



2019
ANNUAL
REPORT —————
YOUTH LEAD



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 can 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 Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Young Key Populations Asia and the Pacific.

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Foreword

2019 has been a busy yet highly productive year for all of the Youth LEADers. While I can not mention all the fantastic work accomplished over the past year, I will take the opportunity to highlight some key activities. It has been a good year for the 4Youth Consortium as we successfully received the Robert Carr grant for 2019-2021. This global consortium includes Y+, Youth RISE and Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center. The collaboration of global youth organisations and networks demonstrates the resilience of young people working on HIV and in particular, with young key populations. Through the support of the consortium, we managed to organise the Global Training on The Global Fund and Young People in Cape Town, South Africa. We also managed to complete the most anticipated manual, the YKP Programming Guidance (previously known as YKP Implementation toolkit). We rolled out the guide in Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste. The training united YKPs in these countries and two new members, Youth LEAD PNG and Youth LEAD Timor Leste, were added to the network.

A priority for Youth LEAD in 2019 was creating a strong organisational foundation between youth network partners, which led to the development of the Organizational Development and Change manual. The manual will be finalised and rolled out later in 2020. Similarly, the Legal Advocacy Toolkit, TeenGen and NewGen training was carried out in various countries, and more importantly, The YKP Small Grants Programme supported eleven YKP-led organisations in nine countries across Asia and the Pacific.

Finally, we ended 2019 with the Asia Pacific Forum, which was jointly organised by Youth LEAD UNAIDS RST, UNICEF EAPRO, UNDP and the Ministry of Health Thailand. Over 150 delegates were present at the forum, including young people, government officials, health professionals and members of the Thai Royal family.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the focal points, YKP led organisations, partners, funders and collaborators for your support, mentorship and motivation. We will strive to build a more reliable and stronger network, foster engagement, cooperation, and we will keep our commitments to make the region safer and enable the YKP members to grow and thrive.

Sincerely Yours,
Legee Tamir - Youth LEAD Chairperson



Youth LEAD Board Members 2018 - 2020

- **Youth LEAD Chairperson: 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 for every person's rights.

- **Youth LEAD Vice-chairperson: 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.

- **Youth LEAD 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.

- **Youth LEAD 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.

- **Youth LEAD Board Member: Mirza Ammad Baig (Aadi) (Pakistan)**

Aadi Baig is 25 years old and has been involved with Youth LEAD since 2015. He has many experiences working with HIV/AIDS and SRHR issues, with 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.

