



ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH IN THE COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM AND GLOBAL FUND PROCESSES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF CHALLENGES AND FACILITATING
FACTORS FOR MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH IN CCM

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ACRONYMS

C19RM	The COVID-19 Response Mechanism
CBO	Community-based Organization
CCM	Country Coordination Mechanism
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CRG	Community Rights Gender
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPM	Fund Portfolio Manager
GF	Global Fund
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDI	In Depth Interviews
KP	Key Populations
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSM	Men who sex with men
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NSP	National Strategic Plan
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PR	Principal Recipient
SR	Sub-recipient
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Sexual Transmitted Infection
TB	Tuberculosis
TG	Transgender
ToR	Term of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
YKP	Young key population
YPLHIV	Young people living with HIV
YPWUD	Young people who use drugs

The overall study aims to produce evidence on the current level of engagement of young people in Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) to inform ongoing young people, in particular young key population (YKP) and young people living with HIV (YPLHIV), with HIV advocacy for strengthened YKP representation in CCMs in Asia and the Pacific countries. The study is divided into two phases: mapping assessment and situational analysis.

The first phase of the study is a mapping assessment of 17 countries and one region (Western Pacific) [1] [2] was conducted from September to December 2021, through a quantitative survey. The assessment describes the presence of young people as official CCM members, their preferred method of contact, tenure in CCM, the enabling environment and support mechanism, and their engagement in the CCM and Global Fund (GF) processes (see Annex 2 for full report).

This report presents the second phase of the study, the situational analysis. Using in-depth interviews (IDIs) and focus group discussions (FGD), this phase of the study aims to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by young people with regards to their meaningful engagement in the CCM and develop concrete recommendations on ways to strengthen participation of young people in the CCM and Global Fund (GF) related decision-making processes. Young people and other stakeholders (CCM Chairs/Vice-Chairs/Secretariats, development partners, Ministry of Health) were interviewed about their experiences in and perception of these processes, and their envisioned roles and support required to ensure meaningful engagement of young people in these processes.

Young people and other stakeholders were recruited using purposive sampling from three types of countries: 1) Type1 – countries in which the CCM has youth representative(s) (Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and the Philippines); 2) Type 2 – countries in which CCM does not have youth representative but has youth involved in GF processes (Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal); and 3) Type 3 – countries in which CCM does not have youth representatives nor are youth known to be involved in GF processes (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Western Pacific, Papua New Guinea).

From 22 March to 31 May 2022, three consultants conducted 30 IDIs and 8 FGDs with a total of 64 participants (youth=38 participants, and stakeholders= 26 participants) in 14 countries, one region (Western Pacific). A total of 30 participants were interviewed in IDIs and 34 participants in FGDs.

A. KEY FINDINGS

1. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF FACILITATORS, CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT NEEDED IN TYPE 1, 2 AND 3 COUNTRIES

Facilitators			
Similarities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive engagement and leadership of youth in CCM and GF-related processes (funding requests, progress update community consultations, oversight duties, technical working group) in Type 1 and 2 countries. • Identified key partners in understanding and supporting youth advocacy efforts within CCM and GF-related processes. Forged alliances, partnership and collaboration at regional and country level e.g.:o • Type 2 countries: financial and technical support of regional youth networks and development partnerso • Type 2 & 3 countries: reached out to other CCM KP representatives to raise issues and receive updates of GF related matters • Youth with prior or current programmatic experiences in GF enhanced meaningful input and engagement 		
	Type 1 Countries	Type 2 Countries	Type 3 Countries
Differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political willingness to be inclusive such as formalization of youth representation in CCM, clear and transparent communications, and youth involvement in national platforms. • Mentorship— stakeholder supportive supervision for youth’s engagement in CCM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of youth through other GF-related platforms e.g.:o • C19RM funding proposals have made a few youths’ debut in formal engagement with CCM and became sub-recipients of the grant to implement programs that mitigate life crisis during pandemic. • National working group for youth and national strategic plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local level advocacy with other key stakeholders to reduce harassment of KPs and collaboration to support PLHIV during COVID-19 • Youth’s engagement in national decision-making spaces e.g., National Youth Council
Challenges			
Similarities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent and unclear definition of youth (Type 1 and Type 2 countries) • Youth’s meaningful engagement was impeded by cultural norms, internalized stigma and lack of confidence among youth. • Limited capacity building support for youth’s engagement • Gaps of inclusive youth representation in CCM and other national platforms across diseases (especially TB and Malaria) • Lack of youth-centered funding supporting youth’s contribution and interventions beyond service delivery 		

	Type 1 Countries	Type 2 Countries	Type 3 Countries
Differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak governance e.g., absence of Term of Reference for youth's engagement in CCM, lack of procedures on youth's appointment and guidance material for engagement Restricted policy of alternate youth representatives to participate in meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth-led organizations which were not registered were not allowed to be CCM members or sub-recipients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of youth representation in both national advocacy and in CCM contributed to the lack of youth-centered strategies and funding.

Support Needed			
Similarities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy, programmatic and organizational development (Type 1, 2, and 3 countries) Strategic thinking and structural engagement (Type 1 and 2 countries) Cross-country learnings among youth participants (Type 1 and 2 countries) Resource mobilization to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure incentivization of youth's engagement in CCM and other national platforms (Type 1, 2 and 3 countries) Funding support for country dialogues/consultations (Type 1 and 2 countries) Communicate and organize dialogues with constituencies (Type 1 country) Ensure youth representation and meaningful engagement in CCM and other GF related processes Develop and implement communication strategies i.e., feedback mechanism, campaign strategies in reaching potential youth, communication guide (Type 1, 2 and 3 countries). Communication at provincial level and having communication strategies with different sub-populations (Type 1 and 2 countries) 		
	Type 1 Countries	Type 2 Countries	Type 3 Countries
Differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures a seat for youth and enhance voice of alternate members Ensures prioritization of youth issues raised are addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation on CCM, structure of GF, HIV epidemiology and activities of GF in country Ownership among youth to organize constituency meeting regularly and involvement of constituencies in the development of agenda for meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to form national platform for youth Ensure specific quota for youth in recruitment of projects to ensure youth's participation

2. KEY FINDINGS BY THEME

PERCEIVED ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS AND YOUTH

Stakeholders including CCM chairs, vice-chairs, secretaries, development partners and government representatives have similar perspectives of their roles in CCM. Most reported that they were involved in funding requests development, strategic direction review, grant performance oversight, technical support throughout grant implementation, communications, governance, and ensuring community involvement and inclusiveness. Youth, on the other hand, had mixed views of their perceived role in CCM, based on their participation and role in the three types of countries (Type 1, 2, and 3). Across the three countries, many youth members shared that their experiences in youth advocacy, program management, resource mobilization, capacity building, and sharing of life experiences supported their roles in CCM or GF-related processes. In countries with youth CCM members, youth reported that their representation enables them to present young people' issues, provide oversight duties, perform as a liaison between their constituencies and CCM through dissemination and input gathering sessions. In countries without CCM youth members but engaged in GF related processes, youth reported that they were mainly involved as implementing partners or sub-recipients to carry out youth-focused programs, engaged in other national level decision making spaces such as national working group or task force. However, in countries where no youth are known to be involved in GF related processes, youth were often excluded in high-level decision-making spaces, and only limited to sub-national/provincial level advocacy

KEY FACILITATORS OR POSITIVE EXPERIENCES OF YOUTH'S INVOLVEMENT IN CCM AND GF RELATED PROCESSES

Youth's proactive engagement and leadership—Many stakeholders and youth in Type 1 and 2 countries expressed that youth's deep and proactive engagement throughout the CCM and GF-related processes strengthened CCM governance in advancing youth related issues and improving the inclusion of youth in discussions. This engagement ranged from participation in funding requests, progress update meetings, consultations, oversight duties, to technical working groups or task forces. Strong youth network and participation beyond HIV and health issues such as human rights, sexuality and welfare, demonstrated strong youth leadership and their ability to broaden the scope of advocacy efforts. Additionally, youth with prior or current programmatic experiences in GF enhanced their active participation in various GF related platforms and facilitated constructive feedback on project implementation in Type 1 and 2 countries. While this experience is an added advantage for meaningful engagement, conflict of interest management (declaring conflict of interest with the CCM and recusing from CCM deliberations when actual or even received potential conflict of interest arise) should be in place for youth involved with a Global Fund grant implementers to ensure a clear distinction of project feedback versus implementation from the same individual.

Political willingness to be inclusive

CCM's recognition and respect of different voices including youth and the political will to recognize youth's participation in other decision-making spaces is shown as key to sustainable constituency contribution in the long run. The rules of the governing body could be amended to meet this purpose. For example, the establishment of a partnership committee within the CCM of one Type 1 country enabled key populations including youth to discuss among themselves the issues that they would like to put forward in their own language and raised the issues collectively in CCM high-level discussions. Many youth CCM members state that clear and transparent communications enhanced youth accessing firsthand knowledge and allowed sufficient time to prepare for meetings. Others indicated that dialogue with YKPs and consultants facilitated a more inclusive and comprehensive participation of a diverse youth population. Additionally, a youth shared that her country's policy on youth engagement in the National Youth Council has allowed youth to have direct linkage with the government.

Forged alliance, partnerships, and collaboration at regional and country level

Across all three types of countries, both young people and other stakeholders stressed the importance of identifying key partners, including CCM members to understand and support youth advocacy efforts within the CCM and GF-related meeting discussions. A few youth CCM shared that supportive CCM members such as key population representatives were good allies to endorse youth issues within the meetings. Many youth members in Type 2 and Type 3 countries shared that they reached out to other CCM key population representatives to raise their issues and receive updates of the CCM and GF-related meetings. Both young people and other stakeholders in Type 2 countries acknowledged that the support of regional youth networks facilitated advocacy on youth issues, and resource mobilization for in-country dialogue and workshops. Other support includes financial and technical support from development partners in creating interventions on youth-focused projects and data collection, and mentorship and supportive supervision from CCM members.

KEY CHALLENGES OF YOUTH'S INVOLVEMENT IN CCM AND GF RELATED PROCESSES

Structural Gaps

In Type 1 and Type 2 countries, young people and other stakeholders indicated that the absence of terms of reference, inconsistent or unclear definition of youth across countries, lack of procedures on youth representative appointment and guidance material for CCM youth engagement hindered youth's meaningful participation and contribution. Additionally, youth organizations or members of those organizations which were not registered were not allowed to participate as CCM members, sub-recipient or implementing units. Other gaps or challenges include restrictive policy of alternate youth representatives to participate in meetings, lack of youth-centered funding, lack of youth centered interventions beyond service delivery, and limited time for fund utilization to conduct community dialogue or visits.

Lack of enabling environment

Across all types of countries, young people and other stakeholders shared that youth's meaningful participation were frequently impeded by cultural norms including youth not being allowed to speak up, internalized stigma, and the lack of confidence due to their status as key populations or people living with HIV. Absence of support and discussion with other CCM members, language barriers, insufficient funding to support youth's communication and activities related to CCM, and a tokenistic approach to engage youth were also cited as key challenges for youth's meaningful participation in CCM and Global Fund related activities. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted communication in terms of adaptation to the use of online platforms and accessibility to virtual meetings for those with limited internet access. The pandemic also affected the implementation of site visits by CCM which resulted in lack of oversight.

Limited Capacity Building and Youth Representation

All three types of countries conveyed that youth had limited capacity building and were poorly represented. Capacities that were lacking included advocacy skills to address youth issues, e.g. advocacy based on strategic information; comprehension of GF terminology and its mechanism; programmatic experiences; proposal writing, organizational and project management; and knowledge on health-related information. All these deficiencies resulted in limited contribution of youth in funding requests, grant making and program review. Additionally, some young people and other stakeholders in Type 1 and 2 countries highlighted the gaps of inclusive youth representation in CCM or in national platforms. These gaps encompass representation of youth in limited diseases (for example, most youth were involved in HIV, rather than TB and Malaria), inability of youth to leverage on existing networks to create stronger advocacy, and lack of nomination and selection of youth due to preference of more experienced individuals. In Type 3 countries, absence of youth representation in both national advocacy and in CCM was considered as one of the challenges that contributed to the lack of youth-centered strategies and funding. Youth were not assigned in leadership positions to represent their communities.



3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are provided in relation to the governance, communications, capacity building, representation and engagement of youth, and resource mobilization for youth’s meaningful engagement in CCM or GF related processes.

Recommendations	Who to implement	Estimated timeline
Governance Recommendations		
1. Develop a simplified guide to support CCM and youth at country-level in defining youth in CCM (with age threshold), their roles and responsibilities and governance to ensure meaningful and sustained engagement of youth at country discussions.	GF, CCM, and Youth LEAD	October—December 2022 (regional and in-country)
2. Ensure that CCM Evolution and other CCM-related governance activities include youth specific components and priorities to ensure youth’s engagement at all levels of the GF processes.	GF, CCM, youth networks/organizations	On-going (regional and in-country)
3. Institutionalize the support for youth CCMa) A. Involve youth in the development, planning and implementation of CCM-related governance and activities. b) Facilitate the involvement of youth in the development of terms of references, guidance notes, orientation, meeting’s agenda, community consultations, oversight checklist, and consolidation of input from constituencies during funding request, and grant implementation. c) Youth LEAD could provide existing available resources to countries that require such support	CCM, youth networks/organizations, Youth LEAD	On-going (in-country)
Communications Recommendations		
4. Develop and disseminate terms of reference and ensure language is key-population and youth friendly. Ensure translation is available in the local language.	CCM	Orientation workshop at the beginning of newly elected CCM members’ term (in-country)
5. Develop a Youth CCM information and sharing platform. a) Share up-to-date databases of youth CCM members, youth engaged in GF Processes and existing country youth networks in the Asia Pacific, and keep members informed on regional activities on a quarterly basis via social media/platform.b) This platform could potentially be a cross-learning platform as well for members to share their experiences and ways they address issues. b). This platform could potentially be a cross-learning platform as well for members to share their experiences and ways they address issues.	Youth LEAD	October 2022—October 2023, and reassess platform for continuation (regional)

Recommendations	Who to implement	Estimated timeline
<p>6. Develop communication strategies, plan and tools for each CCM term at country level.</p> <p>a) Strengthen feedback mechanism by leveraging existing best practices and adapt them into local settings.</p> <p>b) Develop campaign strategies to promote CCM and also recruitment of youth CCM members.</p> <p>c) Develop tools and reference on CCM governance.</p> <p>d) Ensure youth-specific approaches are included.</p>	CCM	First quarter of CCM's new term (in-country)
<p>7. Develop a one-page guidance note or policy brief on youth involvement in CCM based on this situational report. Adapt and translate in different languages to cater to the youth and key populations at country level.</p>	Youth LEAD	October to December 2022 (regional)
Capacity Building Recommendations		
<p>8. Mentor and capacitate youth in their roles as alternate CCM members to later transition them as CCM members.</p> <p>a) Ensure at least one of the alternate CCM members for key populations is below age of <25.</p> <p>b) Capacitate and transition him/her to potentially be an elected CCM member representing key population or youth after the completion of his/her term as alternate member.</p>	CCM and youth organizations/networks	Throughout the term of a newly elected alternate CCM member (in-country)
<p>9. Develop and implement capacity building plan at every CCM term (2 years).</p> <p>a) Youth specific training should be led by youth member(s) with the support of key population and other CCM members to ensure ownership and relevance of the activities.</p> <p>b) Ensure coordination with other CCM members in developing the training plan to ensure integration and avoid overlap.</p>	CCM, youth organizations/networks	First quarter of CCM's new term (in-country)

Recommendations	Who to implement	Estimated timeline
<p>10. Develop a regional platform, where a mentor-mentee program could be formalized in the Asia Pacific region.</p> <p>a) This platform potentially could mobilize youth with CCM experience to provide guidance and support to newly elected youth CCM members in the region.</p> <p>b) This platform can also serve as a cross-learning program for youth from countries with youth CCM and countries without youth CCM members but engaged in GF related processes.</p>	Youth LEAD	October 2022—October 2023, and reassess platform for continuation (regional)
<p>11. Leverage upcoming regional and in-country youth and key population related consultations to present this situational analysis report and develop actionable and achievable in country and regional advocacy/training/activity plans to strengthen youth involvement in CCM and GF related activities.</p>	Youth LEAD, youth organizations/networks	On-going
Representation and Engagement of Youth Recommendations		
<p>12. Ensure a seat for youth in CCM, specifically, in countries with high incidence and prevalence of youth or young key populations in HIV/TB/Malaria, and where countries have prioritized youth-specific interventions and targets in their national strategic plans and GF country grants should have at least a seat for youth CCM.</p>	GF (Country Team, CCM Hub and CRG), youth networks/organizations, CCM	Prior to next election of CCM (in-country)
<p>13. Identify existing youth platforms and mobilize youth in advocacy efforts to ensure youth involvement in GF related processes and increase visibility of CCM among a wider network of youth.</p>	Youth networks/organizations, CCM	On-going (in-country)
<p>14. Ensure youth involvement in the nomination and election process of youth CCM members.</p>	CCM	Prior to next election of CCM (in-country)
Resource Mobilization Recommendations		
<p>15. Interagency collaboration (among development partners, CCM, Ministry of Health) to support youth specific funding in technical assistance or capacity building activities.</p>	CCM, Ministry of Health, Development partners	On-going
<p>16. Mapping and coordination of existing technical support and funding availability to support in-country advocacy and activities related to strengthening youth in CCM and GF related processes.</p>	Youth LEAD, in-country development partners	On-going

A. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Global Fund (GF) requires government and non-government stakeholders at the country, regional level and sub-national levels to define a clear mechanism for the coordination of their joint efforts to access and utilize GF financing. The Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) are mechanisms for public-private partnership in the coordination of national disease programs (HIV, TB, Malaria) that submit funding applications to the GF. The CCM's role include coordinating the development of the national request for funding, nominating the Principal Recipient, overseeing the implementation of approved grants, approving any reprogramming requests, and ensuring linkages and consistency between GF grants and other national health and development programs. The CCM policy outlines the importance of having civil society representatives, including individuals or organizations representing children and young people. The GF policy also encourages CCMs to preferably include young people themselves through representatives of organizations established and led by young people.

Young people's engagement and involvement in the CCM is critical in ensuring effective response to eliminate HIV, TB, and Malaria disease among children and youth. UNAIDS data 2019 shows that more than one quarter (27%) of new infections in Asia and the Pacific were among young people (aged 15 to 24 years). Overall, 99% of new HIV infections among young people were among young key populations and their partners. However, in a recent mapping assessment of youth engagement in CCM of 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific, only seven countries reported that they have CCM members representing young people or young key populations, and 50% of the total responses (n=29) have ever engaged in the GF funding request country dialogues.

