

# YOUTH LEAD ANNUAL REPORT

2016



# CONTENTS

1. Foreword
2. About Youth LEAD
3. 2016 Milestone
4. Highlights
5. Strategic Plan 2016-2018
6. Income & Expenditure
7. Step Forward

# FOREWORD

2016 is the first year of Youth LEAD to implement its Strategic Planning (2016-2018) and the first year of the Sustainable Development Goal. As expected the shifting funding landscape on HIV was felt distinctly and it has brought both challenges and opportunities to Youth LEAD. Reflecting back, Youth LEAD's efforts in 2016 were incessant despite intensive combination of accomplishments and challenges.

Youth LEAD, as the regional network of young key populations, has strengthened and diversified its partnership at different level and numerous initiatives and projects were successfully implemented with tangible results. Consortium with YPEER Asia Pacific to scale up the response on sexual reproductive health and rights needs of YKP, Teen Gen leadership initiatives targeted to adolescents key populations, Point 7 Youth Advisors, RCNF grants, engagement in the PACT and Global Fund advocacy were some remarkable things done in 2016. Youth LEAD was also elected to host Unzip the Lips (regional platform of key affected women and girls). The host sponsorship reflects the larger impact and lens of work, which makes Youth LEAD stands out in regional community of key populations and young people.

Youth LEAD board in collaboration with Secretariat enhanced governance principals and operations of the organizations. Board members endeavored to support Youth LEAD on accountability and transparency directives. Numbers of working principal, procedural regulation and documentation were well approved to ensure Youth LEAD, as a youth-led organization blaze the way to capacitate a professional, credible and well-structured civil society organizations and legal identity.

On-behalf of the Youth LEAD family, I would like to express my greatest appreciation to Robert Carr Network Fund (RCNF), The Global Fund Special Initiatives via RCNF, UNFPA APRO, UNAIDS RST and Technical Support Facility Asia Pacific, UNESCO AP, UNICEF EAPRO, NORAD, AIDS Health Foundation, NEEDED, WHO Geneva and David and Lucille Packard Foundation for the enthusiastic support. Our gratitude to all the Asia Pacific regional key populations and PLHIV networks who have been mentoring and providing consistent support to Youth LEAD. The Youth LEAD Secretariat Thaw Zin Aye and Jeffry Acaba (former secretariat members), Gaj Gurung, Setia Perdana, and Nounvan Suwanviwatana (current secretariat members), including Sangeet Kayastha (YPEER Coordinator) have been unremitting endeavored to make all accomplishments come true. Also, thanks to the lovely interns from University of Toronto; Ms. Bojana Radan and Ms. Olivia Sonnenberg (2016 interns), Ms. Sarah Cooper and Ms. Geneva Calder (current interns) for their passionate contribution to our work. Youth LEAD is filled with hope to embrace over 64 focal points from 20 countries and areas across the region to build up a felicitous social and cultural environment for young key populations.

**Nancy Zhang, Chair of Board, Youth LEAD**

# ABOUT YOUTH LEAD

We are The Regional Network of Young Key Populations. Youth LEAD works with young people living with HIV and young key populations (YKP) at higher risk of HIV exposure, ages 18-27 in the Asia-Pacific region.

As a youth-led organization, connecting with a growing network of focal points in 20 countries across the region, Youth LEAD is uniquely placed to implement programs and initiatives that empower YKP to advocate for their needs. National focal points work for various grass-roots organizations targeting young people from key populations.

Through its network, Youth LEAD is able to reach hundreds of typically 'hard to reach' populations of young people. A noted strength of Youth LEAD is that it brings together a range of young key populations to a common platform to advocate for the needs of young key populations, many of which are shared between key populations despite their differences. Through its important work, Youth LEAD has attracted increasing attention to the needs of young key populations in the region.

# 2016

## JAN-FEB-MAR



- > The initiation of Consortium with Y-PEER Asia and the Pacific, fiscally hosted by Youth LEAD.
- > Youth LEAD starts to host Unzip The Lips.
- > Selected as the Focal Points of the youth, adolescent and children constituency in APRCM.

