GLOBAL NETWORK OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

STRATEGY
2022-2025
Y+ Global is the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV. We are the only international organization led by a board formed wholly of young people living with HIV. We are proud to represent our nine home regions and stand at the frontier of the HIV response.

Y+ Global has come a long way since its formation in 2015. We provide a strong platform for youth advocates to be visible and heard at the international level. We also support youth-led grassroots initiatives to make a real difference in their communities at a national level. As young people, we are experts in our lives – we know how to manage our health and wellbeing and together we can support and nurture the next generation.

The Board of Y+ Global is grateful to all our current members that work with us and the alumni who paved our way into the future. We also thank our partners and our sister networks for standing together as a united front in our struggle for an equitable and rights-based HIV response.

BACKGROUND

This document sets out Y+ Global’s updated vision, mission, values, and strategic goals. It is used to inform our approach to all areas of our work, including building our network, advocacy, programmes, fundraising, administration, governance, and partnerships. We will base our operational plans on the strategic directions outlined below.
Adolescents and young people represent a growing share of people living with HIV worldwide. In 2020 alone, 410,000 young people between the ages of 10 to 24 acquired HIV (source: UNICEF https://data.unicef.org/topic/adolescents/hiv-aids/).

Despite the efforts to stem the epidemic, young people, and especially young girls and young key populations, are disproportionately affected by new HIV infections. With increased access to treatment, young people living with HIV can live relatively healthy lives.

But HIV brings with it a distinct set of challenges, in addition to those challenges already faced by young people entering adulthood across the globe.

Feedback from our network of young people living with HIV and stakeholders highlighted the following challenges:

- Poor mental health and wellbeing as a result of dealing with self-stigma as well as stigma and discrimination by others
- Poor quality health services and negative attitudes in health care settings, especially towards young people
- Low levels of treatment literacy means that young people do not fully understand the treatment they need and lack the agency to advocate for it
- The impact of coping with COVID-19 and the restrictions which curtailed access to education, healthcare, work opportunities and social lives
- Very poor access to comprehensive sexuality education and effective and safe contraception
- Lack of understanding of the diverse needs and priorities of diverse young people, particularly those who are marginalised and criminalised

We launch this new strategy with a clear mandate to continue to represent the voice of young people living with HIV across the globe. The world will not end the HIV epidemic without us. In return, we will contribute our energy, our vision, our ideals, our lived experience, and knowledge. We will represent ourselves and our needs. We urge you all to stand by us.
OUR VISION

All young people living with HIV enjoy healthy and fulfilling lives.

OUR MISSION

To mobilise young people living with HIV around the world to promote our right to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

OUR VALUES

- We challenge inequality and prejudice.
- We collaborate to reach our goals.
- We are bold and brave.
- We are accountable to each other.
- We are diverse and inclusive.

OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy is divided into three strategic pillars. Under each pillar is a range of activities designed to help us deliver our vision, mission, and strategy.
We will raise and amplify our voice to advocate for our right to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

Raise Our Voice

We will hold decision makers in the HIV response to account. We will do this by advocating for:

- Youth representation within HIV governance structures including policy, budgeting and other decision making spaces
- The achievement of the Global Targets and transparency of budget expenditure with a specific focus on meaningful youth engagement and programmes specifically for young people
- The development and use of ethical standards for inclusion of and support to young people living with HIV.

We will represent our needs based on the voices of our network, our collective knowledge, and our lived experiences.

We will be heard in all our diversity, and we will be clear on what we are asking for – we will develop an annual advocacy plan, which will be agreed and shared across our network.

We will develop effective and responsive youth led communications, using the latest technologies, to communicate with each other and externally.

We will build our collective capacity for effective advocacy via training and facilitation, mentorship and evaluation.

We will seek to raise funds for global advocacy work and youth representation in key policy spaces.
STRATEGIC PILLAR

Build Our Network

We will work collectively to build a strong and representative global network of young people living with HIV.

- We will continue to build the Y+ Global network by formalising our existing partnerships.
- We will have regular communication across our network, utilising online technology.
- We will continue to build inclusive and diverse membership to ensure an authentic and representative global network.
- We will identify the needs and support the development of local and regional networks by accessing funding and training.
- We will work in collaboration with our network members on funding and advocacy projects.
- We will share learning across the networks and use this to inform our strategy.
We will be strategic, not opportunistic. We will develop and follow our advocacy and communication plan, our fundraising plan, our operational plan and our annual budget and expenditure plan. We will review our plans regularly and update them.

We will focus on developing our organisational systems and capabilities. We will seek to raise core funding for systems development and capacity building. We will make it our policy to include a budget for systems and capacity building in all funding applications.

We recognise that as young professionals we must continue to develop our leadership and advocacy skills. We will seek mentorship and supervision from our partners in the HIV response.

We will continue to develop excellent governance and effective succession planning.

We recognise that we need to build future leaders in the HIV response, and so we will seed the Y+ Global Alumni to mentor and support future generations of Y+ Global.