



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Youth Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development (Youth LEAD)

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Joint Message from the Board Chair and Regional Coordinator

What a meaningful year 2013 had been for Youth LEAD! We witnessed how the network got stronger this year. We brought about a renaissance to Youth LEAD, during our Annual General Meeting in July 2013 with transformation in governance structure, strengthening of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, cultivating existing networks and expansion with new members.

Our three strategic pillars are build capacity amongst the young key populations (YKP), advocacy for enabling environment of YKP in the region and strategic partnership with different stakeholders. We have done tremendous work around these strategic areas. New Generation Leadership course, known as NewGen, which has empowered many YKP across Asia Pacific Region has become the effective trademark tool to capacitate YKP in the region. With its successful rollouts in Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Sri-Lanka, it has been revised with feedbacks from the countries. The 2nd Regional Training of Trainers was conducted successfully by bringing together leaders and trainers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Nepal and Thailand to take leap for another exciting country rollouts.

We are also proud to be the only YKP-led regional network, around the globe, to have received the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks fund. The fund has given the opportunity to directly support innovative initiatives by our grassroots focal points such as creating spaces for young people living with HIV and AIDS; collecting strategic information for advocacy; mobile community testing; and strengthening YKP networks in China, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and South Korea.

2013 had seen many of our Youth LEADers actively advocating for our rights, and needs in various forums, and platforms. Youth LEAD became the first youth organization to co-chair the Asia Pacific Interagency Task Team (IATT) on Young Key Populations along with UNAIDS in 2013. The IATT was fundamental in supporting development of the New Gen Asia Initiatives and a significant avenue to universalize the issue of YKP in Asia and the Pacific. Youth LEAD had a dynamic and groundbreaking participation in 11th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP). We lead three successful workshops on leadership and building capacity, social media and on sexual reproductive health rights and needs of YKP. We were active participants at the Key Affected Women and Girls round-table discussion and at the youth pre-conference. Our members delivered keynote speeches, led sessions and advocate for YKP.

Beyond our advocacy work around HIV, we took the lead in the Asia Pacific Population Conference (APPC). We made a keynote piece during the opening of the conference calling for stronger support and investment in young people from the governments, organized CSO and Youth Forums, support to draft the youth declaration and finally delivered joint CSO statement representing the entire CSO of the conference.

Within 2013, Youth LEAD is now represented in 22 countries across the Asia Pacific region with more than 50 focal points from all the key population, young people living with HIV, advocates of YKP. Within our focal points we have also maintained the gender equality with 28 young girls, from 12 girls in 2011, and three transgender populations. We have also strengthened our digital network by having a significant presence on social media platforms such as Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/youthleadAP>), Twitter, YouTube and our website (www.youth-lead.org)

With so much momentum going for our family, we believe 2014 will be another busy, yet fruitful year for all of us at Youth LEAD. We will remain committed in advocating and raising the awareness of the needs and issues of YKP in our Asia Pacific region and globally. We will continue to voice out YKP issues in different possible avenues, and engage the strategic stakeholders to develop stronger and bigger ally.

We hope you will have a good time reading through our annual report, understand our works and us and support us to make larger impact.

Youth LEAD

Youth LEAD (Youth Leadership. Education. Advocacy. Development) was founded in the summer of 2010 under the Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV and AIDS (7 Sister) and financially supported by UNFPA. It is a regional network of young key populations and young people living with HIV, and the network exists to capacitate, empower and create regional partnerships among national-level YKP organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. The network aims to capacitate its regional members with the necessary skills to address gaps, issues and challenges faced by marginalized, vulnerable, and affected communities. It became an independent network in 2012.

Our Vision: 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 affected populations to equal and equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

Our Values and Principles

- Ensure greater involvement and meaningful participation of all YKP and young people living with HIV.
- Ensure equality in representation, involvement and participation among all YKPs.
- Foster partnership and collaboration.
- Promote evidence based approaches in creating best practices.
- Respect diversity and ensure gender balance in all aspects.
- Ensure rights-based approach in all decision making.

Our Mission:

Youth LEAD's mission is to become the catalyst of change and empowerment for the young key affected people through capacity building, advocacy and expansion of partnership between regional, national and local YKAP organizations to raise awareness, strengthen and sustain the participation of the young KAPs in Asia and Pacific to create an integrated and comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS that fostered by youth-adult partnerships.

