

# ASIA PACIFIC INTER AGENCY TASK TEAM ON YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS



**2016**  
ANNUAL REPORT



## About the Inter Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations

The Asia Pacific Inter Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations was established in 2009 to promote coordinated support from UN agencies and civil society partners to meet the HIV prevention, treatment, care and support needs of YKPs including: young men who have sex with men, young transgender people, young people who inject drugs, young people living with HIV, and young people selling sex.

The Task Team is an informal working group that includes as its members a wide range of UN and civil society partners. Membership is open to any organization interested in working collaboratively to support the HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support needs of YKP. The members for 2016 are:

- Youth LEAD
- Youth Voices Count (YVC)
- YPEER
- International HIV/AIDS Alliance
- Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM)
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia and Pacific, Regional Bureau for Education
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office for South Asia
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

As a usual practice, the IATT on YKP is co-chaired by one UN and one civil society organization. For 2016, the Co-Chairs were:

- Jeffry Acaba, Youth LEAD
- Justine Sass, UNESCO (until June 2016)
- Aries Valeriano, UNAIDS (June 2016 until present)

<https://iatt-ykp.org/>

## 2016 Annual Report

2016 has provided an opportunity for the IATT on YKP to demonstrate its joint work for the region on young key populations issues.

The annual report covers the joint workplan of the IATT on Young Key Populations under four outcome areas:

**Outcome 1:** Young people from key populations in the Asia-Pacific region are engaged and capacitated to contribute to national HIV responses to improve their health, wellbeing and to realize their sexual and reproductive health rights.

**Outcome 2:** Capacity of policy makers and programmers in the Asia-Pacific region developed to scale up comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for YKP.

**Outcome 3:** Strategic information generated and synthesized and used to support regional level advocacy targeting governments and civil society to promote scale up of comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for YKP.

**Outcome 4:** Advocate for an enabling and coherent environment for YKP.

## Outcome 1

*Young people from key populations in the Asia-Pacific region are engaged and capacitated to contribute to national HIV responses to improve their health, wellbeing and to realize their sexual and reproductive health rights.*

### TeenGen Leadership Training Course



Both Youth LEAD's Capacity Needs Assessment among Adolescents from Key Populations in Three Countries Report and in UNICEF's Under the Radar Report highlights the urgent need to refocus the attention of addressing the epidemic and include adolescents in the response. In 2015, UNICEF together with partners launched the All In to End Adolescent AIDS Strategy that aims to reduce new HIV infections among adolescents by at least 75%, reduce AIDS-related deaths among adolescents by at least 65%, and eliminate discrimination among adolescent key

populations. Youth LEAD believes that one of the key ways to achieve this is to involve adolescents into the response by building the leadership capacity of adolescents, particularly adolescent key populations, and ensure meaningful engagement and enable adolescents to advocate with program planners and policymakers on issues that matter to them.

TeenGen training course is based on a three-day consultation writeshop in August 2016 conducted by the Youth LEAD Secretariat and led by Jeffry P. Acaba. Eight master youth trainers and adolescents including from those key populations from six countries, namely, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand, met in Bangkok, Thailand for a three-day writeshop. The result is the leadership training course presented in this manual – TeenGen – a leadership course for adolescents. The course is similar to Youth LEAD's flagship leadership program, NewGen, but has been adapted for younger participants. TeenGen aims to build the knowledge and skills of adolescent key populations on HIV, leadership, and human rights. Specifically, this training has the following specific objectives:



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- **Rights:** to establish and build adolescents' awareness and understanding of their rights.
- **Leadership:** to build the leadership, negotiation, and communication skills of adolescents from key populations.
- **Information:** to provide adolescents from key populations with information on HIV and other sexual and reproductive health issues and skills to improve their health-seeking behaviours.

