



## THE YOUTH STATEMENT FOR THE GLOBAL FUND 7TH REPLENISHMENT:

### Invest in the Global Fund, Invest in Health, Invest in Young People

For more than 20 years, the Global Fund has played a pivotal role in saving lives against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. In 2020 alone, the Global Fund has supported anti-retroviral therapy for 21.9 million people and provided HIV testing for 705,709 young people.<sup>1</sup> As the world struggles to move past the COVID-19 pandemic, we are on the edge of losing what we have achieved so far; loss of progress would be to regress on commitments to global health, global development and aid. In losing this progress, we are setting ourselves up for failure from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG Target 3.8 on universal health coverage. A better future for all cannot be met when the needs and voices of the most vulnerable people, especially the youth, remain ignored.

**Data on the vulnerability of young people to HIV exist despite various challenges on data gathering on youth. In 2019, there are approximately 1.7 million adolescents and 3.4 million young people (15–24 years) living with HIV around the world. The number of adolescents and young people living with HIV is also increasing; two out of every seven new HIV infections globally in 2019 were among young people (15–24 years). In 2020, young people accounted for 26 per cent of new HIV infections in the Asia-Pacific region alone. This high infection rate is further corroborated by limited knowledge and awareness of young people on HIV; with only one in three young people demonstrating knowledge on HIV prevention.<sup>2</sup>**

Young people in all our diversity are vulnerable to HIV. Among us are young key populations (YKPs) which include adolescent girls and young women, young people living with HIV, young people who use drugs, young people who sell sex, young men having sex with men, and young LGBTIQ+ people. YKPs continue to face barriers to access HIV services and treatment, including restrictive<sup>3</sup> and punitive<sup>4</sup> laws and policies against young people as well as persistent stigma and discrimination. But upon the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, young people's vulnerability to HIV has been further magnified.

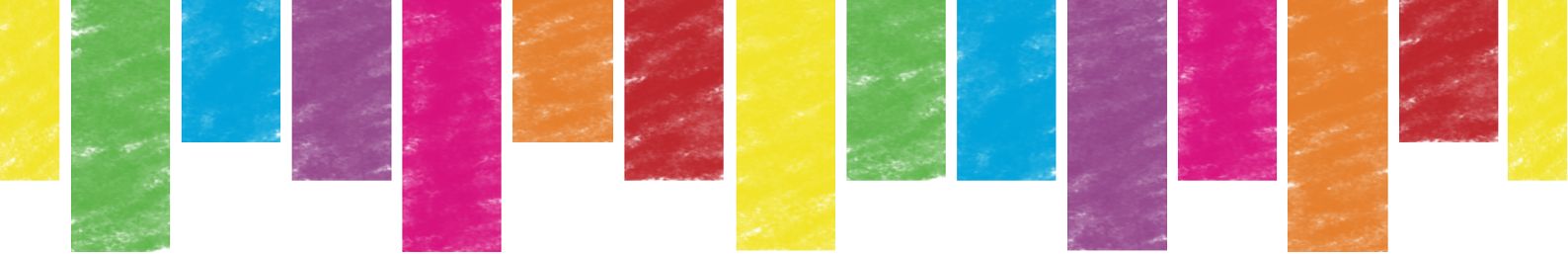
We, young people, believe it is urgent that world leaders and the private sector act on the increasing vulnerabilities to HIV that young people face. This includes investing in Global Health Institutions, such

1. <https://data.theglobalfund.org/results>

2. UNAIDS (2021). Young People and HIV. Available at: [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/young-people-and-hiv\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/young-people-and-hiv_en.pdf)

UNAIDS (2022). Parental consent laws leave adolescents vulnerable to HIV. Reliefweb. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/parental-consent-laws-leave-adolescents-vulnerable-hiv>

3. UNICEF and IATT on YKP (2019). Looking out for adolescents and youth from key populations. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/looking-out-adolescents-and-youth-key-populations>



as the Global Fund, which has contributed to the lives of millions of young people across the globe. **In the lead up to the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment, world leaders and the private sector thus have the opportunity to ensure the health and save the lives of young people.** The Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment, covering 2023-2025, will support organizations, including youth organizations, around the world in protecting and providing life-saving treatment to people vulnerable to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. To do this, the Global Fund developed an investment case and aims to mobilize at least US\$18 billion to save 20 million lives.

