

Inter-agency Task Team on Young Key Populations (IATT on YKP)

2021 Report



ASIAPACIFIC
INTER-AGENCY TASK TEAM ON
YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS

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Introduction

About the Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Young Key Populations in Asia and the Pacific

The Asia Pacific Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations was established in 2009 to promote a coordinated response from UN agencies and civil society partners to meet the HIV prevention, treatment, care and support needs of young key populations (YKPs). The YKP Task Team is an informal working group that includes many UN and civil society partners. Membership to the group is open to any organisation interested in working collaboratively to support HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support needs of YKP. This includes young men who have sex with men, young transgender people, young people who inject drugs, young people living with HIV, and young people selling sex.

The members of 2021 are:

- Youth LEAD
- Youth Voices Count (YVC)
- Y-PEER Asia and the Pacific Centre
- APCASO
- Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM)
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) South Asia
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia and Pacific
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office for South Asia
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia and the Pacific Bangkok Regional Hub
- UNWOMEN

The IATT on YKP is usually co-chaired by one UN and one civil society organisation; however, in 2021, there were three co-chairs; one UN representative and two from civil society. The Co-Chairs were: Jawyng Honey Lyster (Programme Implementation and M&E Officer/ Programme Manager BLIAP, UNDP), Ikka Noviyanti (Advocacy Officer, Youth LEAD), and Abigail Amon (Administrative Manager, Youth Voices Count).

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

Young Key Populations COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund

Nearly two years on, networks of key populations and people living with HIV are still at the forefront of the COVID-19 response, working around the clock to ensure communities have access to timely and uninterrupted HIV services. Among them is Youth LEAD, which in 2020, established the YKP COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund to support youth-led initiatives across Asia and the Pacific.

Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Emergency Relief Fund has helped youth-led and youth-serving organisations implement programmes that ensure young key populations and people living with HIV were not left behind in the HIV and COVID-19 response. This included providing essential food and PPE supplies, information on HIV and COVID-19 prevention, continued access to HIV prevention and treatment services, including mental health, establishing harm reduction programmes, seed-funding for transgender-led business, housing, and supporting digital and peer-led initiatives.

Funded through the Robert Carr Fund, AIDS Health Care Foundation and UNAIDS Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Emergency Relief Fund has supported more than 20 projects from 15 youth-led organisations across the region, which has made a considerable difference in the lives of young key populations. In Phase 3, small grants went to KHANA (Cambodia), Y-PEER Pilipinas (the Philippines), Ya_All (India), YKP LEAD (Nepal) and VYKAP (Viet Nam). Since April 2020, Youth LEAD has mobilised 84,000 USD to the YKP COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, which has significantly impacted the lives of young key populations across the region.



[A full report of the YKP Emergency Relief Fund Phase 3 Project with UNAIDS RST can be viewed here.](#)

The Ripple Effect

In 2021, UNDP's Being LGBTI in Asia and the Pacific (BLIAP) supported four partner organisations through the small grants programme. Among this group were Youth Voices Count (YVC), a civil society regional network of adolescent and young-key populations (YKPs) aged 14-30 in the Asia Pacific region. YVC was selected to launch The Ripple Effect, a program supported by UNDP that aims to provide knowledge and technical assistance on Financial management, Organizational development, and Campaigning and advocacy to LGBTIQ individuals in Asia-Pacific. YVC, through the grant, developed a course to support LGBTI Youth leadership in the Asia-Pacific.



Ignite! Empowerment Grant

The IGNITE! Empowerment Grant is a financial granting program created by Youth Voices Count (YVC) to support youth-led initiatives that cater to LGBTIQ youth communities in Asia and the Pacific. This program is aligned with Youth Voices Count's commitment to supporting LGBTIQ youth-led initiatives in Asia and the Pacific to achieve its vision of a society where young people of all sexual and gender diversity, including those who identify as LGBTIQ, lead safe and free lives with equal opportunity to achieve their full potential and well-being. YVC are in the process of planning for the next round of IGNITE. [Summaries of the round 1 of the ignite empowerment grant](#) can be found here:

More information can be found here: <https://yvc-asiapacific.org/youth-voice-count-ignite-empowerment-grants/>.

Young Key Populations Small Grants Program

Since 2013, with the support of various stakeholders, Youth LEAD has mobilised funding to support the YKP grant program. The program aims to ensure the human rights of young key populations (YKP) are respected, and the impact of HIV and AIDS is mitigated through the meaningful involvement of YKP in gaining equal and equitable access to HIV prevention and treatment care and support. Based on the experience of our country partners, one of the main challenges of YKPs is that young people are not

included in high-risk or priority targets for adequate funding. This has led to a lack of funding for the sustainability of youth-led organisations, especially YKPs. In 2021, funded through Robert Carr Fund, The Global Fund CRG SI, and GF SKPA, the grant has supported 14 YKP Led organisations across the region with a total grant of USD 60,786.