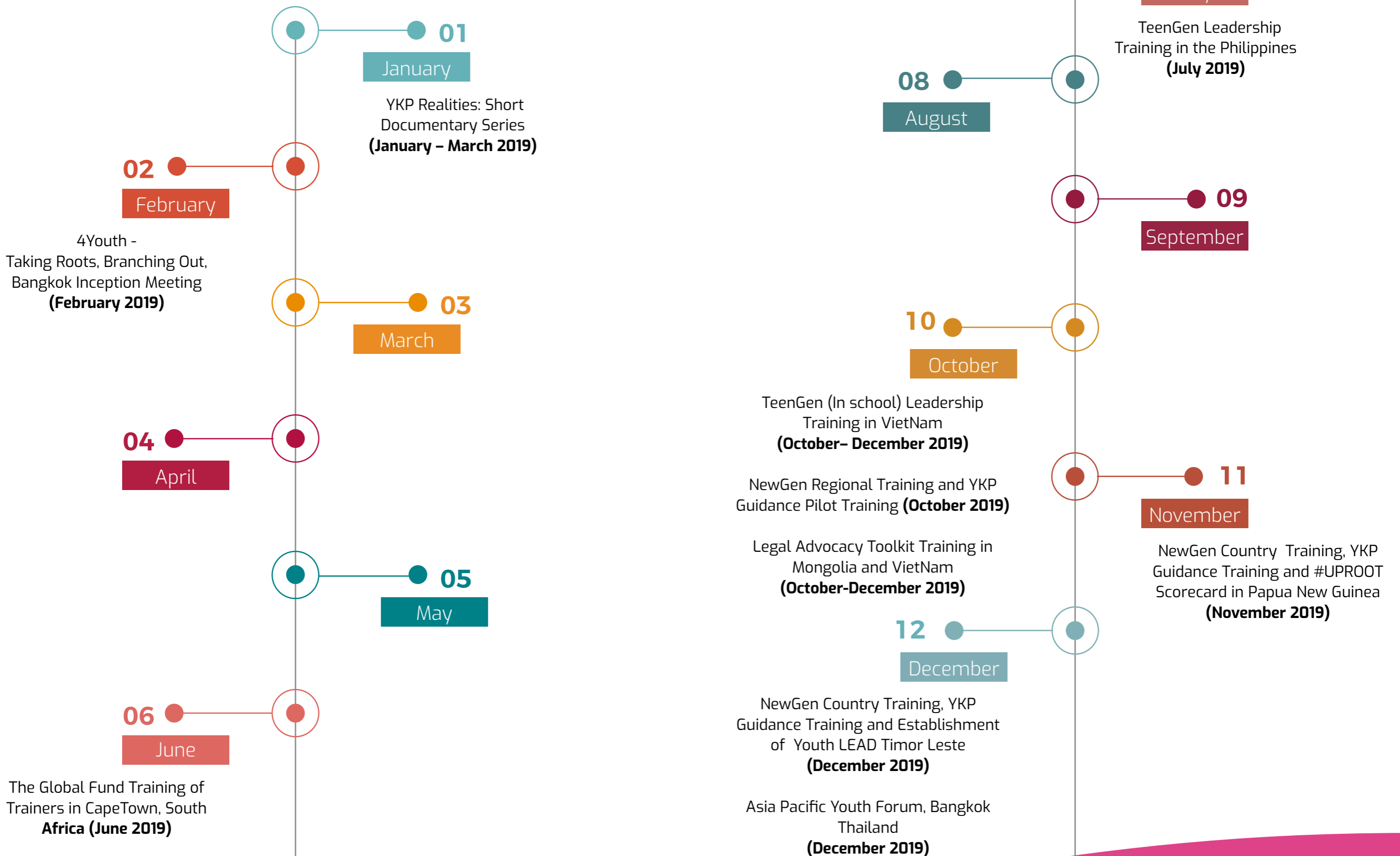
- **Youth LEAD Alumni Board Member: Nancy Zhang (China)**

Nancy Zhang was the last chair of the 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.

- **Youth LEAD 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.

2019 Key Highlights



01.

**Strategic
Priority:**

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.

02.

**Strategic
Priority:**

Strengthen and expand formal and informal networks, new YKP organisations and the organisational 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.

03.

**Strategic
Priority:**

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 the universal access to comprehensive HIV and SRHR information and services for adolescents and young people from key populations

04.

**Strategic
Priority:**

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.

05.

**Strategic
Priority:**

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.

Youth LEAD Strategic Priorities

2019 Highlights Based on Priorities



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

The Global Fund Training of Trainers in CapeTown, South Africa (June 2019)

The Global Training for Trainers organised jointly by Youth LEAD, Y+ and Youth RISE from 29th June 2019 to 1st July 2019 in Cape Town. The training was based on the manual developed by Youth LEAD named "Making Money for Young People". The main goal of the workshop was to provide participants from national YKP-led networks with an in-depth understanding of the new GF Strategy and GF structure and processes. It's also an opportunity to map out countries with funding requests and country dialogues to explore opportunities and risks for YKP-led organisations to engage with GF processes effectively.

The call of applications for the training was announced globally for young people, young key populations and young people living with HIV under 30 years of age across all the regions. Out of 450 applications, 20 were selected for the training. The preference was given to the young people in the CCM, implementers and leaders. Also, the GF-CRG department nominated one participant, and two were self-funded through Y+.

Youth LEAD facilitated the training with support from the GF-CRG representative, UNAIDS ESA region youth focal point, a representative from Developing Country NGO Delegation to the GF Board and NACOSA (the GF PR based in Cape Town).



TeenGen Leadership Training in the Philippines (July 2019)

TeenGen aims to build the leadership capacity of adolescents from key populations through interactive games and activities that enable young people to participate proactively on HIV and SRHR issues. Y-PEER Pilipinas hosted the leadership training course with support from Youth LEAD, UNAIDS RST and the Robert Carr Fund. The training was conducted over two full days in Manila, The Philippines in July. This round of TeenGen training was organised in part to address the rise in HIV infections amongst young people in the Philippines, accounting for a 174% increase since 2010. There were 22 young adolescents between the ages of 14-18 who participated in the Manila-based TeenGen training, from various regions of the Philippines: Metro Manila, Western Visayas, and Northern Mindanao, with an overarching aim to build an informal network of young people living with HIV and YKPs across the country.

