

YOUTH LEAD ANNUAL REPORT 2017



About Us

Youth LEAD is the regional network of young key populations (YKPs). We work with YKPs at a higher risk of HIV exposure, and young people living with HIV in the Asia-Pacific region. YKPs include transgender individuals, men who have sex with men, people who engage in sex work, and people who inject drugs. Youth LEAD works with 50 focal points in 22 countries, who work to empower YKPs to advocate for their needs.

Through this network, Youth LEAD is able to connect with YKPs who are typically considered “hard to reach”. Youth LEAD provides a platform for individuals to come together, engage in HIV related issues and to discuss their needs at the community, national, and regional level. Youth LEAD also collaborates with many stakeholders, and is a member of the Asia Pacific Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Young Key Populations.



WE ARE YOUTH LEAD

WE EMPOWER THROUGH EDUCATION

WE ADVOCATE FOR YKP RIGHTS

*WE ARE STRONG BECAUSE OF OUR
NETWORK*

2017 Highlights:

Looking Back at Youth LEAD's Key Moments

FEBRUARY

Call for proposal for the Youth LEAD catalytic fund for YKP-led organisations



APRIL

MAY

- Point 7 Youth Advisor attended the Global Fund board meeting in Rwanda; RCNF stakeholder reflective process meeting
- Release of the document: Making Root, Branching Out: The Development of Young Key Population-Led Organisations in the Asia-Pacific Region.



TeenGen training held in the Philippines and Indonesia

MARCH



JUNE

Revision of Youth LEAD monitoring and evaluation plan

JULY**AUGUST**

Finalised the youth friendly version of Legal Advocacy Toolkit; Call for proposals for Youth LEAD's technical assistance fund; Launched YKP SRHR e-course.

- Young advocate training in Bangkok, Thailand for 26 participants. The focus was on issues related to HIV and SRHR.
- Global experts' consultation on Development of International Guidance for Out of School CSE was held in Oslo, Norway.

DECEMBER**SEPTEMBER**

Financial training for the RCNF Youth LEAD country grantees.

NOVEMBER

- First state level consultation on adolescents and HIV was held in Goa, India.
- The 9th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights was held in Halong Bay, Vietnam.
- Regional training of trainers on TeenGen.
- Awarded with the Global Fund CRG Special Initiative grant
- Point 7 Youth Advisor attended the board meeting in Geneva

OCTOBER

- A training of trainers on legal advocacy for YKPs was held in Yangon, Myanmar.
- The International Association for Adolescent Health 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health.
- Launched the discussion paper on Making the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) inclusive of YKP

Strategic Priorities:

Strategic Plan 2016 - 2017

In 2016, Youth LEAD's Strategic Plan for 2016-2018 commenced. 2017 was a year filled with achievements that aimed to target the five strategic priorities for Youth LEAD. Each of these priorities focuses on the needs of adolescent key populations (AKPs) and YKPs in the Asia-Pacific Region. You can find Youth LEAD's current strategic plan [here](#).

Youth LEAD's Strategic Priorities for 2016- 2018:



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 Priorities:

Strategic Plan 2016 - 2017

Youth LEAD's Strategic Priorities for 2016- 2018:

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.



2017 Highlights

Based on Priorities

Strategic Priority #1 Adolescents Leading the way in Asia and the Pacific

In November of 2017 Youth LEAD held a regional training of trainers in Bangkok, Thailand for TeenGen. TeenGen is a leadership-training course developed by Youth LEAD designed for adolescents to develop skills surrounding the issues AKPs face, as well as to develop their leadership skills. The training itself uses interactive games and activities to build knowledge and skills for these adolescent participants. Another objective of the training is to provide AKPs with information on HIV and SRHR. At this training there were 17 participants from countries including Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, China, Thailand, and Cambodia. In a post training evaluation, confidence of participants improved by 50% overall.

In 2017, TeenGen training was subsequently rolled out in Indonesia and Philippines.

- In Indonesia the training was held in the Jabodetabek area. The session taught youth about gender and sexuality, safe sex, and the importance of communication through the use of interactive games. Through these games the facilitators were able to communicate with the adolescents in an effective way, dispelling misconceptions surrounding gender and sexuality.
- Individuals who had previously completed Youth LEAD's NewGen training session facilitated the three-day TeenGen training in the Philippines. Upon completion of the training, participants expressed their interests in both relaying the information they had learned to their peers, and to take the proper steps to ensure their own personal health. To read more on the training by the facilitator please [click here](#).