This report triangulated HIV, TB, and Malaria epidemiological data with National Strategic Plans (NSPs), GF's latest Funding Request documents of all three diseases, and youth representations in CCM of the respective 18 countries to identify gaps of youth involvement and engagement in the CCM (see Table 1 and Annex A). These youth representations are referring to individuals under the age of 30 holding positions in CCM who represent either youth (general i.e., not affected by HIV), young persons living with HIV (YPLHIV), or young key population. The analysis shows that although some countries include priority interventions in their GF funding requests, youth remain unrepresented in their CCM. These include Bangladesh and India which include priority interventions for young people and young key populations in their NSPs for HIV, TB, and Malaria, and youth specific interventions in their HIV and/or TB grants, but no youth is represented in their CCMs. Similarly, though Indonesia has a high HIV incidence among young people (age 15-24), prioritization of young people in both HIV and TB's NSPs, and included youth-specific interventions in the GF's HIV Funding Request, youth are not represented in the CCM. Additionally, there are countries with no youth CCM's representatives but show high HIV incidence among young people, have NSPs for HIV and GF's HIV Funding Requests, including Laos and Papua New Guinea. Other countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Cambodia have prioritization of youth interventions in their HIV NSPs but no youth CCM's representation and youth specific interventions in their GF's HIV funding request.

Table 1: Mapping of youth CCM with epidemiological data, NSPs, and GF Funding Request

Countries	Diseases	Incidence Rate* HIV: per 1000 population (age 15-24)TB: per 100,000 population (general)Malaria: per 1000 population (general)	Youth interventions in NSPs	GF country Grant (YKP/youth interventions)	Youth CCM representative
Bangladesh	HIV	N/A	Yes	Yes	No
	TB	218	Yes	Yes	No
	Malaria	0.7	Yes	No	No
Bhutan	HIV	0.06 [0.01-0.21]	Yes	Yes	No
	TB	165	Yes	Yes	No
	Malaria	0.0	No	No	No
Cambodia	HIV	0.15 [0.12-0.18]	Yes	No	No
	TB	274	No	No	No
	Malaria	23.7	No	No	No
India	HIV	N/A	Yes	Yes	No
	TB	188	Yes	No	No
	Malaria	5.3	Yes	No	No
Indonesia	HIV	0.30 [0.22-0.34]	Yes	Yes	No
	TB	301	Yes	No	No
	Malaria	3.9	No	No	No
Iran	HIV	0.03 [0.01-0.14]	N/A	Yes	Yes (2)
	TB	13	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Malaria	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lao	HIV	0.03 [0.2-00.30]	Yes	Yes	No
	TB	149	No	No	No
	Malaria	4.2	No	No	No
Malaysia	HIV	0.21 [0.18-0.24]	Yes	Yes	Yes
	TB	92	No	N/A	N/A
	Malaria	0	No	N/A	N/A
Mongolia	HIV	<0.1 [<0.1-0.1]	Yes	No	Yes
	TB	437	No	No	No
	Malaria	N/A.	No	N/A	N/A
Nepal	HIV	0.02 [0.01-0.02]	Yes	No	No
	TB	235	No	No	No
	Malaria	0.44	No	No	No
Pakistan	HIV	0.13 [0.10-0.16]	Yes	Yes	No
	TB	259	No	No	No
	Malaria	3.382	No	No	No
PNG	HIV	0.35 [0.24-0.45]	Yes	Yes	No
	TB	150	No	No	No
	Malaria	184.466	No	No	No

Countries	Diseases	Incidence Rate* HIV: per 1000 population (age 15-24)TB: per 100,000 population (general)Malaria: per 1000 population (general)	Youth interventions in NSPs	GF country Grant (YKP/youth interventions)	Youth CCM representative
Philippines	HIV	0.39 [0.26-0.46]	Yes	Yes	Yes
	TB	539	No	No	No
	Malaria	0.177	No	No	No
Sri Lanka	HIV	<0.01 [<0.01-0.01]	Yes	No	No
	TB	64	No	No	No
	Malaria	0	No	N/A	N/A
Thailand	HIV	0.35 [0.24-0.45]	Yes	Yes	Yes
	TB	150	No	Yes	No
	Malaria	0.363	N/A	No	No
Timor-Leste	HIV	0.08 [0.03-0.13]	N/A	Yes	Yes (3)
	TB	508	Yes	No	No
	Malaria	0	N/A	No	No
Viet Nam	HIV	0.07 [0.05-0.08]	Yes	N/A	No
	TB	176	No	Yes	No
	Malaria	0.082	No	No	No
Multi-country Western Pacific	HIV	Country specific	N/A	Yes	No
	TB	Country specific	N/A	Yes	No
	Malaria	Country specific	N/A	No	No

Source: 1. <https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>, 2. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/>

B. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The overall study aims to produce evidence on the current level of engagement of young people in CCMs to inform ongoing young people, in particular young key population (YKP) and young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) with HIV advocacy for strengthened YKP representation in CCMs in Asia and the Pacific countries. Beyond that, results aim to provide a guideline and evidence to the CCM decision makers to increase meaningful YKP engagement as well as orient and mobilize technical partner support for identified engagement opportunities and priorities. The first phase of the study is a mapping assessment of 17 countries and one region (Western Pacific) conducted between September 2021 to December 2021. The mapping survey explores the presence of young people under the age of 27 as official CCM members, their preferred method of contact, tenure in CCM, enabling environment and support mechanism, and youth engagement in the CCM and GF process (see Annex 2 for full report).

This report covers the second phase of the study and focuses on assessing the challenges and opportunities faced by young people with regards to their meaningful engagement in the CCM as well as developing concrete recommendations on how to strengthen participation of young people in GF and related decision-making processes.

A. PURPOSE STATEMENT

Using a grounded theory approach, this study employed in-depth-interviews (IDIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) to explore existing challenges and opportunities/facilitating factors for successful youth engagement in CCM. Additionally, the study employed in-depth interviews to document case studies of successful engagement and representation of young people in CCM and youth’s engagement in the GF and related processes. Outcomes of this formative research will be used to inform and develop concrete and pragmatic recommendations on ways to strengthen participation of young people in GF and related decision-making processes in Asia and the Pacific.

B. MAIN QUESTION

What are the perceived challenges and opportunities to meaningfully engage youth in CCM? (See Annex C for Interview Guide)

Sub-questions

1. What are the experiences and perceptions of the youth CCM members towards CCM’s process and engagement of their respective countries?
2. What are the experiences and perceptions of the youth who are not represented in CCM but were actively engaged in the GF and related processes towards CCM’s process and engagement of their respective countries?
3. What are the experiences and perceptions of the youth who are not represented in CCM and were not engaged in the GF and related processes towards CCM’s process and engagement of their respective countries?
4. What are the experiences and perceptions of the stakeholders towards the involvement of youth CCM and youth who are not represented as CCM members in the CCM’s process and engagement of their respective countries?
5. Based on the experiences and perceptions of the youth CCM, youth who are not represented as CCM members, and stakeholders, how do they envision their roles and what support is required in the CCM process to ensure meaningful engagement of young people in CCM?



C. SAMPLING AND RECRUITMENT

1. AXIS OF DIVERSITY

CCM with Youth Representatives (i.e. a youth seat in CCM)

Understanding the experiences of youth CCM members will help determine the challenges and opportunities of engaging youth in the CCM. General youth are likely to face challenges in informing and gathering input from affected YKPs and vulnerable youth and having adequate information on these affected populations. Focusing on general youth will shed light on the degree of inclusivity in terms of raising youth issues as well as their challenges in representing young KP). Young KPs or young PLHIV represented in CCM are more likely to collect input from their respective constituencies and disseminate key issues/actions discussed at CCM to their peers. However, they may not be likely to do the same for different YKPs. Understanding the experience of those having two constituencies will help increase awareness on the potential opportunities and challenges of serving two groups. This includes, for instance, how capacity building, monitoring, oversight, and resource allocation differ in each group and the ways they can be consolidated.

CCM with NO youth Representatives but youth are involved in GF process

Youth who are not representatives or members of CCM are less likely to understand the GF and CCM structure and have a feedback mechanism to their constituency. Engaging this group of youth would provide input on how mechanisms beyond CCM works for YKPs in terms of effectiveness in monitoring of grant/program and feedback to GF. The feedback will also shed light on the degree of representation of KPs in different aspects of the program and projects.

CCM with NO youth representatives and youth are NOT known to be involved in GF process

Youth who are not represented in CCM nor engaged in the GF and related process are less likely to understand the GF and CCM structure. They may, however, be actively engaged in other national or subnational advocacy platforms for HIV/TB/Malaria. Including this group of youth would help understand ways to gather input from youth on GF youth-specific interventions/targets, and to generate awareness of the CCM platform among youth.

In-country Stakeholders (UNAIDS, Ministry of Health (MoH), CCM secretariat, other KPs/civil society organizations, other CCM members)

Understanding stakeholders' experience with youth allows for the development of strategic ways to engage country stakeholders and gain their support and technical assistance in ensuring meaningful engagement and representation of youth.

2. SAMPLING FRAMEWORK AND RATIONALE

Table 2: Sampling Framework and Rationale

		GF grants* with youth-specific interventions (14)	GF grants* without youth-specific interventions (4)	Proposed IDI / FGD Sampling	Rationale and Comments
CCM Youth (n=7)		Iran Malaysia Philippines Thailand Timor-Leste Vietnam	Mongolia	1 FGD – youth CCM members 3-4 IDIs – youth CCM members 6-8 IDIs – UN, govt, CCM Sec	Consultant will conduct one FGD among all youth CCM members consisting of:1. General youth (Iran, Mongolia, Timor-Leste)2. Young KPs and PLHIV (Timor-Leste)3. Young KP and alternative representation of other population (Malaysia, Thailand)Consultants will conduct 3-4 IDIs for each sub-group to collect more in-depth information to document as case studies. They will conduct 6-8 IDIs among stakeholders to document best practices/experiences.
Youths who are not represented in CCM (n=11)	Youths involved in GF process (n=4)	Bhutan India Indonesia	Nepal	3 FGDs – youths involved in GF process8-10 IDIs – UN, govt, CCM Sec, other youth	Consultants will conduct 3 FGDs (1 for each respective country except Bhutan) to include youths involved in GF processes. The youths include young people living with or affected by HIV, young KPs at national or subnational level. 8-10 IDIs will be conducted among stakeholders to further collect data on their perspective of youth involvement in GF and its related processes.
	Youths not known to be involved in GF process (n=7)	Bangladesh Laos Pakistan Papua New Guinea Western Pacific	Cambodia Sri Lanka	9-10 FGDs– youth/young KP not known to be involved in GF processes1-2 FGDs – Youth ex-CCM members4-6 IDIs – UN4-6 IDIs – govt4-6 IDIs – CCM Sec	Consultants will conduct 9-10 FGDs in 4 selected countries/region among KPs, stakeholders, and young KP/PLHIV not involved in GF processes based on the selection criteria below and also availability of conducting FGDs in those countries: 1.Youth interventions in both NSP HIV and HIV FR, high HIV incidence among youth and TB incidence (PNG) 2. Youth interventions in all NSPs (TB/HIV/Malaria) and HIV and TB FR (Bangladesh)3. Youth interventions with NSP HIV but no youth interventions HIV FR, almost achieved 90-90-90 (Cambodia)4. Youth interventions in GF FR and regional coordination mechanism (RCM) perspective (Western Pacific)1-2 FGDs for youth CCM members over age of 30 12-18 IDIs will be conducted among stakeholders among the 5 selected countries (Philippines, PNG, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Western Pacific)
				Total:14-16 FGDs, 29-40 IDIs	

*Grants have component of youth-specific interventions in HIV and TB or HIV only

D. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

1. RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES

Purposive sampling was used for the recruitment (refer to sampling framework) for the FGDs and IDIs. The selection process for youth CCM is based on input of the Phase 1's mapping exercise of this study, while stakeholders are through the countries' CCM secretariat, GF Fund Portfolio Managers or Country Teams, and in-country Youth LEAD's or national KP networks' recommendation. Based on the countries' FGDs and recommendations from countries' stakeholders and Youth LEAD, we identified the IDIs interviewees for youth not represented in CCM and other stakeholders.

2. DESCRIPTION of data collection procedures and analysis

We developed a focus group and in-depth interview guide, recorded, and summarized the FGDs and IDIs, and translated where necessary. Youth LEAD supported in the coordination of interviews and all IDIs and FGDs were conducted via Zoom, WhatsApp, or Google Meet, except for Cambodia's FGD for youth which was a face-to-face FGD.

Countries such as India, Cambodia, and Vietnam required local facilitators or translators in the FGDs or IDIs. The FGD among youth in Cambodia was conducted face-to-face and in Khmer language with the support of a local facilitator. The study team provided training for the facilitator prior to the FGD, and FGD was transcribed and translated back to English. As for India and Vietnam, Youth LEAD mobilized local youth members to provide simultaneous translation during the FGD and IDI. Qualitative data obtained through structured interviews and focus group discussions were collated, organized, and summarized and subsequently reviewed to identify core thematic content.

E. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The risks associated with participating in this study are minimal. The topic of the interview may be sensitive or uncomfortable for some participants to discuss. To avoid participants feeling judged or criticized during the interview process, the interviewees explained the purpose of the interview, the interviewer's role and commitment to remain non-judgmental regarding any issue discussed, and assurance that we were seeking to explore and learn from their experiences. Interviewees had the option to remain anonymous if they felt their disclosure may affect their future engagement in the CCM process. Interviewers obtained verbal consent prior to the start of the interview sessions.

A. PARTICIPANTS DESCRIPTION

From 22 March 2022 to 31 May 2022, three consultants conducted 30 IDIs and 8 FGDs with a total of 64 participants(youth=38 participants, and stakeholders=26 participants) in 14 countries, and one region (Western Pacific). We interviewed 30 participants in IDI and 34 participants in FGDs.

Figure 1 and 2 illustrate the distribution of participants (stakeholders and youth) by country types and their roles in CCM or other national platforms. The country types are as follows:

Type 1: CCM with youth representatives,

Type 2: CCM without youth representatives but involved in GF processes

Type 3: CCM without youth representatives and youth NOT known to be involved in GF processes

The number of participants is evenly distributed among the type of countries: Type 1 with 20 participants, Type 2 with 23 participants, Type 3 with 21 participants). While the figures show that Type 1 countries had the highest participants in IDIs (n=14), Type 3 countries had most participants in FGDs (n=15). A total of 2 FGDs for youth were conducted in Type 1 countries, 3 FGDs for youth in Type 2 countries, and 2 FGDs for youth and 1 FGD for stakeholder in Type 3 countries.

Figure 1: Number of Participants by Country Types for IDIs

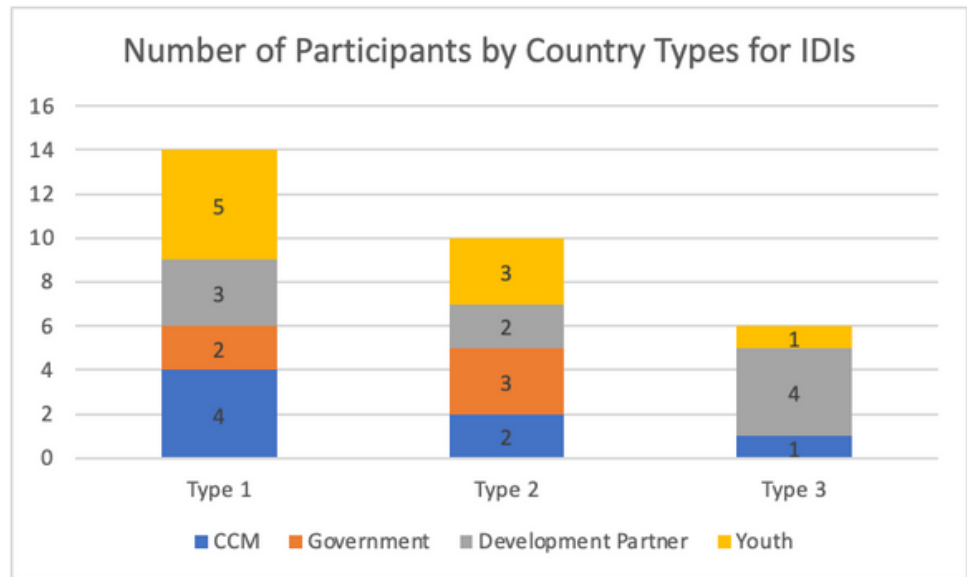


Figure 2: Number of Participants by Country Types for FGDs

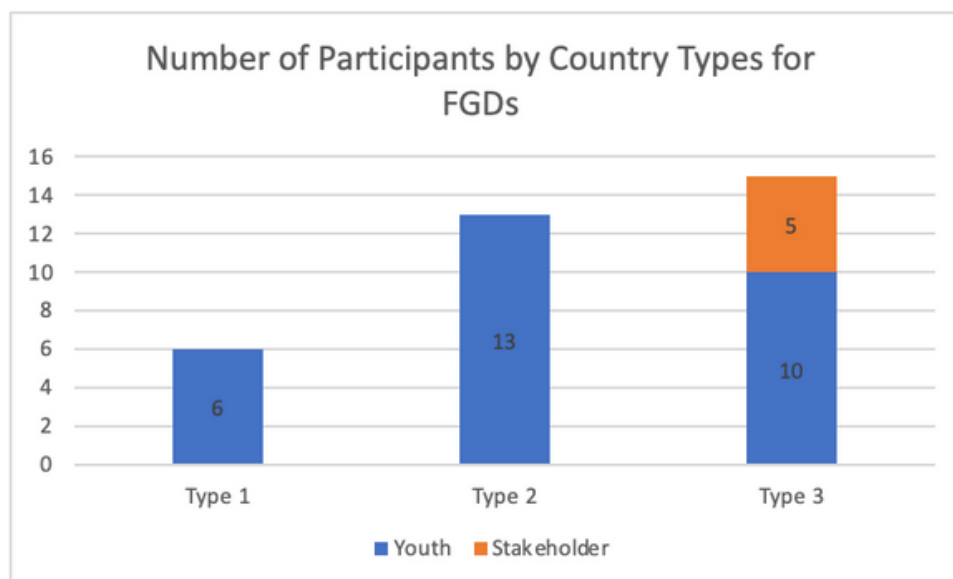
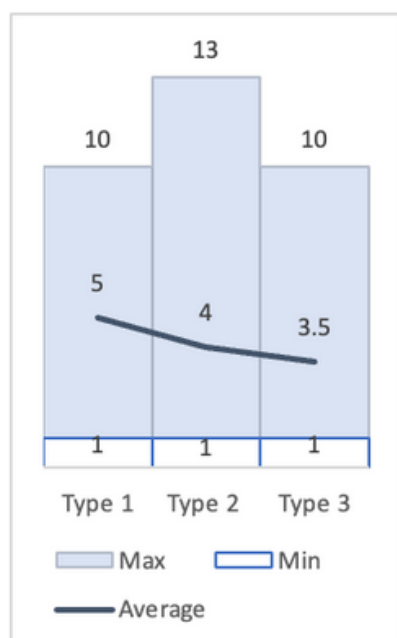


Figure 3 describes the number of years stakeholder participants served as a CCM member by countries type. The average years served in CCM is higher for non-youth stakeholders (5 years for Type 1 countries, 4 years for Type 2 countries, and 3.5 years for Type 3 countries) compared to youth CCM members which is three years. Additionally, the maximum number of years stakeholders serve as CCM members is 13 years while youth CCM members is five years. The mean or average age of youth CCM representatives is 27, with the min (lowest) age at 25 and max (highest) age at 31.

