

# Youth LEAD Annual Report

**2015**



# Message from the Chair

2015 was a milestone for international, national, and grassroots development organizations; we are facing a great opportunity in the development field to address our visions and objectives through wide and comprehensive approaches and dimensions of politics, society and culture, and at the same time, we are forced to overcome the challenge of shifting the traditional method of the civil society movement to one that is more professional, has cross-dialogue, and is accountable. Launching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and post 2015 Agenda was the sign to the world saying that components of our society should be inclusive and no one should be left behind in the process of achieving the SDGs by 2030.

In 2015, Youth LEAD as an advocacy-oriented youth-led regional network facilitated a series of capacity building activities in several countries. Take the New Gen training as an example; in 2015, the trainings continued to rollout in Cambodia, Mongolia, and the Philippines with hundreds of young key populations from grassroots movements being invited to learn and partake in these sessions. Innovatively, an evaluation of how New Gen training impacts participants to actively work on advocacy and raise social awareness and self-promotion, was led by Youth LEAD and Dr. Julia Coffey from the University of Newcastle in collaboration with a study Committee composed of UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the University of Melbourne.



In 2015, Youth LEAD worked constructively in different regional civil society joint-platforms, e.g. PACT, AP-RCEM and Unzip the Lips; and engaged in the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board (PCB) as the Asia Pacific NGO Delegation, through which Youth LEAD's agenda of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of key populations in the context of the right to

development, which will get highlighted in the 38th PCB NGO report in June 2016.

In 2015, the RCNF project operated well and consistently in seven countries with the additional funding under *Special Call For Proposals* through RCNF to support YKP engagement in the Global Fund. Similarly, RCNF Grantees were part of a successful Resource Mobilization Training and Sustainability Workshop from six countries and 12 focal points. Focal points in Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, PNG and Vietnam had multiple successes in 2015 such as conducting Global Fund training sessions, appealing for independent seats within Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), creating youth Chapter consultations, and conducting analysis & research.

Undoubtedly, Youth LEAD experienced a productive and fruitful year in 2015 with an array of support from diverse partners including UNICEF, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, Robert Carr' Foundation, Global Fund, 20 country focal point coordinators and members, and any other partners from global, regional and country networks. Looking ahead to 2016, we are expecting to endeavor ourselves into the first year of SDGs implementation, sustain the development of organizations and networks in the region, and bring out the young key population communities into a broader space for growth and development.

Sincerely,

ZHANG Nanjie  
Chair of Board, Youth LEAD



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## About Youth LEAD

Youth LEAD (Youth Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development) was founded in the summer of 2010 under THE Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV and AIDS (7 Sisters). Youth LEAD is a regional network of young populations and young people living with HIV, ages 18-27, in Asia and the Pacific. Young Key Populations (YKP) include young sex workers, young drug users, young men who have sex with men, young transgender people and young migrants. Youth LEAD's network exists to capacitate, empower, and create regional partnerships among national-level YKP organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. Youth LEAD equips its members with the necessary skills and tools to address gaps, issues, and challenges faced by marginalized, vulnerable, and affected communities.

# 2015 Highlights

1. Youth Caucus for High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting

JAN

1. NewGen Mongolia  
2. NewGen Cambodia

MAR

1. Adolescent & HIV session at 3rd Quinquennial Global HIV Surveillance Consultation Meeting

MAY

1. PCB NGO Delegation Meeting  
2. IFMSA Sub-Regional Training in Asia

JUN

JUL

1. PACT 2015 Annual Meeting

AUG

1. NewGen Philippines  
2. Exposure Visits (Lollipop Projects)

SEP

1. Resource Mobilization & Sustainability Training  
2. International Harm Reduction Conference  
3. Youth LEAD Annual General Meeting

OCT

NOV

DEC

1. High Level UNAIDS Meeting on the Rights, Roles and Responsibilities of Men in Fast-tracking the end of AIDS

# Strengthening Country Activism

**20** Countries

**59** Focal Points



*In 2015, Youth LEAD has continued to strengthen its focal points and has added Papua New Guinea to its list of country network organizations.*

# Strategic Priorities

*In 2014, Youth LEAD set Three Strategic Priorities that would be used to measure progress within the organization for 2015. They are as follows:*