Strategic Priority #2 Capacitating Youth to Take the Lead

Youth LEAD provides technical assistance program support within the regional network. In 2017, Youth LEAD supported three countries, Sri-Lanka, Vietnam, and India.

- Sri Lanka- A youth organisation in Sri-Lanka called Youth Out Here Sri-Lanka (YOH) was assisted in a three-day resource mobilisation training session. The result was the development of a resource mobilisation plan, as well as a follow up plan.
- Vietnam- Technical assistance in Vietnam included training on resource mobilisation and proposal writing with Vietnam Network of Youth Key Populations. The purpose of this was to help them strengthen their organisation and the work they do for YKPs.
- India- with support from Youth LEAD, the Human Touch Foundation held their first state level consultation on adolescents and HIV in Goa, India. The ultimate goal was to outline an appropriate response to adolescents living with HIV, as well as to develop recommendations related to services, support and treatment, stigma, discrimination and disclosure.

In 2017, Youth LEAD formed a consortium with Y+ and Youth RISE. They formed the "Count Me In" project, which demands meaningful engagement of YKPs in Global Fund processes at the national and global level. Through the formation of this project and the consortium, Youth LEAD, Y+ and YPEER applied for the Global Fund Community Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative (2017-2019) component 2, strengthening the capacity of key populations networks to meaningfully engage in Global Fund related processes. The proposal was successfully awarded, and "Count Me In" is to be implemented in the regions of Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Europe, however outreach will be global.

In order to continue making sure youth are represented in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Youth LEAD has supported organisations in Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam to apply for Global Fund funding.

- **Indonesia:** In 2017, our country partner in Indonesia, Fokus Muda continued to participate in the ongoing country dialogue. They work in the areas of prevention, care, support, and treatment (CST), as well as resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH).
- **Pakistan:** After being established in 2015, Y-Chapter continues to advocate for YKPs in Pakistan. In 2017 Youth LEAD continued to support this organisation that focuses on advocacy, leadership, and policy development. Youth LEAD also supports Y-Chapter in concept note development for the Global Fund. This support have also resulted in youth being more represented in national efforts including the development of the Pakistan AIDS Strategy where youth are not only involved, but their unique needs have been clearly indicated.
- **Vietnam:** Youth LEAD's country partner, Viet Nam Network of Youth Key Affected Populations (VYKAP) has made impressive strides in recent years. Through the support of Youth LEAD, they are receiving more support from government and UN agencies, and have two YKP representatives with observer status at the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM).

For more information, [click here](#).



Youth LEAD is the lead of the Resource Group in PACT. They have been involved with #uproot, a political effort based on equity, inclusion and solidarity of young people in the CCM to enable them to meaningfully engage in Global Fund decision making processes at the country level. Recently an advocacy plan with involvement from the Global Fund secretariat was created to improve the functionality of the CCM. A position paper on young people and the CCM was therefore developed entitled *Young People in the Heart of CCM: Making CCM Work for Young People*. It includes evidence and a rationale for the inclusion of youth, the existing barriers and how to facilitate meaningful inclusion for youth. It also includes testimonials from youth in the CCM and three concrete recommendations. The paper was reviewed by global youth activists from PACT, and has since been translated into French and Spanish with support from UNAIDS.

The 9th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) was held in Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam in November 2017. The theme was “Leave No One Behind! Justice in Sexual and Reproductive Health.” Youth LEAD, along with YPEER was involved as a co-organiser for the conference as the international steering committee, and the international youth steering committee. Youth LEAD focused on maximising the voice of YKPs and youth activists in the region on SRHR issues. Youth LEAD participated in many ways throughout the conference, including the youth bonding night, hosting parallel sessions, and organising satellite sessions as well as an interactive booth. One satellite session, “We Are 2030! Innovating youth leadership and accountability in ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030” highlighted innovative service delivery models for youth, designed and led by youth to promote community-to-community learning.