During the two-day training, the participants brought high-energy into long days of interactive games and activities designed to equip them with knowledge, leadership, and communication skills towards advocating for their overall health and human rights. The most powerful takeaway from the TeenGen leadership training in Manila was the bonds shared amongst the participants and the plans shared with stakeholders to actively learn more about how to best lead and advocate through their respective community-based organisations.



TeenGen (In school) Leadership Training in VietNam (October – December 2019)

VietNam National Network of YKP (VNYKP) took the TeenGen Leadership training to various schools around the country to empower adolescents aged 13-17 years on knowledge of HIV and SRHR. This is the first attempt by Youth Lead's network partner to integrate TeenGen training into a school's curriculum. Praised by teachers and students alike, VNYKP will continue to carry out TeenGen training in schools.

The VietNam Network Of Young Key Affected Populations has members working across five different areas of VietNam; consisting of 72 member groups representing young men who have sex with men, young transgender, young persons who sell sex, young people who use drugs and young people living with HIV. With the support of UNWOMEN VietNam, VNYKP sought out to conduct a series of in-school activities to promote HIV prevention, SRHR education, SOCIE and LGBTQ understanding. In the project, elements of the TEENGEN manual which was developed by Youth LEAD (and translated into Vietnamese by VNYKP) merged with items from the CHANGEMAKER manual, developed by UNWOMEN. Elements from both manuals helped form the TeenGen in-school training that was rolled out in various schools, which supported trainers in facilitation and how teachers can become involved.



Strategic Priority #2: Capacitating Youth to take the LEAD

NewGen Regional Training and YKP Guidance Pilot Training (October 2019)

In October, Youth LEAD held back-to-back trainings in Bali, Indonesia through the support of the SKPA Program, managed by the Australian Federation of AIDS organisations. The NewGen regional training and YKP guidance pilot training invited 33 participants from nine countries across Asia and the Pacific. The NewGen regional training aimed to empower young people to become advocates for change on young key population issues through a series of leadership building activities. Using Youth LEAD's flagship NewGen training manual, the outcomes of the training was to prepare advocates with the skills to carry out future pieces of training in their respective communities. Besides, the YKP toolkit training serves as an introduction to equip young key populations and young people working for key population issues on programming. The guidance provides insight into community mobilisation and sharing of best practices, creating stronger partnerships and the development of national plans to advance young people's involvement in decision-making processes.



NewGen Country Training, YKP Guidance Training and #UPROOT Scorecard in Papua New Guinea (November 2019)

Youth LEAD, the Key Population Partnership Advocacy Network Consortium PNG, UNAIDS RST/ PNG, UNFPA APRO/PNG, Burnet Institute and Youth Voices Count conducted the five days Young Key Population (YKP) HIV training and #UPROOT Scorecard in Port Moresby from the 18th to 22nd November 2019. The training was supported through the multi-country Global Fund grant titled SKPA, managed by AFAO while UNFPA and UNAIDS supported the scorecard. The training and results of the scorecard aimed to mobilise and empower young key populations (YKP) for effective HIV response and re-orient services to be YKP friendly in PNG. The training employed standard manuals of Youth LEAD called New Gen and the YKP Guidance for HIV Programming.

Youth LEAD facilitated the training with the support from four trained local YKP facilitators. Their roles included planning, contextualising, implementing and reflecting on the training sessions of each day. The #Uproot Scorecard resulted in a negative score for YKP friendly services in PNG. This, teamed with the training produced two tangible outputs; firstly initiated a new YKP network to magnify the voice of YKP and to institutionalise the emerging need and roles of YKP in HIV response. Secondly, the group identified some major bottlenecks to access the HIV services by YKP and practical solutions to barriers. Next steps include 2020 activities that will involve strategizing and implementing work plans that were developed during the regional and national training (2019) and to discuss budget and project frameworks. The newly formed Youth LEAD PNG will target 2-3 clinics and design a training program to sensitise health workers and build their capacity to comprehending the issues of YKP.

NewGen Country Training, YKP Guidance Training and Establishment of Youth LEAD Timor Leste (December 2019)

In early December 2019, Youth LEAD together with Estrela Plus held a 4-day training session on the NewGen manual and YKP Guidance for HIV programming. Youth LEAD facilitated this training with help and assistance from Inti Muda Indonesia and through the support of two local facilitators.

