



Key Population Community of Practice **NEWSLETTER**

Dear Colleague,

June 2022

Young key populations are particularly at risk of HIV infection globally, and experience policy and structural barriers in accessing HIV and other health services. They include young women who sell sex, young gay men and other men who have sex with men, young transgender people, young people who inject drugs and young people in prison and closed settings.

Scaling up effective programmes with young key populations



The Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC) and the South to South Learning Network (SSLN) held the 4th virtual meeting of the Global Key Population Community of Practice on 7 June 2022. The topic was scaling up effective programmes with young key populations.

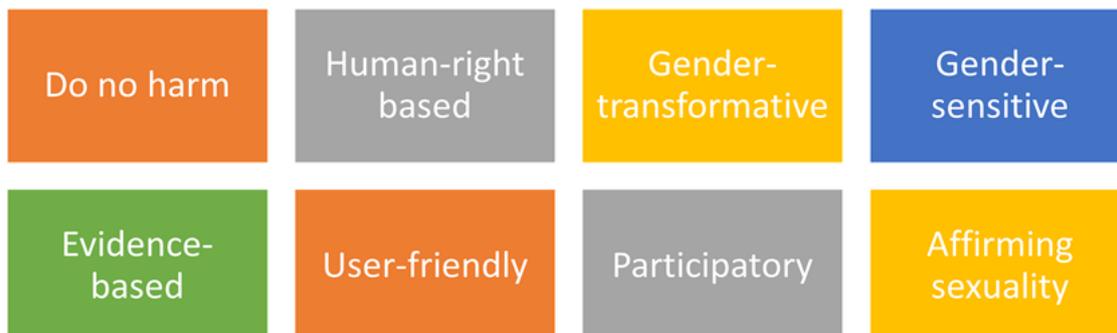
The sessions attempted to provide a deeper understanding of the need to prioritise young key populations in the HIV prevention response. The speakers focused on the global evidence and guidance to work with young key populations, implementation considerations from the national programme and reinforced the need for involvement of young key populations in the design and implementation of programmes to enhance effectiveness.

Stakeholders and partners from over 40 countries attended the virtual meeting.

Scroll down to find the links to the two virtual sessions (to accommodate the different time zones, both sessions covered the same agenda with a few different speakers.) The presentations can also be found [here](#).

Principles of programming with young key populations

To get on track to end AIDS by 2030, the UN Joint Programme is committed to addressing the risk and vulnerability of young key populations based on the following principles:



Several guidance documents to support the design and implementation of programmes with young key populations at local and national levels exist. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is updating the consolidated guidelines on HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care for key populations this year. Chapter 8 of the guidelines includes elements for successful young key populations programming and will be launched during the International AIDS Conference in July/August 2022 (this will be shared in more detail at the next meeting of this community of practice in the next quarter).

Kenya's experience programming with young key populations

In Kenya, 10-12% of estimated key populations are below 18 years of age, in locations where key populations congregate. Evidence from research and intensive consultations with young key populations led to the development of the national implementation guidelines for STI and HIV programming among young key populations by the National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCOP), and the piloting of interventions for young men who have sex with men, and young women who sell sex in Kenya.



What do the young key populations recommend?

The following quotes are by the young key populations representatives who shared experiences, challenges, and recommendations during the “nothing for us, without us” session.

"If we want to achieve the 95-95-95 HIV global targets, we should not leave anyone behind, and especially young key populations."

- Fatma Idd, South Sudan

"Young people need to see themselves represented in positions of leadership, and this needs to be in a language and a style that is understandable to them."

- Rita Gatonye, Kenya

"Most young people and juveniles in prisons, like I was, do not know their rights and do not know what they deserve, which is a great danger to them."

- Lingford Soko, Zambia

"Providing services can be a challenge, but if young people are given a chance to lead, we can do so much!"