Strategic Priority #3 Youth Engaged in the Policy and Legal Environment

After the development of the Legal Advocacy Training Manual in 2017, Youth LEAD, Myanmar Youth Star, Phoenix (the national NGO working on HIV in Myanmar) along with the UNFPA supported and facilitated the training of trainers on legal advocacy for YKPs in Yangon, Myanmar. The purpose of the training was to improve knowledge on SRHR, HIV, legal and policy contexts, and to design an advocacy action plan. The training itself consisted of 5 modules that include sessions on SRH of young people in the Asia-Pacific region, SRH rights, how to use the law and advocate for access to SRH services in domestic legal environments, how to use international legal mechanisms, and lastly, how to build an advocacy argument using data and the law. The training was the first of its kind in Myanmar, and has since helped to generate momentum of legal advocacy among YKPs. Overall, 26 participants, including YKPs and SRHR youth activists were capacitated on legal rights and legal advocacy approaches.

Concrete advocacy issues surfaced and follow up plans developed. The follow up activities included translation of manual into local language, country pilot training and national stakeholder meetings on legal barriers faced by young key populations.



Strategic priority #4 Youth at the Forefront of Comprehensive Information on HIV and SRHR

YKP LEAD is the national network of YKPs and youth living with HIV in Nepal. They, along with support from Youth LEAD and AHF Washington assembled a small team of trainers to go through the national guideline to develop a training manual on HIV disclosure for adolescents in Nepal. The intention of this training manual is to function as a reference as well as a learning tool for facilitators who are training government health workers, counsellors or individuals working for NGOs and CBOs that provide services to adolescents living with HIV. The training methodology itself is made up of five key components, including presentations; experience sharing, group activities, role-play, and discussions. The overall objective of the training is to have participants better understand the epidemiology among adolescents and young people living with HIV, as well as to inform them of available treatment options and clinical management.

In 2017 Youth LEAD developed the first ever discussion paper entitled Make Comprehensive Sexuality Education Inclusive of Young Key Populations. This was possible through support from HIV Young Leaders Fund, IPPF, PACT, and UNESCO. The paper attempts to present the realities people from YKPs face when it comes to comprehensive sexuality education in the Asia-Pacific region. The paper highlights the issues of different groups within YKPs, and recommendations for policy makers, programme designers and advocates. The video and discussion paper can be accessed [here](#).

Youth LEAD attended the Global Experts' Consultation on Development of International Guidance for Out of School CSE. The consultation was organized by the UNFPA and was held in Oslo, Norway in December 2017. This is the first time this international guidance has focused on out of school CSE, and YKPs are included as a target population for this guidance.



Strategic Priority #5 Strengthening Youth Networks and Organisations

Through the focal points and organisations in Youth LEADs network, Youth LEAD is able to reach many communities in the Asia-Pacific region. This network helps to empower YKPs and AKPs, and to ensure their presence at the state, national, and regional level. In order to further enable these communities, Youth LEAD provides foster grants to countries through funding from Robert Carr Network Fund (RCNF). In 2017, Youth LEAD provided foster grants to YKP networks in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri-Lanka, Vietnam, and Mongolia.

This funding goes towards various initiatives. Examples of this include strengthening individual organisations that aim to capacitate individuals in their own community. In 2017 Fokus Muda, a recipient of a foster grant was able to facilitate 8 new focal points in Jakarta, Bogor, Bekasi, and Badung. Foster grants are also used for consultations and workshops. Vectoring China, a grant recipient hosted a workshop to develop survey tools for disaggregated data about drug use among YKPs. This workshop included 14 consultants working in the field of HIV/STI response. Lastly, these foster grants are used to support networks where YKPs are often overlooked. The Association of People Living with HIV/ Y-Chapter-Pakistan received a foster grant in 2017 that was used to improve their network capacity, enhance HIV response, focus on human rights and increase resource accountability for HIV.

In September 2017 Youth LEAD collaborated with GNP+, APN+, and the Asia Pacific Network of Transgender Populations to organise training for RCNF country grantees in Bangkok, Thailand. This training included country grantees from Bhutan, Indonesia and Vietnam to capacitate them on the financial management and organisation of the project.

Moving Forward

Youth LEAD works towards “A region where the human rights of the Young Key Affected People are respected and the impact of HIV and AIDS is mitigated through the meaningful involvement of the young key populations to equal and equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.” Youth LEAD hopes to continue to enable youth and YKPs to be meaningfully involved in HIV/AIDS work.