The NewGen training aims to build the advocacy and leadership skills of young key populations and young people living with HIV, whereas, YKP Guidance introduces HIV programming into the country to identify gaps and challenges within HIV programs for YKP. The training was a setting stone to help establish Youth LEAD Timor Leste, the first network of young key populations in Timor Leste and provided a platform for young people to develop their first strategic plan for 2020. In the next steps, Youth LEAD Timor Leste mapped out activities for 2020 and discussed the implementation of work plans and budget under the Youth LEAD network.



Strategic Priority #3: Youth Engagement in Policy and the Legal Environment

Legal Advocacy Toolkit Training in Mongolia and VietNam (October-December 2019)

The Legal Advocacy Toolkit (LAT) training in VietNam facilitated by VietNam Network Of Young Key Affected Population (VNYKP) took place over three days on 28-30 October 2019, inviting 25 participants from five regions across the country. UNFPA APRO supported this training. The purpose of the exercise was to increase the awareness and involvement of young key populations and young people living with HIV at the country level in policy and legal environments.

A master trainer facilitated the training from Youth LEAD with support from a local facilitator and two local lawyers. The facilitator's roles included the planning of the training, contextualisation and implementation of the sessions and leading the and reflections from the sessions. The training explored topics of YKPs in legal advocacy and showcased interventions for YKPs in legal policy. The participants were allowed to develop a follow-up plan which included, collecting inputs and proposals for the development of law reforms and revision at the country level.

Similar to VietNam, the LAT was successfully piloted in Mongolia on 29 November – 1 December 2019. The training also targeted youth leaders from key populations backgrounds and youth activists in the SRHR field. Similarly, a total of 25 participants took part in the training which was jointly facilitated by a regional Youth LEAD consultant, Nancy Zhang and a local consultant lawyer B.Bilguun, who is also s Youth LEAD MNG staff member.

In particular, on the third day of training a follow-up plan was developed, highlighting activity ideas that had never been implemented before. The project ideas were creative and feasible and will integrate into Youth LEAD MNG's work plans for the coming years. Also, a Facebook group was created connecting activists and peer educators from across the country.



Asia Pacific Youth Forum, Bangkok Thailand (December 2019)

The Asia Pacific Youth Forum was held on the 2-3 December in Bangkok, Thailand and was co-organized by the Ministry of Public Health Thailand together with UNAIDS Asia Pacific, UNICEF EAPRO, UNDP, UNFPA APRO, UNWOMEN, Youth LEAD and the IATT. Youth LEAD, UNAIDS RST, UNICEF EAPRO and UNDP took the lead in organising the forum on behalf of the IATT. The conference brought together 150 delegates from 17 countries, including former heads of states, government officials, UN representatives, health professionals and young people to explore how young people are at the front of the HIV response and how to establish meaningful partnerships to meet the 90-90-90 targets in the region.

The event was formally opened by the Deputy Minister of Public Health of Thailand, Mr Satit Pitu-techa, highlighting the value of enabling youth to lead and influence the response to HIV. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the HIV treatment cascade among young people, including young key populations, identify gaps and innovative solutions through young population centred approaches. A set of recommendations were presented for future efforts between governments and young people to get to zero new HIV infections, zero related deaths and zero discrimination.

Two essential documents were launched at the forum. First, 'Power to the People', a report from UNAIDS emphasised the importance of community engagement, including young people living with and affected by HIV, in decision-making and HIV service delivery.

Second, 'Looking out for Adolescents and Youth from Key Populations in Asia-Pacific. Formative assessment on the needs of adolescents and youth at risk of HIV: case studies from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and VietNam' were launched. This joint formative assessment led by UNICEF in collaboration with the IATT looked at experiences and key contexts of HIV risk and prevention, and broader sexual and reproductive health and rights (#SRHR). The findings of the assessment will support strategic planning to strengthen local and national responses to the HIV epidemic with a youth-driven approach. View the report here: <http://bit.ly/2rWC6wT>



Key highlights from the forum also included youth being able to present posters at the market place and to HRH Princess Soamsawali Krom Muen Suddhanarinatha, UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador for HIV Prevention for Asia and the Pacific, and HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendira Debyavati. Additionally, youth presenters and speakers from the forum were awarded a special gift for their efforts by HRH Princess Soamsawali. Other highlights from the conference include a market place session and a consultation titled '2020 and beyond Joint Plan of Action towards accelerated action to reach the 90-90-90 for adolescents and

young people' were held back to back to the Asia-Pacific Youth Forum. Youth representatives developed a work plan based on the recommendations from the Asia-Pacific Youth Forum and the Formative Assessment on Young Key Populations. Youth leaders explored ways in which they can engage with national governments and UN agencies to meet the 90-90-90 targets and identify opportunities to participate in decision-making processes at the country level actively.

