

# Q1 NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL



Each year comes with great beginnings and good insight into the work that the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global) does with partners in communities to improve on the lives and well-being of young people living with and affected by HIV. Unlike 2020, 2021 was a fresh page to live a “new reality”.

The year 2021 brought new collaborations, partnerships and ways of working.

As Y+ Global we have become fully independent and transitioned out of the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+). Now Y+ Global will be standing as an equal partner among GNP+ and ICW (International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS) in one sisterhood of networks for all our peers. This is a huge milestone for us!

On that positive note, it is a pleasure to present to you our work from January to March 2021. We continue to commend the support you have given as we continue to provide ethical empowerment and ensuring excellence in leadership, education, and engagement in spaces that impact our lives as young people in all our diversity.

I invite you to further read our newsletter as we reflect on the new and continued collaborations, advocacy activities we led and actively participated in, and initiatives which we implemented.

This work could have not been possible without the tremendous support from all our partners including adolescents and young people living with and affected by HIV.

Igor Kuchin  
**Y+ Global Board Chair**

# WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

## Young people engaged in the COVID-19 response

*Learning from Moises in Argentina*

Starting from October, Moises worked with the provincial government of Rosario, Santa Fe in Argentina on a massive tracing campaign for COVID 19 cases. Through a project called detectAR which is the government's device to track COVID-19 cases. Moises carried out strategic testing of COVID in Argentina. The project was located in areas where there is high increase in COVID-19 cases. It was a door-to-door campaign. If people had any symptoms such as headaches and dry cough, they would be accompanied to the testing point to ensure that they get a quick test. If the results were positive, they are monitored daily for 14 days

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Moises Maciel

Y+ Global Board Member - Latin America

In Mozambique PAAJ+ continues to applaud the CATS for the brilliant work they are doing over the past years of implementation, and to encourage them to double their efforts in this period of extension. In addition, PAAJ+ identified the possibilities of interacting with Health Care Providers and the National AIDS Council.

## “AYPLHIV participated in the provincial engagement and raised key advocacy asks”.

**In Burundi**, an advocacy unit was formed from the young people who were earlier supported through the READY teen, a READY movement project. It is mostly made up of young people from all their diversity. The advocacy unit works together for the well-being of Young Key Populations

**In Zimbabwe**, the A&YPLHIV participated in the provincial engagement where the A&YPLHIV raised key advocacy asks. The provincial engagement meeting was a platform to narrate the advocacy issues because many were present for instance; the Zimbabwe Republic Police Victim Friendly Unit and Adult Rape Clinic. During the engagement meetings there were discussions on sexual and gender-based violence, young people were taught the reporting mechanisms. Service providers were present and they talked about referral

systems and the sexual reproductive health services they offer.

## Latin America (Chile positivo, RAJAP and J+LAC)

Developed an advocacy manual for organisations in Latin America. The young participants initiated their own supportive Network in Chile. They also trained 105 people on sexual pleasure and well-being with Medical students in Latin America. In addition, 27 young people living with HIV were trained in leadership, policy development and effective communication skills. Of these, 16 were young people living with HIV who participated in their Regional Advisory Roundtables on HIV and AIDS throughout Chile

The networks engaged in a regional capacitation on political advocacy and participation of the trained young people in the regional positive festival.

**RAJAP** reviewed its institutional and programmatic state. They developed a proposal for governance manual index and a short video clip sharing the experience of the ex-members from RAJAP. In addition, they implemented the COVID-19 emergency aid to cover basic needs in different rural and urban areas of Argentina. A workshop on “Pre-production & Creative Process” hosted by the Oficina de Proyectos which gathered 18 YPLHIV.



# WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

under isolation and if they are negative they would be asked to keep the standard operating procedures.