Strategic Objectives as per strategic plan 2012-2015

- a. Building Capacity of YKPs: Leadership Skills, Organizational Development and Network Sustainability.
- b. Strengthening YKP Networking and Promotion of Strategic Partnerships
- c. Regional- and National-Level Advocacy: Influencing Laws and Policies leading to better informed programming

2013 Reflection and Lessons learnt

2013 was the third year since Youth LEAD was recognized as the independent regional network of young key population for Asia and the Pacific. The year had numerous global discourses, which will guide the further upcoming years of development and HIV. Youth LEAD too went through different changes striving to achieve the vision it has set and to adapt the changing global context. The discussions and development around Post 2015 was the leading subject in the field of development. The evaluation around Millennium Development Goals (MDG) took place including HIV making this year extremely important. However, data shows that goal number 6 of halting and reversing the spread and toll of HIV is not possible before 2015, with many milestones achieved, but many more still far from reach. The Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) had its replenishment meeting in Washington DC where President Obama revealed commitment to fight against AIDS. 12 billion USD was secured by GFATM for the next 5 years. Countries too prepared with investment cases, initiated by UNAIDS for strategic investment in HIV response, to apply for the GFATM grant within the New Funding Model and, more importantly, to make better decisions with investment on AIDS within the country. This situation is motivating for different actors in the HIV response, hailing 2015 as not the end but a hopeful new beginning.

Similarly, 2015 discussions have provided added value to the issues of young people, where the report from 2015 High Level Panel has recognized young people as the driver of development and change, and has also emphasized the economic development and economic impact of young people. The year was encouraging, specifically, for young people, young key population and young people living with HIV and AIDS. The global youth leaders developed Youth PACT, initiated by UNAIDS, which states *A PACT (framework) that creates solidarity across youth organizations to work strategically and collaboratively in the HIV response towards ensuring the health, well-being and human rights of all young people*. This initiative has attempted to consolidate the efforts of diverse regional and global youth leaders for better response towards three zeros and beyond.

However, there are numerous questions and problems, which are not yet answered and solved. Even though 95% of new HIV infections in young people are among YKP, the largest funder in the HIV response, the Global Fund, has not yet dedicated any amount exclusively for these key populations. Even though it has been recognized that HIV programs and policies have in general failed to respond to the specific needs of young people from most-at-risk populations, most countries in the world have not incorporated this issue in their investment cases nor data are collected for these groups. There are still many gaps in appropriately responding to the needs of YKP and mitigating the toll of HIV on their lives.

Youth LEAD was initiated with the vision and mission to find solutions for the abovementioned problems, and to pave the path for filling the voids in a comprehensive HIV response for different agencies, institutions, and states, with particular focus on YKP. With unwavering dedication and determination, Youth LEAD has succeeded to initiate and implement numerous agendas for YKP in 2013, but there is still much room left for strengthening, growth, and expansion. There have been reflections, challenges and lessons learnt during the process, which were the guiding factor for Youth LEAD to continue its efforts in this professional manner. Youth LEAD builds on its weaknesses and faces its challenges every year, to rise above and emerge stronger in the next year, and this has been evident in the past 3 years. Within the Secretariat and with continuous consultations with

Board, Technical Working Group members and focal points, Youth LEAD makes consistent reflection. Some of the key reflections in 2013 are:

- a. Prevention programmes for people who inject drugs should take into account the fact that, in some countries, many people who inject drugs are also engaged in sex work.¹ Young MSM migrants who are indulge in both sex and drug and many infected with virus. These populations are increasing and they need platform where they feel accepted in every way, in spite of any status they possess.
- b. Young key populations, still, are often grouped with general young populations, failing to have their unique needs answered.
- c. Young Key Population, still, are often clubbed into general key population, failing to have their unique needs answered.
- d. Young People Living with HIV, still, are treated as the people living with HIV, failing to have their unique needs answered.
- e. Regional activism must penetrate to the national level leading to sustainability and large mobilization.
- f. GFATM, the largest supporter in HIV, is poorly diversified in areas relating to YKP around the globe. One of the reasons is inability from young people to produce adequate rationale and prove capacity to deal with the issue of GFATM, which could be addressed.
- g. The investment framework from UNAIDS has introduced critical enablers² in the HIV response, primarily social enablers (legal practices, stigma and discrimination, community, etc.) and program enablers (technical skills, management, incentives, etc.). Youth LEAD believes that both enablers are integral for successful programs targeted to YKP.
- h. Creating enabling environments will remain a priority for Youth LEAD, particularly for marginalized communities and relating to laws, punitive practices, and legal barriers.
- i. The UNAIDS investment framework and Youth PACT recognized the need for synergies within the development sectors. These synergies were important to effectively and comprehensively address the issues of young people.

