



# InReview



GLOBAL NETWORK OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV



As young people, we are adventurous, energetic and up to the task. However, 2020 threatened this passion and zeal when COVID-19 struck. The year was challenging and this gave us the passion to roll our sleeves, innovate, adopt and marched over to implement all our interventions in the time of COVID-19.

At first, the influx of differing information and not being certain about whether young people living with HIV are a most at risk population due to compromised immunity. The fears that surrounded the lockdowns and the statistics that kept on skyrocketing on daily basis scared young people in all their diversity.

Most young people are breadwinners, they survived from hand to mouth and they lost their sources of income which meant an increased number of dependency and a risk for poor nutrition; for adolescent girls and young women, the risk was even higher. Many were confined in spaces with perpetrators of violence and the numbers of physical and sexual violence increased which translated into unintended pregnancies and consequently school dropouts.

Y+ Global adapted strategies to reach more young people with an intended focus on adolescent girls and young women, young people living with HIV, those who identify as lesbian, gays, bisexuals and transgender, who use drugs and selling sex.

In the year under review, we managed to:

- Established our internal financial and programme management systems
- Offer financial support through small grants to over 90 community-based organizations and country networks of young people living with HIV
- Reached over 7,000 adolescent girls and young women in 13 Global Fund priority countries (Africa)
- Conducted two regional and global consultations on the mental well-being of young people living with HIV
- Developed a guideline on the ethical engagement of young people as advocates and activists
- Registration of Y+ Global as the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV in the Netherlands
- Development of COVID-19 resources and a digital campaign for young people living with HIV
- Launched a digital campaign #InOurTime.
- Responded to the evolving needs of the young people living with HIV in the time of COVID-19
- Launched our new website, migrated to a new domain and renamed our digital media platforms.
- Publication of a viewpoint on youth leadership in a peer reviewed Journal of the International AIDS Society

We could have not achieved the implementation of our projects without the tremendous support from implementing and strategic partners whom we shared resources and expertise with in the year 2020. My heartfelt thank you goes to the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global) Board and all staff members for working tirelessly, even in difficult circumstances. Through various sections of this newsletter, I am inviting you to reflect on Y+ Global's work.

Enjoy our year [2020] in review and I hope you stay with us this year [2021] as we elevate the voices of young people living with and affected by HIV.

Cedric Nininahazwe

Director of Programmes, Management and Governance.

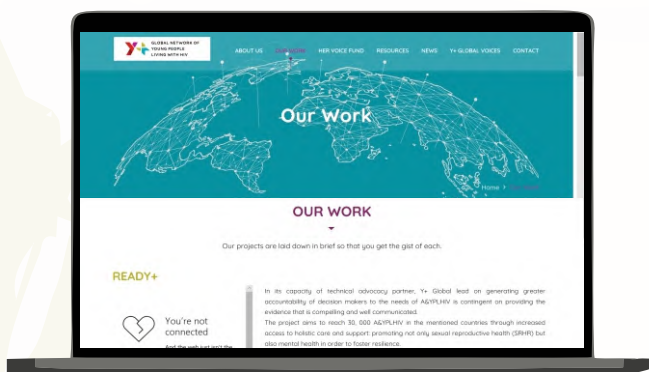


# STRENGTHENING OUR OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

The year 2020 was an unlearning, relearning and probably the year that tested the biggest part of resilience for so many people around the world. As it is for every New Year, Y+ Global had a year plan already in place to ensure that activities run smooth through 2020. However, we had to adapt to this huge global change in various ways; from technology, to better understanding of the virtual world and the virtual resources we already had as a world.

The year 2020 was made possible with support from our partners and stakeholders, **board and executive office**.

Now that you are here, we are inviting you to learn about how our vibrant team has managed to implement projects and how we have worked to strengthen partnerships with country networks of young people living with HIV, organisations that serve or are led by adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and organisations that serve young people in all their diversity.



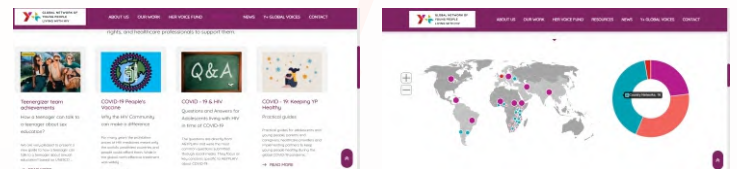
## Registration of Y+ Global in the Netherlands

We went global! It was a celebratory moment as Y+ Global registered in the Netherlands as the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global). It was an awesome moment that called for a complete transition and re-naming our domain and online communication channels to reflect the new name. We launched our reinvigorated **website!** Do check on our and follow our work in your country. **Here** is the official registration announcement.

