

YOUTH NEXT LEVEL

GUIDANCE TO
STRENGTHEN
SUSTAINABLE
YOUTH-LED HIV
RESPONSES

Background

Youth Next Level (YNL) is a comprehensive guide designed by Y+ Global and UNAIDS in collaboration with regional and global youth-led organisations working in the HIV response to strengthen youth-led organisations and institutionalise youth-led responses that address HIV and related issues that affect young people's well-being and quality of life. The goal of YNL is to:

- Identify examples of good practices to strengthen youth-led organisations and institutionalise youth-led responses.
- Analyse what has and has not worked to support youth leadership in national HIV responses.
- Provide concrete, practical suggestions for working with youth communities on sustainable youth-led interventions to strengthen the HIV response in key affected communities.

Relevant checklists

The YNL resource has developed the following checklists to support youth-led organisations:

- For the scale-up of youth-led responses
- To address barriers to youth participation, engagement, and leadership
- To support monitoring and evaluation
- To achieve sustainable support
- For spaces, opportunities, and much more.



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1 What is Youth Next Level?

This guidance aims to support national governments, civil society, United Nations Country Teams, donors, and other relevant partners and stakeholders in working in partnership with young people in all their diversity to strengthen youth-led organisations and institutionalise youth-led responses to address HIV and related issues that affect young people's well-being and quality of life.

2 What does the Youth Next Level cover?

Youth Next Level includes three primary resources:

1. [Youth Next Level: Guidance to Strengthen Sustainable Youth-Led Responses to HIV \(Main document\)](#)
2. [Youth Next Level: A definition for stakeholders supporting youth leadership in the HIV responses](#)
3. [Youth Next Level: Steps for country rollout to support youth-led HIV responses](#)

Depending on the needs of young people, these materials were developed simultaneously to be used as a harmonised tools set or separately. This resource offers strategies for developing key skills to advance youth leadership, advocacy, campaigns, research, monitoring and evaluation, service delivery, long-term innovation, flexible funding and more. It also provides a comprehensive understanding of meaningful and ethical youth engagement principles and outlines how youth-led organisations can overcome barriers to youth leadership. Youth Next Level further provides a step-by-step approach to creating spaces for youth-led responses and ensuring their scalability at the country level.

3 Why should you use it?

YNL offers valuable insights and avenues for governments and other partners to foster and support genuine youth leadership in HIV initiatives at every level. No matter your initial position, there are concrete actions you can take to support, strengthen, and embed youth leadership within your national frameworks, platforms, and decision-making processes. By doing this, you will empower young people to play their crucial role in developing more effective national HIV responses that maximise reach and impact.