This leadership course envisages augmenting Youth LEAD’s leadership building activities as we reach adolescents from key populations aged 13 to 18 years. As young people from key populations grow and age, Youth LEAD recognizes the need to build the capacity of younger activists and build their capacity at an earlier age, which will help sustain and expand the youth movement in Asia and the Pacific. TeenGen will become the venue to gather, mobilize, and identify potential activists to be part of the broader youth movement that is engaged in addressing HIV issues and upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). This will also enable Youth LEAD to expand its network and reach at the country level.



### **IGNITE! Mentorship programme**

The IGNITE! Mentorship program which was launched by Youth Voices Count in 2015 turned a new page in 2016 with the implementation of the first round of IGNITE! Small scale projects. Under the same capacity building initiative, YVC in partnership with the Global Forum on MSM and HIV (MSMGF) held a regional training of trainers on sensitizing health service providers on providing sensitive and friendly health services for young gay men and young transgender people.

The small-scale projects, which are being led by the IGNITE! Mentees, are implemented in Bhutan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Viet Nam. The projects focus on “small steps” to address issues that are closer to the lives of young gay men and young transgender people in the 8 countries. Together the projects address issues such as violence faced by gay and transgender students at school settings, creating youth friendly HIV health services, raising awareness and mobilizing young gay and young transgender people. One of the projects is unique in its approach to reaching young transgender men with information on transition, rights and health. A main objective of the small-scale projects is to facilitate a process where the mentees can acquire hands-on experience on project development, implementation, monitoring and finances.



The training of trainers’ workshop was attended by 27 participants, majority of them young and came from countries including Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kirgizstan, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Viet Nam. All the participants are working with local organizations in different capacities in providing sexual health services to other young

people. The diversity of the participants and their experience brought a wide array of diversity to the discussion.



The approach to sensitizing health service providers in this ToT was to recognize the complex and integral aspects of a young person's life. A young person's identity consisted of his or her sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, sex experience and pleasure factors need to be taken in to serious consideration when sexual health services are provided. Intersectionalities of young

people such as sex work, drug or alcohol use, family violence, intimate partner violence and etc have major implications on the decisions they make about their sexual health.

A second round of the IGNITE! Small scale projects will be taking place in 2017 with a special focus on rolling out the training of trainers facilitated by YVC in 2016 and will contribute expand YVC advocacy on youth friendly health services.

### #Case4Space campaign

Members of the IATT-YKP participated and supported the #Case4Space campaign which was a collaboration of over 60 partners across Asia and the Pacific. It aims to raise awareness and advocate in different issues of young people across the region. A roundtable discussion was held on 30 November to 2 December 2016 bringing 250 youth activists. Youth LEAD members joined the discussion and organized a panel with their focal points from five countries, Hong Kong, Viet Nam, The Philippines, Indonesia, and Fiji, entitled "Tools for marginalized youth in response to shrinking civic spaces at the national level – Lessons Learned from Young Key Populations". Youth LEAD's activities were supported by supported by UNFPA.



UNESCO also presented on a plenary that explored shrinking civic spaces in urban settings for youth. Recounting on lessons learned from the #PurpleMySchool campaign, a social media-driven campaign led by UNESCO and supported under UNDP's Being LGBTI in Asia initiative, the presentation focused on the ways in which schools and civil society can work together to create safer spaces for LGBTI students. The presentation

highlighted the negative impacts that bullying on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression can have on a student's academic performance, their willingness to engage in school activities and their well-being. A multi-tiered response that engages with stakeholders beyond the education sector was presented as a possible approach for

addressing this form of school-related violence. The presentation closed with examples from across the region of successful community-led activities that helped to raise LGBTI visibility at schools and create more inclusive learning environments.

The roundtable laid the groundwork for longer-term regional engagement by UNDP and other partners to create an enabling environment for youth to engage with the SDGs.

More information at: <http://www.case4space.org/>

### SAARC Youth Dialogue

UNFPA and Y-PEER participated at the “South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Dialogue on Promoting Youth Participation in the Implementation of SDGs”



which brought together youth representatives from the eight Member States. The goal of the dialogue is to explore ways and means to promote effective youth engagement mechanisms at national and sub-national levels in South Asia. The event also explored ways of sharing best practices and

experiences across the SAARC region in policy development and involve young people in the process. Recommendations on future plans and strategies to strengthen youth participation within SAARC countries in achieving the SDGs.