¹ Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2012 UNAIDS

² A New Investment Framework for the Global HIV Response, UNAIDS Issues Brief, 2011

2013 Highlights

Transforming to a sound network

Strengthening country activism

Regional Advocacy Efforts

Youth LEAD in Global Response

Beyond HIV and AIDS

Social Media and communication



Transforming to a sound network

Network Secretariat

In 2013 Youth LEAD secretariat expanded in quantity and reflected an urge to transform to a technically sound network. The organization has its new M&E Officer, Finance Officer and transferred the leadership of Program Coordinator to the newer one. The comprehensive M&E guidelines, standard communication guidelines were formulated to strengthen system. Similarly the ToR and evaluation system of focal points, database of focal points were strengthened.

Annual General Assembly for Stronger family; Better network

Annual General Assembly is the indication of better and transparent governance of any organization. Since its inception, Youth LEAD has not missed out its AGM and 2013 was no exception. It was a fun-filled and meaningful week for twenty-six YKP leaders from the region as Youth LEAD held its third Annual General Meeting in Bangkok from June 14 to 17, 2013. With this year's theme, "Moving Forward on the Ground," Youth LEAD aimed to come together and focused and aligned itself strategically to the regional and the international HIV response, particularly with the nearing roundup of the ICPD in 2014 and MDG in 2015. It was highlighted in the meeting the importance of groundwork and a strengthened country-regional tie-up and alignment. A stakeholders' forum and open consultation was held on final day. Attended by the United Nations and international NGOs and civil society organizations, Youth LEAD presented its agenda and areas of focus. The day ended with utmost optimism and anticipation for the year ahead. With Youth LEAD's renewed energy, the Board, Technical Working Group members, and the Secretariat, endeavor that this force would cascade in the countries where our back bone, our dear focal points, work on the ground.

The groundbreaking discussions and decisions of the AGM were

- Transformation of the governance of Youth LEAD by introducing Country Focal Point Coordinator and Thai Board.
- Decided to prioritize the following areas as the priority of the year
 1. Integration of SRH and HIV;
 2. Enabling Legal Environments;
 3. Meaningful Engagement of YKP in the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
 4. Equal Access to Prevention and Treatment services;
 5. Resource Mobilization.
- Two working committees were also established: the post-2015 committee and the legal environments committee.
- Endorsement on revised governance structure and management system
- Initiation of evaluation system of focal points, TWG with formal evaluation tools and reporting formats
- Clear roadmap for next year priorities of Youth LEAD

Focal Points

We have developed a pool of YKP activists in the countries through the mechanism of the focal points. These focal points are selected from different YKP in the country working directly with the communities. We have reached 22 countries in Asia and the Pacific with 53

YKP focal points from all the key population and young people living with HIV and AIDS in 2013. These focal points keep capacity to reach other hundreds and thousands of young people in their community and country. They are consistently mentored through technical working group³ and the secretariat⁴ and discussions are facilitated through google group, facebook, twitter and individual emails.

Strengthening country activism

Youth LEAD, since its inception, believes that global and regional change and activism has to penetrate the country to have the actual impact on the lives of people and their community. These infiltration and channeling of change then creates sense of accountability for both regional and country level actors, which will sustain and strengthen the change. As the response we have consistently and strategically planned our interventions to have such impact in the lives of the people and community. 2013 was a milestone in the history of Youth LEAD to make this impact.

In-countries support

With the support of Robert Carr Network Fund⁵, Youth LEAD directly supported six initiatives of YKP in five countries. They included

Nepal: Interventions to intensify the YKP movements in Nepal

Nepal continued to strengthen the common ground for YKP to discuss their issues, initiated from their first national consultation in 2011. **The activities were** monthly interaction meeting, develop a resource center of YKAP within the secretariat, quarterly stakeholder discussion forum, capacity development training for YKAP, **advocacy**, production of IEC, social networking, YKP advocacy newsletter and emergency fund for treatment and support for YKP in crisis.

The project strengthened the YKP movement in Nepal with more capacitated and determined YKP leaders. More YKP are informed about the issues and aware about their rights. National stakeholders were better informed about the issues of YKP and their movement, as the result the current national strategic plan spells out the importance of addressing the issues of YKP

Indonesia: Empowering Young Key Affected Population in Indonesia

Indonesia strengthened their advocacy, initiated as the result of Youth LEAD's leadership and communications course NewGen Leadership Training in 2012. As the result they have initiated Fokus Muda (Young Key Populations working group) <https://www.facebook.com/FokusMuda> to continue advocating and raise the voices of YKP.

They developed an advocacy toolkit for young key populations relating to empowerment and leadership based on experiences and transformations following the roll out of NewGen.

