



The PACT

2016-2017

PROGRESS

REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

In July 2016, The PACT held a face-to-face meeting during the International AIDS Conference in Durban to revise its goals and strategize the priorities for the next three years, given the new political landscape with the recently agreed Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS in June 2016. PACT members agreed on establishing four priorities, which are:

Priority 1. Advocate and promote youth-led accountability and participation for the integration of HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services and policies, including comprehensive sexuality education.

Priority 2. Mobilize young people and engage decision makers to increase access to evidence informed HIV prevention and treatment.

Priority 3. Strengthen young people's capacity to change the legal and policy frameworks that prevent young people from accessing HIV and SRHR services.

Priority 4. Advocate for young people's participation in global, regional and national (including district and city level) decision-making processes around resource mobilization and allocation, to ensure adequate funding for young people in the context of HIV and SRHR.

In addition, PACT members agreed to hold new elections for the positions of Co-Chair, Coordination & Communication (C&C), and Lead Organizations. Elections were carried out guided by the PACT election guidelines. A new Membership Committee (MC) was formed and

The PACT's 2016-2017 leadership

Coordinator and Communications

Youth LEAD

Co-chair

Men who have Sex with Men Global Forum (MSMGF)

Priority 1-International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

Priority 2- Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+)

Priority 3- Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN) and International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)

Priority 4-Youth LEAD

tasked to revise the current PACT membership, highlight representation gaps and open a call for applications for new members. The committee opened up the call for new members from May 9 to May 26 2017 during which 124 applications were received, out of which 69 new members were accepted. The full list of PACT members can be found [here](#).

This report highlights The PACT's main results for the period of 2016-2017, and a reflection for the next year.

RESULTS

Advocating and promoting youth-led accountability and participation for the integration of HIV and SRHR services and policies, including Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Great progress has been observed within this priority through the constructive partnership with UNESCO in 2016. With the support from UNESCO numerous PACT members were provided with financial and technical support to advocate for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) at national, regional and global levels.

Some top highlights include:

- The PACT developed a youth-friendly practical advocacy guide for CSE, called "We Demand More" - available [here](#).
- The PACT was accepted as one of the members of the steering committee to review and update the United Nations International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE), which is being led by UNESCO. PACT members have provided feedback and inputs over the year to ensure that the guidelines are youth-friendly and will be useful for young people to advocate for CSE.
- Total of seven sub-grants were awarded to the PACT members to implement projects in their own countries and regions on CSE, selected through competitive process. In 2016, sub-grants were provided to members from China, Tajikistan and Jamaica while 2017 sub-grants were received by the regional networks in Asia Pacific and national organizations in Poland, and Jamaica.
- Two PACT members attended the ECOSOC Youth Forum in New York City in January 2017, to share experiences advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights and CSE. They held a breakfast meeting and several bilateral meetings with missions from countries that had to

report on their progress for SDGs 3 and 5 at the High Level Political Forum scheduled for July 2017. Young people explained the importance of youth engagement in the Voluntary National Reviews presented in July 2017. Young people from Kenya and Zimbabwe, two of the countries that had to report on their progress at the HLPF, went on to work closely with their governments in the preparation of these reports.

- IPPF on behalf of Priority 1 attended the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2017. They hosted a consultation with medical students around the ITGSE and participated in a panel discussion organised by the Permanent Mission of Denmark on the importance of youth access to information and education on SRHR.
- IPPF attended the High Level Political Forum representing PACT in July 2017. The PACT was showcased as one of only six “best practices” partnerships working to further progress on SDGs 3 (health and wellbeing) and 5 (gender equality). PACT was the only youth-led partnership on the panel, which took place in the General Assembly Hall of UNHQ, which was extremely exciting and a great way to showcase our work.