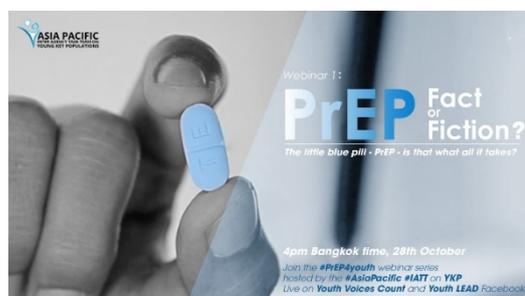
A total of 19 youth and 13 government representatives from SAARC Member States participated in the two-day Regional Dialogue. The SAARC dialogue was hosted by the Government of Nepal in collaboration with SAARC Secretariat, with technical and financial support from UNFPA.

Source: <http://nepal.unfpa.org/news/nepal-hosts-saarc-dialogue-promote-youth-participation-implementation-sdgs?page=0%2C10#sthash.oASKP0kt.dpuf>

### PrEP for young key populations advocacy

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is the new recommended by the World Health Organization in September 2015 for people at substantial risk of HIV infection. In Asia, four countries have already started PrEP demonstration or research with additional six countries aiming for 2017/2018 launch. YVC, Youth LEAD, APCOM, UNAIDS and UNICEF formed a special interest group on PrEP to ensure that young key populations will have the right information and advocate for their inclusion in planned demonstrations in select countries.

innovative prevention option currently



Two webinars on PrEP came out as resource products from the interest groups. [Webinar 1: “PrEP, Fact or Fiction?”](#), looks into the Science of PrEP and how young key populations could

benefit from it. [Webinar 2: “Experience of young PrEP user”](#), shows Vu Anh Lieu, and his experience on the side effect, benefits and changes he experience as a PrEP user. A last webinar is planned in 2017 that will revolve around advocating access to PrEP among young MSM and young transgender in the region. A resource pack on PrEP for young key populations is also being planned for 2017.

## Outcome 2

*Capacity of policy makers and programmers in the Asia-Pacific region developed to scale up comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for YKP*

### ASEAN Task Force

The ASEAN has undergone restructuring to clusters. HIV is now under Cluster 2: Communicable Diseases. The new Cluster will focus on young people including young key populations.

In September 2016, the Heads of States/Governments of the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) made another historical milestone in adopting the "[ASEAN Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS: Fast-Tracking and Sustaining HIV and AIDS Responses to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030](#)" at the 28th ASEAN Summit in Lao PDR. Along with key populations, children and youth are mentioned in the Declaration as part of vulnerable populations affected by HIV.

In 17-18 December, Youth LEAD and UNAIDS attended the consultation held by the ASEAN HIV/AIDS Core Group in Bangkok, Thailand as part of the operationalization of the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS.

UNAIDS and partners will continue to work with the ASEAN Secretariat and work on issues of young people.



### CSE and gender equality regional consultation

Convened by UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women, and WHO to discuss, collectively for the first time in Asia Pacific, the importance of integrating gender and power into comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) advocacy and programming. The partnership aims to strengthen joint educational (formal and non-formal) programming in Asia-Pacific that advances access to information and skills to safeguard sexual and reproductive health and achieve gender equality, and to protect children and adolescents from child marriage and gender-based violence. Country offices represented from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, PNG, Pacific SRO, Thailand Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

## Outcome 3

*Strategic information generated and synthesized and used to support regional level advocacy targeting governments and civil society to promote scale up of comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for YKP*

### SRHR of YKP

With support from UNFPA, Youth LEAD undertook the creation of a report "[Our Rights Matter Too: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Young Key Populations in Asia and the Pacific](#)" in order to highlight the inextricable link between SRHR and young key populations, and how the recognition, promotion, and protection of these rights are instrumental to ending the AIDS epidemic in the region. This report intends to bridge the gap in the regional discourse on YKP and SRHR. This has been the result of an increasing conversation with other organizations such as YPEER, as well as the evolving component of SRHR that was integrated in the New Generation Leadership training manual developed by Youth LEAD and UN partners.



