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# Asia-Pacific Regional Learning Hub Monthly Newsletter - August, 2025



## Youth in Action: Launch of the Asia-Pacific Regional Strategic Plan for Young Key Populations 2025–2030

## Background

**Youth LEAD as a lead network, with the collaboration with** Youth Voices Count (YVC), and Y-PEER Asia Pacific officially launched the Asia-Pacific Regional Strategic Plan for Young Key Populations (YKPs) 2025–2030 on 15 July 2025. The development of the Regional Strategic Plan was started in 2024 with the youth consultation in Bangkok where the young people from 9 countries participated to identify the current scenario at the country level and to prioritize the focus areas for the five years. The participants were the members of the concerned three regional youth networks. During this process, the report of the youth consultation was gathered and further it was reviewed and finalised by three organizations. During the launch of the Regional Strategic Plan, the stakeholders from different regional networks, UN agencies were presented.

## Why This Matters

Every week, over 4,000 young people aged 15–24 become infected with HIV worldwide in which adolescent girls, young women, and young people from key populations are disproportionately affected. In Asia-Pacific, up to 95% of new infections among young people are within key populations. Therefore, young people must be at the centre in the HIV response.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Strategic Plan for Young Key Populations 2025–2030 provides an important framework that directly links with the Global Fund's work at the country level. By identifying the priorities and needs of young key populations (YKPs), the strategy strengthens the evidence base and advocacy tools needed for their meaningful engagement in Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), funding request processes, and grant implementation. It aligns with the Global Fund Strategy objectives on **community leadership, human rights, and health equity**, ensuring that youth voices are not only heard but shape program design, service delivery, and monitoring. At the country level, this strategy can guide youth-led organizations to position YKP issues in national HIV and SRHR responses, influence resource allocation, and hold stakeholders accountable, thereby making Global Fund and other investments more responsive, inclusive, and impactful for the most affected young people.

This new Strategic Plan is more than a roadmap; it's a call for renewed political commitment, stronger intergenerational partnerships, and truly intersectional approaches to address the broader structural and social determinants of health



# SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Diverse Funding Sources

Ensuring financial sustainability of youth-led networks through donor diversification, social contracting, and innovative financing



## Youth Leadership

Building new generations of leaders with focus on HIV, gender equity, climate justice, and intergenerational collaboration



## Digital Health Advocacy

Harnessing AI and digital tools to provide youth with safe, rights-based, and inclusive access to health information



## Access to Health and HIV Services

Scaling up youth-friendly, gender-sensitive, and stigma-free services in HIV, SRHR, and mental health.



## Enabling Environments

Advancing legal reforms, human rights protection, and youth defenders' training to combat stigma and discrimination.



## Organizational Capacity

Strengthening internal governance, sustainability, and knowledge-sharing across youth-led networks.



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## How this support the engagement of YKP in the Global fund process?

This Strategic Plan provides young key populations a direction to actively and meaningfully engage in the Global Fund decisions-making. Rather than facing gaps in the engagement, young people now have access to the research, the organizational skills, and the leadership training that enable them to make their voices heard at the country level. This strategy supports youth organizations on how to find different sources of funding and work with their governments through social contracts, the strategy helps countries meet these gaps. Whether it's using technology to deliver HIV testing or training young advocates who understand both their local situation and how international funding works, these priorities directly with the Global Fund's expectations for impactful community engagement.

Importantly, this Strategic Plan prepares young people and countries for funding shortages and transitions. The strategy shows countries how to keep youth services running through their own health systems by documenting what actually works and building youth organizations strong enough to keep advocating even without external funding. Instead of panicking when transition time comes, countries can use the models and partnerships developed through this plan to maintain the services that young people need. It's about making sure that young people don't get left behind where there is funding shortage.

Young people have always known what they need, but this plan strengthens their ability to demonstrate those needs with evidence. With concrete data and real-life examples, youth organizations can more effectively advocate with funders and governments for life-saving activities. In short, this Strategic Plan empowers YKPs to move from being passive recipients of support to being recognized leaders, innovators, and decision-makers in the Global Fund process.

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What YKP  
Organizations Can  
Learn and Apply



# LEARN AND APPLY

1

## DIVERSE FUNDING SOURCES

Explore and secure funding from multiple components including climate, social justice, economic empowerment to strengthen integrated approaches to YKPs' health, complementing Global Fund.

2

## DIGITAL HEALTH ADVOCACY

Leverage digital tools and AI to identify service gaps, propose scalable tech interventions, and provide youth-generated monitoring data which support Global fund data.

3

## ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Advocate for legal protections and enabling policies within national HIV strategies, including building young advocates' capacity for Global Fund process.