More importantly, the Asia Pacific Youth Forum symbolised the first of many accomplishments for the IATT. The forum brought together individuals from all different professional-levels, including members of the Thai Royal Family. The forum was diverse in the national representation of young people and senior officials. Likewise, youth were allowed to showcase the impact of their work at the national level. It was an opportunity for many young people to network and establish meaningful friendships but more importantly, allowed youth to share best practices and specific examples of areas for HIV prevention, treatment and care. Additionally, the co-organizers of the forum (IATT) were able to synergies in their efforts to deliver a successful conference and strengthen the partnership between its members and for future projects to come.



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

YKP Realities: Short Documentary Series (January – March 2019)

A collaboration between Youth LEAD and UNICEF ROSA, this short documentary services titled YKP Realities, captured the many lived realities of young key populations in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Using videography as a tool to convey stories of youth, the campaign sought to shed light on issues and topics affecting adolescent and young key populations, such as HIV prevention, treatment and care; sexuality and sex education; access to education; SRHR, gender equality; stigma and discrimination; sex work and harm reduction. A total of five videos were released on Youtube and Facebook and received more than 250,000 views across both platforms. A combined total video reach is close to 500,000. The project was completed in early 2019 and can be viewed on **Facebook** and **YouTube**.

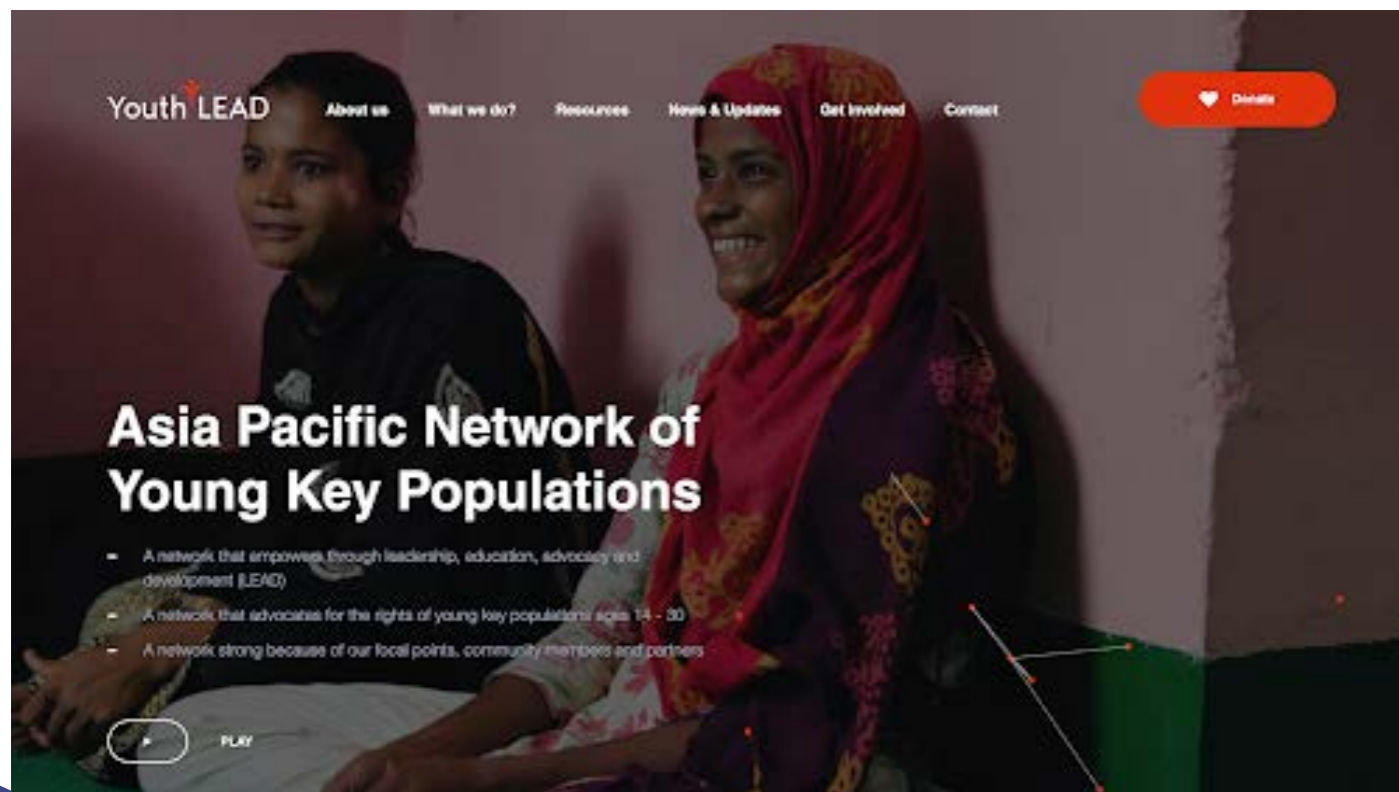