³ Technical Working Group (TWG) is the structure within Youth LEAD, comprising of young people, YKP, with relatively better experience, technical and leadership skills.

⁴ The secretariat of Youth LEAD is based in Bangkok

⁵ Inspired by Dr. Robert Carr's commitment to vulnerable communities, the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund (RCNF) aims to support scaling up access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as protecting the rights of inadequately served populations across the world.

They also conducted their first National Consultation of YKP, for which successfully partnered with other stakeholders like National AIDS Commission and UNFPA for the resource mobilization.

South Korea: Empower young key affected population and young people living with HIV in South Korea

Following the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Busan, South Korea, in 2012 the world knew about the discriminatory and criminalized status of people living with HIV including young key population and young people living with HIV. As the response, Youth LEAD developed a focal point from the existing organization, R (Egg), initiated by young people living with HIV and supported their endeavor. The project emphasized on the human rights of young people which included regular meeting amongst affiliated youth members of R, camp to aware and promote the human right of Youth PLWHA and publication about HIV and AIDS, comprehensive sexual education and human rights.

China: Supportive Environment for Young MSM in China through Social Dialogue

China attempted to build supportive environments for young men who have sex with men (YMSM) in big cities in China and expanded networks and strengthening collaboration to scale up involvement and scope of activities; and conducted online survey of MSM across China. This project created the Sina Weibo account and QQ groups to involve more target groups, and ensure their accessibility to information and conducted capacity development training for young MSM.

Philippines: Tracing Stories of Leadership: NewGen Philippines

ACHIEVE produced a book of narratives that captures the stories of transformation and leadership developed through NewGen Leadership training. A write-shop was conducted for the reflection and writing of personal stories of transformation and leadership of youth participants. Capturing these stories of transformation particularly in terms of youth leadership supported to assess whether NewGen Leadership Course as a program is significant enough in young people's lives as advocates and as future leaders in their respective communities.

Philippines: "CEBU Youth on the move"-Reach Out, Increase Awareness, Reduce Risk

This project was unique than rest of other initiatives as it was designed for the service delivery. The project purchased the van and tent for the mobile HIV and AIDS education, counseling and testing of young key population in Cebu province. Within a project period it tested around 1000 YKP and few turned out to be positive who were referred to Cebu Plus. Apart from HIV testing, the team tested sexually transmitted infections.

Sex worker consultation at Myanmar

Youth LEAD secretariat supported and provided technical assistance at National Female Sex Workers consultation (8-11 October) with 200 participants across Myanmar in Yangon. Our focal point Thura Aung lead the consultation and Youth LEAD also provided the technical assistance in documenting the process of the consultation and facilitated some team building exercises to make understand the meaning of networking and the value of team work as a network.

Engagement with Thai school

To trench out to young people from different spectrums, Youth LEAD conducted series of seminars in Thai School to help understand the level of information that young people aged

13-17 have on HIV and YKAP in general. We reached around 1000 students around schools at Bangkok. The partnership with school has lead to make brilliant opening event during sixth Asia and the Pacific Conference on Population and Development.

National consultation at Indonesia

Indonesian Youth LEAD team, in 2013, formed the National Working Group of YKP called Fokus Muda. The Fokus Muda on December 2013, with support from UNFPA conducted its first National Consultation of YKP. The consultation was attended by all the YKP members and observed by National AIDS Commission, UN partners and Civil Society National Networks.



The main objective of the consultation meeting was to give feedback to the part-time assessment process of the Strategy and National Plan of Action for HIV/AIDS 2010 – 2014, particularly related to the achievement of strategy aimed at young key affected populations, inequalities that still must be responded, and to determine priorities that can be used as a feedback in developing SRAN (Strategy and National Plan of Action) 2015 – 2019.

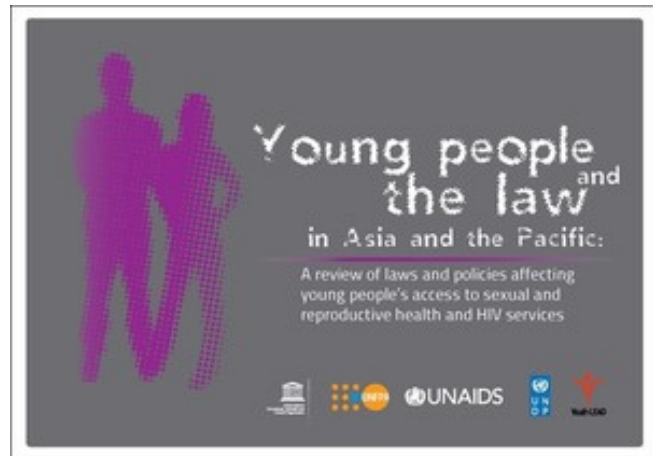
Regional Advocacy Efforts

Youth LEAD became the independent regional network in 2011 and since then it has further intensified its regional engagement on the issues of young key population and young people living with HIV and AIDS. We have been engaged in different regional structures and dialogues, raised voice in different forums and has contributed to the production of knowledge, policies and guidelines related to young key population.