The report provides an overview of the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs, issues, and priorities of young key populations (YKP) in Asia and the Pacific. It addresses the gaps in knowledge on the SRHR needs of YKP in the region, offers recommendations based on a regional study, and contributes essential information for policy and advocacy efforts. The study employs a qualitative data-gathering design using focus group discussions (FGD), and face-to-face and online interviews, along with a desk review of existing literature. Five FGDs were conducted in China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines in November 2014 with the support of Youth LEAD's national focal points. A total of fifty-four YKPs participated in the FGDs. Six key informant interviews were also conducted in November until December 2014 with representatives from The PACT, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), Youth Voices Count (YVC) and national organizations based in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mongolia and Myanmar.

The report provides 10 recommendations on: Youth participation and involvement, age and gender sensitivity to address SRHR needs of YKP, legal reform and political advocacy, strategic information and evidence building, and strategic partnerships and networking. The report was launched at the International AIDS Conference in 2016.

Full report with video: <http://youth-lead.org/resources/our-publications/>

### All In

All In countries particularly in the East Asia and the Pacific region have engaged in key activities to contribute to the four work streams of the All In strategy: Social change and adolescent engagement; programme scale up and acceleration; innovation; and advocacy and communication.

In China, UNICEF has been leading the development of a five-year workplan with built in adolescent engagement together with government and civil society partners. UNICEF and UNAIDS kicked off All In in China through a high level Red Ribbon Forum that brought national

and provincial government and community partners together in Beijing in April 2016. The national meeting was an opportunity to highlight the “hidden epidemic” among adolescents globally, in Asia-Pacific and in China, and partners jointly identified key barriers to effective programming with adolescents. Among the gaps noted were age of consent to testing and treatment, lack of clear policy briefs to guide comprehensive action by line ministries, and lack of service guidelines for programme delivery for adolescents.

In Indonesia, UNICEF is working with the Indonesian Network of Young Key Population (Fokus Muda) to implement a demonstration project called LOLIPOP (Linkages of Quality Services for Young Key Populations) that will now expand from the initial location (Bandung City) to three additional sites (Surabaya, Denpasar, and West Jakarta) with additional resources mobilized from the Global Fund to strengthen service delivery adolescent key populations. In Bandung, to address the barrier created through the legal requirement for parental consent, agreement has been secured for health services to provide testing to adolescents younger than 18 years old based on consent provided by an NGO serving in the role of a guardian for the adolescent. An advocacy brief highlighting HIV situation among adolescents and Young Key Populations in Indonesia was produced based on analysis on available data from Ministry of Health.

In the Philippines, ACT!2015 Alliance is actively working with Commission on the Welfare of Children and the Philippine National AIDS Council in convening adolescents and young people and leading the development of the design of the youth consultation to develop the 6th AIDS Medium Term Plan 2017-2022. Through the pro-active lobbying of CSO partners (most notably PLCPD) and with technical guidance from UNICEF and UNAIDS, DSWD issued a position paper on the AIDS Bill, which proposed lowering the age of HIV testing to 15 without the need for parental consent (see attached). In support of proposals from civil society and government to amend the law, young people are being prepared to engage in policy advocacy to ensure that new laws will facilitate access to services especially in UNICEF-supported demonstration sites. Progress has been made in high burden cities of Zamboanga and Iloilo where ordinances related to SRH and HIV are undergoing review. Meanwhile, the Memorandum of Agreements with the local government units were secured to improve access to life-saving information and quality services of adolescents at risk of HIV and pregnancy. The project modeled in these cities has led to promising results, but it is important to note that the local government of Quezon City was the first to amend its local HIV ordinance to address needs of adolescent key populations accessing HIV testing services this year, requiring written parental consent from an individual taking the test only if the person is below 15 years of age. The amended ordinance was based on the government, CSO and UN-endorsed provisions, and it specifies conditions under which HIV testing shall be made available to a minor requesting the services. UNICEF together with UNAIDS and partners supported the Department of Health (DOH) to complete phase 2 of the Adolescent Assessment and Decision-Makers Tool (AADM) through analyzing age and gender responsive data to strengthen national and subnational evidence-based planning. Better data analysis prompted strengthening of sub-national analysis, buy-in and local government’s commitment to adolescent/young key populations related interventions in two HIV high burden cities (Quezon City and Cebu City).