Launch of Youth LEAD's New Website (December 2019 - January 2020)

In September 2019, Youth LEAD initiated a project to improve the accessibility and visibility of Youth LEAD's network by strengthening readily available information on HIV, SRHR via the main website. Eddy Rudram, Communications Officer at Youth LEAD, took the lead on this project. New changes to the site include;

- Youth-friendly visuals and text;
- More straightforward navigation through Youth LEAD's content;
- Updated resources section;
- Easier Focal Point registration and membership;
- Restructuring of information related to Youth LEAD programmes;
- Revamped news and updates subpage.

In conjunction with the launch of the new website, Youth LEAD changed its domain from www.youth-lead.org to www.youthleadap.org



Strategic Priority #5: Strengthening Youth Networks and Organisations

4Youth - Taking Roots, Branching Out, Bangkok Inception Meeting (February 2019)

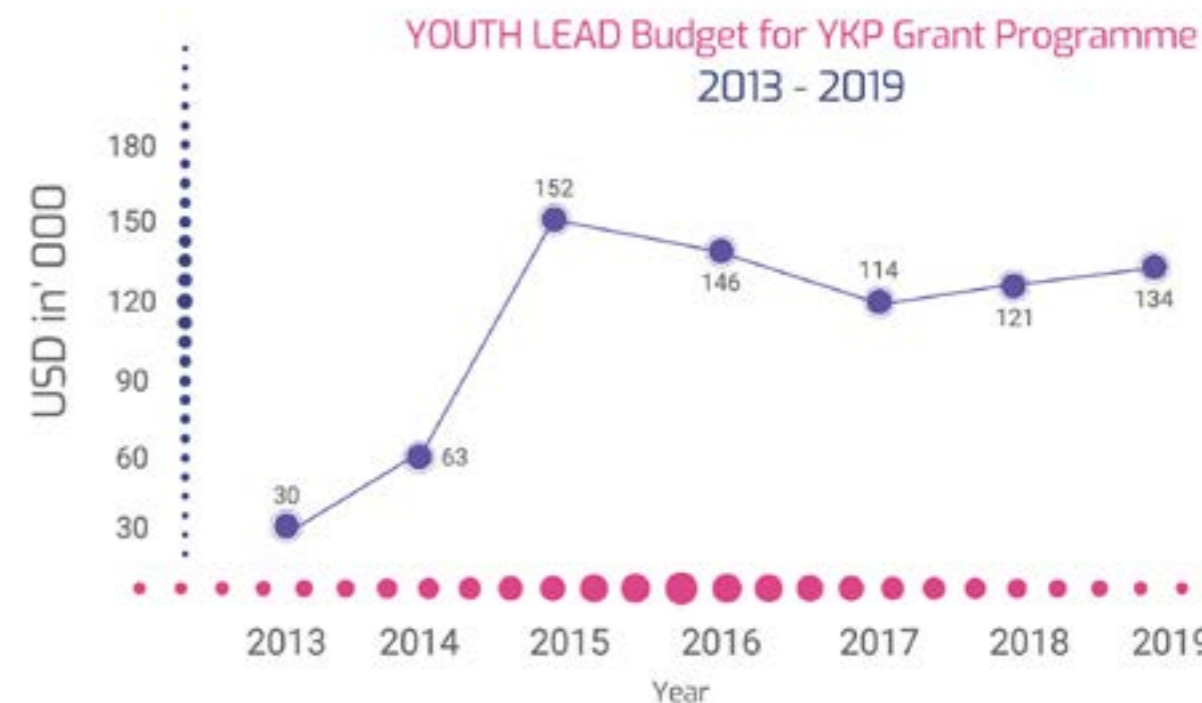
On February 28th and 1st March 2019, a meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand where regional and global youth networks came together to kick off the 'Taking Roots, Branching Out' project. The inception meeting brought together Youth LEAD, Y+ (Y Plus Network), Y-PEER (Asia Pacific Centre) and Youth RISE, a youth consortium formed under the Robert Carr Fund Grant for 2019 – 2021. Also known between youth consortium members, the name 4Youth was formally adopted as the official name of the alliance between the networks. Working towards a progressive, youth-collaborative next few years, 4Youth aims to collaborate on projects, share existing resources, learn from each others' networks and strengthen the capacity of youth leaders working on various young key population issues.

