

COUNT

A documentation of case studies from Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam on
Young Key Population involvement in the Global Fund processes

ME

IN



Acknowledgements

This documentation is a publication of Youth LEAD, The Regional Network of Young Key Populations in Asia and the Pacific. It's prepared by Setia Perdana, the Network Strengthening and Knowledge Management Lead together with Geneva Calder and Sarah Cooper, the Youth LEAD interns from The Munk School at the University of Toronto. The authors collected and reviewed a range of background materials, including Global Fund grant documents, and supplemented this information with in-depth interviews with three country partner representatives from Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam.

This publication is available at: www.youth-lead.org

Contact : Gaj Gurung, Youth LEAD Regional Coordinator : gaj@youth-lead.org



BACKGROUND CONTEXT

Regionally in the Asia and Pacific, adolescents and young key populations are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and yet are often excluded from policy, program and funding decisions at national, regional and global levels. This exclusion contributes to them being severely underserved by the HIV response. We believe the role of most affected communities in the HIV epidemic points to the crucial importance of their meaningful engagement in making policy and funding decisions. Young Key Populations are no exception.

As one of the world's largest donors in the HIV response, The Global Fund has established processes for engaging local and national civil society and KAP groups under its New Funding Model (NFM). Through engagement with processes such as country dialogue, including the work of Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), community advocates have helped to contribute in the processes.

This documentation was produced by Youth LEAD, The Regional Network of Young Key Population in Asia and Pacific as a showcase of our support and interventions to Young Key Populations from Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam who applied the Global Fund funding request as the first window applicants beginning from late 2016 to early 2017. Robert Carr Network Fund (RCNF) and UNICEF EAPRO provided the financial support to enhance young key populations' meaningful engagement in the GF funding request development process. Given that the GF-CRG Special Initiative fund via RCNF had ended at the end of 2016, limited financial allocations were available and technical support from Youth LEAD was intensified. So, in particular, it will examine Youth LEAD's technical support to the country partners to encourage young key population capacity and involvement in the Global Fund country processes. These three countries selected as the case studies also received Youth LEAD direct grants under the GF-CRG Special Initiative grant via Robert Carr Network Fund between 2016-2017.



EMPOWERING YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS TO THE GLOBAL FUND PROCESS

Through the 2015 Special Initiative by the Global Fund in partnership with RCNF, Youth LEAD was able to increase the participation of young key populations in Pakistan, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar and Vietnam to the country dialogue. This has been an amazing collaboration for Youth LEAD, whose participating YKP focal points have successfully engaged with the Global Fund at many levels of decision-making and programming.

There were three major activities under this project, which interlinked to produce the final result. The activity started with evidence generation and was followed up by capacity development through a tested toolkit. The final activity was with regard to advocacy. Some tangible results from this initiative included:

- The creation on an independent seat within the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) in Mongolia and Cambodia.
- The initiation of Youth Chapter, the network of YKP in Pakistan.
- More than 150 YKP trained in understanding the Global Fund and how to engage in the process.
- Three situational analyses of Young Key Populations.

The initiative was continued in 2016 by extending those lessons learned to other countries. The Regional Training on the Global Fund and two times of Regional Dialogue with PR,SR, CCMs and YKP advocates were conducted throughout 2016.



INDONESIA

A vision as a YKP-led watchdog

Indonesia is a country that consistently integrated the needs of its young key population in the last Global Fund grant cycle. Now they are keeping the momentum for the next funding request.

The Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS) surveys found that HIV prevalence among adolescent men who have sex with men almost quadrupled between 2011 and 2015 (from 3.8 to 15.6 per cent). This compares to 2015 IBBS numbers on the HIV prevalence among adolescent direct female sex workers and indirect female sex workers, which was 6.6 and 1.5 per cent, respectively. Youth LEAD believes that adolescents and the young key population group in Indonesia should be closely involved in the Country Dialogue and development of the Global Fund concept note.

Indonesia has made important progress in ensuring the participation and the inclusiveness of the young key population in the Country Dialogue.

