shared from those transitioning out of the Youth LEAD network to those currently in the network or just entering.



3. Activities and Results 2022

3.1 The Global Fund

CRG-SI Small Grants/Opportunity Grants

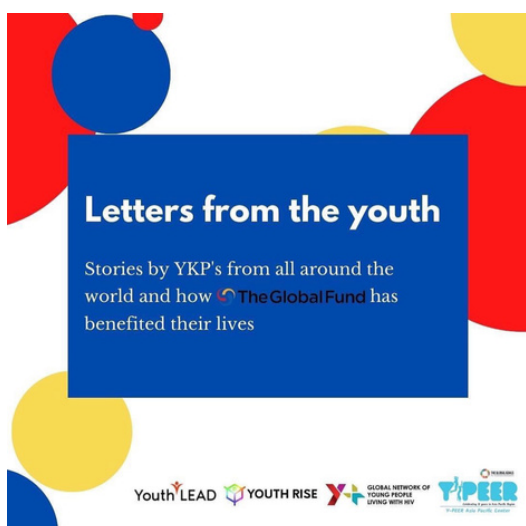
This year's opportunity grant recipients were chosen from Myanmar Youth Stars and Youth LEAD Mongolia. MYS hosted a workshop on the National Strategic Planning (NSP) and Global Fund (GF) processes. Youth LEAD Mongolia arranged a national consultation to discuss advocacy with stakeholders and the upcoming CCM election with youth-led organizations. As a result, the focal point of Mongolia was chosen as a new youth CCM representative, allowing YLM to effectively retain their position in the CCM.

Youth LEAD's country partner in Nepal, YKP LEAD Nepal, was selected as the first sub-recipient of the C19RM project implementation in the nation. Inti Muda Indonesia and VYKAP Vietnam have organized recommendations dissemination meetings with stakeholders as a follow-up activity to the rapid assessment on Youth friendly HIV/AIDS and STDs health care services.

The Global Fund Seventh Replenishment

This year's opportunity grant recipients were chosen from Myanmar Youth Stars and Youth LEAD Mongolia. MYS hosted a workshop on the National Strategic Planning (NSP) and Global Fund (GF) processes. Youth LEAD Mongolia arranged a national consultation to discuss advocacy with stakeholders and the upcoming CCM election with youth-led organizations. As a result, the focal point of Mongolia was chosen as a new youth CCM representative, allowing YLM to effectively retain their position in the CCM.

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Joint Youth Statement

Leading up to the Global Fund's 7th Replenishment, Youth LEAD, Y+ Global, Youth RISE, and YPEER Asia Pacific, joined together to highlight the needs and priorities of young people affected by HIV globally and how the Global Fund contributes to saving the lives of young people. In support of the Global Fund's 7th Replenishment, 91 youth-led and youth-serving organizations signed on to the joint Youth Statement calling on governments and the private sector to invest in global health and young people.

The Youth Statement aims to remind key stakeholders, the Global Fund, and donors that much remains to be done on HIV prevention and treatment for young people. There are approximately 1.7 million adolescents and 3.4 million young people (15-24 years) living with HIV globally, and two out of every seven new HIV infections were among young people in 2019. Despite this, young people are at the forefront and remain active in combatting HIV with the support of institutions like the Global Fund.

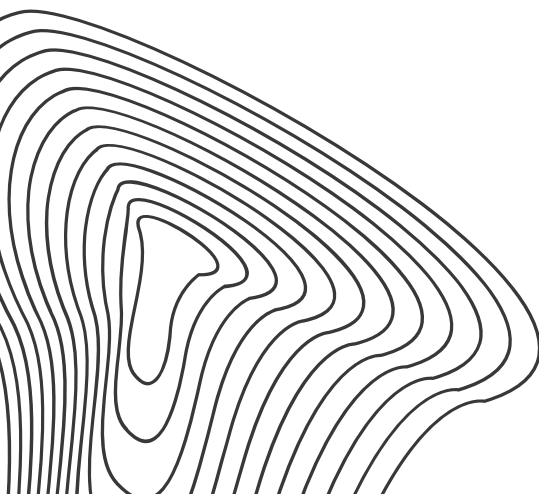
[Joint Youth Statement for the Global Fund's 7th Replenishment](#)

Individual Letters from YKPs

In order to show Global Fund donors the impact that the Global Fund has made to the personal, individual lives of YKPs, the Youth Consortium invited YKPs, in particular those who have been benefited by the Global Fund grant, to write letters raising the issues faced by young people at the community and grassroots level. The personal letters called on the Global Fund and its donors to listen to the voices of young people, as well as to show the importance of Global Fund-funded programmes for YKPs.

