

Asia-Pacific Interagency Task Team on Young Key Affected Populations Annual Report — 2012



Asia-Pacific Interagency Task Team on Young Key Affected Populations Annual Report of Activity — 2012



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

The Task Team is an informal working group, which is effective with minimal budget and no additional staffing requirements from its members. The task team is open to any organization (UN, civil society, or other development partners) interested in working collaboratively to support the HIV prevention, treatment, and care and support needs of young key affected populations. Its current members include:

- Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV and AIDS (7 Sisters)
- HIV Young Leaders Fund (HYLF)
- International HIV/AIDS Alliance
- International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)
- International Organization on Migration (IOM)
- Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Support Team
- Save the Children
- UN Women
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
- UN Organization on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- YouthLEAD
- Youth Voices Count
- World Health Organization (WHO)

From September 2011, the Task Team has been jointly chaired jointly by Mr. Vince Cristosomo, former Executive Director, Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (Seven Sisters) and Ms. Justine Sass, Regional AIDS Adviser, UNESCO. The chair is rotational and due to change at the end of 2012.



1. Ensuring the meaningful engagement of YKAP in relevant strategic processes

The following are the broad objectives of the Task Team:

- To ensure that capable and effective young leaders from key affected populations are collaboratively engaged in the response to HIV & AIDS.
- To develop the capacity of policy makers and programmers to address YKAP issues in national policies and plans.
- To jointly advocate at the regional level for scaling up comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for young key affected populations by governments and civil society.
- To provide regional guidance on the collection, analysis and use of strategic information (including surveillance data) to support advocacy, policies and programmes for YKAP.
- To encourage a coordinated UN/INGO approach toward expanded HIV, sexual health and human rights related responses for YKAP across the Asia-Pacific region.

As highlighted in this annual report, 2012 has been a momentous year for the Task Team. The Task Team has been successful in raising the profile of young key affected populations at regional and international level events, ensuring the meaningful participation of YKAP, developing capacity of policy and programmers to address the needs of YKAP, including building the leadership of YKAP, and building the evidence base by advocating for better strategic information on young key affected populations.

The Task Team's activities for 2012 are highlighted below under key goals:

- Ensuring the meaningful engagement of YKAP in relevant strategic processes
- Developing the capacity of policy makers and programmers working with YKAP
- Ensuring that capable and effective young leaders from key affected populations are collaboratively engaged in the response to HIV and AIDS
- Ensuring that YKAP are prominently featured at important international forums
- Ensuring that the data are available to further support the need for YKAP-specific programming

The Task Team, through its Member Agencies, provided technical and financial support to enable young people to engage in regional and global dialogues on AIDS.

The Task Team's most significant contribution occurred in February 2012 at the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

During this meeting, which was attended by over 200 delegates from 40 governments in the Asia-Pacific region, the Task Team organized a side event on legal and policy barriers facing young people.

The session objectives were to:

- Review legal and policy barriers to HIV services (prevention, treatment, care and support) faced by young people, including young key affected populations; and
- Encourage governments to move toward formal mechanisms that give a voice to youth, including young key affected populations, in national HIV policy and programming.

Working towards protective policy and legal frameworks in countries is central to effective HIV prevention and response work. The event was designed to inform government delegates of the legal and policy issues that are infringing on young people's access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Moreover, as meaningful participation of young people in the AIDS response has long been a challenge, the event also encouraged governments to create opportunities for youth to contribute to policy and programming processes.

The session was highly participatory and interactive, and was developed with and developed by over 15 young people representing and supporting HIV programming for young people from key populations.



The session included a polling of delegates on the current policy and legal situations affecting youth in Asia and the Pacific. The intention of the polling session was to generate knowledge and discussion among government delegates on the legal and access issues facing young people, and highlight how young people's participation in the HIV response is essential in bringing about change.

Each issue was introduced with statements made by a young person in the audience such as, *"I am a young person. I'd like to get tested for HIV, but I need my parents' permission for the test"*. After voting, the results were revealed on the screen, and were then compared with data from the region – aiming to dispel any misconceptions delegates may have had. Issues highlighted included: data availability on young key affected populations; the legality of consensual male-to-male sex; HIV prevalence among young people who inject drugs; the percentage of sex workers under age 25; and mechanisms for engaging young people in their national AIDS responses.