<b>Strategic Priority 1:</b>	<b>Strategic Priority 2:</b>	<b>Strategic Priority 3:</b>
Building YKP Capacity: Leadership Skills, Organizational Development and Project Sustainability	Strengthening YKP Networking and Promotion of Strategic Partnerships	Regional & National Level Advocacy: Influencing Laws and Policies leading to a better informed programming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ NewGen 2014 Review</li><li>➤ Resource Mobilization Training</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Engagement with the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Youth Caucus for High-level intergovernmental meeting</li><li>➤ Global HIV Surveillance Constl.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ NewGen Cambodia /Mongolia/ Philippines</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ PACT 2015 Annual Meeting</li><li>➤ Consortium with YPEER</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation</li><li>➤ High-Level AIDS UN Meeting</li></ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ IFMSA Sub-regional Training</li><li>➤ International Harm Reduction Conference</li></ul>

# Strategic Priority 1: Building YKP Capacity: Leadership Skills, Organizational Development and Project Sustainability

## New Gen 2014 Review Evaluation Report

Four years since the first NewGeneration Leadership Training Course, known popularly as NewGen- today it has reached hundreds of young key populations in 10 countries across Asia and the Pacific. Youth LEAD therefore, wanted to measure the effectiveness and impact of NewGen within three specific sample countries; the Philippines, Indonesia, and Myanmar. The evaluation was led by Youth LEAD and Dr. Julia Coffey from the University of Newcastle in collaboration with the study committee composed of UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the University of Melbourne.



Among YKP who participated in the NewGen training, the [evaluation report](#) found that they have become active in advocacy work, have raised awareness through social media, and have mentored younger activists. The report also suggested conducting longitudinal research to determine NewGen's impact on personal and professional well-being, citing ACHIEVE's evaluation workshop in the Philippines as a way to capture the transformative impacts of NewGen to its participants.

## Resource Mobilization and Sustainability Training

This training occurred from 11-13 October targeting the Robert Carr Country Grantees from six countries and the Focal Point Coordinators from 12 countries. The sustainability workshop, specifically for the grantees, discussed how countries can smoothly diversify their available funding and scale up their current initiatives. Similarly, the workshop assessed and strengthened the efforts on resource mobilization and explored the multiple areas of support for the grantees to expedite the resource mobilization effort (including unconventional sources).

The resource mobilization training accommodated both grantees and focal point coordinators and ended with the creation of a country-specific resource mobilization plan. For the focal point coordinators, the training strengthened the understanding of their roles, their networking skills and it mapped out potential donors (and how to reach out to these agents).

# Strategic Priority 1

## NewGen Cambodia

March 25-27, 2015 - Held in Phnom Penh, around 30 participants from different provinces in Cambodia participated in the second country rollout of the NewGen course -NewGen 2.0. This new manual has been shortened into three days to cover three areas: understanding young key populations, leadership strengths, and communication and change.

After the welcome from the UNESCO country office by the UNESCO country representative and the Youth LEAD Secretariat, the training was facilitated by the Youth LEAD Cambodia team led by Chanthorn Phrong, Youth LEAD Cambodia focal point coordinator.

In their reflections, participants shared that they appreciated the activities in NewGen because they were able to learn while having fun.



## NewGen Mongolia

March 22-24, 2015- Youth LEAD Mongolia, with support from our regional coordinator, Thaw Zin Aye, conducted their NewGen Training in Ulaanbaatar. The training employed the revised NewGen curriculum and has ignited discussions on reproductive health and rights and leadership skills of young people in Mongolia. Most importantly, the training became a platform for Youth LEAD Mongolia members to talk about HIV and AIDS and how they could further spread awareness to prevent HIV in their country.

## NewGen Philippines

Sept. 28- Oct. 2 - Action for Health Initiatives Inc. (ACHIEVE), Youth LEAD's partner in the Philippines, conducted its Training of Trainers (TOT) session for its NextGeneration Leadership Program. This training session taught participants how to mentor and train a new set of young key population activists. Fifteen NextGen leaders were trained by five youth trainers (who graduated from the NewGen TOT in 2012) using the revised NewGen curriculum that includes SRHR modules. The training was supervised by Jeffrey Acaba from the Youth LEAD Secretariat and supported by UNICEF Philippines.





# Strategic Priority 2: Strengthening YKP Networking and Promotion of Strategic Partnerships

## PACT 2015 Annual Meeting - August 10-12 2015

This year's PACT annual meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand and had eleven PACT members from organizations from around the world attend, who were later joined by six UNAIDS regional youth officers.