Figure 2: Number of Participants by Country Types for FGDs



B. PERCEIVED ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (STAKEHOLDERS VS YOUTH, COMPARISON OF TYPE 1-3 COUNTRIES)

This section delineates the perceived roles and responsibilities of study participants. Table 3 shows that stakeholders in different types of countries have similar perceived roles and scope of work while youth have different perceived roles and responsibilities based on their level of engagement in CCM and GF-related processes.

Table 3: Perceived Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders and Youth by Country Types

Respondents	Stakeholders	Youth	
		Similarities	Nuances
Type 1 Countries: Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding request development • Strategic direction review • Grant performance oversight • Technical support throughout grant implementation • Communication among memberships and constituencies • Governance maintenance including election • Community inclusiveness improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth advocacy • Program management capability • Resource mobilization for youth • Capacity building for youth • Lived story sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth perspectives to funding request development • Grant performance oversight • Liaison between CCM and youth constituency • The right to vote
Type 2 Countries: Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GF-related program implementation • Engagement in other national level decision-making spaces
Type 3 Countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, PNG, Western Pacific			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with local level stakeholders

2. PERCEIVED ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS

The stakeholders involved in the study across the three types of countries consisted of CCM secretariat coordinators, Chair, Vice-Chair, representatives from government sectors and development partners such as UNAIDS and WHO. Although participants were in different positions within CCM, they reported similar views of their roles with regard to their involvement in the process.

Most stakeholders including government officials, development partners and constituencies representatives reported that they were often engaged in the funding request development process to determine strategic direction, programmatic priorities and budget allocation of the grant and make sure it aligns with the National Strategic Plan (NSP). During the grant implementation, regular meetings and field visits were held to update and oversee the grant performance, and this process of identifying potential bottlenecks also allowed timely technical support to come in and ensure smooth grant implementation, as well as monitoring, evaluation and final report writing.

Beside the active roles in the grant cycle, stakeholders stated that they were also responsible for healthy governance of the CCM. Their regular duties included participation in meetings, providing meaningful feedback during discussions and communicating with respective constituencies, and working with CCM to make informed decisions concerning populations affected by grant programs. Some of them had specific roles in different technical working groups, committees based on their expertise to contribute to the operation of the CCM. For the composition of the membership, it was imperative to ensure diverse representations of different stakeholders through CCM elections.

1. PERCEIVED ROLES OF YOUTH

Due to the distinct level of engagement in CCM/GF-related processes, there were different perceived responsibilities and experiences reported by youth participants from the three types of countries. However, the study identified some common themes of youth's perceived roles and responsibilities (not limiting to only CCM):

- **Youth advocacy:** Youth advocates regardless of engagement with CCM often worked with youth organizations/networks which provide better understanding of youth issues' uniqueness.
- **Program management capability:** Youth were capable in project coordination, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation. Many youth participants reported that their organizations/networks provided service delivery to diverse young key populations and conducted outreach work such as case-finding, and harm reduction.
- **Resource mobilization:** Many youth participants reported that their organizations collaborated with stakeholders like UNAIDS, UNICEF, Ministry of Education to implement youth-centered programs. These initiatives indicate youth's ability to manage donor relations and strive for resources to sustain services catering the needs of youth.
- **Capacity building:** Many youth participants shared that they were often described as a population with insufficient capacity to carry out work. However, some youth organizations started community empowerment by training members with advocacy strategy plans, proposal writing, policy briefing, monitoring and evaluation of existing programs.
- **Sharing of life experiences:** Some youth emphasized that youth consisted of diverse populations such as MSM, transgender, drug user, sex worker, PLHIV, or indigenous people with different sets of issues and challenges. Most youth participants pointed out that their life experiences could only be told by and for themselves.

In addition to the above prevalent trajectory of youth advocacy, youth in different tier of countries reported their roles and responsibilities in CCM and other platforms. In Type 1 Countries, Youth CCM members shared their liability as an official CCM member but also pointed out that the inclusiveness of youth in the CCM must be improved. In Type 2 Countries, youth had made progress in other decision-making forums and started their involvement with CCM as recipients. While in Type 3 Countries, youth talked about advocacy efforts and limited opportunities to engage at high-level spaces.

TYPE 1 COUNTRIES: CCM WITH YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Youth CCM membership:

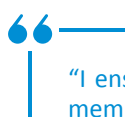
All youth representatives reported that they were able to bring forward the issues of young people to the CCM. Their voting rights and ability to present issues at the ground level enhanced their capacity to directly influence the direction of the grant implementation and ensure the youth agenda is placed in program design.

Oversight work:

A few youth representatives reported that they sat in an oversight committee which allowed them to observe and provide feedback on implementation challenges and opportunities, to work with different stakeholders, to negotiate high-level decision making, and to share the lesson learned to the youth constituency.

Liaison:

Some youth representatives reported they were able to assist in conducting consultations, meetings, webinars or mini country dialogue to gather youth constituency feedback informing CCM decisions. The communication channels such as email, WhatsApp group, social media and online platforms were used to share meeting materials, summary of the meetings, key decisions made on existing grants and planning for future grants.



"I ensure young people are in all decision making. If members could not join, the minutes of the meetings are sent to their emails"

--Youth CCM representative



TYPE 2 COUNTRIES: CCM WITHOUT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES BUT INVOLVED IN GF PROCESSES

GF-related program implementation:

Youth organizations/networks advocate engaged in GF-related process, although they were not elected as an official CCM member. Some made efforts to meet the eligibility of being sub-recipients, implementing partners and carried out youth-focused programs under GF grant.

Engagement in other national-level decision-making spaces:

Some youth reported there were other decision-making spaces such as National AIDS Control Organization, UN agencies dialogue meetings which served as alternate entry points to push forward youth agenda. Young people felt it also leveraged the potential engagement of young people in the CCM in the future.



“There were no young people represented in the national working group previously, but we advocated for youth involvement in the national working group. ...[Now] National AIDS Control Organization under MOH is starting to involve young people in the consultation or any kind of SOP development, or national level consultation, dialogue, and planning.”

– Youth advocates



TYPE 3 COUNTRIES: CCM WITH NO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUTH NOT KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED IN GF PROCESSES

Engagement with local level stakeholders:

It is observed that youth not known to be involved in GF-related processes often lacked the opportunities to be engaged at high-level decision-making spaces. Some youth reported their advocacy and program implementation efforts were limited to sub-national/provincial level and they did not have the capacity to engage at national level.



F. FACILITATORS/POSITIVE EXPERIENCES (STAKEHOLDERS VS YOUTH, COMPARISON WITH TYPE 1-3 COUNTRIES)

This section aims to describe the facilitators or positive experiences of the stakeholder and youth participants in all three types of countries. These facilitative experiences of the stakeholders and the youth population can serve as references for future positive interactions.

Table 3: Perceived Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders and Youth by Country Types

Respondents	Input from Stakeholders	Input from Youth
Type 1 Countries: Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive engagement in CCM • Strong youth leadership • Clear framework and action plan • Political willingness • Financial and technical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visible youth agenda • Engagement throughout process • Supportive CCM members • Friendly and consistent updates • YKP consultation/dialogue • Prior experience
Type 2 Countries: Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement in proposal writing and grant development process • Strong youth leadership • Regional network support • Professional skills • Mentorship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program implementation • Regional network support • Supportive CCM members • Partnership in decision-making spaces • Capacity building
Type 3 Countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Western Pacific, PNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive communication • Program involvement and awareness generating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion CCM members • Enabling environment

3. TYPE 1 COUNTRIES: CCM WITH YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Stakeholders

- **Proactive engagement in CCM:**

Many stakeholders reported that youth CCM representatives were enthusiastic about project implementation and activities, raised questions, provided constructive suggestions during consultative meetings, funding requests, and progress update meetings. Their inputs strengthened CCM governance in advancing youth related issues and improving the inclusion of youth in discussions.

- **Strong youth leadership:**

With strong interest in CCM operation, youth CCM representatives were able to familiarize themselves with complex health jargons in GF-related projects. Many stakeholders indicated that the youth CCM representatives were able to digest and turn that knowledge into key points to share with youth constituents.

- **Clear framework and action plan:**

Many stakeholders pointed out that a clear framework helped youth to gain concrete understanding about ways they could collaborate and propose to CCM when youth-related issues can be very different in KPs such as men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people (TG), drug users, sex workers. Having clear strategic direction and framework supported youth's engagement in the system and further strengthened their participation.

▪ **Political willingness to be inclusive:**

Some stakeholders emphasized that CCM’s recognition and respect of different voices including youth is the key to sustainable constituency contribution in the long run. Therefore, the rule of the governing body could be amended to meet the purpose. For example, one country established a partnership committee, outlined in the CCM operational guideline, which acts as a forum for key populations including youth to identify the unmet needs in the current program and consolidate recommendations for future grants. The election of this committee was based on invitation to existing networks to elect among themselves for disease and KPs representatives including youth. In this way, the networks could discuss among themselves the issues that they would like to put forward in their own language and comfort and raised the issues collectively in CCM high-level discussion. This political willingness to be inclusive is critical to facilitate meaningful engagement among young people and YKPs.

▪ **Financial and technical support:**

Some stakeholders recognized that youth were aware of the issues at the grassroots level and were inspired by their constituents to develop innovative ideas that have potential to expand. Financial and technical support from development partners facilitated youth in developing innovative ideas/interventions on youth-focused projects and data collection.



“We give them [youth] the framework that we already want to work with, for them to take action, and we provide tools that help them out in implementing, particularly in advocacy for social mobilization.”

– Ministry of Health representative



Youth

▪ **Visible youth agenda:**

CCM members indicated that they had opportunities to present youth issues in CCM meetings and this allowed other constituencies to have deeper understanding about youth issues and have their questions addressed. In addition, a few supportive secretariats would follow up with CCM members to submit supplementary comments on meeting minutes if they were not able to attend the meeting.

▪ **Engagement throughout the process:**

As official members, youth CCM were eligible to participate in funding development processes and able to review and question proposals and budget. Some of them were also involved in technical working groups, field visits which improved their understanding of the issues and witnessed positive changes generated by the programs.

▪ **Supportive CCM members:**

A few youth CCM shared that other supportive CCM members such as key population representatives were good allies to endorse youth issues within discussion.

▪ **Friendly and consistent updates:**

Many youth CCM stated that accessible first-hand information of all discussion in meetings was helpful for them to keep their constituents informed. Additionally, the meeting notification such as agenda and discussion items that were shared in advance provided sufficient time for youth to prepare for meetings.

- **YKP consultation/dialogue:**

Youth CCM are unable to make an impact if they do not learn from their constituents regularly; many youth CCM representatives felt that one of the facilitative elements was collecting youth perspectives through YKP dialogue and consultations. For example, two countries involved youth consultants who were supported by Youth LEAD to facilitate consultation with youth organizations, YKP, and young people in the development of funding requests for HIV and C19RM grants. These consultations provided a safe platform for young people to provide their input in funding requests and prioritize interventions and strategies for the program. One country successfully pushed through two out of six youth-centered interventions to be included in a funding request.

- **Prior programmatic experiences:**

A youth CCM member shared that his previous program implementation experiences helped him in his engagement in GF related processes and allowed him to walk other youth through the process and technicalities of GF.

4. TYPE 2 COUNTRIES: CCM WITHOUT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES BUT INVOLVED IN GF PROCESSES

Stakeholders

- **Engagement in proposal writing and grant development process:**

Although these countries have no official youth CCM members, some stakeholders reported that youth were able to engage at a certain stage within GF-related processes such as country dialogue or consultation prior to funding request development. The recent C19RM funding proposals have made a few youths' debut in formal engagement with CCM and even became sub-recipients of the grant to implement programs that mitigate life crisis during pandemic.

- **Strong youth leadership:**

Stakeholders recognized the existence of a strong youth network focusing beyond health issues such as human rights, sexuality and other welfare. One stakeholder highlighted the increased engagement among youth on TB and the success of establishing a special youth group for TB through youth initiative and engagement. This effort demonstrates strong youth leadership and their ability to broaden the scope of advocacy efforts.

- **Regional network support:**

Stakeholders acknowledged that regional networks advocating for youth issues is a facilitative element to mobilize resources for youth in countries where official youth representatives are not in place. The support assisted them to be able to get resources from the GF to implement some youth-led programs through the C19RM fund.



"The helpful thing about being a representative is I have access to information, firsthand information about all the discussions, and the things that facilitates me to understand everything is because I am a program officer, so I am also engaged in the multi-country grant, even in the country grant, so that's one thing that facilitates me as a member of the CCM as I already have the knowledge"

– Youth CCM Member



- **Professional skills:**

Unlike youth representatives in CCM with membership benefits such as voting rights and ability to provide feedback, youth who are engaged in the process but are not youth CCM representatives are more likely to be project implementers. In their collaborative relationship with CCM, several stakeholders were impressed by the youth's approaches and experiences in service delivery. For instance, youth organizations/networks were good at using digital technology to promote information on SRHR, HIV, access to services, and also implement outreach programs that provide psychosocial services. The professionalism and skills of youth organizations/networks create positive impressions among stakeholders and build trust for future collaboration and partnership.

- **Mentorship:**

Many stakeholders expressed the importance of supportive supervision for youth engaged in CCM. One stakeholder participant shared that the CCM assisted a YKP CCM member to moderate discussion and strategize ways to address issues with his constituency.



"With support from Youth LEAD and CCM, we prioritize the key areas that youth would be expecting from the proposal for the first time."

– UNAIDS representative



Youth

▪ **Program implementation:**

Youth involved in the process were usually working on implementation components. Some youth reported that their positive experiences were during dialogues/meetings organized by the GF in which the sub-recipients shared about their experiences and challenges in project implementation. A few youth organizations/networks developed their own community-led monitoring protocol and shared the data with government and other stakeholders.

▪ **Regional network support:**

A few youth organizations/networks were supported by regional networks to conduct youth-focused consultations at the national level and resulted in acquiring a sub-recipient position in C19RM fund.



After the C19RM process, ...we kept trying to talk with leaders to involve young persons. From that one advocacy, they have given one platform, this CSS working group, they said that there should have involvement of young people at this national working group.

– Youth advocate

Capacity building:

A youth advocate reported that she learned about CCM and GF during a community empowerment training. Although it was focusing on key population issues, it still served as an appropriate entry point to learn about the GF related structure and information.

In addition to GF-related knowledge, youth also strive to improve their peers' capacity on developing ideas or proposals, especially focusing on training for youth at rural areas which mitigate rural-urban area youth capacity imbalance to engage in decision-making spaces.



"It was the first time that we have this kind of consultation in Nepal with young people. It's all about the services and the need, engagement of the young people, providing a platform for young people to express the way they are."

– Youth FGD participant

▪ **Supportive CCM members:**

Many youth advocates were constantly reaching out to other CCM KP representatives. A few established connections on individual capacity, but systematically youth are still often seen as a part of KP groups. Hence, obtaining first-hand information within CCM discussion relied much on the information sharing from connections of other CCM KP representatives.

▪ **Partnership in decision-making spaces:**

Although unable to be officially engaged in CCM, a number of youths have developed their advocacy engagement in other decision-making spaces. The involvement in the national working group for youth on community system strengthening, engagement with the Ministry of Health to include young people in national strategic plans and active interaction with government and UN agencies all showed their persistence and determination to push for the youth agenda.



After years of training and workshops given to youth staff in different branches, there is a significant improvement in terms of outreach to community members and the linkage to services have been stronger within the youth network.

– Youth advocate

5. TYPE 3 COUNTRIES: CCM WITH NO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUTH NOT KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED IN GF PROCESSES

Stakeholders

- **Inclusive communication:**

Although Type 3 countries' youth are not known to be involved in GF-related processes, a few stakeholders reported that the engagement of civil societies often included a number of youth members which still allows youth to stay informed and voice their needs.

- **Program involvement and awareness generating:**

A stakeholder stated that countries that have conducted HIV awareness programs tend to improve community engagement. This effort could potentially benefit youth's participation as well.

Youth

- **Supportive CCM members:**

Similar to Type 2 countries' youth, the information young people have about CCM heavily relies on KP representatives' sharing. Unlike the youth that already engage in program implementation where youth issues are well versed in implementation issues, youth not known to be involved in GF processes can only convey their messages through KP representatives to raise the need for youth participation in CCM.

- **Enabling environment:**

Some youth reiterated that respect for diversity and acceptance of different perspectives facilitates an enabling environment for youth advocacy. Some advocacy milestones shared by youth in Type 3 countries include: local level advocacy with the local law enforcement agencies to reduce harassment of PWID, which led to the decrease of harassment, and collaboration with various organizations to support the PLHIV co-infected with COVID-19 with pharmaceutical and relief support.

A youth also emphasized the importance of political will to recognize youth's participation in decision-making spaces. She shared that her country's policy on youth engagement such as National Youth Council, Youth Authority Act has allowed youth to have direct linkage with the government.

G. CHALLENGES (STAKEHOLDERS VS YOUTH, COMPARISON OF TYPE 1-3 COUNTRIES)

This section describes the challenges to meaningfully engage youth in CCM and GF-related processes. It includes perception of both stakeholder and youth in the three types of countries.