The session also highlighted a number of promising programmes in the region. For example, Mr. Lalith Piyum Perera, Chairman of the National Youth Services Council Sri Lanka, shared how the ministry is engaging young people in national planning and programming processes. This has included the establishment of national structures to enable meaningful youth participation, youth empowerment, and targeted programming including the Sri Lanka Youth Parliament and the Sri Lanka Youth Club Federation. Mr. Perera noted in his speech, *"We are also supporting youth-led organizations to address issues that can be difficult for a public sector organization to speak about because of their illegality, like abortion and homosexuality"*. Mr. Perera further noted their commitment towards young key affected populations, and announced that Sri Lanka will host the World Youth Conference in 2014. Ms Thaw Zin Aye, shared the experience of Youth LEAD's mobilization of HIV focal points in the region.

Finally, the event showcased a short film documenting promising programmes for young key affected populations in the region. This film can be viewed on the Task Team's YouTube channel: <http://youtu.be/SndsKD1kaN0>

2. Developing the capacity of policy-makers and programmers working with YKAP

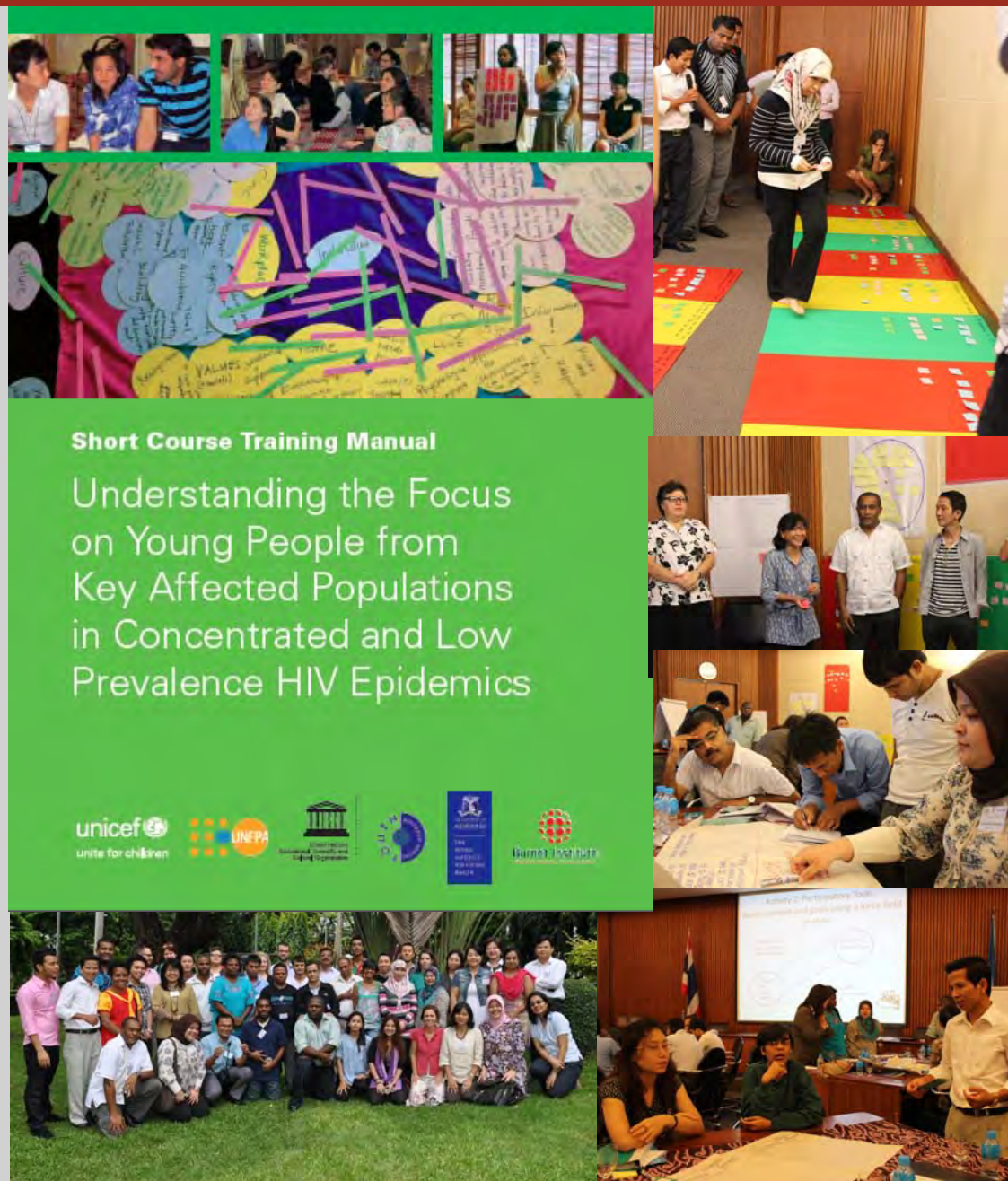
One of the leading objectives of the Task Team is to build the understanding and capacity of policy-makers and programmers to meet the needs of young key affected populations. The Task Team recognises that a better understanding of the factors leading to low use of services by adolescents and young people at higher risk of HIV exposure can help policy makers and programmers better target interventions.