**Young people are at the core of Global Fund programming and have been deeply involved in shaping how the Global Fund addresses the needs and priorities of young people.** We work with the Global Fund to design and implement national grants, engage with Country Coordinating Mechanisms, and even hold seats in the Global Fund governance board. It is against this background, we believe that your investments in the Global Fund will reach the most vulnerable and marginalized young people, such as YKPs. We will make sure to hold **the Global Fund accountable and continue their commitment to support young people.** **Your investment in the Global Fund is thus an investment in us, young people vulnerable to HIV – an investment in our health, our lives and our future.**

As representatives of youth-led organizations, we are calling on leaders from all countries, and the private sector to show global solidarity, leadership and commitment to ensure that the rights, needs and priorities of YKPs are protected and addressed. We call on you to ensure the success of the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment. Now more than ever, the voice and leadership of young people in all our diversity counts. The Global Fund, its donors and partners must fight for what counts – fight for young people.

## **We, representatives of youth-led organizations, call on the following:**



### **Governments of Developed and Developing Countries**

- To strengthen health systems for young people, particularly public health capacities, primary health care and universal health care (UHC), by funding the Global Fund and youth-led and youth-serving organizations
- To accelerate the fight against HIV by breaking down human rights barriers that prevent young key populations from accessing essential HIV information, services and treatment
- To address restrictive and punitive laws and policies that discriminate against young people's participation in decision-making processes, especially when such decisions impact the health and lives of young people
- To address restrictive laws and policies that prevent young people from accessing HIV services, such as age of consent policies
- To practice meaningful and ethical engagement of young people in key decision-making



platforms that impact our health and rights at the international and national levels

- To ensure the needs and priorities of young people are included in laws, policies, and action plans that impact their lives
- To adopt anti-discrimination policies and implement existing agreed policies that protect young people from day-to-day stigma and discrimination based on HIV status, sexual activity, and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).



### **Private Sector**

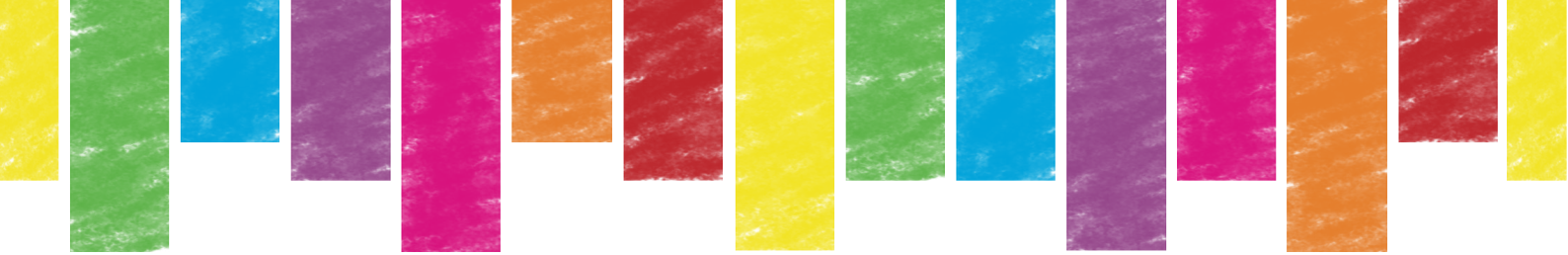
- To invest in pandemic preparedness and resilient and sustainable systems for health to reduce future risks to global health, such as another pandemic, which will severely affect businesses and the global economy
- To invest in future of young people by including them in the development, design, and implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Due Diligence strategic plans and programmes
- To engage with young people on their needs and priorities around health and employment, to increase young people's access to employment, job security, and health insurance.