4

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Train young leaders in Global Fund processes, connect them with experienced advocates, and establish cross-country learning exchanges.

5

## INTEGRATED SERVICES

Design youth-led, comprehensive service models addressing HIV, SRHR, and mental health needs with youth-led monitoring systems that can transition to national health systems.

6

## ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Strengthen governance, financial management, and knowledge-sharing systems to meet Global Fund standards and respond effectively to funding timelines.

## Aligning With National and Global Strategies

This Strategic Plan directly contributes to national HIV and SRHR responses while

aligning with regional and global frameworks:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG3, SDG4, SDG5, SDG8, SDG10, SDG11, SDG13, SDG17
- Global AIDS Strategy (2021–2026): Contributes to Results 1–6 emphasizing HIV prevention, community-led services, and gender equality.
- Global Fund Strategy (2023–2028): Aligns with Objectives B & C on community leadership, equity, gender equality, and human rights.
- WHO Global Health Sector Strategies (2022–2030): Supports youth and YKP priorities in HIV, hepatitis, and STI responses.
- CEDAW: Upholds principles of gender equality, addressing discrimination as an obstacle to women's full participation.
- UN Youth Strategy (2030): Leadership, education, health, empowerment, rights, and peace.
- UN Climate Commitments (COP28, 2023): Links climate justice with youth health and resilience.

## The Way Forward

The next phase is implementation. Over the coming months, Youth LEAD, YVC, and Y-PEER will:

- Work with national partners to localize the strategy into country action plans.
- Mobilize resources and build sustainable financing models.
- Facilitate annual regional dialogues for accountability, reflection, and cross-learning.
- Collaboration with governments, donors, UN agencies, and civil society is essential to ensure YKPs are not only protected but also empowered to lead.

This strategy is a milestone in youth leadership for health and rights in Asia-Pacific bridging local realities with global commitments, and ensuring young key populations are recognized as partners, leaders, and change-makers.

**“WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EMPOWERED WITH QUALITY EDUCATION, ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN KEY DECISION, THEY BECOME THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND A FAIR, SUSTAINABLE, AND INCLUSIVE WORLD FOR ALL”**

**ARIANA, PRESIDENT, VIETNAM NETWORK OF YOUNG KEY AFFECTED POPULATION**



### To Know More, Please click the link

- YKP Strategic Plan: [bit.ly/YKPStrategicPlan](https://bit.ly/YKPStrategicPlan)
- Strengthening Youth Leadership in HIV & STI Prevention Through Global Fund Engagement : <https://mailchi.mp/sevenallianceap.com/asia-pacific-learning-hub-monthly-newsletter-302017e=%5BUNIQID%5D>
- The power of technology partnership, Global Fund : [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12378/pse\\_2022-zenysis-power-technology-partnership\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12378/pse_2022-zenysis-power-technology-partnership_report_en.pdf)
- Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/sustainability-transition-and-co-financing/>
- Historic Youth-led Campaign Set to Drive the 2025 Global Fund Replenishment : <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/opinion/2025/2025-08-12-historic-youth-led-campaign-drive-2025-global-fund-replenishment/>
- Togo: Youth participation in the HIV response: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/stories/2024/2024-05-30-togo-youth-participation-in-the-hiv-response/>

## Strengthening the DCNGO constituency





**The DCNGO Delegation** is one of two civil society constituencies of the Global Fund Board, alongside the Developed Country NGO Delegation. There is also a Communities Delegation. Together, these three hold seats among the ten Implementer Group Board members, complementing the ten donor seats for a total of twenty voting members. The DCNGO Delegation contributes to the Board on behalf of its constituencies of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in implementing countries and works to ensure that Global Fund policies and practices are continually responsive to the needs of people living with or affected by HIV, TB, and malaria, as well as the NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs) providing essential services and support. You can read more [here](#).

**Why The DCNGO Delegation is doing this:** Its aim is to connect with civil society organisations in countries and regions that share common challenges in accessing resources and influencing global health policies. It welcomes broad participation from across what is often termed the “developing world”—a label we recognise as a product of outdated, neocolonial frameworks. Within this designation, however, It sees an opportunity: to create a space where all people feel heard and represented in this Delegation. As members of the Global South, its embraces the power of self-identification, asserting the right to define ourselves in ways that reflect our realities, aspirations, and diverse experiences. If it has not reflected Asia and the Pacific region accurately, it invites your suggestions on how to strengthen our collective presence.

**Your privacy:** All information will remain confidential and will be used only by the DCNGO Delegation.

**Add your voice today :** <https://forms.gle/MbJK66emEYeE2EjU7>

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