The five day short course “*Understanding the Focus on Young Key Affected Populations in Concentrated and Low Risk HIV Epidemics*” developed by a consortium from the University of Melbourne, and supported by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNESCO has been implemented in the region since 2010.

The course content and manual was revised and updated in 2012, with the intention of making it widely available online for participants, trainers and the general public. The course is tailored to government counterparts, UN agencies, INGO, and NGOs working to support most at risk and vulnerable adolescents and young people in the areas of research, policy and programming and/or service provision and is also open to young people working in a significant capacity to advance young people’s issues at different levels and across sectors.

The course uses country case studies and adopts a theory to practice approach to explore the issues and needs of young key affected populations. It also uses a mixture of interactive methods and builds on participants’ differing skill bases. Activities include: lectures; case studies; guided group activities; field visits; role play and group based problem-solving and critical analysis. The course aims to:

- Provide an overview of global, regional and country-level data on YKAP and consider how to gather and use better strategic information;
- Review and critique different frameworks for programming for YKAP, and introduce and apply different tools and practical guidelines;
- Review the evidence-base on programming for YKAP, and promising programmes in the region and beyond; and



3. Ensuring that capable and effective YKAP leaders are collaboratively engaged in the response HIV & AIDS

In 2012 the course was run again in Bangkok, Thailand from August 27-31st, 2012 to further address the expertise gap and strengthen available technical support for preventing HIV in young people. This year's course included over 40 participants from government agencies, UN, INGOs and NGOs from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Timor Leste. This year it was facilitated by three trainers from the Asia Pacific Region who previously participated in the training of trainers course in September 2011. Nimol Soth (Cambodia), Arushi Singh (India), Thaw Zin Aye (Myanmar/Thailand).



"Being a facilitator for the YKAP course was both exciting and intimidating. I've conducted several trainings in the past for young people, but this opportunity was very unique. I personally feel that this was a very empowering experience. To be young and to be able to explain the issues that YKAP face in the communities through the means of facilitation is indeed a remarkable way forward. It is also getting a step closer to meaningful involvement and participation of young people in the HIV response."

-Thaw Zin Aye, co-coordinator of Youth LEAD

While the course has been well-evaluated since its inception, a new process was initiated in 2012 whereby participants will be approached 4 months after course completion to share information on how they have advanced the country workplans developed during the course. This will serve as a further impact assessment for the course. 2012 will also see the adaptation and the delivery of the course at country-level in Bangladesh. This is the first time the course will be delivered at sub-regional level in Asia and the Pacific, and will be a good lesson for the Task Team on how the course can be delivered in this modality.

The short course materials (facilitator's manual; PowerPoint Presentations; Case studies documenting best practices and a comprehensive list of additional resources) can be accessed at: <http://ykapslides2012.wordpress.com>

The critical role young people play in sustainable development is being increasingly recognized by the international community. Young people are gaining a high profile in the AIDS response; their leadership and involvement is acknowledged as a critical factor in curbing epidemics.

In 2011, there was raised concern over the lack of opportunities for YKAP to participate in decision-making processes in the HIV response. The Task Team since then has supported numerous capacity-building development initiatives.