Table 5 illustrates the views of stakeholders and youth with regards to challenges of meaningfully engaging youth in CCM or GF related processes.

Table 5: Challenges of Meaningfully Engaging Youth in CCM or GF Related Processes

Respondents	Input by Stakeholder	Input by Youth
Type 1 Countries: Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor youth representative • Limited capacity building • Structural gaps • Lack of enabling environment • Lack of visibility of CCM among youth • Negative individual traits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural gaps • Limited capacity building • Lack of enabling environment
Type 2 Countries: Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited capacity building • Lack of enabling environment • Structural gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of enabling environment • Poor youth representation • Lack of capacity building • Structural gaps
Type 3 Countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Western Pacific, PNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of enabling environment • Poor youth representation • Negative individual traits • Structural gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of enabling environment • Limited capacity building • Lack of youth-specific • Intervention

1. TYPE 1 COUNTRIES: CCM WITH YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Stakeholders

- **Poor youth representation:**

Several stakeholders and secretariat mentioned that the youth representatives in CCM were not leveraging existing youth networks to create stronger advocacy. For example, their interaction was merely between Principal Recipient (PR) and CCM Secretariat within individual's capacity rather than collective advocacy. Stakeholders in few countries also felt that there was a lack of diversity in youth representation as they were often representing key populations who were more likely to advocate for HIV than TB or Malaria.

- **Limited capacity building:**

A significant number of the stakeholders mentioned that the representatives of youth in CCM were often lacking advocacy skills to address youth issues. This is referring to lack of research-based data and evidence-based approach while addressing youth issues. Some stakeholders reported that youth representatives were not well-versed on GF mechanism and project management which affect their quality of participation. For example, youth lacked the understanding on budget allocation, indicators to measure achievement, and monitoring and evaluation framework.

- **Lack of enabling environment:**

All countries reported that COVID-19 has changed the dynamics of meetings and interactions in which youth representatives have difficulty participating actively due to limited internet coverage for online meetings. This was further exacerbated in a few countries when CCM secretaries were reluctant to adapt to change during project implementation and rejected contingency funding such as C19RM.

Several countries reported that there were existing stigma and discrimination against the YKP in speaking up during meetings. For instance, young KPs were seen as disruptors and unrealistic while proposing ideas and solutions. Besides, the CCM secretariat of one country reported that their youth CCM members were afraid to speak up due to the stigma and discrimination on their sexuality or HIV status. This could be a threat to them in their respective country's context.

- **Structural gaps:**

Two countries with youth CCM reported that the absence of Terms of Reference (ToR) for youth representatives has hindered their participation as it was not illustrated formally on their duties and decision-making power. This was further stressed by few CCM secretariats that guidance materials on CCM-Youth engagement was not available. On the other hand, many stakeholders and the CCM secretariat acknowledged that the niche focus of funding requests on service delivery has overlooked other areas of opportunity for youth contribution. In addition, many countries reported inconsistency on the definition of youth between domestic system and GF mechanism as well as the qualification/criteria for the selection of youth representatives in the CCM election. Youth organizations and members in a few countries faced further challenges due to existing policy that requires them to be registered in order to become a youth CCM member, sub-recipient or implementing unit for GF-related funding.



If they put someone straight in CCM it would be difficult for the person and not productive. CCM membership is not just a position, but also a long learning process on how to conceptualize experiences and concerns and produce recommendations to the CCM.

– Vice-Chair CCM



- **Lack of visibility of CCM among youth:**

Many stakeholders asserted that the concept of CCM was often well-known among members of NGOs that work on health response and service delivery but not the youth community. This was further elaborated as a result of the lack of visibility of CCM among mainstream youth movements.

- **Negative individual traits:**

One stakeholder asserted that the responsiveness of youth CCM members is a challenge to obtain timely feedback on youth matters.



There is no activity or provision in the grant that focuses on young people or youth. The existing grant is focusing on service delivery rather than youth empowerment. Hence, interaction with young people remains low under existing funding.

– National TB Project Associate



Youth

- **Structural gap:**

A number of young CCM members asserted that the lack of youth-centered funding restricted the room for contribution. One of them reported that the restrictive policy on alternate youth representatives such as quota for meetings, oversights, and committees was something that needed to be looked into as it was preventing more youth involvement. Another youth CCM raised concern about time-restraint for fund utilization when youth representatives are planning to conduct community dialogue or visitation. Furthermore, some reported that the lack of clarity on the GF definition of youth/KP representatives confused youth CCM members on their role and responsibilities.

- **Lack of capacity building:**

Many youth CCM members asserted that despite training and workshops being provided to strengthen their capacity, these workshops were often conducted using complex terminology and technical concepts related to GF, CCM, and health management (HIV, TB & Malaria). One youth reported that lack of a programmatic lens and experience in youth representatives hindered him from contributing meaningfully in discussions.

- **Lack of enabling environment:**

Several youth representatives reported feeling afraid to speak up due to fear of their age and KP status which limited their confidence and opportunity to express opinions. Many of them also mentioned that English as the language of communication in emails, meetings, and reports has been a challenge for them to participate meaningfully. One of them reported that the lack of unity and support from other representatives in CCM has pushed him to work in silo. Some youth stated that there were situations where other CCM members were not interested in youth and community issues and it became difficult to consolidate inputs from youth.

Many young people also expressed that a lack of monitoring and evaluation due to COVID-19 has reduced the platform for SRs to express issues affecting the youth community. One of them expressed that limited GF funding for youth-led activities and remuneration has discouraged youth representatives to conduct their duties. The member also raised the requirement for an organization to be registered to be eligible to receive a grant as a concern that limits youth-led organizations to apply as project implementer in his country.

“
I believe we can work better with young people's innovation and adult's experience.
—Youth CCM member”

2. TYPE 2 COUNTRIES: CCM WITHOUT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES BUT INVOLVED IN GF PROCESSES

Stakeholders

- **Lack of capacity building:**

One stakeholder expressed that some youth organizations were ill-informed on health-related information and their proposal writing skill was hindering them from submitting funding requests to obtain financial assistance. It was explained that this might be due to different levels of capacity and experience among youth organizations. For example, a number of youth organizations were aware of GF but not having in-depth understanding of CCM.

- **Lack of enabling environment:**

Few CCM secretariats shared that the cultural and social norms where youth were considered disrespectful if they voice their opinions in front of their elders hindered youth representatives from participating effectively.

- **Structural gap:**

It was reported by many stakeholders and the CCM secretariat that youth priorities in funding requests are significantly overlooked and the clarity of the definition of youth in CCM is needed for effective advocacy purposes. For example, the constituency of “youth representative” was questioned as it can be intersectional with the constituency of “key populations” as long as the individual is within the socially acceptable age of youth.

Youth

- **Lack of enabling environment:**

Many youth participants in one FGD reported that existing funding opportunities have little emphasis on youth's priorities especially in funding requests. Although this concern was addressed in various dialogues, it did not result in actual action from the stakeholder or authority. In fact, a couple of them felt that young people were often involved in the manner of tokenism and the advocacy on key population issues overshadowed youth agenda.

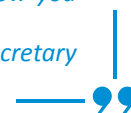
- **Youth representation:**

One participant of another FGD raised the concern of youth and PLHIV representation not being represented in both CCM and GF-related processes due to the preference for more experienced individuals.



We do not have an official youth representative, but youths are represented in CCM as key populations. It's about how you define “youth.”

– CCM Executive Secretary



- **Lack of capacity building:**

All the youth participants shared that their involvement with stakeholders was often through mere consultation rather than in decision-making processes. They raised the concern that the lack of youth programs and capacity building in the grant limit engagement with youth groups. Few of them assured that restricted criteria in proposal writing have hindered youth groups from proposing activities that reflect their needs.

- **Structural gap:**

Youth participants from several countries agreed that age of consent for testing is a policy barrier for young people to access healthcare programs and services in many countries. They also felt that this issue is often ignored or overlooked in most countries' funding and discussion as it is a law or act. In addition, unregistered youth groups are excluded from being a recipient of funding or proposal writing.

3. TYPE 3 COUNTRIES: CCM WITH NO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUTH NOT KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED IN GF PROCESSES

Stakeholders

- **Lack of enabling environment:**

A number of stakeholders acknowledged that youths are not prioritized during different discussions as they are the minority in three diseases, most of the focus and resources flowed into the KP groups. Many of them reported the stigma and prejudice against youth representatives have hindered their participation in high-level positions such as in CCM. One of them explained that this might be due to the conservatism of and power relations that did not open up to new ideas. Many of them feel that the lack of youth/community-led initiatives, organized networks, and insufficient community involvement in health advocacy has presented an image of poor capacity in youth groups which has caused low confidence in youth-led advocacy or initiatives.

- **Internal traits:**

One stakeholder reported that the youth community imposed self-stigma against themselves with negative beliefs about their participation, capacity, feedback, and ideas.

- **Structural gap:**

Many of the stakeholders interviewed expressed that there was a significant lack of CCM commitment to governance change in areas such as standardization of youth engagement (age, groups), procedure on youth representative appointment, and youth-focused funding as GF prioritizes more on CRG components and service delivery.

- **Lack of enabling environment:**

Many youth participants expressed that youth were often associated with the stigma of less experience which leads to resistance and doubt on youth leadership among the CCM secretariat. Young people agreed that a hierarchy of decision-making has excluded young people from informing the decision-makers about the aspects that they have overlooked in youth-related matters. Several of them reported that the lack of financial incentive together with no sustainable youth investment and poor youth-tailored programs have not been encouraging for youth advocacy. Besides, some of them shared that other factors such as the psychosocial status of vulnerable youth groups (teen mothers, young key populations (YKPs)), and unemployed youth has also heightened their difficulty in engaging with stakeholders.



I have voiced out to have more young representations. But it always comes back that young people can't do this or that.

– UNAIDS Country Director



- **Youth representation:**

Some stakeholders asserted that the absence of youth representation in both national advocacy and in CCM was one of the gaps that contributed to the lack of youth-centered strategy and funding. Few of them agreed that this is caused by the different countries' capacity and experience with youth engagement. Many of them perceive that youths were not given significant roles such as leadership positions in any of these engagements and mechanisms in which they could represent the community of concern in a more effective manner.



Give them space to lead, ask them what the problems are, and help them deal with the problem.

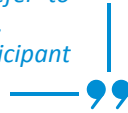
– Youth Advocate





Because they think young people are immature and inexperienced. They refer to the arguments of the youth as impolite.

– Youth FGD Participant



- **Lack of capacity building:**

Youth participants from one FGD stressed that youth groups were not given sufficient technical support in terms of proposal writing and organizational development. They also expressed that guidance in project implementation should be consistent rather than just an orientation workshop. One of the participants said that the number of capacity building was insufficient with the assistance required by youth organizations.

- **Interventions:**

One of the youth FGDs recommended that GF explore and invest in diverse interventions. For example, programs should leverage digital interventions to disseminate information and service to young people.

4. STEPS TAKEN TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES (WHAT WORKED, WHAT DIDN'T AND WHY)

The following case studies are examples of steps taken to overcome challenges in the three types of countries. Each example describes the challenges faced and actions taken either by stakeholders or youth advocates—what worked and what didn't, and why.

What worked

Type 1 Countries: CCM with youth representatives

a) **Challenges:**

Poor CCM visibility to youth, lack youth representation platform

Action taken:

To strengthen communication with the youth community beyond CCM, CCM stakeholders and secretariat worked together with the UN focal point to the CCM to identify youth champions who were advocating for youth-related issues within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals. Through the UN Youth Advisory body, marginalized young key populations were consulted in national program planning about health and human rights.

On the other hand, certain countries' CCM expanded youth representation on various platforms by gradually starting to include the youth CCM member in mandatory meetings but also external events or functions which would allow youth representatives to express youth concerns as well as highlight the visibility of youth's role in CCM.

b) **Challenges:**

Lack of youth-centered project, lack of capacity building, lack of enabling environment

Action Taken:

Youth CCM members established a youth center that provides training to capacitate YKP with skills such as resume writing, etc. The center employed a counselor who provided psychosocial services, information on STIs, coordinated and linked with other organizations that provide HIV testing & counseling specifically for YKP.

c) Challenges:

Stigma and discrimination, lack of enabling environment, lack of youth representation

Action Taken:

CCM focused on stigma and discrimination reduction and also the issues of human rights related to YPLHIV, especially the regulation that requires HIV testing for job application. Together with the private sectors, parliamentarians were also involved in promoting a stigma-free workplace modality with various UN agencies. Young people were involved in youth-led clinics and young key populations in the PrEP roll-out. These interventions resulted in forming a national guideline which allows adolescent and young people to access PrEP.”

Type 2 Countries: CCM without youth representatives but involved in GF processes

a) Challenge:

Lack of youth representation, structural gap, Lack of youth-centered program

Action Taken:

The CCM governance composition was changed to address the lack of youth representation. It was changed to 50 % for government officials and 50% for Civil-Society, youth, and development partners. This is to lay the path for more young representatives in the future. The amendment also included people living with diseases to be in the executive position. This revision allowed more community members to sit at a higher level and provide perspectives beyond the government lens.

Collaboration with UN agencies to invest in digital tools including in the form of a digital information hub has enabled young people to access adequate information about adolescent health, HIV-related knowledge, PrEP, teen pregnancy, mental health, and others. It was also used as a data collection platform that address the questions and concerns young people have in relating to their sexual and mental health.

Type 3 Countries: CCM with no youth representatives and youth NOT known to be involved in GF processes

1. Challenges:

Lack of youth representation, lack of youth/community-centered initiatives

Action Taken:

CCM stakeholders provided a platform for young people to advocate and to voice their concerns through webinars and dialogues. The platform included discussions on improving adolescents’ access in health services and secondary schools and promoting their rights to participate in recreation and sports.

Young people were also invited to participate in development partner coalition meetings (UN agencies) and discussions. Their input and sharing in these occasions beyond the CCM mechanism were used as references for proposal development and program designs.

What didn't work

Type 1 Countries: CCM with youth representatives

1) Challenges:

Lack of information on GF and health management project

Action Taken:

COVID-19 changed the approaches of CCM interaction and engagement; from physical meetings to online platforms as many activities (capacity building, oversight, and monitoring and evaluation) due to movement restriction. These mitigation plans were intended to maintain the communication with sub-recipients who served the key populations and the youth community. However, this approach did not work in areas with limited internet coverage and scheduling where CCM members had competing schedules or commitments.



Type 2 Countries: CCM without youth representatives but involved in GF processes

1) Challenges:

Lack of feedback mechanism, lack of youth program and capacity building

Action Taken:

To forward the process of C19RM, the youth leaders have stressed on the importance of youth involvement in each process. From that advocacy, they were invited to the working group for the grant application. However, there was no orientation, training, or capacity building given. Young people did not know what the GF process and CCM looked like, even though they wanted youth to take part in the dialogue process. Young people lacked capacity building, or training opportunities to engage in high-level policy discussions and processes.

Type 3 Countries: CCM with no youth representatives and youth NOT known to be involved in GF processes

1) Challenges:

Lack of youth-focused funding

Action Taken:

Youth-led organizations intended to conduct workshops on comprehensive sexuality education for young indigenous girls and people with disability to leave no one behind on issues of HIV, STI, and sexual and reproductive health. But the attempt failed due to the lack of networking and availability of funding pools.

H. ENVISIONED ROLE OF YOUTH AND STAKEHOLDER IN ENSURING MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT (STAKEHOLDERS VS YOUTH, COMPARISON OF TYPE 1-3 COUNTRIES)

Interviews provided insights to stakeholder and youth views of their envisioned roles to support meaningful engagement of young people in CCM. Interviewers also asked youth participants on ways stakeholders and other constituencies could potentially support young people's engagement in CCM. This section describes the envisioned roles of CCM, stakeholders, GF and youth across the three types of countries.

Table 6. Envisioned role of stakeholders and youth to support meaningful engagement by Type 1,2, and 3 Countries

Respondents	Input from Stakeholder	Input from Youth
<p>Type 1 Countries: Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Philippines</p>	<p>CCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of CCM’s role: concrete action plan and risk management, ensure engagement • Strengthening communication: consistency • Ensure youth membership and participation <p>GF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • systematic structure for youth participation within GF <p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency communication and collaboration • Strengthen youth’s representation and showcase youth’s contribution <p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement in national platform—presentation and decision-making process 	<p>CCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening communication: consistency • Strengthening of CCM’s role: orientation, regular meetings with constituents, oversight role, recruitment • Inclusion of CSS activities in country and multi-country grants <p>GF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More engagement with KP at country level <p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on youth CCM • Information on funding for youth related programs and technical assistance. <p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well inform on CCM governance Involvement in decision making and engagement
<p>Type 2 Countries: Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal</p>	<p>CCM and Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of CCM’s and partners’ role: facilitation, consultation • Interagency communication and collaboration. • Strengthening communications: transparency and consistency, increased awareness • Address structural barriers: stigma and discrimination • Strengthen youth’s representation and participation 	<p>CCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of CCM’s role: management of conflict of interest, regular meetings, consultation, facilitation, • Ensure youth membership Strengthening of governance <p>GF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More personalized training on CCM—online training not effective <p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support, hire and engage young people • Support in strengthening youth’s capacity and youth-led organizations <p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be proactive • Strengthen youth representation in national platform and CCM, and feedback mechanism to constituents

Respondents	Input from Stakeholder	Input from Youth
Type 3 Countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Western Pacific, PNG	<p>CCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of CCM’s role: facilitation, consultation, • Ensure youth membership and participation • Strengthening of governance <p>GF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of young people at national and GF management • Advocacy support to include youth representation in CCM • Proper transition and sustainability plan <p>Other Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure youth’s involvement • Mentoring • Support gaps in CCM and GF (capacity building) • Interagency communication and collaboration. 	<p>CCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure youth membership <p>GF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand beyond three diseases (TB, HIV, Malaria) for more youth’s contribution <p>Other Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen youth capacity and youth led organizations • Advocate for youth’s participation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper transition and sustainability plan <p>Other Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure youth’s involvement • Mentoring • Support gaps in CCM and GF (capacity building) • Interagency communication and collaboration. 	