As we continue to grow, one of our main focus in 2020 has been to establish finance and management systems that would allow to strengthen our operation capacity. This process included the capacity building of country network of young people living with HIV, our country partners. Our ambition is to ensure that youth led constituency have capacity to serve their peer and credibility to mobilise resources.

## Revamping of the website

Our revamped website has an exciting user-friendly view: with a special section where young people can share their stories and activities in community. It is updated with news in the Y+ Global world and the networks of young people we work with. Take time to look through our blog section and learn about the work young people are doing in their communities **here**.



# WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

## HER Voice Fund:

Y+ Global was thrilled to be awarded the **HERVoiceFund** grant! The news was an affirmation for the trust in the leadership of young people and a win for the entire community of young people. It aims to support inclusion of adolescent girls and young women in decision making processes. The grant works in 13 countries: Namibia, Eswatini, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, Lesotho, Cameroon and Zambia. For each country, there is an **Ambassador** and the country lead. Some of our achievements can be downloaded **here**

## READY+

In our capacity of technical advocacy partner, Y+ Global lead on generating greater accountability of decision makers to the needs of A&YPLHIV is contingent on providing evidence that is compelling and well communicated. We supported country networks of Tanzania, Mozambique, Eswatini and Zimbabwe to involve the national level media in communicating the challenges YPLHIV were experiencing during COVID-19 lockdown.

## Count me in

The project demands the meaningful engagement of young key populations in the Global Fund processes at national and global level. This was implemented in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Eastern Europe, specifically, while the outreach is global. Y+ Global is leading this project in South Africa, Zambia, Nigeria and Burundi

## 4 Youth

This is a consortium of four regional and global networks working on HIV under the Robert Carr Fund grant for 2019 – 2021. Y+ Global, Youth LEAD, Y PEER and Youth RISE formed 4Youth in 2019. The consortium aims to advance global efforts on youth in the HIV response through the strengthening of networks.

## Youth consultation on the Global Fund Strategy development

The Count Me In youth consortium, consisting of Youth LEAD, Y+ Global and Youth RISE, in collaboration with the Global Fund Youth Council held consultations for young people centered around the upcoming Global Fund Strategy development process. The consultations focused on the Global Fund's engagement with young people in terms of global health security, UHC, programming, human rights, and partnerships. They were held in three different clusters: Anglophone countries were led by Uganda Network of Young People living with HIV, the MENA region was led by MENA youth network on A HIV-SRHR SIBA and the Francophone countries led by Réseau National des Jeunes vivant avec le VIH/sida -Burundi.







## Development of COVID 19 resources

Country networks of young people living with HIV from Eswatini, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe brought together frequently asked questions around COVID-19 and living with HIV. A Q+A was developed and disseminated. This was supported by a social media campaign led by young advocates who are social media influencers in Kenya, South Africa and Botswana. On Facebook, the posts reached 54,962 people/accounts. Cumulatively, on Instagram: 38522 total reach. On Twitter; 14398.

## Development of READY practical guides on COVID - 19

As a result of contradictory information which was received by young people, parents, caregivers, healthcare providers and implementing partners. Y+ Global collaborated with Frontline AIDS to develop practical guides to keep young people healthy and safe during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

## A series of webinars on young people and access to SRHR in Africa

Y+ Global as the lead for #READY4UHC campaign supported the coordination and implement a series of webinars which focused on access to quality SRHR services by young people in their entirety in the time of COVID-19. 4 webinars were conducted and a policy brief was developed. You can access it [here](#).

## Newsletters: Living with HIV in the time of COVID 19

In collaboration with GNP+ and ICW, Y+ Global worked with young people to comprehend the challenges they during COVID19 and advocate for friendly, accessible and dignified health services for people living with HIV in all their diversity. Eight newsletters were published as they seek to communicate the best practices, differentiated service delivery and access to general SRHR care. Please take time to read the newsletters [here](#).

## International Youth Day Commemorations and the digital campaign

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, we launched #InOurTime campaign, a digital campaign which brought together the voices of regional and global decision makers and created a platform for dialogue with young people from different backgrounds and regions. From the first lady of Namibia Her Excellency Mrs Monica Geingos, to Executive Directors and head of departments, to every person who inspires young people and the young people themselves. The #InOurTime campaign hosted people from different walks of life to discuss several SRHR related issues that affect young people in their diversity. Learn more about the campaign [1] In total, the organic posts about the campaign on Y+ Global facebook page reached 47,586 people.