One of the key initiatives is NewGEN Asia, which comprises three main activities:



3.1 NewGEN Asia Leadership Short Course

The NewGEN Asia Leadership Short course was developed in close partnership between young people, UN system, civil society and academic institutions. The civil society leadership has been provided by Youth LEAD and has therefore engaged young people throughout the full cycle of the development and implementation of the programme. The vision was to have a highly interactive and engaging leadership course (providing a full learning experience for young participants) that is well regarded and meets the needs of young leaders including, most importantly, young people from key affected populations including young people living with HIV.

The course was initiated by Youth LEAD and developed over an 11-month consultation, writing and piloting process led by Youth LEAD in partnership with Associate Professor Helen Cahill, an expert in health education and participatory curriculum design from the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne, Australia, along with UN partners UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF.

This process involved a:

- A 4-day course-writing workshop (5-8 July 2011) with representatives of a Youth LEAD Technical Working Group.
- A two-day sampling of the short-course (23-24 August 2011) with 40 young people from 12 countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam) in Busan, Republic of Korea during the International Congress on AIDS in Asia-Pacific (ICAAP); and
- A full pilot of the 5-day course with 30 young people in the Philippines in November 2011.

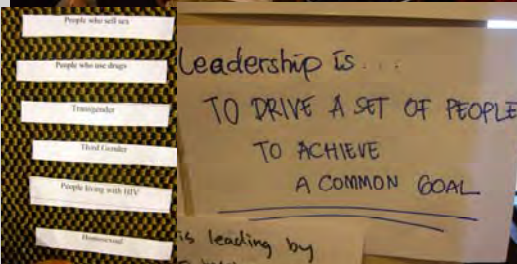
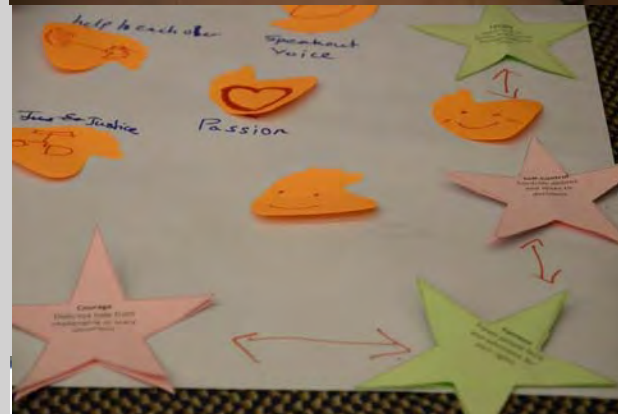
From 3-8 September 2012, a regional training of trainers for the NewGEN Asia Leadership Short Course was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Thirty young participants from five countries—Indonesia (including Papua province), Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka—attended the training. The participants were young people aged 15—30, and were from various youth networks and organisations. The course was facilitated by four young trainers with coaching from Dr. Helen Cahill of the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne.



"The highly participatory 5-day course uses a combination of games, simulations, problem-solving activities and presentation tasks to develop the skills in cooperation, communication, and representation of ideas which leaders need to activate or support change efforts in their communities."

-Helen Cahill

The course focused on the use of data and evidence to inform advocacy, and the use of systems thinking tools to help leaders understand the personal, familial, institutional, structural and cultural influences that lead to vulnerability to HIV.



3. Ensuring that capable and effective YKAP leaders are collaboratively engaged in the response HIV & AIDS

The training also provided participants with the opportunity to work on their own personal leadership strengths and to develop the skills important for team work such as negotiation, assertion and collaboration. The course uses participatory consultation techniques, to assist the young leaders in learning how to work inclusively at the community level. The course also builds capacity in presentation and public speaking skills, on issues affecting YKAP. These skills are essential when participating in high level meetings and formal settings.

“Young people already have the sense of leadership but the problem is they don’t have enough encouragement from other people or even from themselves to be a leader. This training has given us the confidence to lead other people and to speak up.”

-Grace, participant from Papua, Indonesia



For a video on the NewGen regional training of trainers please visit:

<http://youtu.be/EtMqiNF4CwU>

Country level rollouts of the course in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka have been scheduled for late 2012. Monitoring and evaluation of the course is ongoing and a proposal has also been submitted for funding of life history research of participants over an extended period.

3.2 NewGEN Asia Mentorship programme

The Task Team launched the NewGEN Asia mentorship programme in August 2011 at ICAAP 10, linking emerging young leaders with well-established leaders working in the area of HIV and AIDS. Since then, 30 mentor mentee partnerships around the Asia-Pacific region have been established.