1. TYPE 1 COUNTRIES: CCM WITH YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

CCM

Strengthening CCM’s role and communication

Both stakeholder and youth participants reiterated the need to strengthen CCM’s role and maintain consistent communication to members and constituencies. One stakeholder participant suggested that CCM should proactively develop concrete action and risk management plans, such as identifying new youth for upcoming CCM elections. She envisioned that CCM should also ensure teamwork among its members in brainstorming ideas, proposing activities and conducting evaluation. Another stakeholder participant suggested that CCM should facilitate active participation among members, organize informal sessions such as retreats to create bonding among the members, and organize individual consultations with each member to address their issues and concerns related to the meeting’s discussion. Similarly, some youth participants suggested strengthening CCM’s role by organizing regular meetings (e.g. quarterly meeting with constituents to understand issues and challenges faced), site visits, mini-country dialogues, orientation of CCM’s roles before election. Additionally, youth participants also recommended that CCM should ensure implementation of training plans, recruitment of youth CCM members to be done in advance (as youth transition fast due to age) and in a broader approach to ensure better representation of youth in CCM, not just through connections.

Community system strengthening (CSS)

To strengthen community engagement in CCM, one youth participant proposed to include Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) in GF's in-country and multi-country grants. CSS should also include support in staffing human resources like core staff e.g. finance, operations as support is needed after training to manage day-to-day operations.

Stakeholders

Intra- and inter-agency communication and collaboration

Most stakeholder participants recommended intra- and inter-agency communication and collaboration. Suggestions include the integration of departmental meetings within the Ministry of Health to address youth issues and monitoring of programs for all diseases, the need for GF to focus on localization and collaboration with country development partners for youth engagement, positioning the CCM to be well connected with agencies and stakeholders, and development of stronger interagency collaboration framework. For example, Ministries of Health could share opportunities with other agencies and request support and conduct annual review on progress of collaboration where youth would be included as well. Additionally, one stakeholder participant suggested incorporating the role of youth in CCM as a starting point to a bigger health strengthening picture, such as universal health care or primary care strengthening, and include CCM into existing stronger mechanisms that involve youth advocacy. Another stakeholder participant recommended indirect support to youth in CCM through a partnership committee where the CCM secretariat or CCM chair would encourage informal coaching within partnership orientation to inform youth about CCM literacy.

Strengthen youth's representation and showcase youth's contribution

Some stakeholder participants suggested that they should strengthen representation of youth and showcase youth's contribution, for example ensuring youth involvement in National AIDS Strategy development, highlight youth's achievements in events/activities, and facilitate support of youth's active participation in presentation and decision making. Additionally, some stakeholder participants recommended a systematic structure for youth participation within GF (including representation of youth in CCM and oversight committee); balancing between young people taking the lead while having the support from the mentor (adult professional); having a youth as focal point or organizer of meetings, events, workshops; and supporting a youth representative to sit in a national HIV organization to oversee youth-related programs while providing input and guidance to the elected youth CCM member.

Youth participants proposed that stakeholders inform youth organizations/networks of funding opportunities for youth-related programs and technical assistance and provide support in guiding youth CCM members in their roles.



To understand the issues and conceptualization from the one who works with them such as community mentors. Partnership leadership can be the key to empower youth [representatives].

— Stakeholder



Global Fund

Systematic structure for youth participation within GF

One stakeholder participant recommended that GF propose a governance review if the CCM system requires intervention. She also stressed that the GF should look at and request countries to make it possible for young people to be represented in the CCM or in the oversight committee and make spaces for them to be fully and effectively engaged in the CCM structure.



Global Fund is the big donor for implementation, every time Global Fund tries to put it in the systematic way in their manual, standard operation procedure, it's going to make a difference.

— UNAIDS Country Director



Engagement with KPs at country level

One youth participant suggested that Fund Portfolio Managers (FPM) should have more engagement at the ground level with KPs. FPMs should spend time engaging and listening to KPs while they are conducting in-country visits.

Youth

A few youth participants envisioned themselves to be good communicators and contributors in the CCM. They asserted that youth CCM members should maintain good communication with other CCM members, understand the roles and governance of CCM, and be involved in more decision-making processes. One youth participant emphasized the need to have strong youth engagement in CCM.

2. TYPE 2 COUNTRIES: CCM WITHOUT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES BUT INVOLVED IN GF PROCESSES

CCM and Stakeholders

Strengthening of CCM's and stakeholders' role

A few CCM participants suggested that government and other CCM members should adapt to young people's capacity, create awareness of existing policies and involve youth since the beginning of the program (not limiting the awareness to implementers only). They also advised to avoid technical jargons when consulting young people and avoid top-down approach when working with youth.

On the other hand, most youth participants recommended that CCM secretariat should strengthen their role in managing conflict of interest during meetings, providing orientation for incoming new members and refreshers' courses in the middle of the CCM member's terms, and outlining clear responsibilities of CCM members in their term of references (TOR). Concurrently, CCM members should organize constituency meetings at least every six months by themselves and ensure that the seat for youth CCM member is not just a symbol of youth inclusion but actually function to address youth issues and take up leadership roles and decision making. CCM members should be reminded to represent their constituency and not their organization.

As for strengthening stakeholders' role, most youth participants proposed that stakeholders consider hiring young people, bring young people's perspective to the table; support young people in program, M&E, and proposal application; be more open to different ideas from young people; and support youth advocacy during meetings. They would also like to see stakeholders assisting youth-led organizations on project expansion, meaningfully engage in identifying YKP needs to develop programs beyond health indicators (e.g., leadership, mental health, innovative tools), and strengthen the CSS national working group to ensure voices for young people are heard.

Interagency communication and collaboration.

A stakeholder participant recommended that governments need to expand beyond CCM in the discussion of young people as there is limited support from GF. This step includes integrated discussion and updates of programs from different funders to ensure alignment and avoid overlapping of projects or interventions. Additionally, governments should also seek support from UN agencies or partners on strengthening youth's capacity in CCM.



Due to different stakeholder/development partners having various levels of resources, capacity, areas of focus and coverage, and collaboration with different CBO/NGO, there must be a stronger coordination and communication to ensure technical assistance are provided to various beneficiaries, expanding the scope of resources, and to fulfill the gaps of the government in reaching out to the marginalized community.

– UNAIDS Country Director



Strengthening communications: transparency and consistency, increased awareness

Stakeholder participants state that their roles include strengthening communications to ensure transparency and consistency, and at the same time increase awareness about CCM and its functions. A stakeholder participant states that the CCM should form a strong alliance with consistent communication while another stakeholder participant suggested that the CCM calendar should be shared at public spaces such as Facebook, a social media platform to ensure transparency.



The main role and principle that should guide the CCM is to form a strong alliance with consistent communication, take action for implementation, and empower grant recipients in advocacy, project management, and organization development.

– UNAIDS Country Director



Address structural barriers: stigma and discrimination

Studies of HIV-related stigma among young people living with HIV/AIDS (YPLHIV) show that they are highly vulnerable to stigma [1] and their numbers are on the rise. Stigma and discrimination does not only impede YPLHIV from accessing health services, but also hampers their engagement in HIV advocacy work. A stakeholder participant stressed the importance of stigma and discrimination reduction among health care providers and the provision of youth-friendly services to ensure youth are accessing health services.

Strengthen youth representation and participation

Currently, the engagement of youth in CCM is mainly from the HIV sector. One stakeholder participant recommended that partners, government, and the CCM work with young people to expand awareness of Malaria and TB. Others suggested that stakeholders empower youth grant recipients in advocacy, project management and organizational development, and arrange meetings with KPs and vulnerable groups to gather young KP's input.

Other stakeholder participants recommended that youth are kept at the center of discussion during meetings and project planning, the CCM should include more representation from young people e.g., appoint young CCM members in the oversight and proposal development committee, engage youth at national scale/platform.

Global Fund

Youth participants suggested that GF should conduct more personalized on-site training on CCM, as online training was not effective with lack of interaction and language barrier.

[1]Singh, V., & Lata, S. (2018). A systematic review of HIV/AIDS related stigma among children and youth living with HIV.

Youth

Youth participants envisioned their roles as proactive individuals with the ability to strengthen youth representation in national platforms and CCM, and to provide feedback mechanisms to constituents. One youth participant shared his experience and goal as a CCM oversight committee member for TB.

[I] never thought of [myself as] a young person in CCM because of my background. Being a young person is a disadvantage as [I was] not educated. I forgot as a young person, [I] can still contribute meaningfully. I want to make sure that I do my work better and I am more proactive in my role, and make sure the opportunity is two-directional.

— Youth CCM representative

Some youth participants indicated the advantages of having a youth CCM member in their country, which includes having a focal point to share GF-related info with youth constituency regularly, to assist in securing funding opportunities for youth-focused program/agenda, and to advocate for youth issues by and for young people:

Most youth participants aimed to work towards strengthening youth representations in CCM and other national platforms. These efforts include coordination among youth to ensure issues put forward at the national working committee platform and to establish good feedback mechanisms to constituents, engagement of youth at state level, and CCM's consultation with youth and ensure voices are reflected in GF funded programs. Additionally, youth participants from an FGD stated that youth should act as liaison between the CCM and constituency, using multiple virtual consultation approaches in time of COVID, and respect the nuance between each youth group and their privacy to discuss their own community issues:

"YKP has different constituencies, groups, YPWUD, LGBTI, SW, PLHIV. We conduct consultations with separate groups. Although we are all young, we have many different issues. We might not be comfortable with each other, so we organize different consultations with each group as well as a joint consultation for all the young people."

— Youth FGD participant

It would be very [important to have youth CCM members so] we would not miss out information... related to CCM. [Y]oung people would not be missed out if young people are part of CCM. Many times, ...young people are invited [to CCM meetings] at the very last minute, so if a young representative is there, we would have been pre-informed, pre-email so that we will have the time to prepare, to be fully engaged in the process...We have been engaged in the program, but the meaningful participation is not seen. If one of the young members is there as a CCM member, it would be a great advantage for us. We will get the information very easily; we wouldn't have to ask someone to share our inquiries or issues to get them addressed.

— Youth CCM representative

Similarly, stakeholder participants shared that youth in working groups are well versed in issues of communities and are able to provide available feedback mechanisms for youth to reach out, and advocate for the involvement of young people in CCM. One stakeholder recommended that youth should adopt a “think tank mentality,”[2] where they are able to understand the issues well and gather feedback from the ground on issues related to youth.

3. TYPE 3 COUNTRIES: CCM WITH NO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUTH NOT KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED IN GF PROCESSES

Youth

Stakeholder participants expressed the need to strengthen CCM’s role in facilitation and consultation, to ensure youth membership and participation, and to strengthen governance. The stakeholder participants perceived CCM’s facilitation and consultation function to include: invitation of youth to oversight and engage in monitoring processes, encouragement to youth in interacting with constituencies and high level officials in exchanging ideas and insights, implementation of youth centered policy when engaging with youth CCM members, ensuring engagement of young people, gathering insights of youth on gap of GF projects, flexibility to include youth participation regardless of their organization status, provision of youth focused discussion, inclusion of youth constituency representation in CCM (at least 50% of the seats) with clear election process and procedure, and clear terms of reference.

Similarly, youth participants highlighted the importance of having youth membership in CCM.



Having CCM members will ensure the participation of youth. The member will raise his voice on behalf of the youth community and youth issues. Only a youth know(s) well about the problem and things they need. Others will not be able to understand the youth issues like them. Youth will be able to take up leadership such as decision-making.

– Youth participant



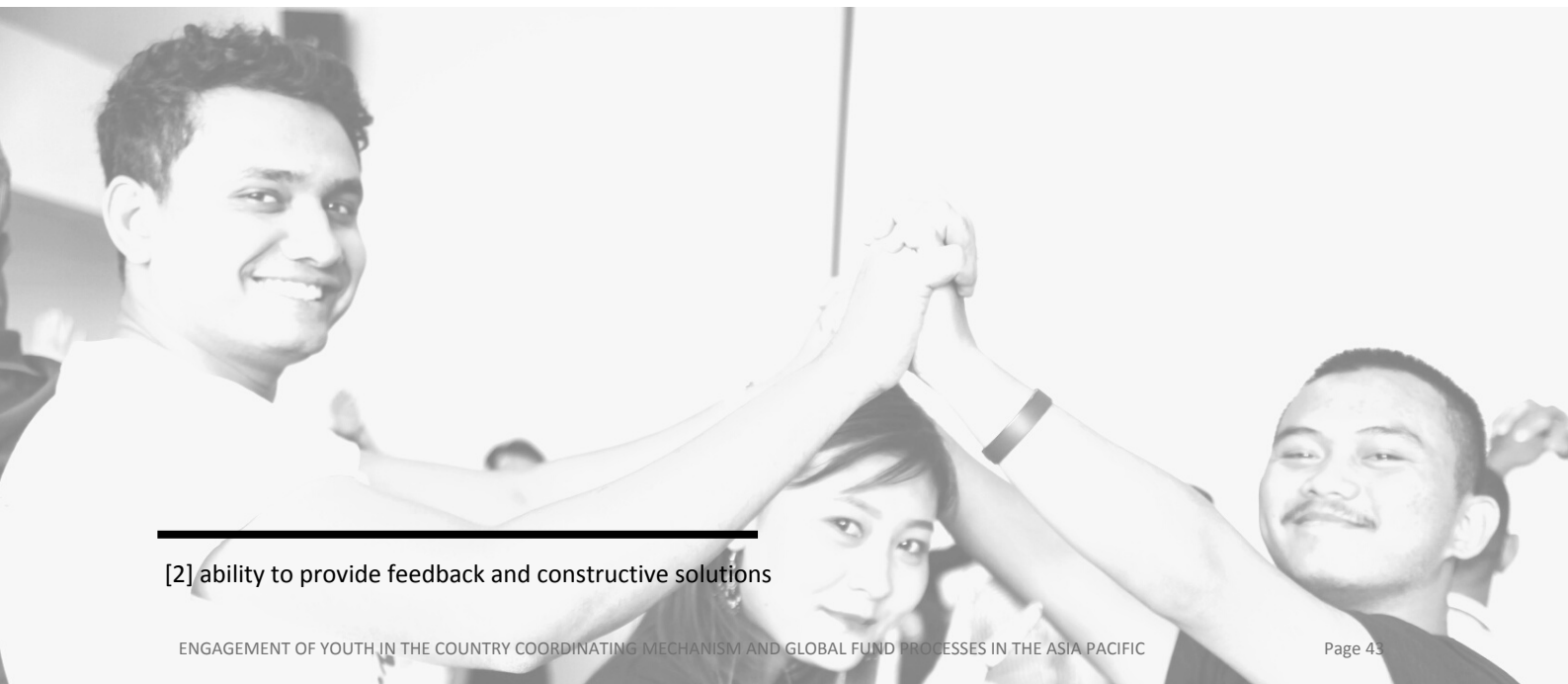
Global Fund

Some participants proposed that GF should recruit and advocate for involvement of young people at national and GF management structure.



The Global Fund should identify with and increase the recruitment of various young people to sit in [the] national and Global Fund management structure to have more youth voices and perspective[s].

– CCM Vice Chair



[2] ability to provide feedback and constructive solutions

Some stakeholder participants also recommended that GF provide advocacy support and different strategies to expand governance structure to include seats for young people in CCM and ensure proper transition and sustainability plans which include youth’s involvement and engagement.

Youth participants suggested that GF expands beyond three diseases (TB, HIV, Malaria) to allow more youth’s contribution. This expansion not only strengthens youth’s contribution, but also supports integrated services and universal health access to targeted populations.

Other Stakeholders

Stakeholder participants envision their roles in ensuring youth involvement and empowerment by mentoring, supporting interventions/capacity building activities which address gaps in CCM and GF, facilitating interagency communication and collaboration. Suggestions include involving youth in discussions of innovations and advocacy; mentoring and providing advice to younger staff in Ministries of Health; providing career development for young health and medical staff; developing partner consortium to support gaps of GF and CCM. These include resource mobilization for organizational development, creating program beyond service delivery, strengthening youth advocacy, creating support from inter-government agencies to include more activities for young people, and organizing information sharing mechanism and coordination of programs to avoid wastage of resources.

Similarly, youth participants emphasized the importance of strengthening youth capacity but added the need to also strengthen youth led organizations and advocacy for youth participation. Suggestions include ensuring stakeholders assist youth-led organizations in project expansion, listen to young people, focus beyond health and service delivery, e.g. skills building initiative, youth mental health, leadership program, innovation tools). They also suggested to provide opportunities for youth to become program staff, support youth programs and initiate support to other partners to engage youth programs, push for political action to recognize youth participation, and respect of different cultural context when working with local communities.

I. SUPPORT NEEDED FOR YOUTH (STAKEHOLDERS VS YOUTH, COMPARISON OF TYPE 1-3 COUNTRIES)

This section describes the support needed to ensure meaningful engagement of youth across the three types of countries. Interviewers asked both stakeholder and youth participants their views on the support required to ensure meaningful engagement in CCM, GF-related processes and/or national platforms.