In 2013, Youth LEAD was co-chair for **Inter Agency Task Team (IATT⁶) on YKP** along with UNAIDS. The major outputs of IATT, with focus on the role of Youth LEAD, were consistent meetings amongst the stakeholders throughout the year to discuss on the issues of YKP, study on the Laws and policies affecting young people's access to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services in Asia and the Pacific⁷ and meaningful engagement of young people during ICAAP, II held in Bangkok.

⁶ IATT for YKP is the regional forum to promote the issues of YKP and has different stakeholders including UN agencies, International Organizations, Regional Network and Youth Organizations.

The study on [Young People and the Law in Asia and the Pacific](#) review documents the range of legal and policy issues that shape young key people's access to HIV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services within countries of Asia and the Pacific region. The report, is commissioned by UNESCO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNDP and Youth LEAD and undertaken by John Godwin. The review assessed criminal laws, laws in relation to age, laws on health and HIV, law enforcement practices, and national policies relating to HIV, SRH and youth. In addition to describing laws, policies and practices that impede access to services, the review highlights examples of laws, policies and practices that are supportive of the rights of young people to access services. (Extracted from the executive summary of the document)



International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, ICAAP II



Youth LEAD made its mark at yet another International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, ICAAP II, 18-22 November in Bangkok. More than 30 Youth LEAD focal points, technical working group and board members attended ICAAP by securing funding and winning scholarships. Youth LEAD was heavily engaged in planning and implementing many activities.

In months preceding ICAAP, Youth LEAD was engaged as an integral decision-maker, particularly on matters relating to young people, key populations, and women. At the key affected women and girls round-table discussions, Youth LEAD was a key panelist as well as a vocal participant. At the youth pre-conference, Youth LEAD members actively participated in drafting the outcome statement, which subsequently led to the overall community statement, delivered at the closing plenary by global activist and Youth LEAD Indonesia member, Ayu Oktarini.

ICAAP commenced with a poignant opening performance developed and performed by Youth LEAD, representing voices of key populations in front of world leaders, dignitaries, stakeholders, and community activists. Youth LEAD also led three successful skill building workshops; one on leadership and building capacity for young people using elements from its curriculum, NewGen; one in collaboration with UNFPA and UNAIDS on using social media as a platform to engage with young people following Youth LEAD's own successful social media campaign earlier in 2013; and one in collaboration with Y-Peer on sexual and reproductive health rights and needs of young key populations, a hotly-debated topic in the post-2015 development agenda. Jeffry Acaba of Youth LEAD delivered a keynote plenary on stigma, discrimination, and love for young gay men in Asia and the Pacific. An ICAAP history first, Youth LEAD in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Inter-Agency Task Team on Young

Key Populations, brought ICAAP to grassroots communities, engaging members on the ground through virtual participation, meaningfully connecting young people from Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines to various sessions, who would have otherwise been excluded.

Youth LEAD in Global Response

One of the tasks of regional networks is to effectively mediate global agenda to the countries and also influence the global issues. The regional issues and discussions are very important to provide input to frame global discussion. In 2013, Youth LEAD successfully reached to the global discussions, that influence the issue of young key population, and was recognized as well. Few evidences included



**ROBERT
CARR
FUND**
for civil society
networks

Robert Carr Network Funding (RCNF) is the global funding for global and regional networks initiated in 2012. With more than thousand of application all over the world for 2013, Youth LEAD was one of the 24 selected networks and became the only youth-led network. The projects designed for phase I were to strengthen country impact and maintain regional advocacy. Six youth-led initiatives in five countries viz.

Nepal, China, Indonesia, South Korea and Philipines were supported and produced amazing outcome. These countries proved the best return from the investment in young people and stories that young people are not mere recipients of the development beneficiaries but potential to make equal partnership.

The second round of proposal was conducted in 2013, for 2014, and once again Youth LEAD was the only youth-led leading network to be selected for the grant, in consortium with HIV Young Leader Fund.

