



Y+ KENYA

*ORGANIZATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING
WITH HIV*

Y+ Kenya Annual Report 2021

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGYW : Adolescent Girls and Young Women

ASRH : Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health

AYFS : Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services

AYP: Adolescent and Young People

AYPLHIV: Adolescent and Young People Living With HIV

GBV : Gender Based Violence

HCW's: Health Care Workers

IEC : Information, Communication and Education

MYE: Meaningful Youth Engagement

SRHR :Sexual Reproductive Health Rights

Y+ Global: The Global Network of Young People Living With HIV.

Y+ Kenya: Organization of young people living with HIV in Kenya

Executive Summary

The year 2021 was a significant and impactful year for Y+ Kenya, as we continued our commitment to empowering and advocating for the rights of young people affected by HIV. Throughout the year, we implemented various programs and initiatives that aimed to address the unique needs and challenges faced by young people, particularly Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW). This annual report highlights our key achievements, challenges faced, partnerships forged, and the way forward as we continue to work towards our mission.

Y+ Kenya forged valuable partnerships and collaborations with various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and international donors. These partnerships have contributed to the success of our programs and initiatives and have expanded our reach and impact.

The financial overview provides a summary of the organization's financial performance in 2021, outlining income sources, expenses, and investments made in program implementation and capacity building.

Looking ahead, Y+ Kenya remains committed to our mission of empowering young people affected by HIV/AIDS, and we are determined to continue advocating for their rights, promoting self-care practices, and addressing the unique challenges they face. We will build on our achievements, address the identified challenges, and further strengthen our partnerships to ensure the sustainability and impact of our work.

Y+ KENYA BACKGROUND

The Organization of young people living with HIV in Kenya (Y+ Kenya) is an umbrella network by youth led organizations working to fast track the response for and by young people especially in HIV and SRHR. Y+ Kenya engages Adolescents Young People Living with/Affected by HIV at national and community level with our efforts aimed towards supporting AYP to live healthy productive lives.

Y+ Kenya strives to provide a supportive environment for AYPLHIV to access quality care and HIV prevention services, and to provide a forum for mutual empowerment and support to enable YPLHIV in Kenya live positively, access treatment and other HIV related services and commodities.

Vision

To Create healthy and productive lives of young people living and affected with HIV.

Mission

To create an enabling environment where young people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are meaningfully engaged and included in safe spaces that impact their lives.

Organizational Structure

Y+ Kenya operates with a well-defined organizational structure consisting of a Board of Directors that provides strategic oversight, governance, and guidance to the organization.

,Senior Management Committee made up of the Head of Program and Partnerships, Head of Finance and Administration, and a team of dedicated staff and volunteers. This structure ensures efficient decision-making processes, effective program implementation, and overall organizational growth.

Program Achievements

Youth WISE

Youth Wise is a program funded by Aidsfonds to enable AYPLHIV to practice self-care and fulfill their SRHR and HIV needs, in a supportive and respectful environment. Youth Wise is implemented in Nairobi and Mombasa counties. Key achievements include:

- Conducting a series of workshops and training sessions on self-care practices, including sexual and reproductive health education, U=U, and mental well-being.
- Collaborating with health facilities, community centers, and youth led organizations to reach a wider audience and ensure the sustainability of the program.
- Engaging with peer educators who actively promoted self-care practices within their communities and served as role models for other young people.

Deep Dive Project

The Deep Dive Project, led by Y+ Kenya, aims to empower adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) to be advocates for their sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). The project focuses on media advocacy and engagement, as the media has the potential to promote good SRHR outcomes but often fails to prioritize these issues accurately.

Key achievements include:

- **Media Training:** Y+ Kenya provided media training to local media practitioners to ensure they report on SRHR issues in an accurate and culturally sensitive manner. The training helped the Tausi Taskforce members, a group of AGYW, develop skills in media advocacy, storytelling, and challenging discriminatory practices. The training also focused on pitching SRHR opinions and ideas effectively.
- **Media Engagement:** The Tausi Taskforce members engaged with various media platforms to advocate for SRHR issues. They participated in radio and television interviews, utilized social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok, wrote blog posts, recorded podcasts, and created YouTube content. These engagements helped increase the visibility of AGYW and address issues like consent, access to SRHR information, social-economic factors, and contraceptive use among AGYW.
- **International Condom Day Campaign:** The Tausi Taskforce spearheaded

an International Condom Day event called "Chat and Check-In!" The campaign aimed to promote safer sex awareness, encourage condom use, and address myths and stigma surrounding condoms. The campaign utilized various activities, such as condom and consent quizzes, condom demonstrations, and challenges to dispel misconceptions.

- Tausi Taskforce National Launch: Y+ Kenya organized a high-level panel and dinner launch event for the Tausi Taskforce. The event focused on addressing national and community challenges of AGYW SRHR and discussing meaningful engagement in programming, policy, and service delivery. The launch received support and commitments from key experts and panelists, including mentorship, support, and advocacy for AGYW issues.

Sister 2 Sister Project

The Sister2Sister Project focused on providing support and resources to young mothers and their children, with a specific focus on RMNCAH+. Key achievements include:

- Establishing support groups for young mothers, providing a safe space for sharing experiences, accessing information, and receiving emotional support.
- Conducting workshops and training sessions on maternal and child health, breastfeeding, nutrition, and family planning.
- Collaborating with healthcare facilities to ensure access to quality healthcare services for young mothers and their children.
- Advocating for the inclusion of young mothers' voices in policy discussions related to RMNCAH+.
- Providing economic empowerment opportunities for young mothers through skills training and income-generating activities.