Respondents	Input from Stakeholder	Input from Youth
<p>Type 1 Countries: Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Philippines</p>	<p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Advocacy:</i> soft skills, negotiation skills, communications, public speaking • <i>Leadership:</i> strategic thinking • Programmatic and institutional development: financial management, organizational 	<p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy: collect information and organize input at CCM, communication skills • Programmatic and institutional development: report writing, proposal development, project management, funding literacy,

Respondents	Input from Stakeholder	Input from Youth
	<p>development, proposal writing, M&E</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community strengthening</i> <p><i>*Type of training suggested: cross-country learning</i></p> <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid model: online and face to face • Communication strategies: feedback mechanism, promotional campaign, reaching out to constituents • Clear guidance on communications <p>Clarification on membership and role of young CCM members: standardize definition of youth in CCM, clear term of reference (tor)</p> <p>Resource mobilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth centered activities • Financial support for youth led organizations 	<p>establish youth groups and networks</p> <p><i>Cross learning:</i> cross learning opportunities to engage with other youth counterparts, link with existing youth networks, link CCM youth with international/regional youth mechanism</p> <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback mechanism to constituents (e.g., strengthen digital communications) • Communication strategy to reach and gain interest of youth • Communications at provincial level <p>Representation and engagement of youth in CCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a seat for youth • Enhance voice of alternate youth member • Ensure prioritization of youth issues raised by youth are addressed
<p>Type 2 Countries: Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal</p>	<p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Advocacy:</u> negotiation skills, communications, information dissemination, sensitization workshops on stigma and discrimination, SOGIE and human rights • <u>Leadership:</u> structural engagement plan • Programmatic and institutional development: data and research, M&E, proposal development, funding requests <p><u>Community strengthening</u> <i>*type of training suggested: mentoring</i></p> <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Communication strategies:</u> feedback mechanism, campaign strategies for recruitment of youth CCM, • Tools and references on CCM governance 	<p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy: conduct analysis, evidence-based advocacy, public speaking, leadership training, mentoring • Program development and implementation: proposal writing, report writing • Cross country-learning: network with other countries, built capacity and solidarity), • Orientation: On CCM, structure of GF, HIV epidemiology and activities of GF program in the country. <p>Representation and engagement of youth in CCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise constituency meetings every 6 months by constituents themselves • Involvement of constituency in development of agenda

Respondents	Input from Stakeholder	Input from Youth
	<p>Clarification on membership and role of young CCM members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GF to standardize definition of youth in CCM <p>Resource mobilization and technical assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivate more youth-led organizations, youth leader assessment 	<p>Resource mobilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remuneration for young CCM members • Youth specific grants to generate engagement and monitoring of program implementation • Generate and invest in youth advocates • Resources to extend the network <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate as a group to gain more attention • Communication strategy for different sub-population <p>Structural change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure YKP safe from violence and provide safe space • Safeguard policy--young people perspective needed for meaningful working collaboration • Combating social, cultural barriers • Acknowledge value of youth • Structure and mechanism improvement to advance youth participation within decision making spaces <p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic support for formal education • Special empowerment sessions for gf and community • Life skills
<p>Type 3 Countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Western Pacific, PNG</p>	<p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy: public speaking, negotiation skills • Programmatic and institutional development: formation of youth-led groups and organizations, proposal writing, finance and audit, monitoring and evaluation, risk communication, surveillance, community engagement, organizational development, tools to strengthen organizational governance, community led monitoring 	<p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy: skill building initiatives, youth mental health, leadership program, regular training, coaching and mentoring for decision making, information about 3 diseases and youth health issues • Program development and implementation: opportunity for youth to work as project staff, organizational development, governance enhancement

Respondents	Input from Stakeholder	Input from Youth
	<p>Resource mobilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding mechanism-- directly funds youth organizations • Funding beyond service delivery • Resources to communicate with its constituency • Incentive for youth participation • Funding support for in community consultations/dialogues <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation for COVID-19 impact on communication (Zoom meetings) • Communication strategies: scale up communication beyond existing constituencies, consistent update to constituents <p>Structural changes for wider youth coverage and participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralizing program • Programs on advocacy, education • Focus on needs related to disease • Policy change from government to allow provision of commodities to young people 	<p>Representation and engagement of youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of national platform of youth • Specific quota for youth for recruitment in projects to ensure youth participation • Representation of youth in CCM, and two representatives for gender balance • Law or policy with clear guidance on youth representation <p>Resource mobilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate on funding the organizations that work for the development of youth • Sustainable youth investment <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital platform, youth led communication on social media • Assessment and evaluation on each communication strategy to measure efficiencies of youth engagement • Strengthen communication between CCM and youth • CCM to update more frequently on public platforms and social media, and allows feedback from youth • Regular meetings and forums for youth programming • Develop comprehensive data recording system (analyze situation of youth engagement, SRHR issues) • Outcome of dialogue and consultancy should be in local language

Capacity Building

Both stakeholder and youth participants in all three types of countries shared the importance of capacity building in advocacy, programmatic and organizational development. Stakeholder participants in Type 1 and 2 countries mentioned the importance of building leadership skills such as strategic thinking and nurturing the ability to develop structural engagement plan among young people. Additionally, stakeholder participants in Type 1 countries and youth participants in Type 1 and 2 countries suggested cross-country learnings among youth representatives for networking and learning. Only youth participants in Type 2 countries stated the need to have orientation on CCM, structure of GF, HIV epidemiology and activities of GF projects in the country.

Most of the time, key populations including the youth talk about challenges, services and stigma at ground level. How to capture the vital issues among all and to bring collective efforts to work on it, it has been a high-level skill to capture the points and make strong suggestions. This skill must be built rather than only speaking up [about] the problems.

– CCM elected Chair

If we are aiming that they can lead a youth-led organization, young people need more support for the organization on their own and equip themselves with fundraising, and how to manage the decisions, financial management...Youth's motivation is much related to their interests; besides that, they are quick learners and specializing in the digital world which could benefit and leverage the digital utilization in program implementation etc.

– UNAIDS Country Director

Young people are so smart, not just in one disease like HIV but they can do many things. The problem is they lack information of where they can get fund, the funding mechanism does not have separate funding for them to strengthen advocacy and organizational capacity and institutional development.

– CCM Vice Chair

Financial support in a way that a specified grant only focusing on youth is needed. This is because only investing in activities with young people can initiate consistent engagement with youth. Then, this process will allow young people to get involved to monitor the program as well as implementation. Besides, when resources are centered for youth, there will be able to benefit a larger scale of youth activists/community to be empowered and involved in advocacy.

– Youth Advocate

Resource Mobilization

Both stakeholder and youth participants in all three types of countries reiterated that resource mobilization is important to ensure incentivization of youth's engagement in CCM and other national/provincial platform; funding support for country consultations/dialogues; resources to communicate and organize dialogues with constituencies; direct funding support to youth-led organizations to strengthen their advocacy efforts and mobilize youth; and building sustainable youth investment.

[We] require separate funding only for young people. We are compromising existing grants, e.g. just adding youth related activities which are not practical and meaningful...the separate funding envisioned for Malaysia is community system strengthening among youth. The priority is to help assist more youth groups to become established organizations. Many organizations are aging out. Young KPs do not want to go to some established and old organizations, they rather be with youth organizations that give them a sense of belonging.

– Youth CCM representatives

Representation and engagement of youth in CCM

Youth participants in all three types of countries reiterated the significance of having youth representation and described ways youth can engage in CCM and other GF related processes effectively. Youth participants in Type 1 countries recommended that CCM ensures a seat for youth, enhances voice of alternate youth members, and ensures prioritization of youth issues raised by youth are addressed. In contrast, youth participants in Type 2 countries stated the importance of ownership among youth to organize constituency meetings regularly (every six months), and involvement of constituencies in the development of agenda for meetings. Youth participants in Type 3 countries do not have youth representatives in CCM nor engage in GF related processes, they stressed the need to form national platform for youth, have specific quota for youth in recruitment of projects to ensure youth participation, have representation of youth in CCM (ensure gender balance), and have law or policy with clear guidance on youth representation.



I feel a burden to go to CCM meetings, there are lots of meetings, e.g. COVID 19, I felt that it was not so fruitful, when it comes to meaningful engagement, focus on quality rather than quantity. In engagement or monitoring meetings, delivering speech and giving presentations are not effective, the whole engagement meeting should let the constituency members decide, and other community members to discuss. Agenda drafted by members. Ownership should be from the constituency.

— Young KP CCM member



Communications

Experiences with communications

Stakeholder and youth participants narrated their positive and negative experiences with communications within CCM or GF related processes. All three types of countries recounted ranges of experiences that facilitated their roles as CCM members, advocates or stakeholders; and also experiences that hindered their engagement and participation in these national engagement platforms.

Positive experiences

Some stakeholder participants in Type 1 and Type 3 countries experienced good feedback mechanisms within CCM and implementing partners, great collaboration and information sharing, and had positive and proper communications mechanisms in place. CCM secretariats provided consistent updates and robust reports and responded swiftly to meeting requests while youth provided timely feedback to the CCM. Similarly, youth participants in Type 1 countries shared that they had opportunities to express youth related issues and suggestions (e.g. using Google form to gather input and present at CCM), and communication with CCM secretariat was smooth and engaging.

A stakeholder participant in a Type 2 country mentioned that the government relied on online platforms and youth-led organizations to engage YKPs. Some youth participants in Type 2 countries conveyed that they proactively communicate information on project implementation and conduct their advocacy efforts through social media of youth organizations. Conversely, some youth participants in Type 3 countries mentioned that focal points communicated youth related information or projects via phone calls, ad telegram for provincial authority, or partner with existing organizations to get messages out.

Negative experiences

Impact of COVID 19 pandemic on communication was cited as one of the negative experiences for a stakeholder participant in Type 1 countries. Whilst communication with youth representatives was strong before, the pandemic affected and restricted communication to only email and online platforms. This mode of communications limits face-to-face interaction, and oversight functions such as site visits. Another stakeholder participant expressed the challenge of getting a youth representative to respond to emails and provide input. A youth participant in Type 1 countries recognized the difficulty of raising issues faced by key populations such as transgender as the latter is considered a taboo subject to discuss within its cultural and religious context. Additionally, another youth participant in Type 1 countries shared that she did not see any communication transpired among CCM members.

For Type 2 countries, stakeholders shared that information is not passed down to other young people, imbalance of information sharing in different settings, communications limited to meetings arrangement, language barrier when communicating in English, and discussions in meetings were not culturally sensitive and youth-friendly. In one country, many youth members in technical working groups identified themselves as KPs rather than youth, resulting in less focus on youth related issues. As there were no youth CCM representatives, KPs are not well versed on youth matters. Similarly, youth in Type 2 countries expressed their limited engagement in CCM and lack of focus on YKP issues as there was no direct constituent nor youth seat. For Type 3 countries, some stakeholders mentioned that there is no direct communication between GF and youth, and representatives of KPs did not disseminate information back to constituents.

Support needed to strengthen communications

Both stakeholder and youth participants in all three types of countries stated that having communication strategies such as feedback mechanism, campaign strategies in reaching out to potential youth, communications guide, tools and references on communications, and digital platform for sensitization and feedback are critical in meaningfully engagement of youth in CCM and GF-related processes. Youth participants in Type 1 and Type 2 countries also emphasized on communications at provincial level and having communication strategies with different sub-populations.

Other Support

Other support needed to ensure meaningful engagement of youth in CCM and other GF-related processes include structural changes for wider youth coverage and participation, and safeguard policy to protect youth. Additionally, both Type 1 and Type 2 country stakeholders recommended that GF standardize the definition of youth in CCM with a clear term of reference.

J. ADDED VALUE OF HAVING YOUTH CCM REPRESENTATIVES

Youth in countries without official youth CCM representatives have expressed their expectations toward positive changes that youth CCM representatives can bring for youth advocacy.

Awareness of GF and CCM:

Youth shared that having a youth CCM representative can help to orient other young people about GF and CCM in the same language and keep the constituency informed.

Youth Representation:

The representation of youth will allow voices of youth to be heard and amplified, with more discussion focus on youth among KP constituencies rather than adult-dominated discussion. Youth leadership can be built to address youth issues and participate in decision-making spaces including voting and election.

Program involvement:

Youth CCM representatives can provide youth insights in strategic direction during proposal writing and mobilize opportunities for youth-focused program and implementation. The nuance within each youth group and their own community issues can be looked after as well.

Communication strengthening:

Youth constituencies are able to approach their youth CCM representatives to follow-up on discussion and ensure advocacy and demands are not lost. Having youth CCM representatives will also strengthen the transparent communication between CCM and youth and make decision-making spaces a safe place for discussion.



Youth-centered approach and full contribution of extending the safe space for all the people on the table will leave no one behind. Everyone has the chance to speak and is their expert of their own background. Opportunity is shared equally.

Young people in the CCM can speak on behalf of youth issues regarding programming insights and secure funding opportunities for youth-related programs.

– Youth advocates

**1. EXTENT TO WHICH CCM ADDRESSED YOUTH ISSUES**

Having a youth representative sit in the CCM memberships facilitates the youth agenda throughout the discussion. However, youth without a doubt are still at the developing stage of their lives, hence stakeholders reported several interventions taken to better address youth issues within the process to reflect the needs of a diverse youth population.

Capacity building and mentoring:

Some stakeholders reported that youth were provided with mentorship and involved in consistent dialogue with CCM to formulate youth-focused proposals. For example, a development partner worked actively with a youth-led organization on advocacy, proposal writing, and engagement with GF during the proposal development stage and involved the organization in the Technical Working Group in grant allocation. In addition, the principal recipients of the country worked actively with young people and youth KP in implementing different projects which utilize digital technology to promote information about SRHR, HIV, access to services, and conduct outreach programs that provide psychosocial service. These efforts not only strengthen youth's capacity in comprehending the GF process, but also enhance their capacity in strategizing their advocacy efforts and making key decisions at national platforms.

Feedback mechanism:

Many stakeholders reported that regular progress would be made to youth CCM to galvanize inputs and ideas. Inclusive engagement within partnership and community-led monitoring processes improves interaction between youth and CCM.

Preparation for youth leadership transition:

Youth face the reality of aging out at a certain point. Some stakeholders stated that to ensure steady engagement of youth, they constantly reach youth through existing youth networks or identify them from other key populations. Mechanisms such as the UN youth group or youth advisory panel are also spaces to explore young people with interest in broader health-related issues.

2. WITHOUT YOUTH CCM MEMBERS, HOW ARE YOUTH ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED

There are several efforts made by stakeholders brought youth from rural to urban to join meetings and ensured the discussion was conducted in language of the youth’s preference.

Youth-friendly communication: A stakeholder reported that they hired youth as a focal point to manage multiple platforms to engage young people in systematic ways and ensured CCM update information in public and youth friendly channels such as Facebook and Twitter and ensure CCM is open for feedback.



CCM Malaysia have task force committee; it was very fruitful and engaging platform, discussion was meaningful, and (we) get good input from youth CCM to strengthen the governance of CCM, did assessment, approved the grant, (and) CCM evolution.

– Secretary of CCM



Youth alliance champion:

Some stakeholders reported that a few registered organizations and other key population representatives served as an intermediary to link youth communities to CCM/GF. This effort mitigated the barriers for youth to voice their issues as they do not meet the eligibility to take part in the CCM/GF-related process. A few stakeholders also reported that similar approaches were taken in the UN system where UNICEF, UNFPA worked along with youth on issues such as SRHR and gender-based violence. Such approaches could be applied in the CCM context in addressing youth related work.

Enabling environment/cultural sensitization:

Some stakeholders reported that youth were often faced with cultural stigma and discrimination when engaging in advocacy related to taboo subjects such as sex work, harm reduction, as well as the social norm that doesn’t allow younger to debate with the senior. A few stakeholders expressed that the regional initiatives and development partner strategies sometimes helped break through the status quo in social norms and made it possible for the youth agenda to move forward. For example, they provided an opportunity for open dialogue and discussion which helped sensitize youth related issues and challenged stakeholders to have more open and accepting approaches when working with youth.



UNAIDS provides concrete strategic information in support of tailor-made programs to fit the needs of young people. We work closely with YPLHIV network as well as the UN joint team UNICEF leading the young people engagement in order to pursue collaboration for young people to be engaged in program design and implementation.

– Development partner



We set up a platform where constituency particularly the civil society and the network can be able to come and voice their concern when we have numbers of regular meetings once every 2-3 month.

– UNAIDS representative



Interagency collaboration:

Collaboration with programs in school health fostered understanding of overall youth-related health issues among relevant stakeholders, created access to health services for youth and inadvertently supported the youth-related GF projects. In one country, the Ministry of Health, as CCM PR, collaborated with School Health Programs, to create more awareness for students particularly on TB, and gathered their input on the intervention to make the health services more accessible and supportive to youth.

K. UNDERSTANDING OF MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT (STAKEHOLDER VS YOUTH, WITH QUOTES)

This section illustrates the similar and different understanding of meaningful engagement between stakeholders and youth in CCM and GF related processes. Understanding the views and perceptions of meaningful engagement among stakeholders and youth helps identify common grounds and differences to work towards improving the future process of engagement in not just CCM, but other platforms for youth.

1. SIMILARITIES (STAKEHOLDER AND YOUTH)

Findings from the study show that there are common understandings among stakeholders and youth on the attributes of meaningful engagement. They are categorized as follows: individual traits, communication, youth representation, and constructive interaction.

Individual trait

- The process involves active participation from the members, information sharing within and beyond CCM, and being able to engage in respectful communication while deliberating ideas.
- The selected representatives shall be able to present a strong competence for action and response such as contributing ideas, participating in brainstorming, and proposing solutions in discussions and meetings.
- The representatives are expected to be proactive in completing their roles and responsibilities such as attending the meeting, having community dialogue, and ability to self-reflect.



Meaningful engagement is referring to when an individual is actively involved in activities, giving time and input as well as bringing benefit to their constituency, and organization. Besides, it's also reflecting in the ability to groom future youth champions.

– Executive Secretary of CCM



Communication

- There shall be available platforms that promote inclusive multi-sectoral discussions for the members to discuss on the needs of youth. Besides, the dynamics of communication shall be consistent, proactive, concise (simple to understand), transparent, and respectful. An initiative such as youth-specified country dialogue is one of the effective communication strategies to encourage adult-youth discussions.

Youth Representation

- Representation of Youth/Key Population shall be based upon the principle of practicality, inclusivity, and diversity in multi-level processes (consultation, implementation, Monitoring & evaluation, proposal writing, & decision making).
- Youth representation shall be reflected in the funding priorities, project activities, and meeting agenda to make sure focuses on young people are taken into consideration.

Constructive Interaction

- The process of engagement shall not be tokenistic or merely symbolic. It should demonstrate the active participation of its members by contributing ideas, bringing information, and finding solutions. Besides, there should be a balance of power dynamics which will enable a more equal and respectful engagement mechanism.



Youth should take part in ensuring the accountability of the program implemented under GF or other than GF to ensure the program is serving their needs.

– Stakeholder FGD Participant



2. DIFFERENCES (STAKEHOLDER AND YOUTH)

Findings also highlighted the unique perceptions among stakeholders and youth on the attributes of meaningful engagement.

Respondents	Understanding of meaningful engagement
Youth	<p><i>Capacity Building</i></p> <p>The youth participants in both FGDs and IDIs stressed the importance of having adequate capacity buildings for youth representatives for them to engage in meaningful discussion which often can be daunting due to the complexity in terminology or unfamiliarity of health management programs.</p> <p><i>Expecting young people to do an amazing job without any assistance is unreasonable and frankly, an excuse for the negligence of adults. —Youth CCM</i></p>
Stakeholder	<p><i>Networking & Advocacy</i></p> <p>Any Technical Working Committee/Group and youth network must rely on the principle of collaboration to push forwards the agenda of youth across various sectors. It requires establishing constructive relationships with various stakeholders and actors who can support the initiatives of youth in the manner of monetarily, technical support, proposal development, and advocacy. Besides, community-led engagement is crucial to ensure the voices of community constituents are heard in the process.</p> <p><i>Youth-friendly Policy</i></p> <p>There must be the implementation of certain youth policies in governance to illustrate the clear role and responsibilities of the youth representatives. This will allow them to have a formal and official position to engage with stakeholders in handling youth-related matters.</p>

3. EXAMPLES OF MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

The following are short country-specific case studies illustrating examples of meaningful engagement shared by stakeholders or youth during their interview.