In Thailand, UNICEF works with an adolescent reference group, existing adolescent networks and online platforms such as “I-Used” developed through NGO partnership (this is an online information and service reference website) and “U-Report”. In 2016, UNICEF Thailand worked

with adolescents through these mechanisms to support development of a proposal for PrEP introduction for adolescents, development of the country programme of cooperation (CPD 2017-21), an adolescent situation analysis and to review the Comprehensive Sexuality Education implementation plan.

A national partnership is in place to support empowerment of a national network of adolescents and youth living with HIV/AIDS/AIDS.

*Excerpts from All In Global Update, 2017.*

## Outcome 4

*Advocate for an enabling and coherent environment for YKP*

### Strengthening the legal and policy environment for YKP access to services

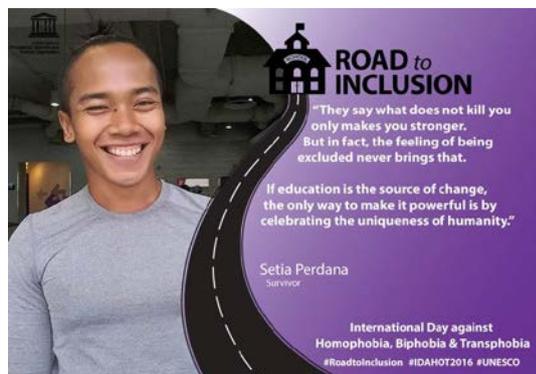
From 14-16 June 2016, the Legal Advocacy Toolkit was developed by UNESCO, UNFPA, Youth LEAD, DLA Piper and piloted in Philippines together with partners UNAIDS and UNICEF. Participants included a mix of NGOs and advocates, including young people. The toolkit includes assessment of the legal environment and training on using international review processes such as UPR and CRC. UNFPA also supported the participation of Youth LEAD as facilitators and organisers of the workshop.

The Legal Advocacy Toolkit will be rolled out in other countries in 2017 with a youth-friendly version to supplement the main toolkit.

### Regional and country action on school bullying, violence and discrimination of LGBTI students

UNESCO successfully led a regional advocacy campaign on making schools more inclusive for LGBTIQ students. Around 200 people from 19 countries joined the campaign.

UNESCO Bangkok's #RoadtoInclusion campaign advocates for a better path for LGBTI learners. Launched around the 2016 International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and



Transphobia (IDAHOT), 17 May, the campaign aims to raise awareness about school-related bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (SOGIE) and promote learning environments that respect diversity. To that end, young people, educators, policy-makers and activists from across the Asia-Pacific region were invited to share what inclusion and inclusive schools mean to them as well as their ideas on how to make schools more inclusive for LGBTI learners.

The response was overwhelming, with nearly 200 messages received from influential individuals and organizations in 19 Asia-Pacific countries. The messages were compiled into a Facebook album and were shared widely across social media. Campaign contributors helped share the messages within their own networks, resulting in these powerful messages of inclusion and empowerment reaching tens of thousands of people across the region.

The #RoadtoInclusion campaign is UNESCO Bangkok's most recent advocacy effort aimed at addressing school-related SOGIE-based bullying, discrimination and violence in Asia-Pacific. Previous efforts include the #PurpleMySchool campaign, a social media-driven collaboration with UNDP aimed at raising awareness about SOGIE-based bullying and encouraging people to take actions at the school level to create safer spaces for LGBTI learners. Some 400 such actions were taken in more than 10 countries, and more than 16,000 people organized local initiatives using resources from the #PurpleMySchool campaign website.