The meeting, called the *Youth and UNAIDS: A pact for social transformation* took place in Hammamet, Tunisia from the 20-22 of May. The main outcome of the consultation was a pact outlining five key themes that cut across individual organizational agendas where youth organizations can make tangible impact towards the goals set in the 2011 United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS.⁸



Vision: A PACT that creates solidarity across youth organizations to work strategically and collaboratively in the HIV response towards ensuring the health, well-being and human rights of all young people.

⁸ Youth organizations form a pact for social transformation in the AIDS response, 23 May 2013 retrieved from

The five themes include: Integrating HIV services into sexual and reproductive health services; enabling legal environments for young key populations at higher risk; scaling up treatment and disaggregating data for evidence informed advocacy; using resources effectively; and ensuring that HIV remains a priority in the Post-2015 development framework. Youth LEAD is one of the Pact members and the secretariat was engaged in the conception meeting of Pact and facilitated the thematic discussions during the meeting and also co-moderating the online discussion on enabling legal environment for Young KP.

World Conference on Youth, Sri Lanka, 2014

Youth LEAD has been selected as a member of the International Youth Task Force of the World Conference on Youth happening in May 2014 in Sri Lanka, along with other notable regional and international youth organizations. Youth LEAD is co-charing and designing the programs for one of the foundation areas of the Conference, which is on empowering marginalized and most at risk young people. For more information on World Conference on Youth, visit www.worldyouthconference2014.org

Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and New Funding Model

The largest funder in HIV, Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), has not been able to make fair allocation of resources to young people, more specifically young key population, which is reflected by very low



number of YKP in CCM and negligible number of SR and SSRs led by young people. The New Funding Model (NFM) has been highly envisioned to ensure the voice of YKP through country dialogue process. But YKP with low knowledge on GFATM (experience from different countries) or less interest due to different complication and marginalized in the process will not be able to influence the country dialogue. To response Youth LEAD organized the three days workshop to capacitate selected YKP leaders on GFATM and NFM. 7 YKP leaders were selected from the countries in Asia and the Pacific where NFM is planned for 2014. The tangible action plans are formulated for these countries, as the pilot project to influence NFM in 2014.

Leadership Initiatives

NewGen Leaders



New Generation Leadership Initiative (NewGen) is the initiative, which aims to enhance the leadership skills and capacity of young key population, YKP, (*young drug users, sex workers, men having sex with men, transgenders and migrants*) and young people living with HIV and AIDS to effectively respond to the HIV response. The development of the course

involved an extensive consultation, writing and piloting process led by a technical team from Youth LEAD, the Asia-Pacific network of young people from key populations, in partnership with Associate Professor Helen Cahill, an expert in health education and participatory curriculum design from the University of Melbourne's Youth Research Centre (YRC) along with UN partners UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNAIDS. The first Training of Trainers (ToT) took place in Bangkok in September 2012, followed by country roll out in the Philippines, Myanmar and Indonesia reaching over 80 YKP, in the same year.

NewGen 2013 was focused on reflecting, evaluating and re-planning for better result at the regional level, while countries planned for contextualizing and scale up to develop more leaders.



Revision of NewGen curriculum:

To respond the feedback from country rollouts, the revision workshop of NewGen took place from June 29-July 2, 2013. The revision was done amongst participants from country rollouts, expert trainers, and secretariat and UN partners. The addition of SRHR and Strategic Information in the curriculum was the major decisions.

The revision workshop too discussed the stories of success from the country roll out, where Myanmar initiated Myanmar Youth Star, as the first YKP led organization and started advocating on the issues of YKP. Indonesia successfully mobilized the resources for several roll outs and eventually initiated the national working group on YKP, Fokus Muda.

The report of the workshop can be accessed through <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/hivaids/news/article/youth-lead-the-way-in-asia-pacific-writers-workshop-to-strengthen-the-newgen-asia-short-course-leade/-navigation>



Roll out in Sri Lanka:

With the support of Sri-Lankan Youth Ministry, Youth LEAD secretariat conducted NewGen Sri-Lanka in July 2013. The training included YKP and Youth parliaments, within the Youth Ministry, and was facilitated by the Secretariat with support from the participants, from Sri-Lanka who have already received regional ToT held in 2012.

Roll out in Indonesia:



The National AIDS Commission of Indonesia undertook NewGen as part of a leadership-training program for YKP. 3 workshops covering 33 provinces have taken place targeting young MSM and transgender people; young sex workers, and young people who use drugs. This was the starking momentum for the YKP movement in the country, where they could successfully advocated for the YKP National Action Plan, within the larger National strategic plan on HIV. The impact is far reaching in Indonesia with the first national working group on YKP, Fokus Muda, first national consultation on YKP and immense support from government and UN for the issue.