As a result of these personal letters, donor governments such as Canada and the UK have positively responded to the letters.

Complementary to these initiatives, the Youth Consortium has also developed social media and video campaigns to raise awareness on the Seventh Replenishment Cycle. Read more [below](#).



Youth in CCM and Global Fund Report

This study aims to produce evidence on the current level of engagement of young people in Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) to inform ongoing young people, in particular young key population (YKP) and young people living with HIV (YPLHIV), with HIV advocacy for strengthened YKP representation in CCMs in Asia and the Pacific countries.

Young people's engagement and involvement in the CCM is critical in ensuring effective response to eliminate HIV, TB, and Malaria disease among children and youth. In a recent mapping assessment of youth engagement in CCM of 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific, only seven countries reported that they have CCM members representing young people or young key populations, and 50% of the total responses (n=29) have ever engaged in the GF funding request country dialogues.

This report triangulated HIV, TB, and Malaria epidemiological data with National Strategic Plans (NSPs), GF's latest Funding Request documents of all three diseases, and youth representations in CCM of the respective 18 countries to identify gaps of youth involvement and engagement in the CCM.

The analysis shows that although some countries include priority interventions in their GF funding requests, youth remain unrepresented in their CCM. Read more [here](#).



ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH IN THE COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM AND GLOBAL FUND PROCESSES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

3.2 Robert Carr Fund

International AIDS Conference 2022

The 24th International AIDS Conference was held in-person from 29 July to 2 August 2022, in Montréal, Canada. The Youth LEAD secretariat team successfully attended the conference despite the difficulties encountered by numerous delegates in obtaining visas for travel to Canada.

During the five-day conference, Youth LEAD heard new data on cases of HIV remission, a novel technology for measuring the HIV reservoir, long-acting PrEP and the use of an antibiotic as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted bacterial infections.

The undetectable = untransmittable (U=U) concept was a major thread running through AIDS 2022, with HIV professionals and communities working through the practical and policy implications of science presented at previous IAS conferences – the International AIDS Society. On this occasion Youth LEAD also attended several dialogue and session organized by donors and partners.

Ikka Noviyanti, who was then the previous Youth LEAD Advocacy Officer, was part of the panel discussion on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Young People particularly AGYW and HIV: need for a comprehensive response organized by International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

This session included a provocative debate about the future of sexual reproductive health rights of adolescent and young people, particularly adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), in the context of the HIV response. Ikka highlighted the unmet need of the sexual reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth, in all its diversity need to be addressed comprehensively through human rights-based integrated approaches by providing treatment (ARV) services, meaningful involvement through outreach initiatives, advocating for their SRHR, and establishing conducive environments for the promulgation of supportive laws and policies.



Youth LEAD YKP Small Grants

The YKP Grants programme is aimed at ensuring the human rights of young key populations (YKP) are respected, and the impact of HIV and AIDS is mitigated through the meaningful involvement of YKP in gaining equal and equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

In 2022, Youth LEAD through support from the RCF have granted USD 44,000 to various initiative for YKP in Asia, including: the following

- KHANA Cambodia conducted a capacity building training on PrEP Demand Creation. The training brought together 54 participants (35 YKPs, 18 CSOs and KP networks, 1 NCHADS, and 2 PHD) to equip knowledge and skills on PrEP community services, STI, and point of PrEP services in Phnom Penh. In addition, they hosted an online session to promote PrEP access amongst YKP. KHANA hosted 5 online sessions using the social media platforms (Facebook Page) to provide further information on PrEP to YKPs, which reached a total of 2302 audiences on Facebook.
- Inti Muda Indonesia organized a National Congress of all their network members, which is held every four years to promote the leadership of young key populations in influencing policies and in carrying out organizational work to achieve the organization's vision and mission. Inti Muda discussed the organization's priority and plans to engage in the Global Fund process in the future.
- In Goa, India, Human Touch provided psychosocial support for adolescents and YPLHIV. Using the Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale (HAM-A), 45 A&YPLHIV were assessed to gain insight into the level of anxiety the clients go through, especially associated with HIV. In addition, the psychologist engaged in one-on-one post-assessment counselling sessions with 100 A&YPLHIV, including those who underwent the assessment.