- Ralph Ivan Samson, Philippines

They stressed the need to:

- Include young key populations in the design and implementation of their programmes
- Increase funding to key population-led organisations for programme implementation
- Improve multi-sectoral partnerships to address the varied needs of the young key populations
- Fulfil the human rights obligations by repealing the discriminatory laws and policies that criminalise key populations
- Have young people represented in positions of leadership and use technology to facilitate different modes of learning to improve their skills

Panel discussions

Normina Mojica (NAC Philippines), Humphrey Ndongu (NAC Zimbabwe), Tisha Wheeler (USAID), Wade Ivy (CDC), Ed Ngoksin (Global Fund), and Aditia Taslim (Key Populations network), showed their support for the pertinent issues raised by the speakers and pledged to:

- Increase funding strategically for young key population programming to community-led organisations
- Ensure participation of adolescents in policy formation, planning and implementation
- Improve measurement prevention outcomes in young key populations programming

"We ask that the key populations and youth programmes work hand-in-hand to provide age-appropriate services and create multiple entry points of HIV services to take into account overlapping vulnerabilities".

- Ed Ngoksin, Global Fund

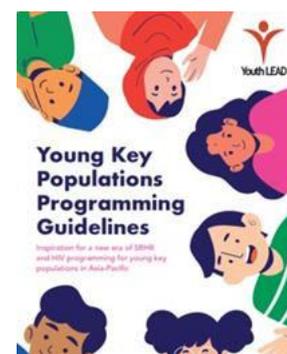
To watch the recordings from this virtual meeting, follow the links below. Note that two sessions were held to accommodate different timelines - same agendas, slightly different speakers. The presentations can also be found [here](#).



Resources for transformative action

In 2019, there are 5.8 million people living with HIV in the Asia Pacific region and, during that same year, there were 300,000 new infections and 120,000 AIDS-related deaths. In 2018 it was estimated that there were 390,000 young people aged 15 to 24 living with HIV in the Asia Pacific region; in the same year, 82,000 were newly infected and 4,600 died of AIDS-related illness.

Young Key Populations Programming Guidelines: Inspiration for a new era of SRHR and HIV programming for young key populations in Asia-Pacific aims to support organisations to implement programmes that address the realities and rights of young key populations in the Asia Pacific. The guidance is grounded in the experiences of a diversity of young key populations and aims to introduce creativity, critical thinking and inspiration to the sector.



Other reading resources include

1. Despite the progress made in the past 10 years, with a 46% decline in new HIV infections among young people (15–24 years), the world is still behind on achieving the targets set for young people. UNAIDS developed the *Young People and HIV* that shows global estimates, 2021. The *AYKP Toolkit – a collection of global regional, and country resources* is a collection of resources to **help plan and scale up** HIV prevention programmes with

adolescent and young key populations (AYKP)—people aged 10-24 who belong to young sex workers (aged 18 and above), sexually exploited children (younger than age 18), adolescent boys and young men who have sex with men, transgender or gender non-conforming individuals and young people who inject drugs.

2. Based on learnings from scaling up key populations programmes and understanding the needs, realities and aspirations of young key populations, Kenya developed the ***National implementation guidelines for HIV and STI programming among young key populations*** that recommend an enhanced intervention package for young key populations.
3. To better understand the global HIV prevalence by age, kindly access the ***UNAIDS Key Populations Atlas***

Thank you to all the speakers representing UN organizations, national governments, youth and young key populations led programmes, donors and key population networks that shared their experiences with us.



Check out the SSLN YouTube channel

The SSLN has developed a YouTube channel to share all the resources developed through the network. The recordings of the previous virtual meetings can also be found below:



Reach out to us

For more info on the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, the Key Populations Community of Practice, or to be notified of future learning opportunities, virtual meetings and webinars, kindly send an email to BenediktC@unaid.org, sladden@unfpa.org or kerrym@genesis-analytics.com.

Or *visit the GPC's website* for more resources.

If you or someone you know would like to register for this community of practice, please send an email to karabos@genesis-analytics.com.

Best wishes,

The Global HIV Prevention Coalition

[supported by The South-South Learning Network]