Organisational Development and Change Training

Under the Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in Asia Program (SKPA Program), Youth LEAD PNG rolled out Youth LEAD's Organizational Development and Change Manual. This was a three-day training and assessment of the newly established organisation on their organisational profile, structure, roles, policies and future plans. The training objectives were to develop solid foundations in terms of programmatic priorities, especially since there was a hiatus with the COVID situation in PNG and to identify organisational areas that needed improvement and would lead to sustained advocacy for the YKP group.

External partners that supported the group's assessment of priority areas and action planning included the Key Population Consortium (KPAC) and Burnet Institute (their principal advisors). The main results of this training were a validation of their existing policies and structure, improvement in their financial management, membership recruitment strategy, the need for registration and subsequently to open a bank account, and a place in the KPAC organisation. This was crucial in ensuring that YKP issues were addressed in decision-making matters and capacity training opportunities were equal to their adult counterparts.



In 2022, now that their organisational structure, policies and programmatic priorities have been put in place - organisations have prioritised getting registered, having an office space and diversifying their

funding, so they are not solely reliant on Youth LEAD. Programmatic priorities include the YKP Outreach Strategy (on-going) and the scale-up of the Healthcare Worker Sensitisation Training.

Sensitisation of Health Care Workers Training in Papua New Guinea

Under the Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in Asia Program (SKPA Program), in collaboration with UNAIDS RST, the Key Population Consortium (KPAC), Youth LEAD, and Youth LEAD PNG piloted the “Regional Young Key Population Healthcare Worker Training Manual” among 18 healthcare workers from seven clinics in the National Capital District. The participants also included policy workers (HIV testing, counselling, M&E) from the National Department of Health. Two YKP leaders led the training from Youth LEAD PNG with support from the KPAC coordinator. Some stand-out points from this training were the lack of awareness of what a YKP was and the nuances and critical issues they face when accessing services. Thus the objective of the training was to sensitise these healthcare workers from clinics where YKPs heavily visit. Though awareness was low, there was an eager consensus to engage in the materials about YKPs and with the YKP leaders. The training saw a range of commitments from greetings, etiquette, counselling techniques, YKP advocates to be included in the National Health Policies, the sensitisation of other staff at their respective clinics, the introduction of YKP advocates at their respective clinics, assistance in community-based testing, help in YKP data collection and referral of YKPs to Youth LEAD PNG.

The evaluation of this training and commitments will be followed up five months after the training (April 2022). In addition, Youth LEAD PNG have plans to roll out the manual in more cities across the country.



Situational Assessment of Children Affected by AIDS (CABA) in Nepal

Youth LEAD, in collaboration with its country partners, Young Key Populations (YKP) Lead Nepal and (NAP+N), conducted a national study to assess the situation of children living with HIV (CLHIV) receiving cash support, including children affected by AIDS who do not receive the cash support. The study's main objectives were to: Explore the overall situation of CLHIV and children affected by AIDS in Nepal; and Evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of the cash transfer program (CTP) among CLHIV.

The study was carried out in 20 districts of Nepal using mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative techniques) research design. A total of 417 CLHIV and 388 children affected by AIDS were interviewed as part of the study. Likewise, 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with caregivers of CABA and 40 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with different stakeholders were conducted. Furthermore, 10 In-depth Interviews (IDIs) were also conducted among children (as case studies) who received support from the program. Throughout the study report, we have used the term CLHIV (Children living with HIV AIDS) for children infected by AIDS. Similarly, we have used the term CABA for both children infected by and affected by AIDS.



The study can be found here: <https://www.youthleadap.org/application/files/4816/3722/1630/CABA-final.pdf>.

Live Now Regional Campaign: Linking Positivity, COVID-19 and Young People

The Live Now Campaign was initiated in March 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic and when governments began imposing nationwide lockdowns in many countries across the region. For many young people, including marginalised communities, lockdowns started to have a negative effect on the mental health and well-being of young people. Y-PEER created the Live Now campaign to foster positivity by promoting good practices, solutions and other materials developed by young people to support mental health advocacy. The campaign's success resulted in the launch of the Me for Myself Regional Campaign on Mental Health (M4M), which also focused on young people's mental health.

In 2021, the campaign was supported by UNFPA APRO, which included initiatives such as competitions, podcasts, webinars, and other means to encourage young people to participate and get involved. The campaign will also continue through into 2022.

Visit www.livenow.space for more.

Me for Myself Regional Campaign for Mental Health

In 2021, more than 900 core volunteers were selected from an open call to join M4M. Each batch of the open call received more than 400 volunteers, split into 18 -20 subgroups. At least 350 young people graduated from the training to become mental health ambassadors and initiate peer-to-peer led training. The campaign expanded to national campaigns, where core volunteers and members promoted mental health advocacy at national levels.

Going beyond youth and mental health issues, this activity also explored the intersectionality of other critical topics, such as mental health and GBV, mental health and youth participation, mental health and SRHR, etc. In 2021, the campaign branched out to form a peer mentors programme, involving the best

volunteers to mentor a new batch of young people on mental health. A toolkit was also developed that will be focused on adolescents in and out of school peer to peer approach to mental health.

Visit www.m4m.space for more information.