## APR-MAY-JUN



- > RCNF country support is started (Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Vietnam).
- > Regional training on Global Fund.
- > Regional dialogue with PR, SR, CCMs and YKPs.
- > Engagement in APFSD

## OCT-NOV-DEC

- > Regional capacity development for RCNF grantees.
- > Second regional dialogue with PR, SR, CCMs and YKPs.
- > Starting a new role as the Youth Adviser team to the Point 7 Global Fund board constituent.
- > The Case For Space conference, Youth at the heart of 2030 agenda.

## JUL-AUG-SEP

- > Youth LEAD technical assistance program (China, Indonesia, Pakistan).
- > Teengen writeshop.
- > Teengen Nepal pilot.
- > Youth LEAD & YPEER Regional joint meeting



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Accelerating the country work

### Foster grants

The roots of Youth LEAD lie in the country and we have been in a consistent effort to penetrate deeper into the needs and issues of young key populations at communities. We have our outreach and networking to around 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific where our support has been providing updated and important information, technical support, liaising with different stakeholders to the YKP, ensuring the presence of YKP from diverse countries into different regional and global fora.

In addition to these routine supports as the regional network, Youth LEAD with funding from Robert Carr Network Fund has been providing foster grants to the selected networks of YKP in Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Vietnam. Each country has their own unique piece of work while common issues include network development, advocacy at the national level and contribute to the HIV response positively. In order to amplify the work of the country partners, Youth LEAD organized regional Capacity development training from 4-6 December 2016 on the areas of project management, budgeting and M&E.

### Technical Assistance Program

(China, Indonesia, and Pakistan | July- December 2016)

The YKP in Asia and the Pacific discussed for the need of youth friendly TA program during the Annual General Meeting of Youth LEAD in 2014 and 2015. Following up the need and demand, Youth LEAD launched the youth-friendly TA program for organizations, networks or groups for young key populations in Asia and the Pacific region, financially supported by Robert Carr Network Fund in 2016. The component of youth friendly TA here is understood as easier to access with less bureaucratic and complicated steps, flexibility with the TA need, lesser documentation, autonomy of the applicant to select the local/national/community consultant and consistent support from the Youth LEAD Secretariat during the development of TA application and implementation of the program.

Out of five applicants, three initiatives were selected from China, Indonesia and Pakistan. China team led the capacity Building about New Drug Prevention and Intervention among Young MSM and Young People Living with HIV while Indonesia aimed for local strategic meeting on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis targeting young MSM. Pakistan team strengthened organisational management and build the capacity of their governance fund raising.



## Engaging in the Global Fund

### The Global Fund CRG Special Initiatives

Youth LEAD engagement in the Global Process in 2016 was fueled through the Global Fund- Community Rights and Gender (CRG) Special Initiative channeled via Robert Carr Network Fund. The funding support together with technical support from Youth LEAD Secretariat was able to make country, regional and global advocacy and tangible changes.

With support from the Special Initiatives, Youth LEAD supported national networks of young key populations (YKP) in Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Mongolia, Sri-Lanka, Pakistan and Vietnam. The program supported to strengthen the engagement of YKP in the Global Fund processes not limited to country dialogue consultations, concept note development and generated evidence on YKP and enabled them to engage at the CCM,

The tangible outcomes of the country support were integration of YKP issues in the national HIV policies like National Strategic Plan on HIV and Global Fund concept note. Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Mongolia and Nepal all successfully engaged in the various processes related to the development of the policies, represented YKP in the committees and eventually the issues of YKP were greatly recognized by the plans. The integration of YKP in the national HIV strategic plan opened up the door

to engage effectively in the Global Fund process. As the result, the palpable outcomes were observed in Indonesia and Myanmar. In Indonesia the GF concept note adopted and scaled up the existing comprehensive package of care targeted to YKP from one province (Bandung) to other three provinces (West Jakarta, Denpasar and Surabaya) and Indonesian team are also part of the implementation of the interventions after the grant making process. Myanmar GF concept note included the young people under prevention intervention.

