



Y+ KENYA

*ORGANIZATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING
WITH HIV*

Y+ Kenya Annual Report 2020

TABLE OF CONTENT

Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
Executive Summary	4
Y+ KENYA BACKGROUND	4
Vision	4
Mission	4
Impact of COVID-19 on Y+ Kenya	5
Achievements and Outcomes	5
Challenges	7
Financial Overview	7
Looking Ahead	7
Acknowledgement	8
Conclusion	8

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

Executive Summary

This annual report is intended to give partners, friends of Y+ Kenya and other interested parties information about Y+ Kenya's activities and financial performance for the period ending 2019. The report provides a comprehensive report on the project progress, achievement of key milestones and other significant measure of progress towards the key milestones.

This report highlights the significant achievements, challenges faced, and the impact of our programs in empowering youth and transforming lives affected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya. Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the global pandemic, we remained committed to our mission of advocating for the rights and well-being of young people living with HIV.

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.

Impact of COVID-19 on Y+ Kenya

The COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges to our operations in 2020. We adapted quickly to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and beneficiaries while continuing to provide essential services. Our team implemented innovative strategies, including virtual meetings, remote support, and digital outreach, to maintain engagement with our target audience.

In 2020, we conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the specific requirements and interests of young people living with HIV. Based on the findings, we developed tailored training programs on business management, financial literacy, and marketing. We also established partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide mentorship and networking opportunities.

Achievements and Outcomes

Throughout the year, the Pitch Project achieved significant milestones. The most significant is that Y+ Kenya became a registered NGO in Kenya. Other programmatic achievements can be found [here](#)

1. **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** Throughout 2020, Y+ Kenya actively engaged with policymakers, government agencies, and international partners to advocate for provision of commodities and youth-friendly HIV services, comprehensive sexuality education, and the meaningful involvement of young people in decision-making processes. We successfully influenced key policies and programs to prioritize the needs of young people living with HIV such as the Global Fund processes.
2. **Capacity Building and Youth Empowerment:** We conducted numerous capacity-building workshops, training sessions, and mentorship programs to empower young people living with HIV. These initiatives focused on leadership development, peer support, and skills building to enhance their ability to advocate for their rights, conduct monitoring of commodity supply in their counties, access employment opportunities, and lead productive lives.
3. **Access to Quality Healthcare:** Y+ Kenya worked closely with healthcare providers to improve the quality and accessibility of HIV treatment and care services for young people. Through our advocacy efforts, we successfully advocated for accessibility of HIV treatment during pandemic lockdowns by advocating for Multi month dispensing from nearby facilities and support for improvement of youth-friendly clinics and ensured the availability of peer supporters at facilities to support tailored services of young people living with HIV.
4. **Prevention and Awareness Campaigns:** In 2020, we implemented

innovative HIV prevention and awareness campaigns targeting young people across Kenya. Through social media platforms, community outreach, and peer education programs, we reached thousands of young people with accurate information on HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health, and the importance of regular testing. We developed pocket size HIV Treatment and Diagnostics Essentials Package that emphasized on treatment literacy and this was successfully adopted in the AYP Advocacy Toolkit by MOH.

5. Youth-led Research and Data Collection: Y+ Kenya conducted several research studies to generate evidence on the experiences, challenges, and aspirations of young people living with HIV. This data has informed our advocacy strategies and helped us develop targeted interventions to address the specific needs of this marginalized population. Since March 2020, people living with HIV in Kenya have been unable to access Septrin, an important antibiotic mainly used to prevent opportunistic infections. Many were informed to buy this out of pocket. Y+ Kenya, together with partner organizations, aimed to generate more evidence on the experiences of people living with HIV who seek Septrin and the scope of shortage in the country. We found that over 55% of the people living with HIV who tried to get Septrin during the COVID-19 pandemic returned home empty-handed. We had conversations with 479 people from all over Kenya. Through our tech partner Upinion, we used messaging apps like Facebook Messenger and Whatsapp Messenger to not only ask questions but also give information regarding Septrin and other essential HIV treatment. We gave information on Septrin use, roles and who exactly needs it. 153 respondents confirmed that they or their children had taken Septrin in their lifetime. From 61% of those who had tried to access Septrin during this time, only 40% had received it from the health facility. Of the 153 respondents who had sought Septrin, 62% were worried about accessing Septrin in future. We gave respondents information as received from MOH officials on Septrin stock that was to be brought in early December 2020. Some people living with HIV in some Nairobi based facilities such as Mbagathi and Mama Lucy have since been able to access Septrin from mid December and the MOH assured that other counties will soon receive their supply. Using Upinion and its subsequent results Y+ Kenya was able to give evidence on the need for treatment literacy for adolescents and young people living with HIV (AYPLHIV). It had seemed impossible to support our proposed interventions to be included in the Global Fund Writing at first since the government argued that this is an element covered in the facility, however because of the results and evidence we had, it became easier for them to consider our claims and Y+ Kenya finally added this intervention and was put forward in the final Global Fund country grant.
6. Partnerships and Collaborations: Collaboration and partnerships played a

crucial role in our success during the challenging year of 2020. We extended our network and formed alliances with government agencies, civil society organizations, and private sector entities. These partnerships helped us leverage resources, enhance program effectiveness, and create sustainable impact. Through partnerships Y+ Kenya also supported nutrition and COVID-19 prevention services.

Challenges

The year 2020 presented numerous challenges due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdowns, movement restrictions, and strained healthcare systems posed additional barriers to accessing HIV services and support. However, through our resilience and adaptability, we swiftly adapted our programs and utilized digital platforms to continue reaching and supporting young people during these challenging times.

Financial Overview

In 2020, Y+ Kenya successfully mobilized financial resources from diverse donors and partners to support our programs and activities. We maintained transparent financial management practices, ensuring that resources were allocated effectively to achieve our organizational objectives. A detailed financial report is available upon request.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, Y+ Kenya remains committed to advancing the rights and well-being of young people living with HIV. We will continue our advocacy efforts to ensure their meaningful involvement in decision-making processes, address stigma and discrimination, and improve access to quality healthcare and comprehensive support services. We will also focus on strengthening partnerships, expanding our reach, and exploring innovative approaches to better serve the needs of young people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Acknowledgement

Y+ Kenya extends heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, partners, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to our cause. We also express our deepest appreciation to the young people who courageously shared their stories and participated in our programs. Together, we have achieved significant milestones and transformed lives.

Conclusion

The year 2020 was a testament to the resilience and determination of Y+ Kenya and the youth we serve. Despite the challenges faced, we remained steadfast in our commitment to empowering young people living with HIV. We look forward to the future with renewed vigor and passion, as we continue to create a society where all young people can thrive, free from the burden of HIV.