Prior to the establishment of the mentoring programme, RTI International was commissioned by UNESCO and UNICEF to carry out baseline research with a sample of mentors and mentees. The data collected assessed a range of factors among the participants, including self-perception in particular areas, capacity and support needs, and expectations of the programme.

The information was used to inform the implementation of the programme, and to assist with a baseline for further evaluation. One of the key messages that emerged was the need for a flexible approach to the programme to match the specific needs of individual mentor-mentee pairs. At the same time, many mentees and mentors stated they would like some kind of framework in the shape of a ‘Partnership Plan’ to help align their expectations and support them to focus on realistic outcomes within the timeframe. As such, a ‘partnership plan’ tool was developed which all mentee-mentor partnerships were encouraged to use.

Feedback so far has been that the mentorship programme has assisted in creating partnerships and opportunities for professional development, providing technical support while at the same time being mutually beneficial for both mentee and mentor.

Greg Gray, from the Alliance Technical Support Hub for East Asia and the Pacific, based in Cambodia, is partnered with Chanthorn Phorn, Project Officer at the Kampuchea Action for Primary Education/ School Dropout Prevention Pilot Programme, Cambodia.



“This mentoring program is very useful for me and other youth. It helps to increase, and strengthen the ability of young people so they are engaged in programmes.”

– Chanthorn, mentee

“The mentoring experience is proving to be rewarding, it allows me the opportunity to reflect more on the work we engage in. It helps immensely that we can share in person on local issues and have a common understanding of the environment and emerging issues.” – Greg, mentor

Erlinda Senturias, adviser of the Asian Interfaith Network is partnered with Janette Jane Pasicaran, who works with advocacy programs such as Re-You, an HIV programme for young people in Cebu City, Philippines.

“My mentor has invited me to be a facilitator for a workshop “Creating Safe Spaces for HIV and Human Sexuality” supported by the Civil Peace Service. This has helped me a lot. It boosted my confidence and made me a better community organizer and facilitator. Knowing that I can facilitate some of our activities makes me feel at ease. The mentoring is not only helping me but also the group I am with.”
– Janette, mentee



“I know that I am also learning much from Janette as she brings in her youth and her enthusiasm to work in different fields – street children, young women involved in sex work and students in college. We had our first meeting in Cebu, and continue to communicate through text message and internet.” – Erlinda, mentor

A mid-term evaluation of the mentorship programme was initiated in October, with the mentor-mentee pairs invited to come an online survey. The results of this evaluation will inform the final phase of the mentorship initiative.

3.3 Learning from youth leadership initiatives

This year, members of the Task Team convened a meeting with partners engaged in or implementing mentoring and/or leadership initiatives for young people. The meeting was convened to map out initiatives on leadership and mentorship in the region, lessons learned, and opportunities for synergies.

During the meeting, participants reviewed and discussed the NewGen Mentorship programme and other initiatives supported by the HIV Young Leaders Fund, Youth Voices Count (YVC), Youth LEAD, the International HIV/AIDS

Alliance, the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition, and the Asia-Pacific Network of People living with HIV, APN+.

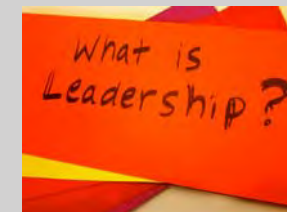
The meeting focused on programme design, scope, support modalities, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and tools and resources. It was noted that there are some differences on how different organizations are defining leadership at different levels – individual, organisational and within a broader movement – promoting synergies between initiatives is needed to ensure all three levels are supported.

An agreement was made to promote information-sharing on these programmes, to look for opportunities to partner, including through advocacy efforts, and to share resources (tools) and lessons learned.

Promoting leadership opportunities among young people living with HIV was highlighted as a key gap. As a result, a second meeting was convened with APN+ and other regional stakeholders and looked at the models for building the leadership of young people with HIV, including the Y+ leadership programme. APN+, ITPC and APN+ have agreed to support a consultation with young people living with HIV to support strengthened understanding among partners in the region of the needs of young people with HIV, including leadership opportunities.