## National Consultations on SOGIE-based Bullying and Discrimination

Responding to recommendations sourced during the [Asia-Pacific Consultation on School Bullying based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression](#) held in 2015, UNESCO's strategy has been to establish Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in priority countries (China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand) to review the actions identified at the Regional Consultation with a broader group of core stakeholders and to plan for the national consultation. The composition of the TWGs includes representatives from government, civil society organizations, and academia. Each TWG functioned autonomously and served as the mechanism for sourcing stakeholder inputs for the planning and implementation of the national consultations. The themes and focus for each consultation were determined based on feedback sourced from TWG members and country-level partners. The content for the sessions were informed by desk reviews and stakeholder inputs on the available evidence and interventions currently being implemented. Overall, the consultation session designs varied involving a mixture of panel discussions, plenary “talk show” sessions, breakout sessions, interactive exercises, youth performances, group work, round table discussions and facilitated reflection of next steps and commitments.

Between May-August 2016, UNESCO, with support from UNDP's Being LGBTI in Asia initiative, facilitated four national consultations in China, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Though Indonesia had been identified as a focus country to host a national consultation, unfortunately in the months leading up to the tentative date for the national consultation, the political landscape of Indonesia had become one in which anti-LGBT sentiment was on the rise. In consultation with members of TWG and colleagues at the UNESCO Jakarta Office and UNDP Indonesia Country Office, UNESCO Bangkok and UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub decided that it would be best to suspend the planning of an Indonesian national consultation and instead to redirect the funds towards the planning and implementation of a national consultation in Viet Nam. The four national consultations received considerable interest from stakeholders, engaging more than 300 participants that included representatives from ministries/departments of education, health and justice; civil society organizations; academic institutions; UN agencies and development partners; educators and school administrators; and youth. The consultations provided a platform for participants to map out existing policy and programmatic initiatives by government, civil society and the private sector, share good practices, provide recommendations and suggest follow up actions. It was suggested in all of the consultations that curriculum tools and learning materials that equip teachers not only with a better understanding of SOGIE, but also on the topics of: gender, gender norms, masculinity, gender equality, and the skills for responding to SRGBV, particularly SOGIE-based bullying and violence, are needed to support this work. Some countries look to advance the conversation on these topics by incorporating them into comprehensive sexuality education curriculum. Laws that affirm ministerial commitments to promote CSE are seen as one leverage point for reforming sexuality education curriculum to be more inclusive, as is the case for Thailand. Some countries, particularly China and the Philippines, are viewing this work from a child protection framework and look to integrate SOGIE-based bullying prevention and response within established child protection mechanisms.

A priority raised by all of the countries was that of strengthening mental health and counselling services at schools, including, establishing more effective referral mechanisms. All of the countries also look to build a stronger evidence base of the scope and impact of

SRGBV/SOGIE-based bullying. Sharing the outcomes of the consultations are seen as an opportunity to build the capacity of research institutions by enhancing their understandings of these topics and addressing the unique challenges that this research topic involves.

## Priorities for 2017

The task team will work on the following priorities for 2017:

- Outcome 1: Young people from key populations in the Asia-Pacific region are engaged and capacitated to contribute to national HIV responses to improve their health, well-being and to realise their sexual and reproductive health rights.
- Outcome 2: Strategic information are generated, synthesized and used to support regional level advocacy targeting governments and civil society to promote scale up of comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for YKP.
- Outcome 3: Scale-up evidence-informed, national programmes for YKP through advocacy interventions with government, policy-makers and other stakeholders.
- Outcome 4: Increased advocacy for an enabling and coherent environment for YKP

Full workplan can be accessed here: [2017 Workplan](#)

For more information please contact the incoming chairs for 2017:

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