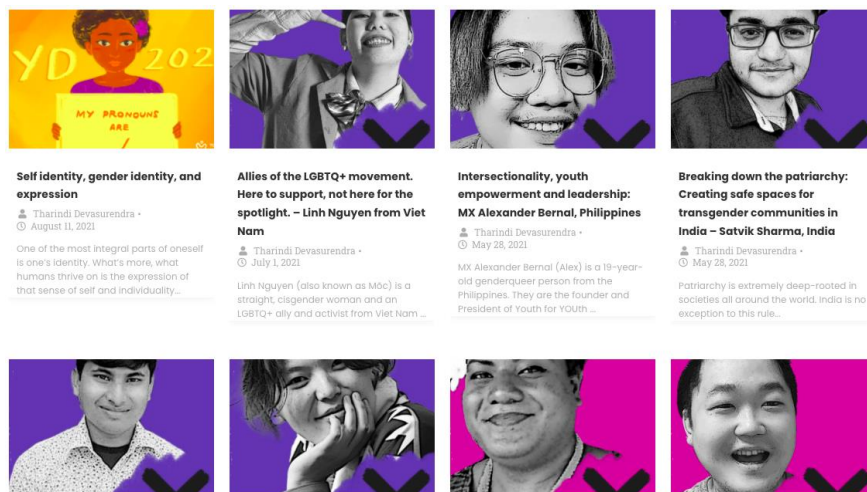
QueerXBodies Series 2 & 3

Since 2020, UNAIDS RST has provided grants to YVC to implement the QueerXBodies campaign, an interview series that celebrates queer activists and influencers in the Asia-Pacific region. The series focuses on the intersectionality between being queer and other lived experiences, such as race, religion, HIV status, neurodiversity, disability, indigenous culture, etc.

By exploring these diverse and underrepresented queer experiences, the voices of young advocates and activities are captured through a no blanket LGBTQ+ narrative (as perpetuated by the skewed lens of mainstream media) in the form of stories told from their own eyes. Apart from highlighting queer identities, the project also promotes stories about sexual and reproductive health, bodily autonomy, HIV/AIDS prevention, and COVID-19 responses led by community members.

Phase 3 was recently completed in March 2022. Combining insights and statistics (only from Phase 2) provided by Facebook of all the posts (videos and articles), YVC gained a reach of over 179,606 people and received in total 3,048 likes, shares, and comments. YVC has published more than 15 stories, articles, and videos on their social media and web pages. The images provided below show the engagement of each post.

- [View the articles](#)
- [View the videos via YouTube](#)
- [View the magazine](#)



Outcome 2: Strategic information is generated, synthesised and used to support regional level advocacy targeting governments and civil society to promote the scale-up of comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for YKP.

Course on Storytelling and Design

In 2021 YVC developed a course on storytelling and design in partnership with the Sogicampaigns website. The course was aimed to be available free and accessible for all and any activists and advocates who want to learn about different methods of storytelling as a tool for advocacy and basic graphic design for campaigning. The storytelling section covers topics on how to structure a story and connect your narrative to the emotions and values of your audience while the graphic designing section covers multimedia tools and how they can be utilized. The courses are now published and available on the Sogicampaigns website.

The course can be found here: <https://courses.sogicampaigns.org/>

Joint research on HIV and Young Key Populations: Enhancing Multi-sectoral response to end AIDS in Asia and the Pacific

'HIV and Young Key Populations: Enhancing multi-sectoral response to end AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, 2021' is a joint initiative with UNAIDS (lead agency) and Youth LEAD. The report is currently under review and combines quantitative and qualitative data to understand the HIV epidemics and responses among young key populations in Asia and the Pacific. Key recommendations on ending the AIDS epidemic were generated from the key informants and interviewees, priorities highlighted in the 2021 Political Declaration on AIDS, and lessons from successes in Asia and the Pacific's HIV response.

Development of Helpline Platform

Y-PEER created an online helpline platform with the support of a lead consultant, ICPD Youths, Y-PEER AP members and UNFPA. Various infographics were developed and promoted on social media to bring attention to seeking help and signs of mental health struggles. The website was focused and was updated regularly on a half monthly basis and was visited more than 2500 times.

Vist www.yfhs.asia/helpline for more information.

Capacity Building of Young People on ICPD25 and SRHR, including the support of the National Capacity Building

Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center and other partners have been working on the Regional Ecourse since 2016, focusing on various topics linking Youth and SRHR. In 2020, Y-PEER AP, with support from Youth-LEAD,

UNFPA APRO and other partners, the E-course on ICPD, SRHR and COVID-19 was launched successfully. In 2021, Y-PEER created the 'Asia Pacific Regional Ecourse on Adolescents and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and Mental Health 4.0'. To mark the occasion of International Youth Day on 12 August, seven sub-national e-courses expanded to Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia, Indonesia, Cambodia and Pakistan. The national courses were mentored by the 2020 Regional E-course and 2021 Regional Courses graduates and done separately.