The objective of the annual meeting was to analyse and review the new PACT structure and discuss updates on the progress as indicated in the work plan. A more cohesive plan was also drafted for the pending work of the coalition for 2015 and activities for the following year were also listed down. Youth LEAD, as the lead for one of the Resource goals, updated the PACT about its ongoing work on capacitating young people in their engagement with The Global Fund. Youth LEAD also invigorated its engagement under Goal that focuses on addressing legal and policy barriers.



## YPEER Consortium for Robert Carr Grant

Youth LEAD in partnership with YPEER conducted a consultation with participants from both organizations in five countries; Cambodia, China, Nepal, Bhutan and Indonesia. During the consultation, participants discussed joint advocacy and capacity development plans at the regional and national levels and revised the MOU between Youth LEAD and YPEER based on the feedback and inputs from member countries.

**Consultation Follow-up:** Youth LEAD and YPEER reviewed the partnership plan and created a joint proposal which has been successfully granted by the Robert Carr Network fund for 2016-2018.

# Strategic Priority 2



## Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

In 2015, Youth LEAD reached out and expanded its work with broader civil society on key social development issues. One of these crucial issues was on the **Sustainable Development Goals**. As the only regional network on young key populations in the world, Youth LEAD participated in the Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development Goals, wherein they were met with a hundred NGOs, civil society, and community organizations from 17 constituency groups that compose the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM). AP-RCEM is an innovative platform of civil society in the Asia Pacific that promotes and advances the development justice framework in the SDGs, with one of its primary goals of implementing and monitoring the ongoing progress of the SDGs in the Asia Pacific. AP-RCEM's constituency membership includes women, farmers, fisherfolk, urban poor,

indigenous peoples, people living with and affected by HIV, and among others, children, adolescents and young people.

Youth LEAD Secretariat's Jeffry Acaba, along with Youth LEAD intern Vicki Alexopoulos, actively participated in the children, youth, and adolescents constituency in the discussions on SDG priorities for these populations. The interest to partake in this broad civil society engagement with the UN eventually led to Youth LEAD's decision to take the leadership as the focal point for the children, youth, and adolescent constituency. Nancy Zhang, Youth LEAD Chair, is now representing Youth LEAD in the AP-RCEM, with support from Youth LEAD Secretariat.

In August 2015, Youth LEAD released a set of [comments](#) on the negotiated text relating to the SDGs as part of our engagement with AP-RCEM.



### New Additions to the Youth LEAD Network

**India** – YKP network established with efforts to seek legal registration

**Pakistan** – youth 'chapter' established within national network of key populations

**Cambodia, Nepal, Mongolia, China** – structures and procedures in place for YKP networks (as yet not legally registered)

# Strategic Priority 3: Regional and National Level Advocacy: Influencing Laws and Policies leading to a better informed programming

## Youth Caucus for High-level Intergovernmental meeting

In preparation for the Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on HIV/AIDS on Jan. 26th 2015 that reviews the progress of countries in addressing HIV and AIDS, Youth LEAD organized a youth caucus to serve as a platform for youth delegates and youth representatives to discuss the landscape of the IGM and potential strategies to better influence the IGM outcome document. With support from UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNAIDS, in cooperation with Youth Voices Count (YVC), 28 youth activists from 20 organizations in 14 countries came together to achieve the following objectives:

1. To identify priority issues of youth and YKP organizations that must be discussed at meeting
2. To develop a call to action that will serve as youth statement for the IGM
3. To strategize on the possible pathways in contributing to the CSO Forum and in influencing the IGM outcome document

The participants developed a consolidated youth statement, which was later presented and integrated into the CSO statement, and utilized as an advocacy document at the IGM.

## Adolescents & HIV session - Global HIV Surveillance Consultation

**May 11-14, Bangkok, Thailand** - Since 2013, Youth LEAD has been working closely with UNICEF for the All-In to end Adolescent AIDS Strategy in Asia Pacific, which promotes and develops measures towards a more inclusive AIDS response for adolescent key populations. In May 2015, Youth LEAD, along with UNICEF and Lisa Johnston from Tulane University, developed a fun, meaningful session on addressing barriers of data collection for young key populations aged 10-14 and 15-19. This was part of the greater session on HIV surveillance, which was presented before more than a hundred surveillance officers, researchers, experts, and epidemiologists worldwide. The aim of the session was to discuss different sampling techniques in data collection, to ensure adolescents and YKP are engaged in data collection and to analyze data ethically with considerations that revolve around working with youth. A [toolbook](#) on strategic information and data targeting for adolescents was also released at the session.