As the result of these engagements the YKP has been elected and nominated as the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) members in Cambodia, Mongolia and Indonesia.

Two regional dialogues with key stakeholders of the Global Fund, not limited to, Principle Recipients, Sub-Recipients, CCM, key populations and HIV networks and technical partners for the first time in the region. The first dialogues from 25-27 May 2016 that brought together 14 CCM members, five principal recipient (PR) representatives, 14 YKP leaders, and four regional stakeholders. The dialogue was the first regional interface of the YKP leaders with the CCM and PR representatives with the collected firm commitment from the stakeholders to support the YKP beyond the GF process.

*"In Myanmar, we have regular meetings to put YKP into the NSP but after listening to the youth and participating in this dialogue, I have realized that we also need to create an environment to assess our services. Some programs may not be effective or relevant, so we must empower the youth to communicate their issues and promote collaboration and coordination within the programs."*

Dr. Htun Nyunt Oo, Program Manager of the National AIDS Program, Ministry of Health in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The second dialogue took place from 7-8 December in Bangkok. 27 participants from seven countries were present of which nine country stakeholders (three CCMs members, two PRs, two technical partners, one SR and one health expert), five regional representatives, 10 representatives from the YKP participated the workshop. The workshop allowed YKPs leaders works with CCMs representatives in different countries to exchange experience, good practice and lesson learned about comprehending YKPs issues and demands to existing country GF grants.

## NORAD Point 7 Advisor project

Youth LEAD in collaboration with PACT once again successfully bid the NORAD tender on managing the Point 7 Youth advisors for the duration of 2016-18 after managing the youth advisors for 2014-16. The youth advisors were selected through global bidding amongst the PACT members. Setia Perdana from Indonesia and Clarissa Regede from Zimbabwe to meet the objectives to:

Ensure that the perspectives of young people, in particular from Global Fund supported countries, are fed into decision-making processes of the Global Fund through the Point 7 constituency.

Ensure that Global Fund Board decisions and other relevant information are/is fed back to youth networks and country level constituencies.



## Integration of SRHR for young key population

### Youth LEAD Consortium with YPEER

Youth LEAD and YPEER International formed the consortium to apply for the Robert Carr Network Fund from 2016-2018 and it was a successful one. Currently, YPEER Asia and the Pacific office have been started in Bangkok since early 2016 and is fiscally hosted by Youth LEAD. The partnership is the promising example of youth-led organization coming together to supplement each other's expertise and needs to synergizing for larger outcomes.

### Youth LEAD and YPEER joint meeting

Each year since 2015, Youth LEAD and YPEER at Asia and the Pacific has been holding joint regional meeting. The meeting for 2016 was held in 9th August in Bangkok in the presence of country partners from Youth LEAD and YPEER, including regional team from both organizations. The meeting primarily discussed to actualize the partnership, particularly in-terms of supporting the SRHR needs of YKP in the region. Out of different ideas postulated jointly, the national consultation in Bhutan was implemented.

### Case study:

*Y-PEER Bhutan organized "National Workshop on SRHR & SDGs" in December 2016, jointly supported by Youth LEAD and YPEER regional team. 80 young people from different parts of Bhutan and other stakeholders from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Educational Institute, NGO Partners & Media was involved in two days' national workshop. The discussion was focused on the immerging challenges in the field of SRHR services, HIV and education. As HIV & SRHR is less discussed topic in Bhutan, the involvement large number of young people and stakeholders during the event not only contributed on raising awareness about such issues including youth friendly services, HIV Services and YKPs within the groups but also spread positive message in Media to different stakeholders and general population. The workshop was also focused on the finding the possible way forward to control the epidemic of HIV as well as promote HIV testing and counseling services through mobilization of peer educators as well as health workers.*

## Youth LEAD hosts Unzip the Lips

Started by 2016 we hosted Unzip the Lips. A campaign platform of key HIV-affected women and girls found in 2011. It is currently the only region-wide civil society-led movement bringing together diverse communities of women who are living with, affected by, and at higher risk of HIV, women's rights activists and sexual and reproductive health and rights advocates to campaign collectively for improved health and human rights policies in the Asia Pacific region.