Her Voice Fund

The Her Voice Fund aimed to amplify the voices of AGYW in policy-making processes and address key issues affecting their lives. Key achievements under include:

- Conducting policy analysis and research to identify gaps and barriers faced by AGYW in accessing healthcare, education, and social support systems.
- Advocating for the inclusion of AGYW in decision-making forums and policy discussions at local, national, and international levels.
- Organizing workshops and capacity-building sessions to empower AGYW to advocate for their rights and articulate their needs.

- Providing financial support to AGYW-led initiatives and projects that contribute to the well-being and empowerment of young people.
- Collaborating with like-minded organizations and networks to strengthen advocacy efforts and amplify AGYW's voices collectively.

Ground Up Project

The Ground Up project empowered young people to take the lead in advocating for their rights and driving change within their communities. It focused on capacity-building of youth led organizations to ensure the meaningful engagement of AYP in decision-making processes.

Key achievements include:

- Development of Knowledge products to support AYP in their diversity to understand HIV, Prevention, Treatment and SRHR.
- Undertook technical capacity building for 5 Y+ Kenya's Member Organizations
- Engaged in institutional strengthening of 7 Y+ Kenya's affiliate county Networks
- Provided technical support to member organisations on Gender mainstreaming
- Conducting board training sessions to enhance the governance and oversight capabilities of the organization's board of directors.
- Developing operational manuals and guidelines for various functions, including financial management, human resources, and program implementation.
- Strengthening internal systems and processes to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability.
- Conducting regular performance evaluations and feedback mechanisms to ensure continuous improvement and learning.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Despite the achievements, Y+ Kenya faced several challenges in 2021. These challenges included:

- Limited funding: Securing sustainable funding sources remained a challenge throughout the year. The organization had to explore diverse fundraising strategies and seek partnerships with donors and stakeholders to support its programs and initiatives.
- Stigma and discrimination: Stigma and discrimination towards young people affected by HIV/AIDS continued to hinder access to services and opportunities. Y+ Kenya implemented targeted advocacy campaigns and

community engagements to address these challenges.

- **Access barriers:** Many young people faced barriers in accessing essential services, including healthcare and education. The organization worked closely with local authorities, healthcare providers, and schools to address these barriers and ensure equal opportunities for young people.

These challenges served as valuable learning opportunities for Y+ Kenya. The organization recognized the importance of diversifying funding sources, strengthening advocacy efforts, and promoting partnerships with key stakeholders. The lessons learned in 2021 will inform future strategies and program designs to overcome challenges and maximize impact.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Y+ Kenya values partnerships and collaborations as key drivers of success. In 2021, the organization forged partnerships with various stakeholders, including:

- **Member organizations, Adolescents and Young People** in their diversity.
- **Government agencies:** Collaborated with government departments and ministries responsible for health, youth, and education to advocate for policy changes, increase resource allocation, and improve service delivery for young people affected by HIV/AIDS.
- **Civil society organizations:** Partnered with local and international NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, and youth empowerment to leverage resources, share best practices, and amplify advocacy efforts.
- **Donors and funders:** Engaged with international donors, philanthropic foundations, and corporate partners to secure financial resources and technical support for program implementation and organizational development.

These partnerships and collaborations have expanded Y+ Kenya's reach, enhanced program effectiveness, and facilitated knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Financial Overview

The organization maintained financial transparency and accountability through regular audits and reporting mechanisms. A comprehensive audit report that provides a summary of Y+ Kenya's financial performance in 2021 is available separately. It includes information on income sources, expenses,

and investments made in program implementation, capacity building, and organizational development.

Way Forward

Looking ahead, Y+ Kenya is committed to building and sustaining its achievements and addressing the challenges identified in 2021. The organization will focus on the following key areas:

- Strengthening advocacy efforts: Y+ Kenya will continue to advocate for the rights and well-being of young people affected by HIV/AIDS, with a particular emphasis on addressing stigma and discrimination, improving access to healthcare and education, and promoting meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes.
- Scaling up successful programs: Building on the success of the YouthWISE Program, Deep Dive Project, Sister2Sister Project, Her Voice Fund, and Ground Up Initiative, Y+ Kenya will scale up these programs to reach more young people and expand their impact.
- Enhancing partnerships: The organization will continue to forge strategic partnerships with government agencies, civil society organizations, donors, and other stakeholders to leverage resources, share expertise, and amplify advocacy efforts.
- Investing in capacity building: Y+ Kenya recognizes the importance of continuous learning and development. The organization will invest in capacity building activities for its staff, board members, and young leaders to enhance their skills, knowledge, and effectiveness.

Conclusion

In conclusion, 2021 was a transformative year for Y+ Kenya as we continued to empower and advocate for young people affected by HIV/AIDS. Through our programs and initiatives, we made significant strides in increasing awareness, addressing stigma and discrimination, providing support to young mothers, amplifying youth voices, and strengthening our organization's capacity.

We are grateful for the support and collaboration of our partners, donors, and stakeholders who have contributed to our success. We remain committed to our mission and look forward to a future where young people affected by HIV/AIDS can thrive and achieve their full potential.