Iran

The youth club approach implemented in one university is a good example of meaningful engagement with youth. The youth club implements the peer-to-peer approach as the main strategy when it comes to sharing information related to health and disease control. This initiative is supported by the CDC of Iran. Besides, one of the members of CCM who is from the ministry of broadcasting has been assisting the young students to publicize the project through different means.

Indonesia

UNICEF Indonesia and Inti Muda have engaged in an in-depth process for the LOLIPOP project which was widely known within the region as one of the good case studies for partnership. The LOLIPOP project focused on capacity building, advocacy, service delivery, and data generation programs which are the result of consultations with many youths to identify the activities they would envision if funding is made for them. Furthermore, rather than having the typical empowerment workshops that focus on just increasing knowledge on HIV or awareness, the program also focused on nurturing the leadership component of young people through public speaking skills, advocacy initiatives, and community engagement.

By taking into consideration all the input given by youth, UNICEF supported Inti Muda with such initiatives. Despite that the project has ended, they have managed to train more youth people to be more professional in advocacy as well as the gaps in service delivery. The partnership has created a long-lasting engagement mechanism between Inti Muda with different parties to be the representative of young people in HIV response.

Bangladesh

UNAIDS and various UN agencies created the “HIM center” which is a shelter home for MSM and TG youth. The center is run by young people and supported by adults in terms of resources and operational guidance. If the center manager faces difficulty in engaging with certain residents, they can get involved with professionals such as counselors, healthcare providers, etc. The collaboration between young people and adults enables YKP to seek shelter, information, and protection. The appointment of a youth center manager depicts the reality that young people can be more than beneficiaries but also implementers.

Thailand

A partnership committee is officially mentioned in the Operational Guideline. The election of this committee is an invitation to existing networks to join a session informing the function of CCM and let them elect the disease reps and KP reps. In this way, the network itself can incorporate as much as possible to reflect on the issues of the community because they speak in the same language and reflect back to CCM high-level discussion.



Timor Leste

The Komunita Bersama program has involved beyond the mainstream young people but also young people who are living and affected by different diseases. The program focuses on expanding interaction with different young people to ensure different problems are raised due to geopolitical differences and discrepancy in accessing information.

Vanuatu, Pacific

Vanuatu implemented the peer-to-peer approach to engage with young people by appointing the eligible youth focal person in each ward as Male and Female Presidents to look after youth communities in their area with the financial support from Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) and UNDP.

4. EXAMPLES OF LACK OF MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

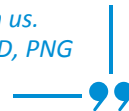
Tokenism, lack of clarity of role

Some youth participants in an FGD stated that “the existing CCM mechanism is very tokenistic and people sitting in the position do not speak up for the community and often just take the position for granted.” The lack of TOR that illustrates youth representatives’ role and responsibilities in CCM also has restricted their capacity in engaging with other stakeholders. Besides, the discussion at the CCM level was not delivered down to the community members. Hence, sub-recipients, mostly community-youth-led organizations, were not aware of the discussion that would affect their operational approach to reaching the community and project deliverables.



We actually don't know what's up there and what's the discussion they are having there. We need somebody up there to come down and talk to us so that we can be part of the CCM process. Many of the programs are dominated by adults, we are just under them. But we have issues to bring up so that the future program can fit in us.

– Youth FGD, PNG



Poor communication and management of conflict

One youth participant shared an experience where there was no meaningful engagement and instead faced hostility in a meeting. During a policy making meeting, a youth participant and facilitator had disagreements over priorities during the workshop and the process of communication was hostile, incorporative, disruptive, and disrespectful. Instead of using evidence to support each of their claims, personal attack and condemnations were used instead.

Technical jargon in meetings

One youth participant shared that despite being invited and involved in most of the CCM meetings as an alternate CCM youth member, she did not understand the meeting and its outcome due to the complex terminology and technical concept of health funding and program management. There was no proper explanation to her about the meetings and she could not express her thoughts effectively to stakeholders in terms of how the grassroots organization’s experience and challenges would affect the achievement of the funding.

Lack of transparency and representation of youth in GF related processes

Some participants in an FGD stated that there was no youth representative for their country and youth engagement happened in a consultation manner only. Youths were not included in the CCM decision-making spaces which hindered the communication process. They are not able to provide input on their perspectives and challenges faced in project implementation. Additionally, late invitations resulted in insufficient time to prepare for meetings. The lack of transparency and communication within CCM also restricted the opportunity of the youth-led organization to apply for funding or write proposals.



DISCUSSION

A. LIMITATIONS

Considering that only 15 out of the 19 GF-supported countries participated in this study in the Asia Pacific, caution must be taken in applying these findings to all other countries in the region. As this is a qualitative study, no inferences can be drawn about the prevalence of phenomena observed beyond the sample.

This study does not quantify its findings except for the description of participants. As not every participant of the research has been asked exactly the same questions in the same way, reporting the frequency of a given response or emergent theme will probably misrepresent the data, even within the sample studied.

Recruitment of participants was challenging due to the competing priorities of participants and their unavailability. Out of 40 planned IDIs, only 30 (75%) were conducted, and only 8 out of 16 planned FGDs (50%) were conducted. In addition, all interviews and FGDs took more than two months to complete. All IDIs and FGDs, except for Cambodia, were conducted via online platforms such as Zoom and WhatsApp. This approach limits the engagement and interaction as interviews were disrupted by poor internet connection and interviewers could not observe non-verbal cues from participants during interview sessions. Language was also a barrier in communicating the questions and answers effectively in some interviews as English was not the first language in most Asia and Pacific countries.

As some of the participants were unclear of their roles in CCM, and the function of CCM, their recommendations or expectations of the CCM may not apply to the findings of the study.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Who to implement	Estimated timeline
Governance Recommendations		
17. Develop a simplified guide to support CCM and youth at country-level in defining youth in CCM (with age threshold), their roles and responsibilities and governance to ensure meaningful and sustained engagement of youth at country discussions.	GF, CCM, and Youth LEAD	October—December 2022 (regional and in-country)
18. Ensure that CCM Evolution and other CCM-related governance activities include youth specific components and priorities to ensure youth’s engagement at all levels of the GF processes.	GF, CCM, youth networks/organizations	On-going (regional and in-country)
19. Institutionalize the support for youth CCMA) d) Involve youth in the development, planning and implementation of CCM-related governance and activities. e) Facilitate the involvement of youth in the development of terms of references, guidance notes, orientation, meeting’s agenda, community consultations, oversight checklist, and consolidation of input from constituencies during funding request, and grant implementation. f). Youth LEAD could provide existing available resources to countries that require such support	CCM, youth networks/organizations, Youth LEAD	On-going (in-country)
Communications Recommendations		
20. Develop and disseminate terms of reference and ensure language is key-population and youth friendly. Ensure translation is available in the local language.	CCM	Orientation workshop at the beginning of newly elected CCM members’ term (in-country)
21. Develop a Youth CCM information and sharing platform. c) Share up-to-date databases of youth CCM members, youth engaged in GF Processes and existing country youth networks in the Asia Pacific, and keep members informed on regional activities on a quarterly basis via social media/platform. d) This platform could potentially be a cross-learning platform as well for members to share their experiences and ways they address issues.	Youth LEAD	October 2022—October 2023, and reassess platform for continuation (regional)

Recommendations	Who to implement	Estimated timeline
<p>22. Develop communication strategies, plan and tools for each CCM term at country level.</p> <p>a) Strengthen feedback mechanism by leveraging existing best practices and adapt them into local settings.</p> <p>b) Develop campaign strategies to promote CCM and also recruitment of youth CCM members.</p> <p>c) Develop tools and reference on CCM governance.</p> <p>d) Ensure youth-specific approaches are included.</p>	CCM	First quarter of CCM's new term (in-country)
<p>23. Develop a one-page guidance note or policy brief on youth involvement in CCM based on this situational report. Adapt and translate in different languages to cater to the youth and key populations at country level.</p>	Youth LEAD	October to December 2022 (regional)
Capacity Building Recommendations		
<p>24. Mentor and capacitate youth in their roles as alternate CCM members to later transition them as CCM members.</p> <p>a) Ensure at least one of the alternate CCM members for key populations is below age of <25.</p> <p>b) Capacitate and transition him/her to potentially be an elected CCM member representing key population or youth after the completion of his/her term as alternate member.</p>	CCM and youth organizations/networks	Throughout the term of a newly elected alternate CCM member (in-country)
<p>25. Develop and implement capacity building plan at every CCM term (2 years).</p> <p>c) Youth specific training should be led by youth member(s) with the support of key population and other CCM members to ensure ownership and relevance of the activities.</p> <p>d) Ensure coordination with other CCM members in developing the training plan to ensure integration and avoid overlap.</p>	CCM, youth organizations/networks	First quarter of CCM's new term (in-country)

<p>26. Develop a regional platform, where a mentor-mentee program could be formalized in the Asia Pacific region.</p> <p>a) This platform potentially could mobilize youth with CCM experience to provide guidance and support to newly elected youth CCM members in the region.</p> <p>b) This platform can also serve as a cross-learning program for youth from countries with youth CCM and countries without youth CCM members but engaged in GF related processes.</p>	Youth LEAD	October 2022—October 2023, and reassess platform for continuation (regional)
<p>27. Leverage upcoming regional and in-country youth and key population related consultations to present this situational analysis report and develop actionable and achievable in country and regional advocacy/training/activity plans to strengthen youth involvement in CCM and GF related activities.</p>	Youth LEAD, youth organizations/networks	On-going
<p>Representation and Engagement of Youth Recommendations</p>		
<p>28. Ensure a seat for youth in CCM, specifically, in countries with high incidence and prevalence of youth or young key populations in HIV/TB/Malaria, and where countries have prioritized youth-specific interventions and targets in their national strategic plans and GF country grants should have at least a seat for youth CCM.</p>	GF (Country Team, CCM Hub and CRG), youth networks/organizations, CCM	Prior to next election of CCM (in-country)
<p>29. Identify existing youth platforms and mobilize youth in advocacy efforts to ensure youth involvement in GF related processes and increase visibility of CCM among a wider network of youth.</p>	Youth networks/organizations, CCM	On-going (in-country)
<p>30. Ensure youth involvement in the nomination and election process of youth CCM members</p>	CCM	Prior to next election of CCM (in-country)
<p>Resource Mobilization Recommendations</p>		
<p>31. Interagency collaboration (among development partners, CCM, Ministry of Health) to support youth specific funding in technical assistance or capacity building activities.</p>	CCM, Ministry of Health, Development partners	On-going
<p>32. Mapping and coordination of existing technical support and funding availability to support in-country advocacy and activities related to strengthening youth in CCM and GF related processes.</p>	Youth LEAD, in-country development partners	On-going

A. MAPPING REPORT

1. Background

Country-Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) are mechanisms for public-private partnership in the coordination of national disease programs at country level. The members of CCM represent the interests of country level stakeholders in the fight against HIV, TB, and malaria. This ranges from country dialogues, to funding request development, to overall grant management and grant reprogramming, to evaluation. The CCM also provides the platform for linking broader national health and development programs of the country in relation to Global Fund grants. As individuals, CCM members are accountable to the core constituency; while as a group, the CCM is accountable to the nation in the manner of ensuring project implementations are in conjunction with national plans in ending HIV, TB, and Malaria.

Although CCM principles and accountability promote inclusivity, young people are often left out from the conversation, and in many instances, youth remain underrepresented in, or totally excluded from, formal decision-making processes. This is despite overwhelming evidence that when youth are engaged, when their voices are genuinely heard and taken into account, when they are empowered and can influence decisions that lead to innovative intervention. Furthermore, there are countries with youth representatives who are not from the affected populations and seem to struggle in bringing the needs and wants of YKP into the discussion. In addition, youth representatives generally are having challenges in terms of inadequate knowledge about Global Fund and CCM, lack of constant communication with CCM secretariat, lack of representation, and not being taken seriously in the decision-making process.

Since the Global Fund's inception, young people have been involved in decision-making and grant implementation, but the degree of participation of young people from dozens of Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) are declining consistently across the years. The shrinking space of opportunity for youth engagement has impacted the national HIV response due to the lack of community empowerment, linkage to services and information, strategic advocacy, decision making, and active youth participation in national HIV, TB, and Malaria response. In fact, when youth representatives are equipped with greater understanding of priorities and stage of funding requests, they are able to generate stronger community response with the existing YKP network and utilize technology to reach out to the youth community.

The CCM Evolution Strategic Initiative is a catalytic opportunity to enhance the way our partnership works in countries and regions. The objective of CCM Evolution is to equip CCMs to facilitate inclusive oversight and meaningful engagement in alignment with national structures for sustained health governance. The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) evolution initiative aims to strengthen CCMs' performance in four areas: their internal functioning, oversight of the grants, engagement between the CCM and its constituency members, and linkages with other national governance bodies. However, the emphasis on young people within the CCM evolution has been weak and there is an urgency for more evidence to push the youth related agenda in the evolution process.

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As a result, this situational analysis of CCM in Asia-Pacific will be the first formal assessment in measuring the degree of youth member involvement in Country-Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) at the regional level. The mapping survey explores the presence of young people under the age of 27 as official CCM members, their preferred method of contact, tenure in CCM, enabling environment and support mechanism, and youth engagement in the CCM and GF process. The consultants build the database of selected countries by gathering information, literature review and communicating with the country secretariat of CCM across Asia-Pacific, and Youth LEAD country partner to identify the pool of young members who might be potential key participants for the second phase.

The result of regional situational analysis of 18 countries will be utilized to identify the presence of youth members in the CCM process, mapping of young people in the CCM to assess the level of their engagement at the CCM. Besides, the survey includes the components of assessing the opportunities and challenges faced by the young people who are currently representing the CCM, regardless of their position or representation. The finding will serve as a reference for potential recommendations on how the young people can engage in a more meaningful manner to the CCM decision-making process. The challenges raised will be room for improvement for CCM Evolution to strengthen the gaps within CCM across Asian and Pacific pertaining to meaningful youth participation in CCM.

2. Methodology

The study targeted 18 countries across Asia-Pacific, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, PNG, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Multi Country Western Pacific. Myanmar and Afghanistan were not able to be included due to the country situation, and Fiji was transitioned in 2017 which resulted in no active CCM.

The United Nation youth definition is up to 24 years old however, the age range for youth varies from country to country. Based on Youth LEAD experience and guidance, the age of up to 27 was the modest definition. Hence, the official youth representatives and CCM members who were under 27 were defined as youth in the study.

The development of the questionnaire was divided into four components including “Country information and Youth CCM Member Representation”, “Personal and organizational information of Youth CCM Member”, “Enabling Environment and Support Mechanism” and “Youth Engagement in the CCM and Global Fund Process.”

Countries without official CCM members under the age of 27 would skip to “Youth Engagement in the CCM and Global Fund Process” after “Country information and Youth CCM Member Representation” to answer young people’s participation in the proposal development process or involvement in technical working groups.

The questionnaire used Google Form as an online survey tool. In collaboration with CCM Hub, an attachment of “Letter for CCM Secretariat” and online survey link were sent to all countries CCM secretariats requesting them to disseminate it among country CCM members. Data collection was completed from 19 October to 3rd December.

3. Key findings

There were 29 responses in total from 18 countries due to multiple youth representations in countries such as Timor-Leste and Iran. Among 29 responses, there were 7 countries responding with youth CCM members representing either youth or key population, and 11 countries without youth CCM members. Countries without youth CCM members were still giving inputs regarding youth engagement in the CCM and Global Fund process.

From 7 countries, 10 youth CCM members responded to the survey. The respondents' age distribution is from 22 to 27 years, and the average age is 25.5 years. Their self-identified gender were 5 male, 4 female and 1 transgender. Two of them were female sex work and two were from LGBTIQ+ community.

Categories	#	Name of Country
Countries with youth CCM Member	8	Bhutan, Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, PNG, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Philippines
Countries without youth CCM Member	10	Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Multicountry Western Pacific

*Countries with youth representing both youth and key population are in BLACK; representing only youth are in ORANGE; representing only key populations are in PURPLE.

Enabling Environment and Support Mechanism

Majority of the participants (7 out of 10) indicated that there was no policy or by-laws to secure young people's engagement in the CCM, however, young people would still be invited or given chances to participate in CCM-related work/meetings.

Another concern was the limited slots/seats for young people in the CCM shrunk the opportunities for diverse key populations.

“Young people are nowhere at the CCM process”

answered by one participant. It was not only the representation that matters, the capacity and literacy provided to youth CCM members for meaningful engagement in the process also urgently needed to be optimized.

Several feedbacks such as “Request for delivering capacity building training for official CCM youth representing KP”, “The capacity of internal communication skill and manpower still be the problem of all constituencies network” and “It will be good to hear experience from CCM with youth reps on experiences and lessons learnt” reiterated the demands on cross-learning platform for young people and youth CCM to mingle and exchange information.

Assessment on capacity and literacy for meaningful engagement			
Available Orientation/ Capacity building/Mentoring organized by CCM	4 Yes (Bhutan, Malaysia, Mongolia, PNG)	Orientation/Capacity building/ Mentoring adequate for meaningful contribution	2 Yes (Bhutan, Malaysia)
	6 No (Iran, Thailand, Timor-Leste)		2 No (Mongolia, PNG)
Available Orientation/ Capacity building/Mentoring organized by non-CCM	2 Yes (Iran, Mongolia)		N/A
	8 No (Bhutan, Iran, Malaysia, PNG, Thailand, Timor-Leste)		1 Yes (Mongolia)
		1 No (Iran)	
			N/A

Youth Engagement in the CCM and Global Fund Process

- Approximately a half of 29 responses ever engaged in Global Fund funding request country dialogues in the last year. However, only two specific country dialogues were tailored to youth.
- Beside the position of CCM members, youth can also participate in funding requests by being part of Technical Working Group, members of Oversight Committee, Executive Committee etc. Based on the data, youth attending CCM meetings are on regular frequency, yet the actual engagement on decision-making discussion will need to be further explored in phase 2 in-depth interviews.
- In addition, 5 out of 29 responses were not aware of CCM evolution.

