YOUTH LEAD
ANNUAL REPORT

2018





ABOUT US

Youth LEAD is the regional network of young key populations (YKPs) that works with young people 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 over 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.

Youth LEAD

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ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AKP/YKP	Adolescent Key Populations/ Young Key Populations
ALHIV	Adolescents Living with HIV
APFSD	Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
APPC	Asia-Pacific Population Conference
APRCEM	Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
ARROW	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
GF-CRG	Global Fund - Community, Rights and Gender
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IATT-YKP	Interagency Task Team on Young Key Populations
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer
NGO	Nongovernmental Organisation
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Culture Organization
UNFPA APRO	United Nations Population Fund Asia Pacific Regional Office
UNICEF EAPRO	United Nations Children's Fund East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
UNICEF ROSA	United Nations Children's Fund East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
Y+	Global Network of Young People Living with HIV
Youth LEAD	Youth Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development

FOREWORD

2018 was a wonderful year for Youth LEAD and we have made many improvements in the scope, collaboration and structure of the organization. I am glad that I am part of this great network in the leadership position.

We have a new governing body and a new team in the Secretariat full of energy and enthusiasm. The new governing body and Secretariat reflect the importance of Youth LEAD's essence as a youth-led network driving advocacy and leadership activities for young key populations.

In 2018, Youth LEAD conducted many new projects and activities, which will be implemented in partnership with both global and regional networks. For instance, the regional consortium for the Robert Carr Fund grant turned into a global consortium, thereby opening doors and opportunities for collaboration. We have our new strategic plan for the next five years; we developed a flagship toolkit to guide the development of interventions for YKPs in Asia and the Pacific, and the list goes on. Under my leadership, we plan to strengthen the governance of Youth LEAD and solidify the community bond amongst focal points across the region. We will keep striving for the better health and well-being of YKPs at various levels.

The more we work and explore with young people, the more we reflect and contemplate what can be done better. While there are many emerging new, unpredictable problems and challenges faced, our enthusiasm has grown, more new leaders identified and nurtured, innovations have bloomed, and increasing support has been fostered between great people and organisations.

I take this opportunity to thank all our funding agencies, technical partners, regional KP and PLHIV networks, other regional partners, government and country partners for the support and trust for Youth LEAD.

Last but not the least, thanks to the focal points and the coordinators who have stood firmly for Youth LEAD and raised the flags high in their countries despite various hurdles. You are the backbone of the organisation and we owe you so much.

Legee Tamir
Chair of Board, Youth LEAD

BOARD MEMBERS 2018-2020



Chair of Youth LEAD Board: Legee Tamir (Mongolia)

Legee was newly elected as the chairperson of the Youth LEAD Board Committee in June 2018 and has been a coordinator for Youth LEAD Mongolia since 2017. At the age of 21, Legee is passionate about making her mark in society by promoting respect of every person's rights.



Vice-Chair of the Youth LEAD board: Vu Tran Dung (Soo)
(Vietnam)

Soo was newly elected as the vice chairperson of the Youth LEAD Board Committee in June 2018 and has been engaged with Youth LEAD as a focal point for Vietnam since 2014. As an advocate and activist on HIV/AIDS, SRHR and LGBTQI rights, Soo has coordinated projects such as the stigma index and helped establish the Vietnam Network of Young Key Populations.



Board Member: Missael Hotman Napitupulu (Ael) (Indonesia)

Ael Napitupulu is a young gay-theologian and SRHR social worker. Ael is now working as a program manager at Fokus Indonesia Young Key Population Network. Ael is passionate about improving the current information on issues related to adolescent and young key populations in the Asia-Pacific.

Board member: Armindo Correia Belo (Zizi) (Timor Leste)
Zizi Belo is the first openly transgender board member in Youth LEAD and has been involved with Youth LEAD since 2017. Zizi is currently working as a counsellor. She has worked extensively with rapid HIV testing in Timor Leste and advocating for young transgender rights, especially those living with HIV/AIDS.





Board member: Mirza Ammad Baig (Aadi) (Pakistan)
Aadi Baig is 25 years old and has been involved with Youth LEAD since 2015. He has significant experience working with HIV/AIDS and SRHR issues, with a particular focus on key populations at both national and regional levels. Aadi is currently working for the Association of People Living with HIV (APLHIV) in Pakistan as a peer counsellor.

