

Asia-Pacific Interagency Task Team on Young Key Affected Populations

DRAFT (v. 13/07/2012)

Terms of Reference

1. Background

Across the Asia-Pacific region, an estimated 500,000 young people aged 15-24 are living with HIV¹. While the overall prevalence in most countries is low, the epidemic is highly concentrated in young key affected populations (YKAP) including young people engaged in sex work; young men who have sex with men (MSM); young transgender persons; and young people who inject drugs.

In spite of increased commitment towards the health of young people, most services in the region are not reaching young people who are most affected. As reported in the report of the Independent Commission on AIDS in Asia², over 95 per cent of all new HIV infections among young people occur among YKAP (via injecting drug use, unprotected male to male sex and unprotected sex in the context of sex work), with a recommendation of a greater focus on young people. However, the majority of resources for young people are spent on low-risk youth, who have less than 5% of HIV infections.

The data sends a clear message. There is a need to take action and there is a need to work with young people from key affected populations as strategic partners in the response. There have been increasing efforts made in recent years to expand prevention, treatment and care services to KAPs, but addressing the specific needs of YKAP – and overcoming their particular barriers to services – has remained a challenge, as has ensuring the meaningful and strategic participation of YKAP at all levels of the AIDS response.

2. Goal

The Asia Pacific Inter-Agency Task Team for 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.

3. Objectives

The following are the broad objectives of the task team:

1. To ensure that capable and effective young leaders from key affected populations are collaboratively engaged in the response to HIV&AIDS.
2. To develop the capacity of policy makers and programmers to address YKAP issues in national policies and plans.
3. To jointly advocate at the regional level for scaling up comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for young key affected populations by governments and civil society.
4. To provide regional guidance on the collection, analysis and use of strategic information (including surveillance data) to support advocacy, policies and programmes for YKAP.

¹ *Opportunities in Crisis: Preventing HIV from early adolescence to young adulthood*, UNICEF, 2011.

² *Redefining AIDS in Asia – Crafting an effective response*: Report on the Commission on AIDS in Asia, 2008

5. To encourage a coordinated UN/INGO approach toward expanded HIV, sexual health and human rights related responses for YKAP across the Asia-Pacific region.

Organization

The Task Team is an informal working group, which is effective with minimal budget and no additional staffing requirements. The members will meet regularly as needed (at least every two months), utilising video/teleconference for non-Bangkok based members. An email group will include all members, supporting members and other interested agencies.

The task team will link through its membership to key regional fora working with key affected populations (including the Regional Task Force on Injecting Drug Use and HIV, the Regional Thematic Working Group on HIV and Sex Work, the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health, the UN Regional Task Force on Mobility and HIV Vulnerability Reduction) as well as reporting to the Regional Director's Forum.

Members

The task team is open to any organization interested in working collaboratively to support the HIV prevention, treatment, and care and support needs of young key affected populations. Its current members (as of March 2012) 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
- Research Triangle International (RTI) International
- 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)

Each organization designates a focal point for the Task Team. The Task Team may also invite key partners, stakeholders, and experts to participate in meetings and/or contribute to the work of the Task Team. Each member agency is responsible for its own cost for participation.

Chairing arrangements

The Task Team was established and chaired initially by UNFPA's Asia-Pacific Regional Office. It is now jointly co-chaired by a civil society and UN partner, nominated by the Task Team on an annual basis. The current Chairs are UNESCO and Seven Sisters.

Roles and responsibilities of members

- To ensure consistent participation in the Task Team meetings. If a regular member is not available for a meeting, a supporting member may take their place.
- To contribute to the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Task Team and activities identified in the annual budget. This will include technical inputs, as well as financial and/or human resource inputs, where possible.
- To share information with, and further engage, their organization, key stakeholders and partners (including country-level staff) in Task Team activities, wherever possible and draw in these inputs to the Task Team's activities. This includes sharing information with Heads of Agencies and/or senior management to support the goal and achievements of the Task Team.

Roles and responsibilities of the co-chairs

- Prepare draft agendas for comment, convene and chair the meetings, and prepare meeting minutes
- Support follow up on agreed action points, and report back on their achievement during meetings
- Circulate relevant resources and information to the Task Team via the listserv
- Promote the work of the Task Team to ensure broader support of the achievement of the goals and objectives

Duration of the Task Team

A review of the functioning of the Task Team will take place on an annual basis to determine the added value and need for continued operation.

4. Workplan and budget

A workplan will be developed at the start of every calendar year, with clear outcomes, activities, outputs, timeframes, responsibilities and budget. The implementation of the workplan will be cost-shared among participating agencies.

Review of progress and action will take place at bi-monthly meetings. An annual review will determine progress.

Outcomes of 2012-13 workplan

1. Young people from key affected populations in the Asia-Pacific region are engaged and capacitated to contribute to national AIDS responses

2. Capacity of policy makers and programmers in the Asia-Pacific region developed to address YKAP issues in national policies and plans
3. Advocacy is undertaken at the regional level targetting governments and civil society promoting scaled-up, comprehensive evidence-informed interventions for YKAP
4. Guidance on the collection, analysis and use of strategic information (including surveillance data) is developed and used in the region to support advocacy, policies and programmes for YKAP
5. The Task Team functions effectively, focuses on progress towards achieving outcomes and its members are accountable for promoting a coordinated UN/INGO approach toward expanded HIV, sexual health and human rights related responses for YKAP across the Asia-Pacific region.