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N E W S L E T T E R

EDITORIAL



Let me borrow a quote from unknown “if nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies”

We said farewell to Cedric Nininahazwe and welcomed new leadership. Effective July-1st, the leadership of Y+ Global transitioned. This news gives me both a joyful feeling and an implication that Y+ Global is growing. Transitions are a necessity for every organisation and I am happy to witness this one at Y+ Global.

In the past three months, we have worked with our partners in the different countries of implementation to increase the visibility of the voices of young people on key platforms. We participated in the High-level meeting on HIV, participated in the launch of the UNAIDS Global Update Report, started our very own podcast and commemorated the important days by sharing information with the different stakeholders.

Please take time to read through the newsletter to learn more about our achievements this first half of the year 2021

Igor Kuchin
Y+ Global Board Chair

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WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Transitioning Executive leadership

We Welcome Tinashe Rufurwadzo

We got new leadership! Earlier in June, the board of directors Y+ Global announced that the organisation would change leadership at the executive office. Tinashe Rufurwadzo took over from Cedric Nininahazwe as the director of programmes, Management and Governance from 1st-July-2021. This move builds on the long commitment to engage young people in ethical leadership. Read the full announcement here: <https://www.yplusglobal.org/news-executive-office-leadership-transition>

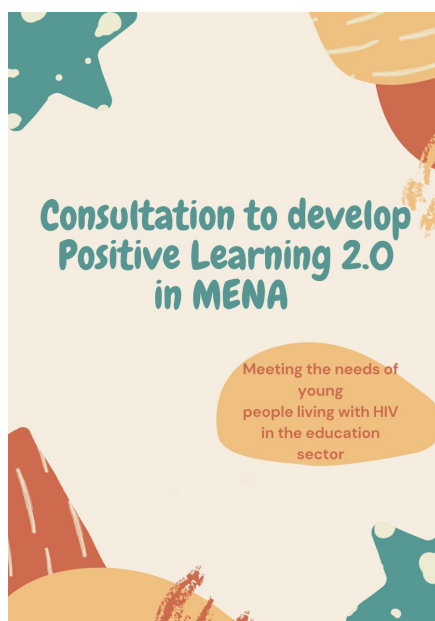


Tinashe Rufurwadzo

Director of Programmes, Management and Governance

Positive Learning consultations

Together with GNP+ and UNESCO, Y+ Global is working to coordinate the consultations to improve the in-school curriculum for positive living. We have partnered with networks in different regions including eastern europe, Middleeast and North Africa, Francophone Africa and Anglophone Africa based partners to further engage the young people living with HIV in the consultations. The results will be published to better inform the support needed by young people living with HIV who are in schools.



Positive Learning Consultations

Ground up activities

Working to build the capacity of youth led HIV networks in Tanzania, Eswatini, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya, the Ground

Up project worked with the networks to assess their capacity, prepare roadmaps for project implementation and contributing to the development of advocacy material that is youth friendly that will be disseminated by the young people within their countries.

The HER Voice Fund Video

The HER voice Fund project released a video that showcases the impact of the project since inception. The video has the numbers of impact, the areas of focus and the strong advocacy and education that the ambassadors and grantees have embarked on to achieve success. See the video here: <https://www.yplusglobal.org/her-voice-fund-media>

“The HER Voice Fund project released a video that showcases the impact of the project since inception”



HER Voice Fund Ambassador - Cameroon (Miranda Ndolo Ekema)

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WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES



For the past three months, READY+ implementing partners worked tirelessly to reach young people in their communities.

Mozambique

PAAJ+ held radio debates to promote advocacy. The debates were held with the CATs trained in the Ready+ project and coordinated through a digital meeting with the PAAJ+ team. The topic of the conversation was understanding the needs of YPLHIV and involving more A&YPLHIV in their interventions, prioritizing community awareness.

Tanzania

NYP+ supported adolescents and young

people living with HIV to take part in a high-level decision-making process, such as creating the concept for the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (CRM-19/C19RM). In addition, the organisation held a training for young people to enhance their knowledge about HIV-related topics and SRHR, in which they trained up to 63 people.

Burundi

The main focus was on supporting young people to participate in the creation of the concept of the COVID-19 Response Mechanism. As a result, they were able to engage 60 young people from KPs who participated in focus groups, develop the concept note and in country dialogues to

create the mechanism.

Zimbabwe

ZY+ created virtual safe spaces for young people to discuss issues affecting their access to medicines through the COVID-19 period. During the virtual safe space sessions, CATS Mentors collected success stories from READY+ 1.0, such as the story of Mona, a young woman living with HIV that joined READY+ after being haunted with suicidal thoughts for her positive status. She was supported through the project and provided a safe space to share with colleagues and a supportive environment to accept her HIV status.