# Strategic Priority 3

## High-level UNAIDS meeting on the Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Men in Fast Tracking the End of AIDS

Dec. 10-11 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

At this high-level UNAIDS meeting, Youth LEAD was invited to present on the role and impact of comprehensive sexual education and its role in changing gender norms and addressing gender inequalities, in relation to the HIV response.

UNAIDS Target 7 states that by 2030, 90% of all women and girls can live free from gender inequality and gender-based violence through the increasing capacity of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV but to successfully address these gender inequalities and violence, men and boys must be involved in the discussion and their rights, roles, and responsibilities must be recognized and taken into account.

Youth LEAD presented in one of the parallel sessions and shared how education and its outreach to both formal and out-of-school bodies is paramount in ensuring that nobody gets left behind in raising awareness and promoting a gender transformative health agenda. Youth LEAD also shared stories on NewGen and how it can reshape local AIDS responses to address HIV in a more gender-responsive manner. This is exemplified through ACHIEVE's Gender and Age Mainstreaming Training (GAME) in the Philippines and Fokus Muda's LOLIPOP in Indonesia.

## Asia Pacific Delegation representation to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) NGO Delegation in 2015

Youth LEAD continues to be actively engaged in its representation as one of the two Asia Pacific delegates of the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS PCB. Represented by Jeffry Acaba, Youth LEAD Education and Advocacy Lead, this group coordinated the NGO Report Working Group, which was tasked to develop the NGO Report for 2015. The topic for the report was on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of key populations in the context of the right to development. The report will be presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> PCB in June 2016 with five critical decision points that will direct the Joint Programme to step up its efforts in recognizing and promoting SRHR of key populations in ending the global AIDS epidemic. Youth LEAD has also actively participated in other working groups that helped sustain the work of the NGO Delegation in between PCBs.

At the 35<sup>th</sup> & 36<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting, Youth LEAD actively engaged in the discussions on the SDGs, [arguing that the SDG indicator development must be interlinked with the AIDS response](#), and



[highlighting the critical role of leadership in communities](#) in the implementation of the SDGs.

Youth LEAD also took the lead in coordinating the NGO Delegation's advocacy and positions in relation to the UNAIDS Strategy 2016-2021.

# Strategic Priority 3

## International Harm Reduction Conference

- **Oct. 18-21, 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

With support from UNESCO in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNODC, and the Interagency Task Team on YKP, and in consultation with the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), and Asian Network of People Using Drugs (ANPUD), Youth LEAD led the advocacy activities at the 24<sup>th</sup> International Harm Reduction Conference, which was used to highlight the needs, issues, and priorities of young people who inject drugs in Asia and the Pacific. A Dialogue Space session was organized that profiled the issues that young people who inject drugs (PWID) face and called for meaningful youth engagement in programme development and service delivery. Along with this was an advocacy call to decriminalize drug use, to remove mandatory detention centres including protection from abuse and violence from law enforcers, and to lift age restrictions on harm reduction services and, in effect, making them youth-friendly.

A joint statement from youth organizations present in the dialogue session was developed as a result of the dialogue space session. The statement, which was read at the [Closing Plenary of the Conference](#), had the following calls:

- A. Better representation of young people and youth actively participating in future Int. Harm Reduction Conferences
- B. Better access to harm reduction services by making them responsive to the needs of young people who inject drugs
- C. Removal of age restrictions on accessing harm reduction services

## Engagement at the IFMSA Sub-regional Training in Asia

- **June 18, 2015, Sriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand**

Together with UNAIDS, Youth LEAD facilitated a session at the Sub-regional Training for medical student members of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA). Held at Sriraj Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, the session discussed issues on young key populations' access to HIV services in the Asia Pacific. Around 20 medical students from five countries participated in the training.



- D. Increased funding for young people who inject drugs
- E. Increased youth participation at the UNGASS on the World Drug Problem in 2016.

Youth LEAD also collaborated in, along with UN partners, the development of an [infographic](#) in partnership with DLA Piper. The infographic presents a summary of countries that have independent access to either or both Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) and Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) in Asia Pacific region.

Lastly, Youth LEAD produced an [advocacy video](#) that calls for a more equitable and better access to harm reduction services among young people who inject drugs in the region. The video was released in celebration of the International Human Rights Day last December 10, 2015 and is planned to have another release on social media during the UNGASS on Drugs in April 2016.