Leadership Transformation Documentation in Philippines: With the support of Robert Carr Fund, Achieve documented the leadership transformation amongst YKP leaders induced by NewGen. This will be the first qualitative evaluation of the NewGen and will pave way for better designing of the leadership curriculum in future.



Second batch Regional Training of Trainers (ToT):

Youth LEAD has successfully conducted 2nd Batch of Training of Trainers (TOT) of The New Generation (NewGen) Asia Leadership Short Course from 22-29 November in collaboration with

the Youth Research Centre of the University of Melbourne with support from UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO and UNAIDS. The ToT was conducted using the revised manual with the integration of Strategic Information and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. The regional TOT was run for a total of 7 days, where participants underwent through the actual 5-day course along with one separate day for SRHR, before, and another day on facilitation skills after the 5 day. Regional TOT Participants were from China, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand, Bangladesh and Fiji. The team of facilitators was from University of Melbourne, SRHR expert and two youth facilitators, selected from the country rollouts.

The embedded concept of meaningful participation of young people to be leaders, in NewGen, was yet again proved in ToT. Two youth facilitators, the NewGen leaders, stood up with experts to deliver and facilitate the training in professional manner, the young

participants could be vividly observed being transformed into leaders where they deliver heart touching and powerful speech in-front of the stakeholders, presented amazing concepts during the training and prepared the tangible roll out plan in the country.

The immediate post training phase, implementation roll out plan, has been impressive where each country has identified the potential resources, made ally with partners, developed country concept note while some had succeeded dialogues with UN and other institutions. We are highly looking forward for the amazing roll out in 2014.

NewGen Asia: Building capacity in emerging young leaders in the HIV response: Journey Of NewLeadership Initiation⁹

The report jointly developed by University of Melbourne, UNESCO and Youth LEAD, documents the process of consultation, curriculum development, training, pilot and refinement of the NewGen Asia course, in the hope that it will inform others embarking on similar youth-led initiatives. The report also highlights the partnership of different diverse actors to make this initiative happen.

The development and implementation of the NewGen Asia leadership short course has been supported by a strong partnership between Youth LEAD and the various civil society organizations, UN agencies and academic experts.

The report makes quantitative evaluation of different country roll outs to analyze the success of the training and has compiled all the post interviews conducted with the participants. The entire report can be read from

I liked the fact that all people here are being treated equally... and also about the training which is really informal. There is lots of methodology, and also new techniques for training. That was something new. (Participant, female, Indonesia ToT First Batch Bangkok).

Beyond HIV and AIDS

Youth LEAD response to Post 2015 Development Agenda

We embrace the interactive process of Post 2015 Development Agenda where young people were one of the actors around the global discussion. The appointment of UN Youth Envoy reflects importance provided to youth issue from higher level and we applaud the efforts of Youth Envoy to address the needs of different diversified group. Similarly, though it's not possible to mention each group, we welcome the report of High Level Panel on Post 2015 Development Agenda. The report has provided enough space for young people by recognizing young people must be subjects not objects of the post-2015 development agenda; emphasized programmes led by youth, serving youth; conceded the need of employment for young people for economic transformation; kept youth as the cross-cutting agenda and disaggregated data. But we don't claim that this is the endline.

⁹ Lead Authors: Helen Cahill, Sally Beadle & Julia Coffey With contributions from: Rebecca Brown, Justine Sass, Thaw Zin Aye, Skand Amatya, Gaj Gurang, Gerard Ompad, Jeffrey Acaba, Rachael Buide & Milinda Rajapaksha

So, in spite of all these successes, we felt that the issue of Young People and HIV is shadowed in the backdrop where MDG target 6 is yet to be achieved and young key population (YKP) including young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) were discussed quite late. 5 million were young people aged 15-24 (2012 World AIDS Day Report, UNAIDS) are living with HIV and 95% of new infections in young people come from young key populations of people who use drugs, people selling sex, men who have sex with men, transgender people and migrants. Despite of commitments and recognition in writing, the reality and need on the ground is different. YKP are often approached through a perspective of general youth and adolescence, with many myths and misunderstandings regarding their behaviours, involvement in society, and responsibilities. They are also often grouped with general key populations, failing to adequately answer the unique needs of their age bracket. Only minimal portions of the Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS, TB, and Malaria budget to date has been planned to target exclusively YKP and YPLHIV. These populations are not just marginalized from the HIV response, but are also highly stigmatized in the community due to incorrect and narrow perceptions, and a variety of socioeconomic barriers. As a result, YKP and YPLHIV are often deprived from interventions targeted for young people in general, such as employment, education, and sexual and reproductive health services. Young key populations are also focused on not significantly enough in campaigns geared for adult key populations.