3.4 Support to YKAP networks

A number of youth-led and youth-serving networks are members of the Inter-Agency Task Team, including HYL, Youth Voices Count and Youth LEAD. These members ensure that the lessons learned from their activities inform the work of the Task Team, including advocacy interventions and guidance. Similarly, Task Team members play a role in providing technical support to these networks, and links to relevant global opportunities.



4. Ensuring YKAP issues are prominently featured at important international fora

For example, Youth LEAD is a core member of the Task Team and has received both technical and financial support for its work in mobilizing young key affected populations in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2012, Youth LEAD held their second strategic planning meeting in Bangkok, Thailand from 16-17 January. During the meeting, 26 Youth LEAD focal points representing 14 countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam) developed Youth LEAD's strategic plan. A core group of stakeholders including members from the UN and civil society attended the stakeholders' meeting on the second day to endorse the plan and show their support. In 2012, Youth LEAD has put out a call to new members, and was able to expand their network at regional and global events. This year they have also developed a new communications strategy and website. Learn more at: <http://youth-lead.org/>

Youth Voices Count has also formalized their relationship with the Task Team upon the recruitment of its coordinator, and has strengthened its regional programme. From 2-5 October, 2012, Youth Voices Count with support from UNDP, UNICEF and Hivos conducted a regional consultation on self-stigma among young men who have sex with men and transgender people. The consultation addressed the nature and negative consequences of self-stigma, and the links with HIV vulnerability. YVC will use the important information gained through this consultation to develop an advocacy strategy and formulate key recommendations that can be used by networks and civil society groups to urge governments, donors and relevant organisations for an increase in investments and more quality services for young MSM and transgender youth.

Finally, HYLFF has proved itself to be a formidable partner in the Asia-Pacific region, with the establishment of its small grants programme in 2011 to youth-led initiatives addressing the needs and rights of young people most affected by HIV in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. HYLFF has particularly led in recent months in advocacy efforts to understand and meet the needs of young people selling sex, and young people living with HIV. For more information, visit <http://www.hivyoungleadersfund.org>

Members of the Task Team took great strides in ensuring visibility of YKAP issues at this year's International AIDS Conference, held in Washington DC, 22-27 July.

Task Team representatives from the HIV Young Leaders Fund, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, International Treatment Preparedness Coalition, Save the Children, Youth LEAD, Youth Voices Count, and UNESCO participated in the conference and coordinated sessions on YKAP issues. More importantly, this included the engagement of and support to around 25 youth delegates engaged programming for young people from key populations in the Asia-Pacific region. By leading and participating in sessions, participants were able to profile the issues YKAP face in the Asia Pacific region, and demonstrate their experience and share lessons learned.



The Task Team was successful in securing a Leadership & Accountability Development Workshop (one of 40 abstract-driven workshops in the Conference), along with a Poster Exhibition on the NewGen Asia short course, and a Global Village workshop on capacity-building efforts among YKAP.

All sessions provided a great opportunity to raise the profile of YKAP in the Asia-Pacific region and showcased the innovative work on young leadership, including youth-led initiatives.

During the leadership and accountability workshop *“Leading the Way in Asia - Mapping, Mobilizing and Building Capacity of Young Key Affected Populations”*, participants were able to learn more about the situation with regard to young key populations in the Asia-Pacific region, programme examples, and core components of success; and to consider their own individual and institutional capacity to respond to YKAP needs.

A panel discussion was held on the role of young key affected populations in the response, along with some interactive exercises such as “SwapStats” and “risk ranking”. The risk ranking exercise invited participants to recognise and identify their own perceptions of YKAP and how this can impact the way they work. or surprising. This activity was used to demonstrate that although HIV risk among adolescents and young people is well-documented, there is still a

Where the “Swapping Statistics” exercise asked participants to share statistics on YKAP, and highlight any data they thought was particularly interesting.

Youth participants were also able to network over the course of the meeting with other delegates from the scientific community, civil society, development partners and advocates. Many indicated it was a worthwhile opportunity to learn from others’ experience and to build networks.

“We were able to build our network and reach out to other youth organisations around the world, and put the issues of YKAP in Asia-Pacific on the map of the global HIV response. All in all it was very productive event for Youth LEAD, we realised that we really have covered some ground work on YKAP, but there's still a long way to go.”
"Skand Amatya, Co-Coordinator, Youth LEAD.