Trans Asia Pacific and Africa Solidarity (TAPAS)

In 2022, Youth LEAD entered the Trans Asia Pacific and Africa Solidarity (TAPAS) Consortium with the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN), Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network (PSGDN), and African Transgender Network (ATN) under the RCF. As a consortium member, Youth LEAD supported capacity-building activities of youth-led and trans-led organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Youth LEAD developed a LGBTIQ+ Youth Leadership Training Manual 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.

Youth LEAD also provided small grants to Transmasculine Philippines, and TWEET Foundation (India), and Trans Voice Indonesia to conduct capacity building activities specifically for young trans people in their countries.

Transmasculine Philippines' (TMPH) conducted the GAHT To Know: Medical Transitioning and Awareness Workshop is a 3-day project aimed to serve as a continuation of TMPH's previous workshop, 'Pre Ako To!': Non-Medical Transitioning of Trans Pinoys Workshop. The workshop aims to address the lack of comprehensive resources and the spread of misinformation on medical transitioning for Filipino trans men. Without these resources, many transmasculine individuals are forced to "DIY" their own Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy (GAHT) without guidance from medical professionals. This has put many members of the transmasculine community at risk of effects that can endanger their health and well-being. The target participants for this activity are young transmasculine advocates who are actively engaging in organizations and projects that support the Filipino transgender community. Ideally, the participants should be those who are interested in or are currently undergoing GAHT.



Through the small grants, TWEET Foundation implemented the Leadership Engagement Augmentation Program (LEAP) for Trans Youth, which involved conducting an offline consultation workshop with 23 young trans leaders working with TWEET Foundation and various organisations including some of the beneficiaries of projects like shelter homes. Over a period of a month, the young individuals worked together in two separate groups to formulate two Manifestos.

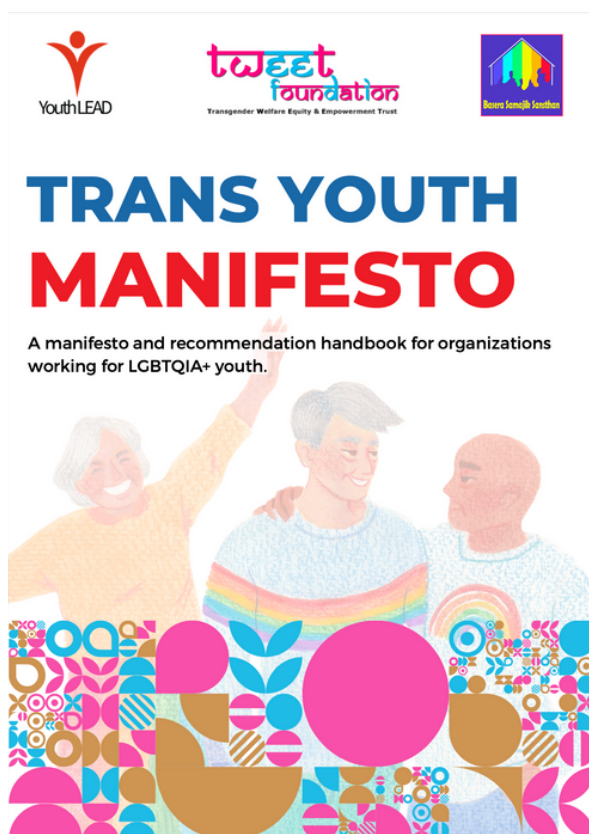
The themes of the two Manifestos include:

1. Inclusion of youth in decision making in trans-led organization
2. Inclusion of trans youth in organisations working for the LGBTQIA community

The discussions and outcomes of the event provided meaningful insights from young trans activists themselves along with key action recommendations which can be implemented by various organizations working for LGBTQIA+ rights to increase youth engagement and involvement of young people in decision making.

TWEET Foundation Co-CEOs based on the recommendation also committed to certain actions such as creating steering committees for key projects involving youth in decision making as well creating better feedback mechanisms for trans youth beneficiaries.

Trans Voice conducted a capacity-building workshop on human rights awareness and advocacy for young transgender advocates in Bogor, Indonesia. Given the lack of transgender knowledge, especially young transgender people in the city and district of Bogor, Trans Voice provided training on human rights law and special basic advocacy for young transgender people. Trans Voice aims to increase transgender rights awareness when it comes to Indonesian law.



Board Meeting and Nepal Stakeholder Meeting

After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Youth LEAD organized its first face-to-face Board and Stakeholder Meeting on 21-22 April 2022 in Kathmandu, Nepal. With all participants meeting minimum COVID-19 safety requirements, the two days of meetings were much-needed opportunities to discuss in depth both the future of Youth LEAD and the important groundwork that young key populations (YKPs) in Nepal need.