In 2021, the initiation of sub pacific E-course in Southern Pacific countries and E-course for other countries such as PNG was initiated and expected to start in early 2022.

Visit www.ypeerap.org/ecourse4 or www.youthday.space/e-course/ for more information

Coordinating Activities of Asia Pacific Regional Mechanism on Adolescents and Youth SRHR, including COVID-19 Response - Adolescents First and Mentorship Program

Y-PEER established the regional Mechanism on Adolescents and Youth SRHR (AY-SRHR) in 2021, which intends to follow the umbrella activities under the IATT on YKP. After launching the mechanism, several joint activities were done, such as APFSD and Youth Day Celebration. This includes reporting and posting about activities of the APFSD (Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development) Youth Forum and the creation of the www.Youthday.Space platform. Similarly, Regional Mechanism on SRHR worked on various online forums related to SRHR in the region. All members of Regional Mechanism endorsed the platform on SRHR and many of the IATT Members.

Visit www.ypeerap.org/apfsd2021 for more information

Putting Young Key Populations First: HIV and Young Key Populations in Asia and the Pacific, 2022

Since 2020, UNAIDS Asia Pacific, Youth LEAD, UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Office and UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office have been working on a report to capture the current HIV situation among young key populations in Asia and the Pacific and to show where there have been progress and challenges in the HIV response.

This brief report describes the HIV epidemic among young key populations in the Asia-Pacific region, takes stock of HIV programmes for young key populations, and pinpoints the priority actions that will speed up progress towards ending AIDS in the region. It also describes some inspiring interventions that are beginning to make a difference, proposing programmatic changes to address the needs of young key populations more effectively and equitably. It also provides key recommendations for decision-makers, programme managers and service providers to promote the meaningful engagement of young key populations in the HIV response.

The report is currently in the last phases of peer-review and is expected to be completed in May. The core working group aims to organise a regional launch of the report in June and globally at AIDS 2022 in

Montreal, Canada, in July.

UNAIDS High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS 2021: Youth virtual meeting - Taking centre stage: the role of young key populations in the shaping of the new political declaration on HIV and AIDS

Taking centre stage: the role of young key populations in the shaping of the new political declaration on HIV and AIDS

Young key populations from Asia and the Pacific will meet to discuss and share their expectations around the outcomes of the High-level Meeting (HLM) and the Political Declaration and how young people see the future of the HIV response.

Opening remarks

- Dr Stephanie Williams, Ambassador for Regional Health Security of Australia
- Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health of the Kingdom of Thailand
- Bika Nevijanti, Youth LEAD
- Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS Asia Pacific Regional Director

LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

When: **Wednesday 5 May 2021**
Time: **14:00 - 15:30 BKK time**
Where: **WATCH LIVE facebook.com/unaids.asiapacific**

Speakers and moderators

- Abigail Amon, Youth Voices Count
- Fletcher Chia, Youth LEAD (Sri Lanka)
- Michelle Pallesano, UNAIDS Asia Pacific
- Kalisha Baskala, Youth Voices Count (Fiji)
- Jeweying Lyster, UNICEF Bangkok (SAC) to Asia and the Pacific
- Chinmay Modi, Y+ Global and Youth LEAD Board Member (India)
- Irene Andriy, Y+ Global and Youth LEAD Board Member (Indonesia)
- Lakshy Thakur, YPEER AF (Bhutan)
- Vanessa Montoya, Youth LEAD
- John Michael Osamo, PwG Plus & Youth Voices Count, Philippines
- Legree Tami, Youth LEAD

High-Level Meeting on AIDS
END INEQUALITIES. END AIDS.

YPEER
Youth Partnership for Ending AIDS
Y-PEER Asia Pacific Chapter

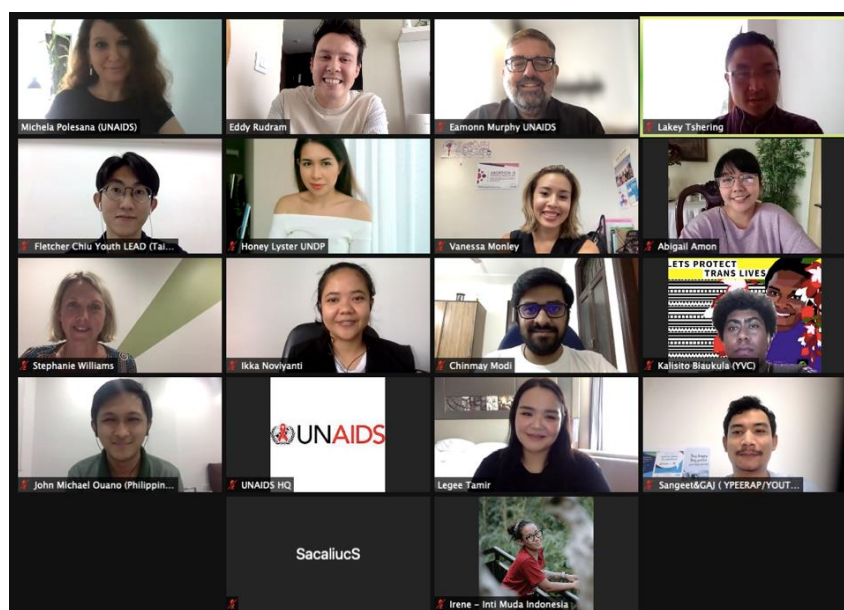
Youth Voices Count

Youth LEAD

UNAIDS

The virtual meeting with young people took place on 5 May 2021. UNAIDS Asia and the Pacific organised it in collaboration with the government of Australia, the government of Thailand and regional youth networks from the region.