5. Ensuring tht data are available to further support the need for YKAP-specific programming

Although HIV risk among adolescents and young people is well documented, there is still a need for better strategic information on young people at higher risk of HIV exposure. Reliable strategic information, disaggregated data by age, sex and other characteristics, including knowledge, risk behaviours and use of services among these groups is crucial for informed programme planning and policy decision-making.

A recent 17 country review of strategic information in Asia and a 6 country review in the Pacific showed large gaps in the information available on young key affected populations in the region. Other qualitative and quantitative studies (e.g. in Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Pakistan) conducted recently have provided more information on determinants of risks and vulnerabilities among young key affected populations; however, the varying research methodology make comparative analysis due to the non-homogeneity of the data. Moreover, many of these studies have insufficient sample sizes to enable generalizations about the total population of young key affected populations within the country.

Similarly, while there is considerable expertise in the region on survey and surveillance methodology for sampling and size estimates of key affected populations, the inclusion of young people (particularly those under 18) in these surveys is limited. Many young people with risk behaviours are not easily identified for inclusion in such surveys and surveillance, and legal restrictions (e.g. age of consent) in many countries further limit their participation.

5.1 Experts Meeting on Strategic Information

In 2012, Task Team members UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS , with support from AusAID, collaborated to host an “*Experts Meeting on Methodologies for Obtaining Strategic Information on Young People at Higher Risk of HIV Exposure*” from 3 to 5 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.



This meeting brought together around 50 experts in HIV and behavioural surveillance, population size estimations, survey design and implementation, ethics with regard to the inclusion of minors in data collection and the use of new media and technologies for data collection among young people from key populations. To share information and identify good practice, a wide range of experiences were elicited from government, civil society, UN and academic partners. For example:

- representatives from Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines explained the process for inclusion of younger cohorts in country surveillance for key populations, and ethical considerations;
- government and civil society representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Pakistan explained the process for implementing targeted surveys in “hotspots” to document risk and vulnerabilities among youth;
- civil society, including Save the Children, Family Health International and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, shared how country programmes are collecting and using data to understand and address the needs of YKAP including through new media/information communication technologies;
- young researchers spoke on the role of youth participation in obtaining strategic information, and the ethical issues that need to be considered when implementing surveys and other research;
- academic partners highlighted methodical, technical and ethical issues associated with strategic information, and their application to research with young people;
- UN partners highlighted normative frameworks, guidance, and data repositories available on YKAP.

Open spaces were created during the meeting to allow participants time to share experiences, using participatory methodologies such as “gallery walks” and the “world café”. “Country clinics” were organized the last day to enable participants to present future studies and to get advice from experts on methodology, ethical issues, and lessons learned from similar experiences.

An additional (optional) skills-building session on Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) and Time Location Sampling (TLS) was also offered to participants based on an expressed interest for more on methodological issues.



The next steps from the meeting include:

- The development and finalization of operational guidance document for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen collection and use of strategic information on YKAP. This will be the first of its kind in the region, and globally.
- Finalisation of an overview document pulling together the findings regarding the availability of strategic information on YKAP in the Asia-Pacific region, and significant gaps.
- Strengthening of the HIV and AIDS Data Hub, www.aidsdatahub.org with statistical information collected and analysed for the meeting.
- Follow-up in 6 months with countries that presented in the “Country Clinic” session to inquire about how the input provided during the seminar influenced their surveys / outcomes.
- Ongoing support via the Asia-Pacific Interagency Task Team on Young People from Key Affected Populations to capture strategic information on YKAP, and use in policy-making and programming.

For a video of the meeting please visit <http://youtu.be/9AkVK3mXmkq>

5.2 Policy and legal review

A number of Task Team members are collaborating on a review of legal and policy issues which shape (limit or guarantee) young people's access to HIV/SRH services. This review will examine the existing policy and legal environment in the region, implementation and enforcement mechanisms and practices, and make recommendations to improve accessibility to HIV/SRH and related services, especially among YKAP.

This review seeks to address the following key questions:

- What is the range of legal and policy issues related to child protection and SRH/HIV in each country, including any relevant international commitments?
- How do legal and policy frameworks shape or impact on SRH/HIV service provision for young people?
- What legal and constitutional measures protect the rights to health of young people, and how do these address the needs and special circumstances of YKAP?
- What are the approaches/steps (including policy, legal and intermediate operational measures) that need to be taken to identify any gaps to the protection and promotion of the rights to health of young people and to ensure access to effective SRH/HIV services?