On 21 April, the Youth LEAD Secretariat and Board Members started the International Board Meeting for 2022 by discussing the development of the upcoming Partnership Management Handbook. The Handbook will be an important institutional document which outlines Youth LEAD's policies for initiating, maintaining, and evaluating partnerships. The Handbook thus plays a crucial role in Youth LEAD's sustainability and future partnership engagements.

The following day, on 22 April, Youth LEAD welcomed national stakeholders from Nepal for a Stakeholder Meeting to learn and discuss about Meaningful Youth Engagement, especially in the context of Nepal's country coordinating mechanism (CCM).

YKP LEAD Nepal was invited to share about their experiences and the challenges they face in raising youth voices and engaging the CCM. As a recently formed youth network, only formally registered in 2021, YKP LEAD Nepal encountered obstacles in being recognized by the CCM and other decision-making bodies and organizations. Some of these challenges include limited institutional support for young people to become part of decision-making bodies, a culture of bias against letting young people speak for themselves, and in some cases, the tokenistic inclusion of young people.

Moving forward, much work remains to be done in Nepal to ensure that YKPs are not only represented in decision-making bodies, but are also meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of programme interventions. Youth LEAD remains committed to support YKP organizations and networks, such as YKP LEAD Nepal, in advocating for meaningful youth engagement in Nepal.







3.3 Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Regional Sensitisation Healthcare Worker Training on YKPs

In 2022, Youth LEAD continued to support implementation for the second year of the three year grant under Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and UNAIDS RST (Regional Support Team) to create a safe and enabling environment for YKPs to access HIV prevention services. This year focused on the implementation of the programme in Indonesia.

Inti Muda Indonesia (the national network of YKPs), led the implementation of the training with technical assistance from the Secretariat, UNAIDS Indonesia and Health District Departments. They used evidence from a survey they conducted in 2021 that identified provinces within Indonesia that had the least friendliest services to young people and YKPs. They chose to select two districts in the province of Papua to conduct the training. Papua's training was pivotal within the overall programme as it changed the direction of the programme to focus on an urban and rural area instead of just the capital city (for example, what was implemented in Papua New Guinea) to determine if there is a difference between areas.

The training was successful with forty healthcare workers being sensitised in Papua. Most of them had no idea what a YKP was and ended the training with key takeaways and strategies to implement friendlier services within their clinics. In 2023, Youth LEAD will proceed with the evaluation of this training as well as the implementation in Cambodia and the Philippines.



Putting YKP First Report

In August 2022, UNAIDS published the Putting Young Key Populations First report, which combines quantitative and qualitative data to understand the HIV epidemics and responses among young people from key populations in the Asia Pacific region. Youth LEAD contributed to the development of this report as part of a core working group including UNAIDS, UNICEF, and UNAIDS.

The report includes critical data on young people and the HIV epidemic in the Asia Pacific region. Despite a significant (32%) decrease in new HIV infections among young people in Asia and Pacific between 2010 and 2020, data shows that young people still account for more than a quarter (26%) of new HIV infections in the region in 2020. Moreover, several countries have seen steep increases in new HIV infections – the highest of which is the Philippines (216%), followed by Afghanistan (134%), and Fiji (100%).

The report also shows that young people face huge challenges when trying to access HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services, including discrimination, social inequalities, marginalization and violence. Young people also had limited access to sexuality education and faced limited coverage by HIV testing and treatment services. As a result, young key populations were shown to use HIV prevention services less than adult/older key populations.

The report calls on donors, governments, the United Nations and other key stakeholders to build the capacities of youth-led networks and organizations working in the HIV response, and to adapt HIV programmes so they serve the needs of young people from key populations in particular. Networks and organizations of young people from key populations can use the report for advocacy and to mobilize further support.

PUTTING YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS FIRST

HIV AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM KEY POPULATIONS
IN THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION 2022



YKP Organizational Guideline on Crisis Situations

The world we are living in today seems to be impacted more and more by natural disasters and humanitarian crises. COVID-19 particularly, has had disastrous impacts in nearly all corners of the globe. Young key populations (YKPs) and young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) already face challenges in employment, social protection, accessing healthcare, psychosocial support and education, which have been further exacerbated by COVID-19.