Mobilizing young people and engaging decision makers to increase access to evidence informed HIV prevention and treatment

The Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+), with the support from the International HIV Alliance, has provided technical support to strengthen national-level advocacy to improve treatment access for adolescents and young people living with HIV. In addition, Y+ has begun to use social media and web tools to stream Peer Support Services to young people living with HIV in southern Africa (more information can be accessed [here](#)).

Next year, Y+ will conduct a treatment access survey targeting adolescents and young people living with HIV, to explore in-depth how age of consent laws and policies related to young people’s access to HIV treatment is having an impact on treatment uptake and adherence.

Strengthening young people's capacity to change the legal and policy frameworks that prevent young people from accessing HIV and SRHR services

Under this priority, The PACT focussed primarily on the issues of age of consent, including to sex, marriage, harm reduction, and HIV prevention and treatment services.

In collaboration with the 'All In' initiative to end adolescent AIDS, JYAN, as part of All in working group focused on engaging, mobilizing and supporting adolescents as leaders and agents of social change, by developing an age of consent advocacy toolkit that was piloted in Zimbabwe and India (more information available [here](#)).

Advocating for young people's participation in global, regional and national (including district and city level) decision-making processes around resource mobilization and allocation, to ensure adequate funding for young people in the context of HIV and SRHR

Youth LEAD provided technical support to Young Key Populations (YKP) from Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam who applied for Global Fund funding request as the first window applicants beginning from late 2016 to early 2017. The aim was to strengthen the engagement of young key populations in the Global Fund country processes.

Youth LEAD, Y+ and Youth RISE submitted a joint proposal to the Global Fund with aim of addressing the strategic needs of YKP and YPLHIV to meaningfully engage in the Global Fund processes. The consortium focuses its programs in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe reinforcing peer-to-peer knowledge and exchange of good practices to create global impact on mainstreaming youth-sensitivity approaches through advocacy. Youth LEAD provided technical leadership as the focal point of the consortium. The objectives are:

1) Strengthen global, regional and national networks of young key populations and living with HIV, to effectively engage and influence the Global Fund and related process in the whole grant cycle.

2) Develop the capacity of young leaders to champion the Global Fund advocacy and to effectively ensure the voice of young people reflected in the national HIV response strategies.

3) Strengthen technical capacity of young people to contribute and advocate for youth friendly programming within the Global Fund grant.

Setia Perdana (Youth LEAD), the Youth Adviser to the Point 7 Global Fund board constituency attended the Global Fund 37th board meeting in May 2017, Rwanda. More information is available [here](#).

THE PACT'S FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES



ACT!2030 is one of the PACT's flagship projects, in collaboration with UNAIDS and IPPF and the financial support from Switzerland, which works in 12 countries globally to establish mechanisms for youth-led, data-driven accountability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

PACT officially rebranded from ACT!2015 to ACT!2030, to emphasise the alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This included a new logo, [website](#), and [Twitter page](#).

PACT hosted a Youth Summit in Delhi in October 2016 which brought together young people from all 12 ACT!2030 national alliances, as well as representatives from IPPF and UNAIDS. The summit was inaugurated by the State Minister of Health, Mrs. Anupriya Patel. She conveyed her commitment and supportive of PACT's work and committed to increasing youth engagement in health and sustainable development processes in India, including the Voluntary National Review. You can read a full report [here](#).

ACT!2030 developed a training curriculum on research methods and data advocacy, which is being rolled out across all 12 countries. The trained youth data reporters will then work in their communities to collect data on a key policy focus areas - CSE, age of consent to services, youth-friendly health care - and then use this data to negotiate and influence their governments for more comprehensive and inclusive policies around young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

At the High Level Political Forum, ACT!2030 was showcased during a panel discussion, "Youth and the SDGs: from Local Roots to Global Reality", where Ashley Ngwenya from Youth Engage and ACT!2030 Zimbabwe shared how young people were able to feed into and influence the government's Voluntary National Review. In fact, Ashley and her colleague Ignatious were accepted into the Zimbabwean national delegation to the HLPF - a testament of their great advocacy around youth development and participation!