*“While working with communities, I found a young person who had refused to go out to get exposed in fear of infecting his elderly grandparent. I found this sweet and gentle. However, I was involved in the testing for 3 months until I shifted into the vaccination project. The vaccine came as a relief for people because we have been struggling with COVID-19 for over a year and being a medical student at the frontline of fighting the disease, I was lucky to be vaccinated early enough and on my birthday. My experience is that the older people were excited and kept asking whether they will be able to interact with the world after the vaccine. It was a pleasure to see their faces brighten up with hope. However, I would not give the affirmation that they would go out after getting vaccinated.*

*As a young person, I had challenges being trusted by the older people to give services. However, my advise to all young people is take a moment, explain to the older people that you have the qualification to do the job that you are doing. For example, I am a medical practioner and I like to vaccinate I let the older people know that I am able to vaccinate them. In addition to the vaccination, my team also continues to test for HIV and refer any cases that have been found positive.*

*I urge all the governments to get involved and support the young people living with HIV to get vaccinated. Science works!”*

## COVID-19 conference

In recognition of the urgent need to analyse research, review policy and exchange frontline experiences related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the International AIDS Society hosted a virtual COVID-19 Conference on 10 - 11 July 2020, shining a spotlight on the latest science, policy and practice of the pandemic. The virtual COVID-19 Conference took place online on the last day of AIDS 2020: Virtual. It featured a free-of charge stand-alone programme of plenary, invited-speaker and abstract-driven sessions exclusively dedicated to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this conference and aware of the critical need to ensure that communities and civil society also shape, inform and engage in this platform, Y+ Global and the African Alliance, the Vaccine Advocacy

Resource Group and the READY Movement facilitated a series of skills-building webinars for civil society and community leaders across the globe in the run-up to and in preparation for the conference to maximise engagement and to ensure that community voices - who have been working on the front lines of the COVID-19 response - were able to engage and formed part of the conference deliberations.

The partnership supported 6 young people with technical support to prepare and submit high-quality abstract papers to the conference. Due to timing, should abstracts not be presented before the deadline, they would be published post-conference.





## ADVOCACY AND EVENTS



### Y+ Global

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#### Engagement in the CSW Session

The sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place from 15 to 26 March 2021. Y+ Global together with partners organised a side event on violence against women. The Hervoice Fund ambassador from Namibia was one of the panellists <https://www.facebook.com/YplusGlobal/posts/3729356920475480>

#### Webinar and lecture series on COVID-19

Together with the African Alliance, the Vaccine Advocacy Resource Group, Y+ Global and the READY Movement brought a series of lectures focusing on the four pillars of the International AIDS Society's "COVID-19 Conference: Prevention" which was held on 2nd February 2021. The lectures happened on thursday 28th & Friday 29th January. The lecture was guided by leading health experts who broke down and took a deep dive into the science ahead of the conference. Watch the video here <https://www.facebook.com/YplusGlobal/posts/3617043888373451>

#### Launch of the Young, Wild and Free Implementing Guide

Launched the Young, Wild & Free Implementation Guide, which is about building youth networks. Young, Wild, & Free was a Y+ Global programme bringing together networks of young people living with HIV to share best practices of engagement, support, and resilience of young key populations. <https://www.yplusglobal.org/resources-young-wild-and-free-2020-implementation-guide>

#### Adolescent HIV Treatment Coalition (ATC) Strategy Launch:

Y+ Global supported the official launch of the Adolescent HIV Treatment Coalition at the AdolescentHIVtx 2021-2023 Strategy! A strategy for strengthening the youth-centred and youth-led approach to end AIDS. At the strategy launch, it was announced that Y+ Global will be hosting the ATC. Read more: <https://www.facebook.com/YplusGlobal/videos/279200273613607>

#### Women's Day Event

We celebrated women's day with a twitter chat that had three panellists under the global theme, #choosetochallenge young women leadership. We also ended the women's month with a photo collage of young women from all over the world choosing to challenge. [https://twitter.com/Yplus\\_Global/status/1368833775451451392?s=20](https://twitter.com/Yplus_Global/status/1368833775451451392?s=20)

#### The training of her voice fund ambassadors on universal health coverage

The Hervoice fund ambassadors were trained about the UHC with the aim to:

1. Advocate for an improvement in the availability, accessibility, and improved capacity of health workers to deliver quality youth friendly services to young women.
2. Speak to policy makers about a holistic person centered care including access to GBV services for young women, access to education as a health determinant, access to economic resources and access to contraception as validated by

the country policies.