The virtual meeting was an opportunity for young people, including young key populations and young people living with HIV, to share their needs and issues in the HIV response and their expectations around the outcomes of the HLM. The panel discussion explored the challenges and barriers in the HIV response and the critical role of young people in leading change and promoting innovation.



The youth meeting was live-streamed on Facebook and was joined by Dr Stephanie Williams, Ambassador for Regional Health Security, Australia, Mr Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health of the Kingdom of Thailand, Jawyng Lyster from UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub and representatives from regional and national youth networks, including Youth LEAD Youth Voices Count and Y-PEER Asia Pacific Countries.

UNAIDS Asia Pacific prepared a report outlining the outcomes of the meeting, which was also shared with the Multistakeholder Task Force, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia and the Government of Canada to push critical messages and language about young key populations and promote YKP-led advocacy efforts at the country and regional levels in the lead up to the HLM.

[View the youth virtual meeting report](#)

Advocacy and resource materials on the meaningful engagement of young people in the High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS

In addition, in the lead up to the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS 2021, several useful products were developed in collaboration with The PACT, their member organisations and regional youth KP networks and community groups. UNAIDS RST for the Asia Pacific with the youth programme team at the global centre, in collaboration with the PACT and regional YKP networks, took the lead on:

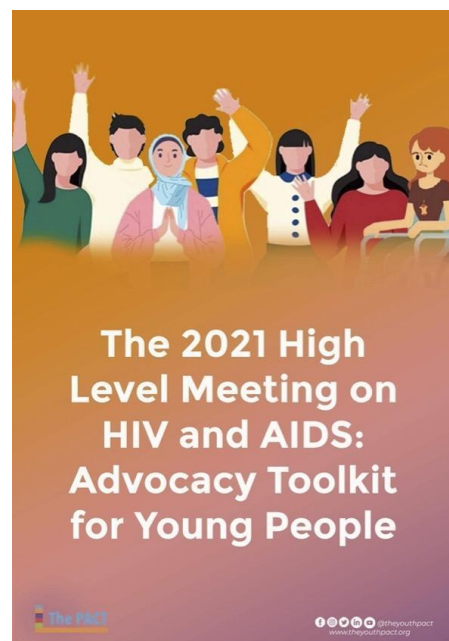
1. The [Youth Joint Statement on the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS](#) was developed collaboratively between 12 regional and global youth networks, including four networks from Asia and the Pacific, capturing the views of young people on the initial draft and commitments of the PD. The statement called upon member states to reconsider some of their commitments and strengthen the

references made to young people, in all their diversity, as agents and changemakers of the HIV response.

2. The launch of a global survey (in seven languages) consolidated the voices of young people in the lead up to the HLM on their countries' response to HIV and how they envision a more robust and more meaningful youth-led response. The survey ensured a consultative process by and for adolescents and young people globally. It offered an opportunity for young people to advocate for the inclusion of their priorities to end AIDS in the new Political Declaration.

- Arabic: <https://forms.gle/BHxDuydcXeQWV3UT8>
- English: <https://forms.gle/aFG8n1Gb9nZHEkj6A>
- French: <https://forms.gle/4U1ptTNM6tXjkMh87>
- Hindi: <https://forms.gle/o2Q1JXuZKL1rMJ5fA>
- Spanish: <https://forms.gle/cZZXxTcYjnwTppU1A>
- Russian: <https://forms.gle/51NfXGTTwEbxseydA>
- Portuguese: <https://forms.gle/FtNxmGsPHDXVUwaB8>

3. The development of the [HLM Youth Guide](#) to ensure the meaningful engagement of young people, including young key populations, in the HLM. The guide was developed by The PACT and UNAIDS for youth activists and youth-led networks working on HIV and SRHR and various levels, in particular, young key populations.



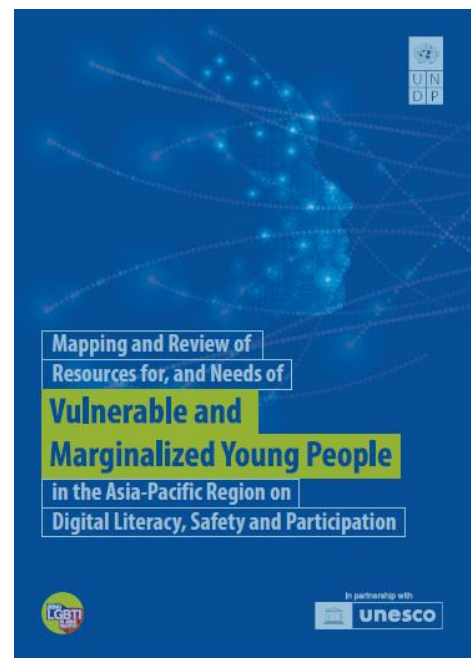
4. Posters in different languages were developed for social media distribution on the meaningful engagement of young people in the HLM.