Responding to the need, Youth LEAD developed an organizational-level policy and best practices guidelines for crisis situations. This guideline is a compilation of existing good practices, including on preparedness, safety, remote work, and social and mental health support for staff and network partners.

Learning from the good practices of our network partners, nine general strategies were identified as crucial in offsetting the impact of future crises and maintain core organizational functions.

Read more [here](#).

Mental Health and Self-Care Booklet for Young People and YKPs

Young people aged 14 to 30 years old experience a significant burden of mental health disability globally. Among young key populations (YKP), the risk for developing mental illness is heightened by other vulnerabilities such as early sexual debut, high numbers of sexual partners, low condom use, transactional sex, needle sharing, including drug/alcohol abuse.

This booklet provides YKPs a quick reference guide to understand and manage their unique mental health and self-care needs. It can be used as a toolkit to educate YKPs on common mental health challenges associated with exposure to adverse situations. At the same time, it offers YKPs with information on how to apply basic non-specialized psychosocial support (PSS) techniques to manage the mild psychological challenges that they and their peer's encounter.

Read more [here](#).





Digital Course to Strengthen Skills for Digital Youth Security and HIV Interventions

In 2022 as a joint initiative under the Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations (IATT), Youth LEAD, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, and UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education developed the Digital Safety, Security, HIV and SRHR programming course for young LGBTI persons and YKPs. This course was co-funded by the Robert Carr Fund Exceptional Opportunity Funding and from UNDP.

In 2021, UNESCO and UNDP mapped and reviewed online resources for and perceived needs among vulnerable and marginalised young people in the Asia-Pacific region on digital literacy, safety, and participation. This was conducted on a key finding from the IATT survey (2020) to identify the impact of COVID-19 on Young Key Populations (YKPs). One key finding was an overwhelming need among the survey respondents to access accurate information and digital literacy skills to decipher "fake news" or disinformation shared on digital spaces, mainly social media.

In 2022, the 4Youth consortium of four regional organisations focusing on the well-being of YKPs spanning from APAC, MENA, Africa, LAC and EEC was awarded the Exceptional Opportunity Funding from the Robert Carr Fund. The purpose of this grant is to help mitigate the impact on HIV programmes and to fill the gaps caused by COVID-19. One of the critical activities of the 4Youth consortium discussions on the grant was the need to strengthen digital skills for HIV interventions with youth and YKP-led organisations as the pandemic has seen a heavy reliance on digital programming to keep up with their older and well-funded counterparts.

Read more [here](#).



3.4 Interagency Task Team on Young Key Populations

Asia Pacific Youth Forum 2022

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 in the world. According to UNAIDS, young people aged 15–24 years accounted for 26 per cent of new HIV infections in 2020. Although new HIV infections declined by 32 per cent between 2010 and 2020, it is offset by steep rises in new infections in several countries including Fiji (100% increase), Afghanistan (134% increase), and the Philippines (216% increase).

Much needs to be done in order to truly end AIDS by 2030, and it is clear that young people and young key populations must be at the forefront of global, regional, and national HIV response not only as beneficiaries but as stakeholders and leaders too. Throughout the discussions during Day 1 of the Youth Forum, youth participants have narrowed down nine (9) key recommendations on addressing barriers and strengthening youth engagement for a more inclusive, youth-friendly HIV response in the Asia Pacific region. These recommendations were presented to governments and development partners on Day 2 of the Youth Forum, which included participants from the Ministries of Public Health and Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and representatives from several embassies of countries across the Asia Pacific. Read more [here](#).



3.5 Campaigns and Advocacy

Global Fund 7th Replenishment: Youth Fight for What Counts

Social Media Campaign

In order to provide more platforms for young people to be heard by the Global Fund and its donors, the Youth Consortium will also develop social media content (photos, infographics, and reels) based on the needs and issues raised by young people from the letters (ref activity 2). The social media content will be posted on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts of the Youth Consortium and partners.

- [#PressPlay4Youth](#)
- [#YouthFightForWhatCounts](#)
- [#YouthFightForWhatCounts – post-replenishment](#)

Video Campaign

The Youth Consortium developed a video campaign highlighting the challenges of YKPs in their own communities including how young people were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, what YKPs need the most for post-pandemic recovery and future. The video series showcased what the Youth Consortium has achieved through Global Fund-funded programmes during the time of COVID-19, to show the impact of the Global Fund to young people especially YKPs around the world.

Youth LEAD in partnership with Y+ Global, Youth RISE and YPEER AP conducted interviews with young people or YKP representatives in their respective countries/communities of coverage to highlight why the Global Fund is important for young people, the impact of COVID-19 to YKPs, and key messages from YKPs to the Global Fund and its donors.