## Tanzania

The National Network of Young People Living with HIV (NYP+) engaged the prime minister of the United Republic of Tanzania to request support from the Government for training YPLHIV on life and entrepreneurship skills and for HIV/AIDS interventions to be given priority in the 2025 National development vision. The prime minister affirmed support. Additionally, NYP+ received support from UNICEF Tanzania to support young people living with HIV in the country with hygiene packs which helped in preventing them from contracting COVID-19

## Mozambique

The network of young people living with HIV was formed and named Plataforma para Advocacia dos Direitos dos Adolescentes e Jovens vivendo com HIV- PAAJ+, a platform for advocating for the rights of adolescents and young people living with HIV. The Platform is crucial at representing adolescents and young people's views at country and at international level. In addition to the above, for the first time, young people were supported to be added to technical groups of the National Council for the fight against AIDS (CNCS). This helped to improve participation of YPLHIV in important meetings like the Universal Health Coverage where young people were representing PAAJ+.

## Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Young Positives (ZY+) engaged 8 national media houses and shared with them YPLHIV's advocacy priorities of involuntary status disclosure, limited access to SRH/HIV services and concern over gender-based violence during the COVID-19 lockdown period. YPLHIV also mentioned drug shortages especially second- and third- line regimen, and psychological challenges that came from food and income insecurities.

## Eswatini

Eswatini Network of Young Positives (ENYP+) trained 10 YPLHIV on business management, business projection, marketing & record keeping on poultry production and backyard gardens. The main aim of this project is to ensure that YPLHIV are introduced into agricultural business for financial independence and food security. Five YPLHIV were given farming tools, seedlings, and 5000 litres water tanks with three months refill. 4 YPLHIV were trained in poultry and given a home package to start up their business. The package included 200 chicks, vaccines and feedings for the chicks until they are fully grown. The secretariat was involved in advocacy through the local media to end forced disclosure during the country's lockdown

## Nigeria

The network supported the engagement of adolescent and young people (AYP) organizations in the development of young people's targeted interventions in the Global Fund grant writing processes. They also supported the election of a YPLHIV as Co-chair in Benue State Adolescent Technical Working Group.

## Zambia

ZNYP+ developed organizational policies and guidelines in a bid to strengthen the capacity of the network. They also engaged in the Global Fund process for the funding cycle 2021-2023 as well as participating at the AIDS2020.

## Burundi

With support from Y+ Global, RNJ+ advocated for the establishment of AntiRetroviral Therapy centre specifically for adolescents and young people living with HIV.

## Ukraine

Teenergizer was supported in creating of a methodological manual "How can a teenager talk with a teenager about sex education?" It contains detailed materials for conducting 5 online peer to peer adolescent training. They also held 2 consultations to validate and adapted the manual. In addition, they trained 56 peer trainers among adolescents in the EECA region and held weekly trainings on COVID19. More to that, teenergizer held consultations with the UNESCO



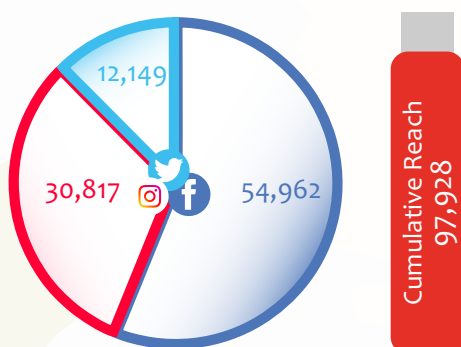
Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITEU NESCO) to inform the formalization of the Methodological Guide.

## Latin America

Fundación Chile Positivo developed the advocacy manual for young people living with HIV in Latin America that has been revised by Y+ Global and completed. They also carried out several workshop and training sessions. In addition, they developed a short survey on the experience of young people in healthcare during COVID-19. The trainings include topics on effective communication, leadership, policy advocacy and empowerment.

More so, they developed advocacy Plans to support Adolescents living with HIV to engage in the 2030 agenda in the second half of 2020. The advocacy manual for young people living with HIV in Latin America was developed.

## Communication and events



The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is a time for everyone to remember many lives lost due to AIDS. The celebrations were held virtually as hosted by GNP+ and Y+ Global. We gave a solidarity message for YPLHIV. Additionally, a representative from Y+ South Africa presented a poem which was dedicated to one of the strongest HIV advocates and leader who passed on because of COVID-19.

## IDAHOBIT day commemoration

The READY4UHC campaign featured a twitter chat to raise awareness around #IDAHOBIT day and the importance to have young trans people meaningfully involved in UHC design and implementation. Four young trans panelists from Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Kenya provided insights on how the trans people are being neglected amidst the COVID-19 crisis. The twitter chat generated 247,452 total potential impressions.

## Ndiilo's activism and interaction with the President

Ndiilo the HER Voice Ambassador and a member of #ShutItAllMovement joined other activists in demanding justice on sexual and gender based violence in a protest. Speaking truth to power, Ndiilo brought attention to the neglected SGBV and homicides in Namibia. In addition, they delivered a petition to the Parliament where she was invited at the State House to meet and discuss with His Excellency President Hage G. Geingos. The President committed to establishing a committee that will tackle SGBV in the country. Take time to read her blog [here](#).