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

Alumni Board Member: Gautam Yadav (India)
Gautam's contributions range from the role of an HIV & Human Rights Activist, championing the cause of protecting Human Rights of the LGBT and PLHIV community across the globe, to being a voice at many international forums. Gautam has also been involved with many different organisations, such as the UNAIDS Youth Advisory Forum for the Asia-Pacific, Youth Voice Count, and Youth LEAD Bangkok.



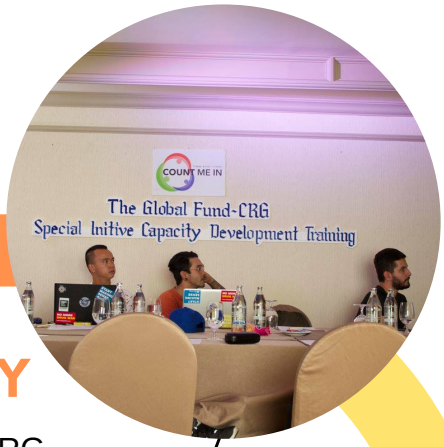


Alumni Board Member: Nancy Zhang (China)
Nancy Zhang was the last chair of board and Chinese country focal point coordinator for Youth LEAD. She has eight years of working experience on SRHR, HIV/AIDS, and gender equality policy advocacy in the Asia-Pacific region and Chinese national level. Nancy has also been engaged in the HIV/AIDS response for vulnerable young people.

2018 Highlights:

Looking back at Youth LEAD's Key Moments

JAN



FEBRUARY

- Global Fund CRG Strategic Initiative grant (Count Me In) inception meeting and training

APRIL

- Ikka & Eddy join the Youth LEAD Secretariat







MARCH

- Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) with ARROW
- UNICEF EAPRO Research Started (Brainstorm Meeting)



MAY

- Beginning of 'YKP Realities' documentary series project in collaboration with UNICEF ROSA
- TeenGen roll out in Goa, India with Human Touch Foundation
- Legal Advocacy Toolkit ToT

JUNE

- Implementation Toolkit Consultation and Workshop
- Youth LEAD Annual General Meeting
    - New board member election
- Consultation for 2019-2024 strategic plan





AUG

JULY

- 22nd International AIDS Conference 2018 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands

SEPT



OCTOBER

- Youth LEAD Family representing at the 2nd International Workshop on HIV Adolescence in Cape Town, South Africa



NOVEMBER

- CSE event Turned On with UNESCO & UNFPA APRO
- Asia Pacific Population Conference (APPC) pre-Youth Forum with ARROW
- Implementation Toolkit Validation Workshop
- Global Fund Board Meeting & Youth LEAD organised side event at the Pre-Board Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland

Strategic Priorities

In 2016, Youth LEAD's Strategic Plan for 2016-2018 commenced.

2018 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 and young key populations (AKPs and YKPs) in the Asia-Pacific Region. You can find Youth LEAD's current strategic plan here.



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.

2018 Highlights Based on Priorities

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Strategic Priority #1:

Adolescents Leading the way in Asia and the Pacific

Strategic Plan Consultation:

On 31 May 2018, Youth LEAD (YL) held its strategic plan consultation in Bangkok, Thailand. The consultation aimed to develop a direction for YL's strategic priorities for the upcoming 2019-2024 strategic plan. The consultation included input from focal points representing numerous countries within the regional network, as well as stakeholder input from partnered organisations, such as the IATT, and more. Based on the analysis of the current strategic priorities conducted by the strategic plan team, participants were informed of YL's work over the course of the past two years throughout the consultation.

Participants then used the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis method to determine potential priorities for the upcoming strategic plan, and also worked to incorporate aspects from YL's current strategic priorities which have not been achieved thus far. Lastly, the strategic plan team held a plenary discussion, including both participants and stakeholders, to further narrow down their priorities for YL's upcoming strategic plan. Overall, the consultation was a success, which highlighted both the work that YL has done thus far as well as where energy can be best directed in order to continue to have a positive impact for young key populations.