## Our Rights Matter Too

We had launched the Our Rights Matter Too. A regional report, provides an overview of SRHR needs, issues and priorities of young key populations in Asia and the Pacific. The report addresses the gaps in knowledge on the SRHR needs of YKP in the region, offers recommendations based on a regional study, and contributes essential information for policy and advocacy efforts

## **Working for adolescent key population**

### In The Future

With support from UNICEF EAPRO, Youth LEAD aims to surface the issues of adolescent key populations including

adolescent living with HIV through their personal stories. In The Future is a book presents seven stories of adolescents in three countries, namely Thailand, China and the Philippines with an aim to inform ways to support and strengthen HIV programming and policy development in the region. Most importantly, these stories reflects realities of adolescents from key populations that may inspire other adolescents on how they are able to weather the storm and fight for their rights.

### TeenGen

TeenGen leadership training manual is based on a three-day consultation held in Bangkok in August 2016 by the Youth LEAD Secretariat. Eight master youth trainers and adolescents, including members of key populations from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand attended this workshop. The course is similar to Youth LEAD's flagship leadership programme, NewGen, but adapted to younger participants. It uses interactive games and activities that enable adolescents to participate proactively while at the same time building their knowledge, leadership and communication skills in a safe space where they can speak out. This manual was piloted in Katmandu – Nepal and in Manila – Philippines. And it was firstly rolled out in Jakarta – Indonesia.

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2016-2018

**Youth LEAD's 2016-18 strategy** aims to build upon past achievements of the organisation, draw on areas in which Youth LEAD is uniquely placed to make a difference, respond to emerging needs of young key populations in the region and fit strategically within the broader HIV and AIDS response in the Asia Pacific region.

Youth LEAD's Strategic Priorities for 2016-2018 are:

### **Strategic Priority 1**

Build capacity in adolescent and young key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure to enable them to strategically contribute to the HIV response at a national, regional and international level.

### **Strategic Priority 2**

Strengthen and expand formal and informal networks that bring together adolescents and 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.

### **Strategic Priority 4**

Advocate for universal access to comprehensive information and HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services for adolescents and young people from key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure.

### **Strategic Priority 5**

Strengthen the organisational capacity and sustainability of Youth LEAD as a uniquely placed and well-respected regional network bringing together adolescents and young people from key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure.

**Youth LEAD's strategic priorities contributes to priority areas within the Specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Targets and also the UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy (UNAIDS, 2015)**

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE

DONORS	AMOUNT (USD)
AIDS Health Foundation	10,400
Robert Carr Network Fund	391,600
Robert Carr - Global Fund CRG Special Initiatives	146,000
IPPF (TSF) - UNAIDS RST	20,000
UNAIDS RST	13,200
UNFPA APRO	35,000
UNICEF EAPRO	10,000
WHO	4,800
Child Fund	1,250
David and Packard Foundation	25,000
NORAD	68,427

Youth LEAD 's annual income of 2016 is \$ 725,677 where 32% were provided to the core support and 68% to the program support.

The 2016 financial audit is on progress to result the annual expenditure.

# STEP FORWARD

Through 64 focal points in 20 countries, we are leading the way in working more for Adolescent Key Populations by generating evidence and friendly approaches to their empowerment. As prioritized in our strategic areas of 2016-2018, we will ensure that they do not get left behind. Our direct support to 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific is going to continue to catalyze their work for adolescents and young key populations. One of our main missions will continue to be assisting with country needs in a way that ensures they are engaging in Global Fund related processes. And last but not least, we will put a great amount of effort into expanding some best practices of YKP-friendly services across this region.



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