## SIGNATORIES: YOUTH-LED/YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

1. #SHUTITALLDOWNNAMIBIA
2. Acholi Renaissance Youth Association (ARYA) - Uganda
3. ADESEF (Associação Desenvolvimento Sócio Económico Fondo) - Mozambique
4. Afrique Rehabilitation and Research Consultants NPC - South Africa
5. AGIR-Mozambique ( GAZENSE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERVENTION IN THE REDUCTION OF ABSOLUTE POVERTY - AGIR)
6. AMPARO - Mozambican Association for social inclusion
7. Angaza Youth Initiative, Kilifi Kenya
8. APAPURG - Lirandzu
9. Argentinian Network of Young People and Adolescents Living with HIV.
10. ASSCODECHA - Mozambique
11. Associação Coalizão da Juventude Moçambicana- Mozambique,
12. Associação Hixikanwe - Mozambique
13. Bacha Re Bacha Youth Forum - Lesotho
14. BodyTalk International
15. Change For Future(CFF),Tanzania
16. Childlife Mozambique - Early Childhood Development Association
17. CHIMABA SANAA GROUP-TANZANIA
18. Coastal Resource Centre, South Africa
19. Common Action for Gender Development COMAGEND
20. Community AID Transformation Alliance Group (CATAG) Homa Bay, Kenya
21. Direitos Humanos - Mozambique
22. Eagle Neema CBO Kenya
23. EDEA Uganda
24. Foundation for adolescent girls and young people in Zambia
25. Foundation for Rural Development ( FORUD ) Malawi
26. Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global)
27. Her movement Tanzania
28. Hope for Vulnerable children Association (HOVUCA)
29. Inspired Horizons Association
30. Inti Muda Indonesia
31. Inti Muda Indonesia (Indonesia Young Key Population Network)
32. Joyful Hearts Organization - Kingdom of Eswatini
33. JUSTAPAZ - Centro de Transformacao de Conflitos, Governacao e
34. JUSTAPAZ- Centro de Tranformacao de Conflitos,Governacao e Direitos Humanos - Mozambique
35. KadAfrica
36. Karibu Cultural Contact (KCC), Tanzania
37. Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA), Cambodia
38. Kuza Livelihood Improvement Projects, Mombasa - Kenya
39. Latinoamérica por una Política Sensata de Drogas (LPSD)
40. Leap Girl Africa (LGA)
41. LESOTHO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (LNCW)
42. Lesotho Network of AIDS Service Organisations (LENASO)
43. Lidar Community Foundation. Windhoek. Republic of Namibia
44. Life Concern, Malawi
45. Lighthouse Social Enterprise, Viet Nam
46. MAPIMO LA MANENE ASSOCIATION
47. MOSEPELE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT FORUM (MFDF)- LESOTHO
48. Most at Risk Young Mothers and Teenage Girls living with HIV Initiative(MOYOTE)
49. Myanmar Youth Stars - Myanmar
50. Namibia Planned Parenthood Association



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- (NAPPA), Namibia
51. Network of Young Key Population (NYP+ Ghana)
  52. One Billion Rising Namibia
  53. PAAJ+ (Plataforma para Advocacia dos Direitos dos Adolescentes e Jovens Vivendo com HIV) - Moçambique
  54. Positive Women Together in Action
  55. Real Open Opportunities for Transformation Support (ROOTS)
  56. REPROV - Mocambique
  57. REPSSI Mozambique
  58. Réseau National des Jeunes vivants avec le VIH (RNJ+)-Burundi
  59. Resilient Youth for Change - YOCA - Zambia
  60. Rising Winners Youth Empowerment Initiative (RWYEI), Kilifi County; Kenya
  61. RURAL FOCUS ZAMBIA (RUFOZ)
  62. Scar of Life Youth Organization (Scaro) Malawi
  63. Sesi Fellowship and Skill Hub
  64. Skillshare International Botswana
  65. Skillshare International Botswana (SKIB)
  66. Sustainable Women Organization (SWO) Cameroon
  67. Swaziland Network of Young Positives (SNYP+)
  68. Teddy Bear Clinic for Abused Children t/a/ Teddy Bear Foundation
  69. The Organization of young people living with HIV in Kenya (Y+ Kenya)
  70. The Young Feminists Movement (Y-Fem) Namibia Trust
  71. The Zambian Network of Young People Living with HIV (ZNYP+)
  72. Tovwirane organisation -Malawi
  73. VISION IN ACTION CAMEROON (VIAC)
  74. Visionary Youth Network Initiative (VYNetI) Zambia
  75. Voices for Choices and Rights Coalition
  76. VYKAP, Vietnam
  77. Wakambadhala Kusindi Youth Group (WAKUYG) Namibia
  78. Wasaib Sanwaro
  79. YIFoS Indonesia (Youth Interfaith Forum on Sexuality)
  80. YKP LEAD NEPAL
  81. Young Positive People of Pakistan
  82. Young women Empowerment Network (YWEN) Namibia
  83. Young Women's Christian Association of Malawi
  84. Youth LEAD Asia-Pacific regional network for young key populations
  85. Youth Project Excellence, Malawi
  86. Youth Rise Nepal
  87. Youth RISE: Promoting Harm Reduction & Drug Policy Reform
  88. YOUTH'S HOPE NETWORK - ZAMBIA (YHNZAMBIA)
  89. YPEER Asia-Pacific Center
  90. Zambian Youth Platform (ZYP)
  91. Zvandiri- Zimbabwe