## Day of the African Child Commemoration

On the 25th of June 2020, READY Movement and Y+ Global facebook pages had a live broadcast discussion titled "Claiming Our

Rights to Health and Social Justice" The session had young leaders in all their diversity including those living with HIV, adolescent girls and young women and those who identify as LGBTI. The discussion cumulatively reached 7,714 people.

## World Mental Health Day

On the 12<sup>TH</sup> of October Y+ Global facilitated an online discussion on HIV, mental health, and young people. We hosted a clinical Psychologist, a researcher, young people who have been affected by mental health and young people who work to support others to cope with mental health and wellbeing. You can access the discussion [here](#):

## AIDS 2020

Y+ Global was part of the AIDS 2020 Youth Pre-Conference opening ceremony. We also participated in several sessions including: the Youth pre-conference opening session, review of the Decade and What's Coming Next? – the AYLHIV version, Understanding Science, Interpreting Research, and Writing a Compelling Abstract, Ethical Engagement Guidelines, My Body, My Health, My Choice, Born this way and HER Voice Fund led on; connecting in addressing GBV and intimate partner violence faced by AGYW in times of COVID 19

## HIV 2020

Y+ Global created a platform for country networks in different regions to share their experiences on how they have been leading the way in programming and advocacy including networks which are part of the READY Movement. During the session, the panelists shared best practices in responding to the evolving needs of young people living with HIV.

Additionally, we took part in the session on "Time is running out for children living with HIV!" which was unveiled in form of a protest during a Youth Special Session at ICASA Kigali 2019.

## 16 Days Of Activism

Y+ Global joined this year's commemoration under the theme "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, and Collect!" The aim was to enable communities get access to real life sentiments of young people about HIV and gender based violence. From the 25<sup>th</sup> of November until 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, we posted quotes from young women, HER Voice fund ambassadors and community influencers. The young ambassadors also made a video to create awareness in addition to the blog shared by Ndiilo about her advocacy in Namibia.

The social media reach was 80630 on all our social media accounts see our video [here](#)

## Intergenerational Summit

In collaboration with the Adolescent Treatment Coalition, Y+ Global presented the first ever virtual Intergenerational Summit. The summit aimed to foster a dialogue among youth leadership, youth-led and youth serving organisations to share best practices and to equip young people with tools to take the lead and accelerate youth objectives in the fight to end AIDS. The event spread over 9 days, for 1 to 2 hours per each session on Y+ Global, PATA and ATC Facebook pages.

## International Day of the Girl Child

Under the theme "My voice, our equal future". Y+ Global hosted a twitter chat with the magnificent HER Voice Fund ambassadors who





took centre stage to showcase their work and how it impacts their communities and advocate for the changes they deserve and so many other girls must have to live a fulfilled life.

#### PATA Summit 2020

Y+ Global was a collaborating partner for the PATA SUMMIT 2020 under the READY umbrella. We led a session on community-led monitoring and advocacy where we presented on the READY to care scorecard. The PATA 2020 Summit happened from November 11th – November 13th under the theme: Breakthrough and Build Back together! The forum brought together health providers and stakeholders in a renewed call to action to accelerate efforts to end AIDS in children and adolescents. Y+ Global also supported the communications of the summit through the Y+ Global and READY MOVEMENT social media platforms.

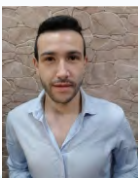
#### Mental health research

Y+ participated in a mental health research funded by Newcastle University and WHO. The young people from the different networks used the research to demand for: An increase in the understanding of the links between HIV, trauma, mental health, and stigma. ng with HIV globally, the meaningful engagement of young people living with HIV in integrated HIV and mental health responses, and to increase in the understanding of the links between HIV, trauma, mental health and stigma. Read more about the research [here](#).

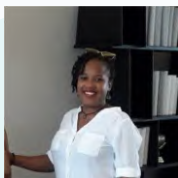
Our work in 2020 was made possible with support from:



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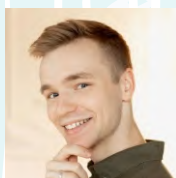
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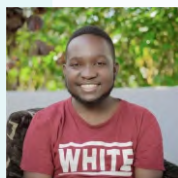
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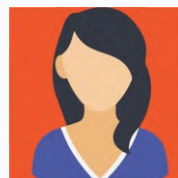
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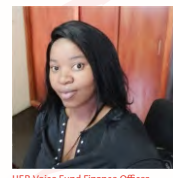
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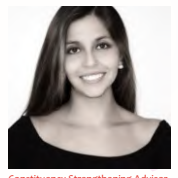
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