Outcome 3: Scale up evidence-informed, national programmes for YKPs through advocacy interventions with government, policy-makers and other stakeholders

Mapping and Review of online resources for and perceived needs among vulnerable and marginalised young people in the Asia-Pacific region on digital literacy, safety and participation

In 2021, UNDP and UNESCO partnered to develop a “Mapping and Review of Resources for, and Needs of Vulnerable and Marginalised Young people in the Asia-Pacific region on Digital Literacy, Safety and Participation”. This rapid assessment was conducted by a research team from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), and aims to understand the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) young people and Young Key Populations (YKP) in the AIDS response in the Asia-Pacific region, in their quest for more secure digital spaces and improved experiences of digital citizenship. Findings from this study have informed an online course on digital safety and security developed by UNDP and UNESCO, in collaboration with youth-led LGBTI and YKP networks in the Asia-Pacific (Youth Lead and Y-Peer), to close the gap between available and appropriate online digital citizenship resources and capacity-building opportunities for these groups.



This report will be published in May 2022.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education Capacity-Building Needs of Teachers of Learners with Disabilities

With support from UNFPA and UNICEF in their collaboration on CSE and disabilities inclusion, UNESCO commissioned research led by Leonard Cheshire Disability on the CSE capacity-building needs of teachers of learners with disabilities. UNESCO will finalise the findings of the study in April June 2022. To support evidence generation and knowledge sharing on CSE implementation in schools, UNESCO with UNFPA and IPPF conducted a 2020 Regional Status Review of school-based CSE with findings launched and report materials translated into four languages and disseminated.

UNESCO worked collaboratively with partners to strengthen regional awareness and advocacy for CSE implementation, young people’s SRHR and the creation of safe, inclusive and health-promoting learning environments: i/with UNICEF EAPRO and SEAMEO, co-convoked the education session in the East Asia

and Pacific INSPIRE conference on ending violence against children; ii/ with UNICEF EAPRO and the ASEAN Secretariat, organized a regional workshop on elimination of bullying among children; iii/ with WHO SEARO and other partners, organized a virtual, multi-stakeholder consultation engaging over 140 participants on promoting adolescent well-being programmes in south and southeast Asia; iv/with UNFPA APRO and UNFPA Indonesia Country Office, organized a 3-day Digital Sexuality Education Conference featuring 20 sessions, 50 speakers, 42 exhibition booths and convening 237 participants; v/ with the WHO SEARO and other partners, organized an Inter-Ministerial Meeting (virtual) on Health Promoting Schools to enhance political commitment and support a Call to Action, endorsed by ministers of Health and Education in 10 south and southeast Asia countries.

UNESCO, with partners in regional networking groups such as UNGEI and UNiTE, has supported increased awareness by national and regional education partners and stakeholders regarding school violence, including gender-based violence and bullying, and CSE, including through the development of joint knowledge products and knowledge building and experience sharing virtual events during 2020-2021, contributing to the progress made towards the achievement of SDGs 3.3; 3.7, 4.7 and 5.6 in the region.

Additionally, UNESCO and UNDP Laos, working with Plan Laos and the Lao PDR Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, supported the capacity-building of 30 young women community radio volunteers and station staff in three rural and ethnically diverse communities for championing girls' learning continuity during, and learning recovery from COVID-19, using the medium of community radio. To support correct information dissemination, infection prevention control behaviours and non-stigmatizing attitudes towards persons infected by COVID-19, UNESCO supported national education partners in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand with translated and disseminated COVID-19 information cards technical guides, and animated videos for broad public use.

In Good Shape: Youth Voices Count collaboration with AstraZeneca

In Good Shape aims to utilise a well-being awareness approach through sports to advocate for health rights and healthier practices among young people in the Philippines. Together with young people of diverse identities (Ezekiel Vargas, Quino Reyes, Geli Bulaong, Nick Escalderon), the project promotes safe and supportive spaces to engage peers for LGBTIQ inclusion in the sports and fitness industry.

[Watch In Good Shape: Ezekiel Vargas on YouTube](#)

Innovations Marketplace for Gender Equality (IMGE)

In 2021, UNDP India (Youth Co:Lab) and the UNDP Being LGBTI in Asia and the Pacific programme launched the first of its kind, Innovations Marketplace for Gender Equality (IMGE). Focused exclusively on solutions related to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and increasing livelihood opportunities for young LGBTI persons. It became an interactive platform for youth LGBTI persons to develop and launch their innovative solutions for issues encountered by their communities. Twenty youth led organizations were supported through a 3-month long incubation programme, while 10 were selected for the Regional Youth Co:Lab Springboard Programme. The cohort largely comprised of nascent and early-stage entrepreneurs, most of whom had never been exposed to any entrepreneurial or business training.