4. Challenges

Across the process of gathering data for first phase, the consultants have encountered several challenges as below:

Structural Barrier

The approach of the data collection by sending it to the CCM secretariat or coordinator for them to extend to members of CCM in respective countries has indicated the different level of response to the survey. CCM secretariat from one country indicates the difficulty to request the CCM members to fill up the survey due to the excessive amount of additional surveys and requests from Global Fund or other parties. Hence, the coordinator did not extend the survey to the members until follow-up email was received.



Next, the response of youth members for the survey was galvanized after the request was sent to them personally as they didn't receive any instruction from country CCM to fill up the survey as per the letter attached in the introduction email.

Youth Representation

In some countries, there was no youth representation at all across the whole CCM board, hence we might not be able to capture the opportunity of young people to participate in some countries' CCM, in terms of discussion, selecting Principal Recipient, reviewing on budget, participating in oversight or as TWG committee.

Youth Participation

The participation of the survey by young CCM members was diverse according to each country's context. The fact that some countries have young people in the CCM board as youth representative/alternate, but no response was received. Instead, it was filled up by the CCM secretariat on behalf of the young members.

5. Consultants' observation

Overall, the process of data collection has challenges as it took longer than the expected period of time to obtain the commitment of the country's CCM secretariat and youth members to fill up the survey. However, the assistance from regional UN partners like UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, and Youth LEAD country partners such as Lighthouse, Y-Peer Philippine, Youth LEAD Mongolia, Inti Muda, and Human Touch. have certainly helped us in accelerating the process and building communication with the CCM secretariat. In terms of the findings, we realized that youth members were not able to provide explicit examples of youth-centered practice from their own experience as a youth member in the CCM board. It depicts that the youth CCM member in different countries has a heterogeneous degree of experience in terms of actively and meaningfully engaging in their country's CCM process.

B. LIST OF INTERVIEWEES (NAME AND DESIGNATION, COUNTRY)

	Country	Name	Position
Type 1: CCM with Youth Representatives	Iran	Ms. Zahra Kadkhoda	CCM secretariat Coordinator
	Malaysia	Dr. Anita Suleiman	Head of HIV/STI/Hepatitis C Sector, Ministry of Health and Executive Secretary of CCM
	Mongolia	Ms Oyundari Batmunkh	CCM Secretariat Coordinator
	Mongolia	Ms Oyundari, Batsaikhan	Technical Officer for HIV and Non-communicable diseases, WHO
	Philippine	Cherylle Garcia Gavino	Concurrent Director IV, Health Promotion Bureau and Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Department of Health
	Thailand	Dr. Suriya Wongkongkathep	Elected Chair. Public Health Consultant. Former Deputy Permanent Secretary, MOPH Thailand
	Thailand	Patchara Benjarattanaporn	Country director of UNAIDS Thailand
	Timor-Leste	Sabina Fernandes Seac	Bi-lateral, Director of NGO Sharis Haburas Comunidade/SHC
	Timor-Leste	Mr Lucio Freitas	Executive Secretary of CCM Timor-Leste
Type 2: CCM with no youth representatives but involved in the GF process	Bhutan	Dolley Tshering	National HIV Program Officer, Ministry of Health
	Bhutan	Rada Dukpa	National TB Control Program Officer, Ministry of Health
	Bhutan	Dr Rinzin Rinzin	Vice Chair of CCM Bhutan
	Indonesia	Mrs Tina Boonto	Country Director of UNAIDS Indonesia
	Indonesia	Dr Samhari Baswedan	Executive Secretary of CCM Indonesia
	Indonesia	Mrs Ratna Hapsari	National AIDS Program Manager
	Nepal	Mr. Masauso Nzima	Country Director of UNAIDS Nepal
Type 3: CCM with no youth representatives and youth NOT known to be involved in GF processes	Bangladesh	Dr Saima Khan	Country Manager of UNAIDS Bangladesh
	Bangladesh	Dr Anupama Hazarika	Medical Officer at WHO
	Bangladesh	Dr Sabera Sultana	National communication officer at WHO on HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases
	Bangladesh	Mr Abu Taher	National Program Coordinator (Drugs and HIV/AIDS) at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
	Bangladesh	Dr Saima Khan	Country Manager of UNAIDS Bangladesh
	Bangladesh	Dr Rahat Ara Nur	Focal person for HIV/STI at UNFPA
	Cambodia	Mr Choub Sok Chamreun	Vice-Chair of CCM Cambodia
	PIRMCCM	Dr. Tessa Knox	Malaria Advisor at WHO
	PIRMCCM	Dr. Subhash Yadav	TB Advisor at WHO and Acting Chair for Technical Working Groups
	PIRMCCM	Renata Ram	Country Director of UNAIDS Fiji and the Pacific

Youth	Country	Name	Position
Type 1: CCM with Youth Representatives	Iran	Ms Azin Amiri	Youth CCM member
	Iran	Amir Mohammad Orafaie	Youth CCM member
	Malaysia	Jeremy Tan	Youth CCM member
	Mongolia	Legee Tamir	Youth CCM member
	Philippine	Ralph Ivan Samson	Youth CCM member
	Timor-Leste	Roberto Soares Salsinha	Youth CCM member
	Vietnam	Ms.Ariana Tran	Alternate youth member
Type 2: CCM with no youth representatives but involved in the GF process	Bhutan	Tenzin Gyeltshen	KP representative of CCM Bhutan
	Bhutan	Dechen Wangdi	Oversight Committee Member TB and LGBTI community at CCM Bhutan
	India	Pooja Mishra	State coordinator of HIV/AIDS Alliance India
	India	Sadam Hanjabam	Founder & CEO of Ya_All
	India	Lulu Mangang	Program Coordinator of Ya_All
	India	Karon Lama	India focal point of Youth LEAD
	Indonesia	Missael Hotman Napitupulu	Youth advocate. Board Member of Inti Muda
	Indonesia	Agatha	Program Manager of Inti Muda HQ
	Indonesia	Yogi	Focal point for Bali
	Indonesia	Suleman	Program Coordinator
	Indonesia	Andrian	Program Coordinator
	Indonesia	Alip	Youth Volunteer
	Indonesia	Anshori	Program Coordinator
	Nepal	Pooja Kunwar	Executive Board of YKP LEAD Nepal
Nepal	Rajeshwori Parjapati	Executive Board of YKP LEAD Nepal	
Nepal	Rojal Maharjan	Executive Board of YKP LEAD Nepal	
Type 3: CCM with no youth representatives and youth NOT known to be involved in GF processes	Bangladesh	Farha Jarin	Project Office and Counselor, Bandhu
	Bangladesh	Md. Liton	Community leader, DU Community
	Bangladesh	Ariful Hasan	Project Coordinator, LEGD project (Legal Empowerment & Gender Diversity), Bandhu
	Bangladesh	Ratri Akter	Community leader, sex work community
	Bangladesh	Istiaq Ahmed	Project Coordinator, Ashar Alo Society
	Cambodia	Likean	MEAL Officer, This Life Cambodia
	Cambodia	Kimchhy	Program Coordinator, Women Peace Maker
	Cambodia	Brosrov	Community worker coordinator, Mith Samlanh
	Cambodia	Linda	Focal person, Kdei Karuna Organization
	Cambodia	Bunchheang	Youth Mentor and Officer, VMC (Volunteer for My Community), Ministry of Education
	PNG	Kila Yamo	Peer outreach worker, Hope World Wide (TG)
	PNG	Charles (Cindy) Mamata	Peer outreach worker, Hope World Wide (TG)
	PNG	Willie Waraiembu	Peer outreach worker, Anglicare PNG (MSM)
	PNG	Charles Taylor	Volunteer KP Advocacy Consortium PNG
Vanuatu	Georgilla Worwor	Advocacy Officer, Vanuatu Family Health Association	

IDI Guide for Youth CCM representatives

Introductory questions

This interview is being conducted to get your views on youth engagement in the CCM process. Your input will help us develop recommendations on how to strengthen participation of young people in the GF related decision-making processes. You have been identified as an informant for this study because we believe that you are the subject matter expert and therefore, we have much to learn from you. There is no right or wrong response, it is all about your experience, opinions, and suggestions. If you agree to participate, I will conduct a 60-90-minute one-on-one interview via Zoom with you. The session will be audio/video recorded to ensure that your opinions and experiences are recorded accurately. All interviews will be documented, and no one outside the consultant team will be allowed to have access to these recordings. If you do not want the interview to be recorded, you may opt to remove yourself from this study anytime. Do you have any questions before we proceed?

Would you briefly tell me about your role in CCM and the duration you have joined CCM?

Guided questions

1. Would you mind walking me through the process of your involvement in CCM? For example, how did you get to know about CCM and how did you get yourself involved? How long?
2. What are your roles and responsibilities as a CCM member? For example, how do you ensure your constituency and voice are represented in CCM, and how did you disseminate information back to your constituency?
3. What are your experiences in being a youth/young KP representative of CCM? What was facilitative or helpful in the process? What was challenging? Probing questions include time management (too many meetings), understanding technical issues e.g. modular template, budget, M&E, coping with pressures, ethical issues, communication with constituencies etc.
4. What steps have been taken to address the challenges? Can be either self or system/CCM body
5. What is your definition/understanding of meaningful engagement? In what capacity were you meaningfully engaged in CCM, i.e., oversight committee, technical working group etc.?
6. In your setting, would you give examples where you felt you were meaningfully engaged? Any examples where you felt otherwise?
7. How do you envision your role to be and the support you need to ensure meaningful engagement of young people in CCM? For example, what kind of orientation, capacity building, mentoring from CCM are useful and how often? How was your experience with regards to communication among CCM members for cross-learning, and knowledge sharing? How can it be improved?
8. How can stakeholders and other constituencies support youth CCM members in meaningful engagement and involvement of GF related processes?

IDI Guide for youth not represented in CCM but engaged in the GF and its related processes

Introductory questions

This interview is being conducted to get your views on youth's engagement in the GF process. Your input will help us develop recommendations on how to strengthen participation of young people in the GF related decision-making processes. You have been identified as an informant for this study because we believe that you are the subject matter expert and therefore, we have much to learn from you. There is no right or wrong response, it is all about your experience, opinions, and suggestions. If you agree to participate, I will conduct a 60-90-minute one-on-one interview via Zoom with you. The session will be audio/video recorded to ensure that your opinions and experiences are recorded accurately. All interviews will be documented, and no one outside the consultant team will be allowed to have access to these recordings. If you do not want the interview to be recorded, you may opt to remove yourself from this study anytime. Do you have any questions before we proceed?

Would you briefly tell me about your participation in a GF related process and what was your role in that process? How long were you engaged?

Guided questions

1. Would you mind walking me through the process of your involvement in the GF related process at countries such as country dialogues during proposal development, CCM meetings or advocacy, GF implementers (as SR or SSR) dialogue or other national processes or other GF related engagement such as the National Strategic Plan review or development? What did you participate in, and for how long? How did you get to know about the engagements and how did you get yourself involved? Are you representing youth/young KP in any other national or sub-national decision-making forum?
2. What would be the added value or advantage to your advocacy and engagement if you or fellow youth members would have been the CCM member?
3. What are your roles and responsibilities as a youth/young KP representative? For example, how do you ensure your constituency and voice are represented in the process, and how did you disseminate information back to your constituency?
4. What are your experiences in being a youth/young KP representative in the process? What was facilitative or helpful in the process? What was challenging?
5. What steps have been taken to address the challenges?
6. What is your definition/understanding of meaningful engagement?
7. In your setting, would you give examples where you felt you were meaningfully engaged? Any examples where you felt otherwise?
8. How do you envision your role to be and the support you need to ensure meaningful engagement of young people in the GF process? For example, what kind of orientation, capacity building, mentoring from CCM are useful and how often?
9. How can stakeholders and other constituencies support young people in meaningful engagement and involvement of GF related processes?

IDI Guide for Stakeholders

Introductory questions

This interview is being conducted to get your views on youth's engagement in the GF process. Your input will help us develop recommendations on how to strengthen participation of young people in the GF related decision-making processes. You have been identified as an informant for this study because we believe that you are the subject matter expert and therefore, we have much to learn from you. There is no right or wrong response, it is all about your experience, opinions, and suggestions. If you agree to participate, I will conduct a 60-90-minute one-on-one interview via Zoom with you. The session will be audio/video recorded to ensure that your opinions and experiences are recorded accurately. All interviews will be documented, and no one outside the consultant team will be allowed to have access to these recordings. If you do not want the interview to be recorded, you may opt to remove yourself from this study anytime. Do you have any questions before we proceed?

Would you briefly tell me about your participation in a GF related process and what was your role in that process?
How long were you engaged?

Guided questions

1. Would you mind walking me through the process of your involvement in CCM? For example, how did you get to know about CCM and how did you get yourself involved? How long?
2. What are your roles and responsibilities as a CCM member?
3. CCM with youth representatives: What are your experiences working with a youth/young KP representative of CCM? How about non-youth CCM i.e., a youth who is not a CCM member but is engaged in the GF process? What was facilitative or helpful in the process? What was challenging? To what extent the CCM as the whole has acknowledged and addressed the youth issues through the GF grant.
4. CCM with no youth representatives: What are your experiences working with a youth/young KP in your country? How are they engaged in the GF process? What was facilitative or helpful in the process? What was challenging? Without youth CCM members, how are youth issues getting into the CCM agenda and addressed?
5. What steps have been taken to address the challenges? Individual and system level.
6. What is your definition/understanding of meaningful engagement among young people?
7. Why do you consider it relevant for young people to be engaged in CCM?
8. How do you envision your role in supporting meaningful engagement of young people in CCM? For example, what kind of orientation, capacity building, mentoring from CCM are useful and how often?

FGD Guide for Youth CCM representatives

Introductory questions

This focus group discussion is being conducted to get your views on youth's engagement in the GF process. Your input will help us develop recommendations on how to strengthen participation of young people in the GF related decision-making processes. You have been identified as an informant for this study because we believe that you are the subject matter expert and therefore, we have much to learn from you. There is no right or wrong response, it is all about your experience, opinions, and suggestions. If you agree to participate, I will conduct a 60-90-minute session via Zoom with this group. The session will be audio/video recorded to ensure that your opinions and experiences are recorded accurately. All interviews will be documented, and no one outside the consultant team will be allowed to have access to these recordings. If you do not want the interview to be recorded, you may opt to remove yourself from this study anytime. Do you have any questions before we proceed?

Please have the group members introduce themselves, and their role in CCM.

Guided questions

1. Would you mind walking me through the process of your involvement in CCM? For example, how did you get to know about CCM and how did you get yourself involved? How long?
2. What are your roles and responsibilities as a CCM member? For example, how do you ensure your constituency and voice are represented in CCM, and how did you disseminate information back to your constituency?
3. What are your experiences in being a youth/young KP representative of CCM? In one word, how would you describe that experience? Tell me more about that. What are the reasons that made your experience a positive /negative encounter?
4. What steps have been taken to address the challenges?
5. What is your definition or understanding of meaningful engagement? In what capacity were you meaningfully engaged in CCM, i.e., oversight committee, technical working group etc.?
6. How do you envision your role to be and the support you need to ensure meaningful engagement of young people in CCM? For example, what kind of orientation, capacity building, mentoring from CCM are useful and how often?

FGD Guide for youth not represented in CCM but engaged in GF and its related processes

Introductory questions

This focus group discussion is being conducted to get your views on youth's engagement in the GF process. Your input will help us develop recommendations on how to strengthen participation of young people in the GF related decision-making processes. You have been identified as an informant for this study because we believe that you are the subject matter expert and therefore, we have much to learn from you. There is no right or wrong response, it is all about your experience, opinions, and suggestions. If you agree to participate, I will conduct a 60-90-minute session via Zoom with this group. The session will be audio/video recorded to ensure that your opinions and experiences are recorded accurately. All interviews will be documented, and no one outside the consultant team will be allowed to have access to these recordings. If you do not want the interview to be recorded, you may opt to remove yourself from this study anytime. Do you have any questions before we proceed?

Please have the group members introduce themselves, and their role in the GF process.

Guided questions

1. Would you mind walking me through the process of your involvement in the GF and related processes? For example, how you got to know about the engagements and how did you get yourself involved? How long?
2. What are your roles and responsibilities as a youth representative? For example, how do you ensure your constituency and voice are represented in the process, and how did you disseminate information back to your constituency?
3. What would be the added value or advantage to their advocacy and engagement if they or fellow youth members would have been the CCM member?
4. What are your experiences in being a youth/young KP representative of a national/sub national dialogue? In one word, how would you describe that experience? Tell me more about that. What are the reasons that made your experience a positive /negative encounter?
5. What steps have been taken to address the challenges?
6. What is your definition or understanding of meaningful engagement? In what capacity were you meaningfully engaged in CCM, i.e. oversight committee, technical working group etc.?
7. How do you envision your role to be and the support you need to ensure meaningful engagement of young people in the GF process? For example, what kind of orientation, capacity building, mentoring from CCM are useful and how often?
8. FGD Guide for youths who are not represented in CCM and not known to be engaged in the GF and related processes

FGD Guide for youths who are not represented in CCM and not known to be engaged in the GF and related processes

Introductory questions

This focus group discussion is being conducted to get your views on youth's engagement in the GF process. Your input will help us develop recommendations on how to strengthen participation of young people in the GF related decision-making processes. You have been identified as an informant for this study because we believe that you are the subject matter expert and therefore, we have much to learn from you. There is no right or wrong response, it is all about your experience, opinions, and suggestions. If you agree to participate, I will conduct a 60-90-minute session via Zoom with this group. The session will be audio/video recorded to ensure that your opinions and experiences are recorded accurately. All interviews will be documented, and no one outside the consultant team will be allowed to have access to these recordings. If you do not want the interview to be recorded, you may opt to remove yourself from this study anytime. Do you have any questions before we proceed?

Please have the group members introduce themselves, and their role in their work.

Guided questions

1. Would you mind sharing your knowledge or understanding of the GF or CCM? Have you heard of it? Note: If not, explain the funding mechanism and CCM.
2. What are your roles and responsibilities as a youth advocate or implementor? Share with us your experience in a national or sub-national dialogue or advocacy process.
3. What would be the added value or advantage to their advocacy and engagement if they or fellow youth members would have been the CCM member?
4. What are your experiences in being a youth/young KP representative? In one word, how would you describe that experience? Tell me more about that. What are the reasons that made your experience a positive /negative encounter?
5. What steps have been taken to address the challenges?
6. What is your definition/understanding of meaningful engagement?
7. How do you envision your role to be and the support you need to ensure meaningful engagement of young people in the GF process? For example, what kind of orientation, capacity building, mentoring from CCM are useful and how often?