# Global Fund

## Global Fund Partnership Meeting



The Global Fund Partnership Forum is a core component of the Global Fund (GF) broad, inclusive, and a participatory partnership that is essential for effective investment in global health. The theme of the GF Partnership Forum in 2015 is “Shaping Our Future: Collaborating for a Healthier World”. The Partnership Forum took place across three multi-stakeholder meetings held in Africa, Asia, and South America. The main objective of all three in-person consultations was to gain substantive guidance and input for the development of the next Global Fund Strategy through the participation of a broad range of stakeholders.

Youth LEAD coordinated and made its presence in the Africa and Bangkok Forum through Point 7 Youth Advisors and focal points, specific in Bangkok. The major goal and intervention for Youth LEAD in the Forum was to include the issues of young people in the new strategic plan of the Global Fund and it was successfully achieved. Lastly, different bi-lateral meetings with donors, GF secretariat, and CS leaders were made to lobby and push for the youth issues.



*Point 7 is one of the donor board constituencies within the Global Fund. It consists of Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherland, and Sweden. Point 7 has been supporting youth advisors in their own constituencies, however, in 2014 they decided to recruit young advisors from the Global South.*



Youth LEAD manages the Point 7 Youth Advisors to GF Board supported by Norad. Youth advisors include Lumumba M Musah (Uganda), Chanthorn Phorn (Cambodia)\*top\* and Ivens Reis Reyner (Brazil). These advisors provide recommendations to the GF board from the youth perspectives.





# Global Fund Advocacy

## Accessing the Regional Fund of the Global Fund

Youth LEAD made an attempt to access the regional fund of the Global Fund in spite of various barriers. Global Fund, under the New Funding Model, has continued the regional funding mechanism through which different regional organizations, with regional natures to their proposals, can access the funding. However, there are different technical and process level obstacles to access this funding- which includes highly technical and complicated application processes, front loading of resources for consultation, technical assistance, a proven track record to manage complicated grants with an array of requirements, competent country partners, and support from the CCM from the selected countries and so on.

There were two stages to apply for the regional fund. One was the Submission of the Expression of Interest and if successful, the EOI would be awarded to develop the full concept note with allocated funding caps.



Youth LEAD successfully got through the Expression of Interest and was awarded to develop the full concept note. The full concept note was developed in support from four technical consultants, backed by information and issues surfaced through 5 national consultations and 2 regional consultations. The concept note was finally submitted on 15th of February, 2016 and is awaiting the final result.

## Engagement of Young Key Populations in the Global Fund

Youth LEAD was awarded in 2015 with additional funding under the *Special Call For Proposals* through RCNF to support YKP engagement in the Global Fund. The results are quite successful since Youth LEAD is the only youth-led organization ever to receive this funding.

There were three major activities under this project, which were interlinked to produce the final result. The activity cascade started with evidence generation (rapid situation analysis) and was followed up by capacity development through tested toolkits. The final activity was in regards to advocacy and was capacitated by the YKP utilizing the evidence generating skills just learned, which truly manifested evidence-based advocacy.

This project was implemented in Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, PNG, and Vietnam. Some tangible result included:

- Creation of a Independent seat within the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) in Cambodia and Mongolia.
- Initiation of *Youth Chapter*- the network of YKP in Pakistan.
- More than 150 YKP trained on understanding the Global Fund and how to engage in the process
- Three solid situational analysis of YKP.
- The global advocacy of young people and the Global Fund translated into the local activism.

# Global Fund Updates



## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Attendance in 33<sup>rd</sup> (Geneva), 34<sup>th</sup> (Geneva) and 35<sup>th</sup> (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire) Global Fund Board meetings, which included Pre-youth Forum, Brown Bag session, youth booths, youth side meetings and strong languages around addressing the issue of young people in the board discussions.
2. Stronger engagement of young people in the Global Fund Partnership Forum through both representation and vibrant discussions in different panels.
3. Pilot training on the Global Fund and New Funding Model for young people in Honduras, Nepal, and Zimbabwe

4. Resource mobilization for the in-country workshop for the Global Fund training to young people, in Africa and Asia.

5. Increased vibrant and candid discussions around the engagement of young people in the Global Fund in different platforms not limited to the Global Fund platforms. The result has been the better inclusion of the young people's issues in the draft GF strategic framework under different objectives.