Our country partner Fokus Muda, Indonesian Young Key Population Network, has seen value in empowering YKP through this process. The National AIDS Commission of Indonesia credits Fokus Muda with giving much input and meaningfully contributing to the planning and decision-making processes, prioritizing YKP in the 2015-2019 HIV National Strategic Action Plan, a basis document to develop the Global Fund Concept Note.

Five YKP advocates of Fokus Muda team were involved in the 2015 Country Dialogue and gave the tangible results of YKP-specific intervention and budget allocation in the concept note. A YKP sensitive health service programming in 3 cities named LOLIPOP (*Linkages of Quality Care of Young Key Populations*) was part of 2016-2017 grant making.

The results didn't end with that. In 2015, a part of Fokus Muda's core team and well-known young trans activist, Alexa, became the Country Coordinating Mechanism member and the Chair of HIV Technical Working Group. Alexa was re-elected again in 2017 for the next CCM period.

The 2015 Special Initiative by the Global Fund in partnership with Robert Carr Network Fund (RCNF) was aimed to increase the engagement of communities and key populations in the Global Fund process. RCNF channeled funds to Youth LEAD to specifically focus on YKP's involvement with the Global Fund. The direct result from Fokus Muda shows a significant amount of change when space, support and opportunity are given to young people.

Youth LEAD continues to directly support the Fokus Muda team in 2017 as it participates in ongoing country dialogue. Seven YKP advocates are meaningfully involved in the area of prevention, CST and Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) modular.

Together with other allies, they work hard to push some specific interventions such as a YKP-led leadership program, intervention to work on the age of consent, ARV for children, and the availability of YKP peer educators.

To add to all of their achievements, Fokus Muda is planning to be a Watchdog for the Global Fund implementation, strengthening their support to local partners looking to be involved in the Global Fund-related processes. The support from regional partners will be expected to fill this gap. A strong collaboration with regional partners can also give a negotiation strength and build credibility for YKP-led organizations when negotiating with local authorities.

“ Youth LEAD support means an unlimited knowledge for us in gaining our expertise as a YKP advocate.”

Alexa - Fokus Muda
Indonesia

A pioneering force dedicated to centering the voices and needs of young key populations.

The Association of People Living with HIV [APLHIV] in Pakistan has served as an integral advocate for the inclusion of young people both locally and regionally. Pakistan is one of only a few countries worldwide facing an increasing frame of infection, particularly within key populations including men who have sex with men, male and female sex workers, people who use drugs and members of the transgender community. There is also a **significant gap between those who are diagnosed and those able to access treatment**. This indicates that many barriers to access remain. Specifically, young people within these communities have faced increasing barriers and a lack of targeted support.

The APLHIV is committed to working to involve young key populations, but involving young people has come with its challenges. As a population who often face overwhelming stigma, it was initially very difficult to encourage young people to get involved. In certain cases, the APLHIV members went to visit homes directly to speak to families and parents about the importance of a young family member's involvement. It was **through this dedication and hard work, that the first network for young people, Y Chapter was established in 2015.**

Y Chapter, and the APLHIV have been successful in engaging more young community members, and continue to encourage their involvement.

Over 350 young leaders have been trained by the APLHIV under Y-Chapter on a variety of topics, including the Global Fund. Today, they remain committed to supporting the development of young members of the HIV community into passionate and skilled leadership.

Y Chapter, with the support of Youth LEAD, now shifts focus to capacity development and ensuring strong representation of young people in all areas. In 2017, Youth LEAD committed to strengthen internal capacity and the development of Y Chapter in advocacy, leadership, policy development and becoming a watchdog in the community. Youth LEAD also continues to support, and ensure Y Chapter and the needs of young key populations is involved in all areas of Global Fund concept note development at the country level.

Without this partnership between Youth LEAD, APLHIV and Y Chapter and the ongoing support, the needs of young key populations would too often go overlooked. But today, we begin to see that young key populations are becoming better represented and a cultural shift in understanding the unique needs of young people has begun to emerge. This continues to be evident throughout the development of the Pakistan AIDS Strategy, where young key populations are involved and their specific and unique needs are being clearly indicated. It is critical that we continue this progress and support this momentum.