3. Be able to articulate policies that are not youth friendly and those that hinder access to primary health care.
4. Be able to deliver the information to their peers on what UHC is and why it is important.

#### UNAIDS PCB

Y+ Global submitted an intervention emphasizing the prioritization of youth leadership in the Global AIDS Strategy during the virtual UNAIDS PCB.

In his words "Repeatedly, we hear talks and read statements that mention the importance of youth-led organizations and peer-led interventions in the fight against HIV. However, the strategy as it is sidelined the same leadership we keep mentioning, and once again included young people as recipients of services." - Tinashe Rufurwadzo, Communication, Evidence and Influence Manager. Read more: <https://www.yplusglobal.org/news-unaids-pcb-intervention...>

#### Valentine's Campaign

Y+ Global celebrated Valentine's Day this year through focusing on self-love for young people living with HIV. We joined the young people to show them that 'self' comes first. We were joined by other young people from READY+ and the different country networks that have supported the young people through covid-19. The emphasis was the fact that they are seen persevering and managing the demands of adhering to treatment to stay healthy.

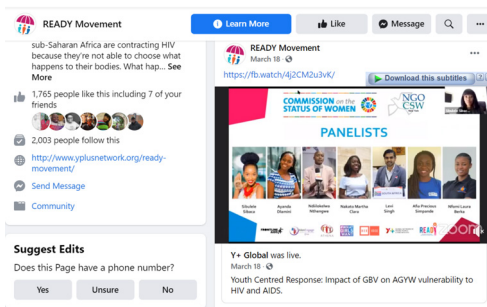
# #YPlusAimingHigher



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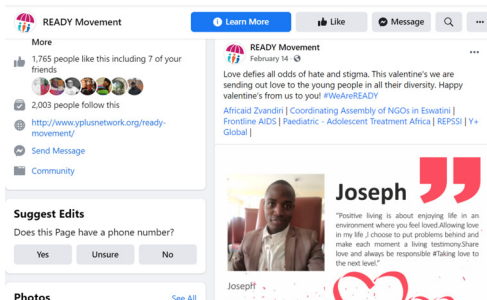
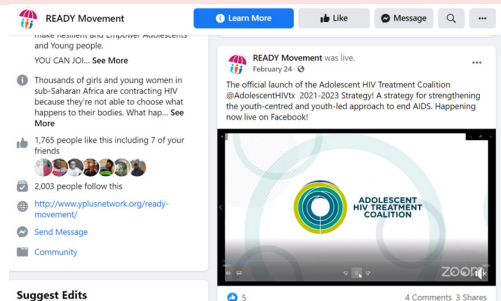


## Youth Centred Response: Impact of GBV on AGYW vulnerability to HIV and AIDS.

The young people were on fire! Get to know them And their stories and young leaders from different fields.

## The official launch of the Adolescent HIV Treatment Coalition 2021-2023 Strategy!

A strategy for strengthening the youth-centred and youth-led approach to end AIDS. Happened live on Facebook!

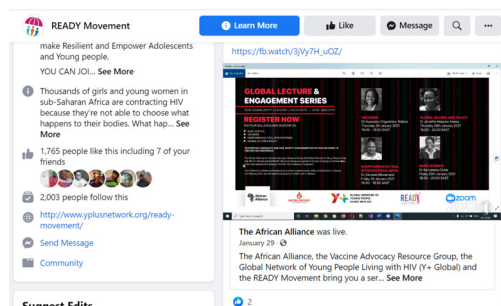


## Valentine's Day

Love defies all odds of hate and stigma. On valentine's day we sent out love to the young people in all their diversity.

## IAS Conference on COVID-19

The African Alliance, the Vaccine Advocacy Resource Group, the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global) and the READY Movement brought a series of lectures focusing on the four pillars of the International AIDS Society's "COVID-19 Conference: Prevention" which was held on the 2nd of February 2021.





# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



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[www.yplusglobal.org](http://www.yplusglobal.org)



Secretariat

Eerste Helmersstraat 17 B3

1054 CX Amsterdam

The Netherlands

[info@yplusglobal.org](mailto:info@yplusglobal.org)

+31 (20) 423 4114