Twelve participants, six from Youth LEAD, two from Y-PEER, two from Youth RISE and two from Y+ discussed and strategized the implementation of activities of the grant for the upcoming year. With a culturally diverse group of young people bringing in expertise and experiences from Burundi, Nepal, India, Indonesia, Thailand, VietNam United Kingdom, Ireland and Mongolia, the meeting provided an excellent platform for learning and development.



4Youth Organisational Development and Change Workshop (August 2019)

In August, Youth LEAD, Y-PEER APC, Youth Rise and Y+ gathered in Bali, Indonesia, for the organisational development and change workshop. Also known as 4Youth (The youth consortium formed under the Robert Carr Fund for 2019-2021) came together to work towards improving organisational problem solving and renewal processes, mainly through a more effective and collaborative management culture. The consultation brought together 20 participants from 15 different nationalities, youth networks and organisations working in four different continents. Six participants from Youth LEAD, three from Y-PEER APC, three from Youth RISE, three from Y+ and two from Inti Muda (National network of young-key populations) participated at the consultation. Workshop sessions helped foster dialogue between network partners to hone in on key existing challenges and to find proactive mitigation strategies. These sessions also encouraged participants to consider networks/organisations as a system, rather than fragmented parts and to find solutions to problems through cross-organisational learning approaches. Following the conclusions of the meeting, the consortium worked collectively to develop a group work-plan for 2020, producing timelines and targets for each consortium member that specifically addresses the organisational development and change outcomes.



Youth LEAD YKP Grants Programme

Since 2013, the YKP Small Grants Programme remains as one of Youth LEAD's core activities. The small grants programme not only provides financial support to YKP organisations and networks but also strengthens YKP programmes and the youth involvement in the HIV movement to allow YKP-led organisations to excel. The programme is aimed at ensuring the human rights of YKPs 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. The small grant programme is the cornerstone of Youth LEAD's dedication to supporting country-level activities.

In 2019, Youth LEAD provided a total of 134,410 USD in small grants to nine countries and eleven organisations. The small grants came from various funding sources, such as the Robert Carr Fund, Global Fund CRG-Strategic Initiatives, GF-CRG TA grant, Global Fund multi-country grant, UNFPA AP and UNAIDS RST. The YKP Small Grants programme in 2019 supported capacity building and development, legal advocacy, network building, national-level studies, and HIV service delivery programs for YKPs. Since 2013, Youth LEAD through the support of stakeholders and donors has granted more than a cumulative total of USD 760,000 to various YKP organisations across Asia and the Pacific.

Moving Forward

2019 was an exciting and busy time for Youth LEAD. The network has grown to include additional partners and the activities and projects crossed into new and unfamiliar territories. In 2019, we introduced many new initiatives and programs that require a robust follow up in 2020. In 2020, we hope to implement the Organizational Development and Change manual and to follow-up with our plans to strengthen further our newly inducted partners in Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste. We hope to finalise and launch YKP Programming and Guidance and to also maintain strong relationships with our current and future partners. As we move forward and think about the future, we will always work to ensure young people, and more specifically YKPs, have the opportunity to engage in HIV/AIDS meaningfully, and to shape the future they want to have. We will explore new areas for partnership and collaboration and will continue to spread inspiration and positivity beyond 2020.

Gaj Gurung - Regional Coordinator at Youth LEAD