YKP Implementation Toolkit Workshops:

Youth LEAD held a validation workshop for the implementation toolkit twice in 2018, one took place in June and another was in November. During these workshops, Youth LEAD consulted with stakeholders from 19 countries including YKPs, youth-led organisations, government and international stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region. The workshops included a series of activities to gain additional inputs informing the design and development of a regional Implementation Toolkit for YKPs.

The toolkit, to be released in 2019, will address a present lack of comprehensive programming guidelines focused on the needs and issues of YKP issues, including a discussion on preferred terms and definitions of each YKP sub-group (sex workers, people who use drugs, men who have sex with men, and transgender people). Participants also discussed the Toolkit's design components, as well as key interventions within the Toolkit's thematic components. Lastly, stakeholders from government agencies and international donors were given the opportunity to present their initiatives that address YKP needs, as well as how YKPs can engage with national and international stakeholders and opportunities to become involved in programme development and implementation.

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Strategic Priority #2:

Capacitating Youth to Take the Lead

Continuation of "Count Me In" project:

In 2017, Youth LEAD, Y+ and Youth RISE came together to form a consortium entitled "Count Me In" with the objective of expanding engagement of young people in Global Fund structures and processes. In 2018, capacity development activities began.

During the pre-youth conference prior to the International AIDS Conference 2018 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Youth LEAD, Y+ and Youth RISE jointly organized the capacity development session, titled "Count Me In." The session aimed at building knowledge on the Global Fund and skills on how young people can effectively engage and influence the processes of the Global Fund at a country level.

The session was well attended with attendees from diverse regions and well supported by the GF-CRG representative to provide accurate information about the Global Fund and its various processes.

"Count Me In" was housed under the lobbyist theme matching the objectives of the session, which were to: (1) understand the funding model and basics of the global fund; (2) acquire skills and ways to engage in the proposal (funding request) development process of the Global Fund; and (3) acquire skills and ways to engage during the Global Fund grant implementation phase.



TeenGen Training: Goa, India

Another round of TeenGen leadership training was rolled out in Goa, India in May 2018. The workshop was hosted by a local NGO, the Human Touch Foundation, with support from the UNAIDS India country office and Youth LEAD. There were 40 ALHIV who participated in the programme contributing to a plan to build an informal network of young people living with HIV and YKPs in India.

TeenGen is a leadership training course developed by adolescents and young key populations, facilitated by Youth LEAD through its partners.

The programme uses interactive games and activities to equip adolescents with knowledge, leadership, and communication skills towards advocating for their overall health and human rights. During the course of the training, participants identified different issues experienced by ALHIV in India, including difficulty in adhering to treatment, lack of proper nutrition, misinformation on HIV, and discrimination.

Read more about the TeenGen training in Goa here.



Strategic Priority #3:

Youth Engaged in the Policy & Legal Environment

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Regional Training of Trainers on the Legal Advocacy Toolkit:

In May 2018, Youth LEAD conducted the Regional ToT on the Legal Advocacy Toolkit in Bangkok with support from UNFPA APRO, Y-PEER and the IATT-YKP. The training involved 25 participants representing 16 countries from the Asia-Pacific region. The objectives of the Legal Advocacy Toolkit include informing participants about the impact of laws and policies on YKPs, and how they can get involved to become more knowledgeable surrounding these technical topics.

Youth LEAD first piloted the toolkit in the Philippines in 2016 as a result of the government's commitment to identify and address existing policy and legal barriers to adolescents' access to SRH information. Although various recommendations and advocacy issues were presented in the pilot, the most crucial recommendation from youth groups was to develop a youth-friendly toolkit to support stronger youth engagement in the legal and policy environment.

Asia Pacific Population Conference (APPC): Youth Forum

On 23 – 24 November 2018, ARROW, Youth LEAD and Y-PEER organised a Youth Forum in Bangkok with more than 40 youth-led and youth serving organisations in attendance. The Youth Forum explored diverse and intersecting issues faced by young people ahead of the mid-term review of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

The result was a call-to-action that brings to the forefront gaps, challenges and recommendations for policymakers, duty-bearers, UN agencies and CSOs to effectively respect, protect and fulfill the ICPD Programme of Action and the Asian Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.



Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) with ARROW

In preparation for the fifth APFSD titled “Transformations Towards Sustainable and Resilient Asia Pacific,” Youth LEAD co-convened the second preparatory APFSD Youth Forum in collaboration with ARROW.

The youth forum was titled “Young People’s Vision for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Asia Pacific” and took place from 23-24 March 2018 in Bangkok. During the event, 65 activists, advocates, and representatives from youth-led, youth-serving, and youth-allied organisations in the Asia-Pacific gathered to call for resilient and sustainable solutions to the 2030 Agenda that cohesively integrates young people, reiterating the Asia-Pacific Youth Call to Action developed in 2017.

A statement was distilled from the proceedings of the Pre-APFSD Youth Forum and presented during the Review of the Implementation of the Regional Roadmap for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (Agenda Item 3, session 6) APFSD session on behalf of ARROW and the APRCEM Youth Constituency, co-ordinated by Youth LEAD. The statement urged Member States to invest in youth-led and youth-serving CSOs, and young people’s movements in order to begin a meaningful discourse on a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive Asia-Pacific that empowers the youth who constitute the largest population in the region.



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Strategic Priority #4:

Youth at the Forefront of Comprehensive Information on HIV & SRHR

"YKP Realities:" Documentary Series

May 2018 marked the start of the Youth LEAD documentary series project titled "YKP Realities." The series was produced in collaboration with UNICEF ROSA as part of the Asia Pacific IATT-YKP.

The documentary series was filmed in Kathmandu, Nepal; New Delhi, India; and Dhaka, Bangladesh over June and July 2018. The videos captured the first hand testimonials of YKPs on important subjects such as HIV prevention and treatment, drug related issues and consequences, gender and identity, and stigma and discrimination.

To watch the documentary series, please click here.



Comprehensive Sexuality Education: "Turned On" event

This CSE event was held in Bangkok on the 21st to 22nd of November with UNFPA APRO, UNESCO Asia - Pacific, UNICEF EAPRO and Love Frankie.

Joined by online developers and innovators from across Asia and the Pacific, young people discussed how digital initiatives can complement accurate, age-appropriate, and rights-based CSE.

During the event, young innovators showcased their own projects and campaigns and shared with us the work they have been doing in their countries on sexuality education.



5 Strategic Priority #5:

Strengthening Youth Networks and Organisations

Global Fund Board Meeting and Side Event:

During the Global Fund pre-board meeting, Youth LEAD organized a side event with support from the Global Fund Community Rights and Gender (CRG) Technical Assistance department in Geneva, Switzerland.

In this session, Youth LEAD led a discussion on the challenges and experiences of young key populations in the GF at the country level. The session highlighted the importance of disaggregated data and raised the issue of age of consent as a core challenge.

The conclusion from this event is that age of consent still remains one of the most significant challenges for young people. The session ultimately emphasized the importance of continuous advocacy for youth issues and to ensure adequate youth representation in the CCM.

Small Grant Support to YKP-led Organizations

In 2018, Youth LEAD provided small grants to support thirteen YKP-led organisations and networks from eleven countries in the region. Approximately 120,000 USD was allocated over three years to strengthen YKP networks, with the aim of increasing their advocacy and influence in their respective countries.

The activities within the small grants programme included capacity building of YKP leaders, organisational development, advocacy and communication, including through service delivery. Youth LEAD has been supporting YKP-led organisations through small grants since 2013 as a flagship initiative to embolden country level activism by fostering stronger networks. Thanks to the Robert Carr Fund and the Global Fund CRG-Strategic Initiative for making the 2018 small grants programme successful.

Moving Forward

Youth LEAD works towards a region where the human rights of Young Key Affected People are respected and the impact of HIV and AIDS is mitigated through the meaningful involvement of YKPs. This includes equal and equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support.

Moving forward, Youth LEAD hopes to continue to enable youth and YKPs to be meaningfully involved in HIV/AIDS work.

Highlights Moving Forward

Youth LEAD co-chairing the IATT for 2019

Continued Small Grants Program under RCF

Taking Roots, Branching Out

Rolling out in 2019:

New strategic plan (2019-2024)
YKP Implementation Toolkit
TeenGen (Re-developed version)
NewGen (Re-developed version)
Legal Advocacy Toolkit

Faces of Youth Lead Network