Sadam Hanjabam, Ya_All

Sadam Hanjabam is one such young queer person born and raised in Imphal, Manipur. He is the founder and chief functionary of Ya_All and Editor of Paomi Post, an online storytelling platform. He is also the creator of Asia's first all transgender football team. As a young person brought up in a conflict zone, he lives with intergenerational trauma. His own experience of being assaulted by the police made him migrate to other places in pursuit of finding safe spaces to study and work. Struggling to fit in a big city, he fell into depression that led to substance abuse and two cases of serious overdoses. However, there were no youth focussed and queer-affirmative health care providers in his state for recovery.

This inspired him to create Ya_All, a safe space, and a support system for queer individuals. Ya_All is North East India's first LGBTI and youth-led focused registered organisation. It is working on empowering adolescents and youth among the queer community in Northeast India. It is creating a safe space for queer youth through storytelling and sports. It has also launched a co-working space for the queer community.



"The program was unique in a way that it was planned and executed for the LGBT+ individuals. It was empowering to connect with like minded people doing amazing work in their areas."
Sadam Hanjabam, Ya_All



The varied online sessions, set against the backdrop of COVID-19, enabled the young entrepreneurs to learn online at their own pace whilst also ensuring that they were developing worthwhile skills and building their capacity as advocates. This was especially useful for those who were faced with unemployment or out of school as result of the pandemic, a reality faced by many LGBTI Youth across the region.² This would be their first opportunity to receive formal orientation and eventually pitch their diverse innovative solutions to a panel of judges. Examples of solutions include: activities focused on enabling education and employment for transgender and gender non-conforming children, co-working safe spaces for LGBTI youth, and leveraging technology to provide mental health services to LGBTI persons.

In 2022, UNDP hopes scale up efforts by launching the first regional LGBTI Youth Innovation Challenge fostering youth leadership and supporting community-led innovations by Young LGBTI People. With the expertise of UNDP India, UNDP hopes to replicate the success of the Innovations Marketplace for Gender Equality (IMGE)¹ on a regional scale and leverage UNDP's existing work on Young Key Populations, youth leadership and youth entrepreneurship.

Regional Peer Education Academy and Peer Education Hub

The Regional Peer Education Hub was successfully launched in collaboration with different regional partners from SRHR Regional Mechanism and Beyond. Consultants were hired to develop the contents, coordinate with the partners and conduct the academy every week. The Regional Peer Education

¹medium.com/being-lgbti-in-asia/creating-spaces-to-nurture-innovations-by-next-gen-lgbti-entrepreneurs-9e646f7f381

Academy 1.0 was completed in Q4 of 2021, and with the graduates of The Regional Peer Education academy, the 2.0 was also launched. More than 50 young people graduated in 2021 from the Regional Peer Education Academy, which will be mobilised in 2022 to establish the national level academy 2022 to give the alternatives for young people who are not interested in joining self-learning Ecourses at the national or regional level.

Visit www.ypeerap.org/academy2021 for more information

The rollout of the ‘Regional Disability Manual’

In 2021, the SRHR Regional Training Manual for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Young People was launched, targeting SRHR and Peer Education for Deaf young people in and out of school. This was the first approach to linking ‘Out of School CSE’ targeting specific deaf young people. It was launched online as well as re-launched in several regional forums. After the launch of the manual, the pilot training for Deaf young people in Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan. 20-25 young deaf people between the age of 18-and 29 were selected in each country and trained as per the manual. In all three countries, it was the first training of its kind targeting deaf adolescents and young people.

Visit www.ypeerap.org/srhr-deaf for more information.

Development of Digital Contents of SRHR (Production of Online and Offline SRHR advocacy materials, including SRH and COVID response)

Various posters, videos, podcasts and other materials were produced in 2021, targeting multiple activities and campaigns. The materials were shared on social media and targeted regional forums, international conferences and international days.

The response of the contents in 2021 was a lot more in comparison to previous years due to its nature targeting specific issues and developed as per the current context.

Outcome 4: Increased advocacy for an enabling and coherent environment for YKP

World Mental Health Day Video Campaign with Young Key Populations

As crucial as World Mental Health Day is every year, 2020-2021 held significance as most of our networks and focal points felt depleted and unmotivated by the consequences of COVID-19. These include isolation, job loss, anxiety, shortage of medicine and hygiene materials, inaccessibility to vaccines, domestic/GBV violence and suicidal thoughts. This year Youth LEAD wanted to acknowledge the comrades that were going through in hopes that the message of “Mental Health in an Unequal World” would reach others, especially donors and vested stakeholders, that the fight against SRHR and HIV issues remains pertinent YKPs despite the ongoing parallel pandemic.

Youth LEAD and its key network partners produced a video campaign to stand in solidarity with those who were/are struggling with their mental health. The video can be accessed below.