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A D V O C A C Y & E V E N T S

MentalHealth Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. We held a podcast to discuss the mental health of young people living with HIV during COVID-19. Three young people were on a panel and shared experience on mental health interventions and challenges. We also shared posts to create awareness about the vital signs for selected mental issues. Please listen to our podcast here: <https://anchor.fm/yplusglobal/episodes/Young-Voices--Ep-1-Mental-health-and-diversity-e11tfu5>



Young Families First

Y+ Global collaborated with the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS and the READY movement to launch a global campaign to mobilise decision-makers at all levels to prioritise and empower adolescent parents affected by HIV. They worked with young mothers to promote the campaign on social media. During this campaign, we shared the statements of 3 young parents and 2 peer supporters to create awareness about the importance of empowering A&YPLHIV and their children. <https://www.yplusglobal.org/news-young-families-first-campaign>

IDAHOBIT

In commemoration of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, we held a webinar with 3 young community advocates leading unique projects that support to advance of the rights of the LGBTIQ+ and help to reduce stigma, discrimination and exclusion of LGBTIQ+ people and YPLHIV. They shared the different experiences of delivering successful LGBTIQ projects in their various countries. Please read more here: <https://www.facebook.com/525375387540332/videos/108850141308250>



Menstrual hygiene day

The HER Voice Fund ambassadors joined the rest of the world to commemorate Menstrual Hygiene Day. The ambassadors created an informative video showing the sanitary products used during menstruation and share the pain experienced during menstruation. Follow here to see the footage <https://www.facebook.com/525375387540332/videos/31113440491180>

High-Level Meeting on HIV (HLM 2021)

Together with other youth-led organisations, Y+ Global took part in many different processes that led to the High-level meeting on HIV. We brought together the voices of young people worldwide to include a statement on youth priorities in ending AIDS. we participated in

the different panels, including “No Prevention, No End; The importance of HIV prevention – How Leadership can turn an epidemic” please see here for the story: <https://www.facebook.com/525375387540332/videos/5628989247174737>

Launching the Y+ Global and READY+ Podcasts

To increase the reach of young people, we created two podcast channels, one of the podcast channels is for the READY Movement and one for Y+ Global. The topic to launch the Y+ Global podcast was mental health and HIV advocacy. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/yplusglobal/episodes/Young-Voices--Ep-1-Mental-health-and-diversity-e11tfu5>

Whereas the READY+ podcast shared the best practices that the READY+ implementing partners achieved. Listen to the podcast here: <https://anchor.fm/ready-movement/episodes/READYCast---EP1-WeAreREADY-e12s9k3>

Rightscon

Is a human rights and digital health conference that was held this year to share how health and rights can be digitalised. Y+ Global and GNP+ hosted a session on “how to be heard? the fight for community and civil society in AI and digital health governance”. On a panel, Tinashe presented on youth empowerment and digital platforms. Read details here: https://twitter.com/Yplus_Global/status/1402269231811641355



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A D V O C A C Y & E V E N T S

Webinar on YKP-LEAD & Responsive Programming with the Regional YKP Leadership Institute

We were invited to speak about YKP-Friendly, YKP-LED & Responsive Programming from the experience and point of view of Y+ Global at the Regional YKP Leadership Institute, alongside UNDP. The meeting brought together 75 YKPs from Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The focus of this gathering was to strengthen the capacities on how to effectively engage in legal and policy reform processes in light of the current context and set a list of potential entry points or opportunities for YKP advocacy nationally and regionally. <https://twitter.com/titirufu/status/1392498739164614660>

Report Launch: Harm Reduction Services for People Who Inject Drugs

On May 12th, we delivered the 'Count Me In' project on Harm Reduction Services for People Who Inject Drugs. In this instance, we had the chance to talk about the policies to promote harm reduction among fantasticYKP and YPLHIV. <https://www.facebook.com/YplusGlobal/posts/3909066092504561>

Nasser Leadership Fellowship

This was the 2nd Cohort under the theme "South-South Cooperation". Nelly Omwando and Tanaka Chinobore were supported by Y+ Global to attend the Nasser Leadership Fellowship held in Cairo, Egypt. The

Fellowship was represented by youth from civil society, heads of national councils for youth, faculty members at universities, researchers in strategic research centers, members of trade unions, journalists and media professionals. The participants represent 50 countries. Together, they presented on HERVoice Fund and READY+ Projects.



How joining READY+ activities supported my mental health

A young woman in Zimbabwe (let us call her Mona) found out that she was HIV positive at 18 when she went to the ANC. After finding out her HIV status, she was not so surprised because she had expected that she could have contracted the virus. However, she was worried about what she would tell her mother. Her mother had so much expectation of her, "she had already gotten disappointed by the pregnancy and I could not bear to tell her more bad news". At this point, my boyfriend had already left me. He was not willing to take responsibility for the pregnancy and I had come to terms with that.

However, on the second appointment, I was told that my virus copies were too many. I didn't know what they meant. They said that I needed to switch to the second line. I still didn't know what they meant but I understood that they wanted me to take more pills, I was not ready. My mental health could not take it, it happened at a moment when I had just buried my child, I was sad and could not understand why they wanted to torture and punish me with more medicines. The doctor was saying 60,000 copies, I was truly lost and didn't contemplate what they meant exactly. I ran home and was crying and not speaking. My mom was confused because of my crying. I became suicidal.

One day as I was hawking my goods, I found a lady, my client and she invited me to a meeting that ZY+ was doing. She told me to join her to go have fun and dance and get 10 dollars. I found so many peers, who were my age and living with HIV. I felt comfortable. I then started going to meetings not for money this time but for the knowledge. The meetings were supported by READY+. I now have READY+ colleagues who are my friends, counsellors and confidants. I now teach other young women how to sustain themselves and stay safe and healthy.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO . . .



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Secretariat

Eerste Helmersstraat 17 B3

1054 CX Amsterdam

The Netherlands

info@yplusglobal.org

+31 (20) 423 4114