This activity will draw on a document review, along with consultations to document young people's experience of how policies and laws are affecting their access to SRH and HIV services in select countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Initiated in October 2012, the results will be available in early 2013.

5.3 Formative research on young men who have sex with men

According to the Commission on AIDS in Asia, up to 40% of Asia's epidemic is

by 2015, rising from 13% in 2008. There is evidence that young MSM (those in their 20s), already have a high prevalence of HIV, over 5% in several recent surveys. A number of Task Team members including UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and Youth Voices Count are collaborating on a review of available strategic information on young MSM in East Asia and the Pacific, including surveillance data, targeted surveys, qualitative data and key interviews; and current regional approaches to reduce HIV risk in these populations, as a basis for further work in this area. The review is expected to synthesize what is known to date in selected countries in the East Asia Pacific region about young MSM including HIV prevalence, risk behaviour (e.g. what is known about multiple partnerships, age disparate relationships), current available services and behaviour change communication initiatives meeting/not meeting their needs as well as unique issues of young MSM that may contribute to effective HIV prevention programming. Built into the study project is a capacity-building and research agenda strengthening for YVC/YMSM through APCOM.

5.3 Formative research on young people living with HIV

Side by side with the consultation with young people living with HIV, members of the IATT including UNICEF, UNESCO, YHLF, and ITPC are supporting formative research with APN+ and their networks to determine issues important for Adolescents and Young People Living with HIV and AIDS (A/YPLHIV) in East Asia and the Pacific, including barriers to adherence and service provision; network and link partners working in the region on YPLHIV including clinical such as Treat Asia and leadership initiatives such as HYLIF; and develop a policy brief for partners and an advocacy agenda for both PLHIV Networks and partners working with A/YPLHIV. The research will dovetail in part with WHO and UNICEF's ongoing research on A/YPLHIV in order to inform the global guidance to be published in 2013.

6. Key activities and aims for 2013

2013 will likely be a busy year for the Task Team, as the International Congress on AIDS in Asia-Pacific will take place in Bangkok, Thailand 18-23 November 2013. This will be an important opportunity for the Task Team to present evidence, share lessons learned, and promote networking among young people from key populations in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Task Team is in the process of developing its annual workplan for 2013, which is likely to include the following activities:

- Communications (e-newsletters) and technical support to the NewGen Asia mentorship programme, final evaluation in the second quarter of 2013, a reunion of mentors and mentees currently participating in programme at ICAAP, and consideration of potential expansion to new pairs in the region drawing on lessons learned.
- Dissemination of the evidence base generated in 2012 from the legal and policy review, along with formative research on young men who have sex with men, young people selling sex, and young people living with HIV. This could take the form of a regional report which is launched at ICAAP.
- Support to consultations to better understand and meet the needs of adolescents and young people living with HIV, and young people selling sex. The results of these consultations and the aforementioned studies will be widely disseminated and promoted for use in programming for young people from key populations.
- Evaluating the impact of IATT activities in driving national HIV agencies. This will likely include support to:
 - ◊ Evaluation of the YKAP short course, and review of its application at country-level as well as in other regions.
 - ◊ Evaluation of the country-level NewGen Asia consultations in Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Sri Lanka. This will include evaluations on the use of the course and, possibly, life history research on the participants. These evaluations will inform the further expansion of the course to other settings.

- Finalisation of the operational guidance supporting the collection of strategic information for young people from key populations; support in the region for secondary analysis of existing information (i.e. IBBS among 15+) where available, and support to expand the availability in other countries in the region where this information does not presently exist.
- Greater collaboration with global-level task teams including the Inter-Agency Task Team on Young People and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Key Populations to promote the wider sharing of lessons learned from the Asia-Pacific region, and adaptation and use in other settings of capacity-building and advocacy materials.
- Ongoing documentation of sharing and lessons learned through the IATT's YouTube channel, calendar of events, and website (to be established via the global Inter-Agency Task Team on Young People's site).





The Asia-Pacific Task Team on Young Key Affected Populations aims to strengthen consensus and collaboration among UN agencies and key INGO partners at regional and country level to support Governments and civil society in accelerating action to achieve the global and national targets to reduce HIV transmission among young key affected populations.

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