#UPROOT

A youth-led political agenda to tackle the root causes that put young people at risk of HIV

During the 70th World Health Assembly held in Geneva in May 2017, The PACT launched #uproot, a global, youth-led political agenda based on the principles of equity, inclusion and solidarity, aimed at ending AIDS by 2030 and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, by tackling the barriers, bigotry and exclusion that jeopardize young people's health. #uproot builds on the massive momentum created by young people in recent years surrounding the post-2015 negotiations and implementation of the SDGs.

The youth-led political agenda is based on a “3 Ps” approach to achieve change: Policy change, Participation and Partnerships.

An integrated approach with these three key areas is necessary to ensure a sustainable HIV response for young people. In addition, organizations of young people, especially from key populations, should be provided with equal opportunities to streamline their activities with these three key areas for effective advocacy, interventions and service delivery to young key populations.

These three key areas are supported by three enabling pillars of youth engagement: (a) Capacitated, coordinated and cohesive youth movement, (b) Increased funding for youth led and youth serving advocacy and programming and (c) Youth-led advocacy and monitoring of the implementation of commitments and strategic recommendations to end AIDS and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights by, for and with young people, and hold governments to account.

For more information please visit [here](#).

#UPROOT OBJECTIVES

- Challenge policy and legal barriers that pose obstacles for young people's access to HIV and sexual and reproductive health services
- Support emerging youth leadership, and youth participation in decision-making processes that affect their health
- Support young people's participation in community-led responses
- Support the scale-up of age-sensitive, youth friendly HIV and sexual and reproductive health services
- Facilitate and strengthen partnerships between youth-led and youth serving organizations and other stakeholders for an effective *HIV response*

YOUTH AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE GLOBAL DISCRIMINATION EPIDEMIC

During the past decade, the world has made substantive progress in reducing new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths. However, discrimination and stigma, including at the healthcare setting, continues to jeopardize people's health and hinders the achievement of the ambitious goal to end AIDS by 2030.

Youth can play a central role in response to what some already call a global discrimination and stigma epidemic. Through the leadership of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA), PACT members have engaged in an unprecedented collaboration to end discrimination in healthcare.

During the World Health Assembly in 2017, IFMSA launched a Declaration of Commitment to Eliminate Discrimination in the Healthcare Setting, which was [formally presented to the UNAIDS Executive Director](#). In addition, with support from UNAIDS, IFMSA convened a dialogue session between medical students, young people living with HIV and young key populations to outline the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding between IFMSA, the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+), Youth Voices Count and the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network, aimed at advocating, increasing awareness and supporting medical students and future doctors to tackle discrimination in healthcare settings. This Memorandum was adopted by IFMSA at its General Assembly in August.

Read more! [Health workers on the frontline: The Role of IFMSA to End Discrimination in Healthcare](#)

MOVING FORWARD

On the Human Rights Track to End AIDS by 2030

In this past year, The PACT has renewed its commitment to the HIV response and the fulfilment of young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV. It has tripled its membership, participated at the forefront of youth-led, data driven accountability for the SDGs, and crafted a youth-led political agenda (#uproot) as a contribution from the youth sector to help achieve the End of AIDS by 2030, by tackling the root causes that put young people at risk of HIV.

The global political landscape is shifting, and a new wave of political conservatism is translating into a shrinking space for civic participation at the global and national level in decision-making processes that affect young people's health and rights, accompanied by heavily-charged hate rhetoric. In addition, political conservatism is risking the commitments made by donor countries to fulfil their promise to maintain adequate levels of funding to the AIDS response and the broader development agenda.

In the next year, The PACT is determined to charge against the barriers, bigotry and exclusion that keep jeopardizing their health and rights, to ensure a sustainable HIV response that builds on progress gained, lasts through time and contributes to building more peaceful, inclusive and democratic societies.