[Watch the video on YouTube.](#)

A Study on the Meaningful Engagement of Young Key Populations in Global Fund Processes

Under the Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender- Strategic Initiative, Youth LEAD has supported YKP-led groups and organisations to engage meaningfully in the Global Fund related processes and National HIV responses. The main highlights of Youth LEAD on YKP Engagement in GF processes were:

1. Youth LEAD provided written activity guidance to three country partners based on their work plan and had a one-on-one meeting so that partners had a better understanding of the grant;
2. Youth CCM member mapping was completed in 2021 among 18 countries across the Asia-Pacific region and successfully received the CRG-TA grant for further situation analysis. Frontline Aids is the TA provider.
3. Country partners, Vietnam and Indonesia, completed the rapid assessment of YKP friendly HIV services nationally. The report will be finalised and disseminated in the first quarter of 2022.
4. In Nepal, the first-ever YKP-led organisation, in partnership with the People Who Use Drugs network, is developing the 'Youth Friendly Harm Reduction Manual for Young People Who Use and inject drugs in Nepal.

The process was presented to the National Center for AIDS and STI Control and received the commitment to endorse. The data collection has been completed, and the first manual draft is ready. The manual will be piloted in the identified harm reduction centres and will be finalised in 2022.

C19RM Activity

In 2021, Youth LEAD technically and financially supported ten YKP networks/ NGOs in five countries, Mongolia, Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam, and India, across the Asia-Pacific region to meaningfully engage young people in the Global Fund C19RM process. The main aim of supporting these countries was to involve young people in the country-level discussions of C19RM. Common activities across the countries were focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, consultations, and coordination with the CCM to identify critical issues and challenges faced by youth communities during the COVID-19 crisis. The country partners drafted the consultation's outcome as recommendations to the C19RM funding request, submitted the proposals to the respective country CCM, and followed up consistently until the submission and approval of the funding request. Because of the short notice, YKP-led organisations managed to host YKP stand-alone country dialogue for C19RM funding requests and provided decent recommendations to CCMs. Out of five sub-grantees, four successfully included the YKP priorities in the funding request to the Global Fund. One of the country partners, YKP LEAD Nepal, was selected as a sub-recipient of the C19RM project implementation for two years with the support of the principal recipient “Save the Children”. Also, Youth LEAD developed a case study, “YKP and Civil Society Engagement in the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism in Mongolia”, and it was translated into two languages and disseminated to the country partners for sharing good practices.

The case study can be accessed here: youthleadap.org/news-updates/C19RM-case-study-mongolia.

World AIDS Day Commemoration - Short Video Series about Young Key Populations in the Asia Pacific Through Different Perspectives

December 1, 2021, marked the 40th year since the first reported cases of HIV-related illnesses and deaths. Although progress has been made in the past ten years regarding the decline in HIV infections among young people, we are still far behind in the region in meeting the HIV targets set for young people.

For World Aids Day, Youth LEAD, with technical support from UNAIDS RST, commemorated young and mature advocates in the HIV response over the past 40 years in the region. The commemoration was a series of three short videos (*1-2 minutes long*) focusing on the intergenerational perspectives on the observed World Aids Day theme of End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics. The video series featured advocates from CSOs, UN agencies, and Pia Wurtzbach, UNAIDS HIV Ambassador for Asia and the Pacific.

The video series can be accessed here:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jegWF8xDoAg>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dN1sq7zzzPE>

Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IU5PmplDww>



Spill the T with YKPs: 'Together: Resisting, Supporting, Healing' IDAHOBIT Special Episode

Building on the success of the Spill the T with YKPs webinar series in 2020, UNAIDS RST organised a special episode in collaboration with IATT on YKP partners to commemorate the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) on May 17 2021. This special episode focused on two key themes, gender-based violence and strategies in countering stigma and discrimination by young people, especially on homophobia, biphobia, intersexphobia and transphobia during COVID-19. LGBTIQ+ youth and young key populations, youth leaders from across the region were invited to share their personal stories and their work to support themselves and others encountering similar challenges. In a special appearance, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, sent an inspirational video message to the IATT on YKP to bring visibility and recognition to the overall cause of the event.

Spill the T
WITH YKPS

'Together: Resisting, Supporting, Healing' IDAHOBIT Special Episode
17 May 2021 at 14:00 - 16:00 (BKK Time GMT + 7)
Facebook Live @ Youth LEADAP

Speakers

- Anudari Anar
Youth LEAD MNG
- Ikka Noviyanti
Youth LEAD
- Mx. Alex
Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center
- Sruthi Dixit Missula
One Future Collective
- Dit Mangang
Ya_All
- Tharindi Abeynayake
Equite

Guest Speakers

- Eamonn Murphy
Regional Director
UNAIDS Asia Pacific
- Victor Madrigal-Borloz
UN Independent Expert on SOGIE

Moderators

- Vanessa Monley
Youth LEAD
- Justin Francis Bionat
Youth Voices Count
- Chloe Harvey
UNICEF EAPRO
- Eddy Rudram
UNAIDS Asia Pacific
- Jawying (Honey) Lyster
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

Logos: ASIAPACIFIC, UNICEF for every child, UNAIDS, Youth Voices Count, Youth LEAD, UNDP