### *Robert Carr Civil Society Network Fund (RCNF) Grantees*

*The country grantees supported through RCNF incessantly produced palpable results and 2015 was not an exception.*

- **Cambodia:** Engaged in the Global Fund process- as a result an independent seat for YKP Network Development was allocated in the the Country Coordinating Mechanism of Cambodia
- **Indonesia:** Engagement in the National Strategic Plan on HIV and capacity development
- **Nepal:** Engagement in the Global Fund, Network Development, National Consultation
- **China:** Human Rights Manual Development and training for YKP
- **South Korea:** Human Rights Campaign and Advocacy
- **Philippines:** Use of technology to reach out the YKP with information about HIV



# Youth LEAD Initiatives

## **LOLLIPOP PROJECTS: MAKE THE THINGS HAPPENED**

### **Exposure Visit to Fokus Muda, Indonesia**

**- September 11 to 12 2015**

The exposure visit to Fokus Muda, Indonesia, consisted of Robert Carr Grantees from Cambodia, China and Vietnam, with the addition of the Youth LEAD Secretariat. The purpose of this visit was to observe and learn the best practices of Fokus Muda in addressing the issues of young key populations (YKP) in Indonesia. The visit had two phases; firstly it involved interaction with the key national networks on HIV alongside the government to hear their perspectives on YKP and learn how YKP network can make effective collaboration with them. Secondly, the team made site visits to the LOLIPOP project implementation areas at Bandung province. Lollipop Project comprehensively stems up from policy advocacy, YKP-friendly service provision, referral mechanism, and scientific monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The team visited the hospitals, interacted with the health service providers, and finally met the YKP in their gathering meeting.



## **Beyond HIV & AIDS -Youth LEAD SRHR initiatives**

In a one day regional consultation with Youth LEAD and YPEER (regarding the creation of the SRHR study report) members from 5 countries (Nepal, Philippines, Cambodia, Bhutan and Mongolia), were able to finalize the outline and inputs for the SRHR handbook and advocacy brief. With the support from UNFPA, this initiative not only enabled Youth LEAD to strengthen its collaboration with YPEER, a youth-led network of activists working on SRHR; but also locate SRHR needs, priorities, and rights of young key populations as necessary in ensuring the end of the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Corollary to the production of the SRHR study report was the release of a policy brief. This policy brief, which will be based on the findings and analysis of the study report, will examine key priority areas to address in the SRHR issues of YKP in the Asia Pacific region. A consultant was contracted in November 2015 to develop these policy briefs and a draft policy brief was produced in December 2015 for review.

\*The SRHR of YKP report showcases the need to put more attention in the SRHR issues of YKP, while the policy brief will be used as a reference tool in advocating for SRHR in different platforms, particularly within the HIV response at the regional, national, and local levels. At the same time, Youth LEAD, through its flagship leadership program, will utilize the handbook as a main reference document for its frontline community activists in their inclusion of SRHR in their work. Through the tools produced under this grant, Youth LEAD envisages a more integrated approach on SRHR and HIV issues of YKP in its work. This will be utilized by Youth LEAD in its work in 2016, particularly in its planned advocacy campaigns and capacity-building programs

# Youth LEAD Annual 2015 Meeting

## *Youth LEAD AGM and Strategic Plan Development*

Youth LEAD Annual General Meeting was successfully held on 15-16 October with 34 focal points from 17 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Mongolia, Philippines, Fiji, Vietnam, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea and Sri Lanka attending. The 2-day meeting brought new and experienced focal points together with focal point coordinators, board members, and the Secretariat to share and discuss country dynamics and the state of the epidemic facing key affected populations. Similarly, there were brainstorming sessions regarding effective governance and how to prioritize various issues to develop a solid strategic plan for the upcoming year

### **The key outputs of the AGM were:**

- Creation of Youth LEAD Strategic Priority plan for the next 3 years (2016-2018)
- Endorsement on revised governance structure, policies, and procedures



Five years after its inception, Youth LEAD has begun to develop its second Strategic Plan covering 2016-2018. Reflecting inputs from an intensive consultation process, the Strategic Plan will address critical areas of advocacy and organizational development. In line with the theme of the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) "Youth LEAD Moving Forward", the network aims to carry forward its strong advocacy agenda while making sure that the network remains sustainable and strong.

The strategic plan of Youth LEAD targeted advocacy goals based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Updated UNAIDS Strategy, and the Global Fund Strategies. Strategic priorities are currently being finalized with the new Strategic Plan to be published by the end of 2015.

Apart from the creation of the Strategic Plan, Youth LEAD members were also updated on current grant applications, as well as their financial status and governance structure.



*"Youth LEAD makes young people feel powerful. It teaches them to manage, lead, and become outstanding community organizers."  
-Ayu Oktariani, 28, Youth LEAD focal point, Jakarta, Indonesia.*

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