- [Youth Fight for What Counts](#)
- [Why The Global Fund is important for young people](#)
- [How the COVID-19 pandemic affected young people](#)
- [What YKPs want donors and The Global Fund to know](#)
- [Message to The Global Fund from YKPs](#)



#Collab2Action

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the importance of collaborating with young people in designing and implementing interventions in response to public health crises. Challenges that young key populations (YKPs) and young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) already face such as in employment, social protection, healthcare, psychosocial support, and education, have been further exacerbated by COVID-19. It is thus imperative that health ministries, UN agencies and key national stakeholders collaborate with young people to improve their access to essential healthcare services during the current pandemic, as well as in a post-COVID future.

Youth LEAD engaged with young people across the Asia-Pacific region to raise awareness of the concerns of YKPs and YPLHIV during the COVID-19 pandemic through the [#Collab2Action campaign](#). Through this campaign, young people have raised critical issues that young people face as well as the importance of collaboration in developing and implementing programme interventions that affect the health and well-being of young people.

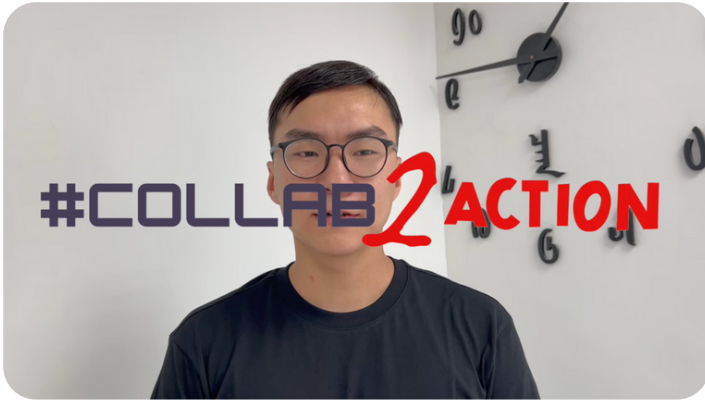
To amplify the voices of young people, Youth LEAD developed a [Youth Statement](#) highlighting how governments, private, sector, and civil society organizations can collaborate with YKPs and YPLHIVs to better serve young people during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in a post-pandemic future. Collaboration with young people is critical in achieving a more equal, resilient, and sustainable society.

World AIDS Day

On 1 December 2022, World AIDS Day, Youth LEAD collaborated with UNAIDS Asia Pacific through the Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations to develop a [campaign](#) reflecting on the theme of #EQUALIZE to highlight the importance of comprehensive sexuality education, meaningful youth engagement at all stages, equal access to HIV & SRHR services, elimination of stigma & discrimination and more.



#COLLAB2ACTION



”

"The best way to fight stigma and empower young people is to ensure equal access to HIV and SRHR for young key populations, including adolescents, ensure that laws and policies reflect our basic human rights principles, also the meaningful engagement of YKP in every level of participation."

Ikka Noviyanti
Regional Coordinator, Youth LEAD



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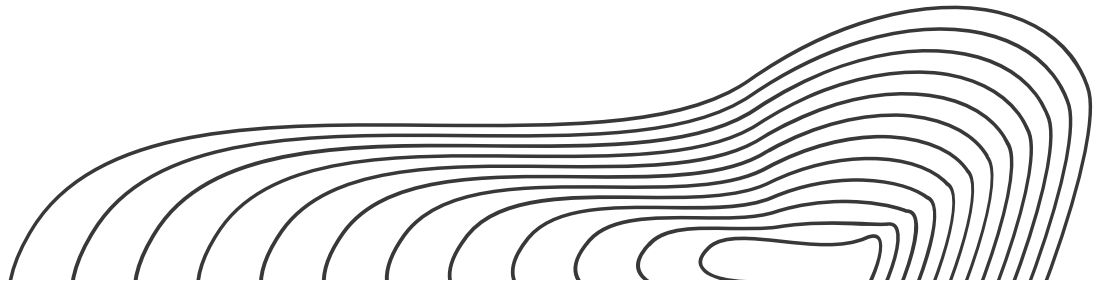
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"We must ensure tailored resources and opportunities that equalize access to HIV treatment and prevention services for adolescents and young key populations. A non-negotiable to the equalizing process having them meaningfully involved in all phases of programming for their health and well-being."

Vanessa Monley
Co-chair, Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations



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