Looking forward, APLHIV wants to keep building on their successes and continue to invest in the young people involved in Y Chapter. This includes ensuring that young people are engaged in every step of their processes, can further access capacity building opportunities and that the needs of young people are represented and recognized throughout the Global Fund process.

Whether it was financial support or technical support, mentoring, or capacity building, without the support of Youth LEAD we would not be able to achieve everything we have accomplished so far"

Asgar Ilyas Satti -APLHIV
Pakistan

YKP activists in Vietnam have been working tirelessly to create a database of YKP HIV infection rates across the country

Vietnam is a country with an estimated 240,000 people currently living with HIV. Despite this estimate, there is no documented record of the number of young key population (YKP) individuals living with the disease, meaning that all existing knowledge on the disease is based on interviews conducted by activists going to different towns and speaking to people directly. Through word of mouth, the general consensus is that the disease has risen significantly in recent years, with the rate of newly infected individuals jumping to as many as 4 to 5 times what it was in previous years.

Despite this, the government has historically refused to allocate separate funding for the Vietnamese YKP, claiming special support was not necessary and they could just join on with the general key population for funding. The lack of specific data from Vietnam's country level report on YKPs also left no strong case for the Global Fund to include YKP representatives in the previous grant cycle.

Our country partner, Viet Nam Network of Young Key Affected Population (VYKAP), has done extensive work to ensure its staff were equipped to have an impact on the current grant cycle. With Youth LEAD's support in capacity building activities, education on the Global Fund process, and access to new networks, VYKAP now harbours youth leaders who are prepared to make their voices heard.

VYKAP's increased presence on the Vietnamese HIV platform has given YKP issues an enhanced status in local dialogues, where more related policy and grant proposals are being approved by government and UN agencies. As Kim Soo from VYKAP went on to explain, now UN representatives are actually willing to attend meetings with VYKAP, highlighting the organization's increased legitimacy since the last grant cycle.

With training from Youth LEAD, YKP lobbying efforts in Vietnam have begun to pay off. The dramatic change in VYKAP activity was enough to gain two invites for YKP representatives with observer status at the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM). This presence of YKP representatives is an important step in ensuring that YKP concerns are integrated into future concept note-making processes in Vietnam.

Additionally, this year Youth LEAD provides support for VYKAP to lead a data workshop on the secondary analysis for YKP data. Moving forward, this new data can be used as powerful evidence for advocating within the country dialogue.

With Youth LEAD's continued support, groups like VYKAP will be able to have even greater roles in their respective CCMs, ensuring that they become a more integrated part of the concept note-writing process.

*"You can understand that without this...
there wouldn't be me, or there wouldn't be
the network of Young Key Population in
Vietnam"*

**Kim Soo Soo - VYKAP
Vietnam**



CONCLUSION

Remarkable progress has been made, as the peer to peer approach from Youth LEAD to its focal points has proven effective, resulting in a number of tangible outcomes. However, the efforts to fight for the inclusivity of young key populations have to be continued. The country dialogue has to evolve and establish a sustainable system for YKPs. A mandatory specific seat and quota in consultation, CCM, and other strategic processes need to be allocated for YKPs. It is also critical to ensure the continuation of regional assistance and support to the country processes.

Key actors should consider these strategies as a matter of priority:

- CCM has to facilitate YKP engagement in all country dialogue phases (concept note development, grant making & grant implementation). A seat for young people as an underrepresented community needs to be considered in the CCM body.
- YKP advocates have to develop a mechanism of accountability to YKP representation in the country dialogue.
- The peer to peer approach from the youth-led organizations to strengthen the YKP community in engagement has to be continued. The Global Fund needs to invest in this strategic process.



Youth LEAD

For further information, please contact:

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

75/12 Ocean Tower II, 15th Floor
Soi Sukhumvit 19, Klong Toey, Nua Wattanna
Bangkok, Thailand 10110
email: info@youth-lead.org
tel: +66 2 25974889
fax: +66 2 2597487
www.youth-lead.org