To respond Youth LEAD formed a task team for 2015 Development agenda, oriented them and wrote high level letter to different high level personality like UN Youth Envoy, 2015 Secretariat, Ministry of Sri-Lanka to influence 2014 Global Youth Forum, Commonwealth Forum. We have been raising this call for action in different platform and have mentioned in our communicative tools like social media and newsletter.

Sixth Asia and the Pacific Population Conference (APPC)

Sixth APPC took place in Bangkok, 16-20 September 2013 and this conference became the first non-HIV conference where Youth LEAD engaged intensely. The opportunity to get engaged was made possible due to its previous pro-active engagement in different regional forums.

Youth LEAD was invited by UNESCAP to lead the youth issue during the opening of the conference through motivational play. With the support from students from ISB Amneshy Club, Youth LEAD performed the eye-opening play with the theme on education, gender discrimination, employment and health.



Prior to the conference, Youth LEAD co-organized Youth Forum, facilitated sessions during the forum and became one of the declaration drafting committee. The Youth Declaration

was disseminated widely during the conference and was placed in the websites of different organizations including UNESCAP. The Technical Working Group members of the Youth LEAD were the panelists of Youth Side-event organized by UNFPA. Youth LEAD also supported to co-organize the CSO Forum and actively engaged in all the discussions. As the result, Youth LEAD was selected to make the final CSO statement during the ministerial meetings of APPC on 20th September.

SRHR needs of Young Key Population

The 2013 AGM of Youth LEAD recognize the need to identify the SRHR needs of Young Key Population and address it accordingly. As the result different initiatives were taken to address the issues of SRHR for YKP.

In response to feed back from New Gen country roll outs , the workshop on New Gen Manual Revision was held on 29th June-2 July 2013 in collaboration with Youth LEAD and the Youth Research Centre of the University of Melbourne with the financial and technical support from UNFPA, UNICEF , UNESCO and UNAIDS .The workshop was held to revise the manual based on the feed back from country roll outs and integrating components such as Strategic Information (SI) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) to meet the needs of, in order for them to conduct similar trainings at the national level.

Youth LEAD has initiated formal engagement with YPEER¹⁰ with a focus on SRHR need and capacity of YKP and giving awareness to SRHR activist on the issues of YKP to yield collaborative synergy. As part of the partnering process the MoU between Youth LEAD and YPEER has been signed. A joint skill building workshop of SRH and HIV integration was conducted partnering with YPEER during ICAAP, II at Bangkok and few proposals have been conceptualized jointly.

¹⁰ YPEER is the international network of young people working on SRHR

Information is Power. With this belief Youth LEAD has utilized all the major social media and professional communication standards to disseminate the updated information to the country focal points and facilitate discussions.

- # Youth Read

The Asia-Pacific Network of Young Key Populations

JULY/AUGUST 2013

A Message from the Secretariat

This year, Youth LEAD is celebrating its first year as an independent regional youth network, and we are moving forward on the ground. As the Secretariat, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and deep appreciation to all our fellow Youth LEADers, donors, friends, and other stakeholders for their on-going support in advocating for the well-being of Young Key Populations in the region. In just 4 years, Youth LEAD has grown tremendously in size and scope of activities. We are now active in 20 countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, PNG, Mongolia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) with 57 focal points that are able to access hundreds of other young people from their communities and networks.

It has been an arduous road, but we have fared through with determined and brave Youth LEADers by our side. This is a year of transformation, particularly with regards to our governance structure, strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems, cultivating existing networks, and expanding with new members, all with the aim of becoming the key regional network of for issues pertaining to young people from Key Populations.

We would like to thank all our brothers and sisters, partner organizations, donors, friends and many individuals who have stood by us. Without your support, Youth LEAD would not be where it is now. And with your on-going support, we will continue to advocate for the rights of Young Key Populations,

Highlights:

 - NewGen
 - Annual General Meeting
 - RESPONSIBLE YOUTH on the move
 - Robert Carr Civil Society Fund

HOME ABOUT US NEW GEN AG ENTIES LIVE BLOG CONTACT

Youth LEAD's mission is to become the catalyst of change and empowerment for Young Key Populations at High Risk of HIV Exposure.

You are posting, commenting, and liking as Mehrdad Pourrazi — Change to Youth LEAD

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Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

Youth LEAD (Youth Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development) is a growing network of youth leaders from key affected populations of HIV/AIDS in Asia Pacific.

4,555 Photos Likes Twitter

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Youth LEAD

For more info, visit our website: www.youthlead.org

August 2013 with 5,000 members