



GLOBAL NETWORK OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV

2025 Annual Report



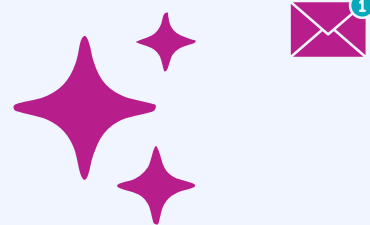
Abbreviations

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
CDC	United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEF	Gender Equality Fund
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICASA	International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PEPFAR	U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
READY	Resilient & Empowered Adolescents and Young People
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TB	Tuberculosis
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
Y2Y	Youth to Youth
YNL	Youth Next Level

Table of Contents

Message from the Chair of the Board	iv
Message from the Executive Director.....	v
About Y+ Global	1
Our Reach	4
What made 2025 different?	5
Our Impact in 2025	5
Raise Our Voice	6
Young people shaping decisions that matter	6
Youth voices on regional and global stages.....	7
Build Our Network	14
Strengthening youth-led organisations and movements	14
Secure Our Future	21
Building resilient movements for the future	21
A milestone for the movement	26
Amplifying Our Impact	27
The Year in Campaigns & Events	28
Campaign spotlight.....	29
Knowledge spotlight	30
Looking Ahead.....	30

Message from the Chair of the Board



As I reflect on 2025, I'm reminded that the strength of Y+ Global is not solely measured by the number of projects we implement or the partnerships we establish. Instead, it is defined by the resilience of the young people we serve, the courage displayed by our members and partners, and our collective commitment to placing young people at the heart of the global HIV response.

This past year has challenged all of us. Youth-led organisations worldwide have navigated an increasingly uncertain landscape marked by shrinking resources, shifting priorities, and mounting pressures on community-led responses. Despite these difficulties, I witnessed something truly inspiring: young people refusing to take a step back. Instead, they stepped forward—leading conversations, influencing decisions, supporting their communities, and reminding the global health community that sustainable progress is only achievable when young people are recognised as equal partners.

As a Board, **we have remained committed to providing the strategic leadership and governance necessary to support the organisation through this changing environment.** Alongside the Secretariat, we have worked to strengthen Y+ Global's foundations while remaining responsive to the evolving needs of our members and the communities we serve. We take pride in the fact that, even during a challenging year, Y+ Global continued to invest in youth leadership, bolster youth-led organisations, and create opportunities for young people to influence policies and programs at national, regional, and global levels.

This report highlights more than just organisational achievements. It reflects the collective efforts of our members, implementing partners, donors, the Board, the Secretariat, and countless young advocates who dedicate their time, expertise, and lived experiences to building a more equitable and inclusive HIV response. Every milestone featured in these pages represents collaboration, solidarity, and a shared belief that young people are not merely beneficiaries of change—they are leading it.

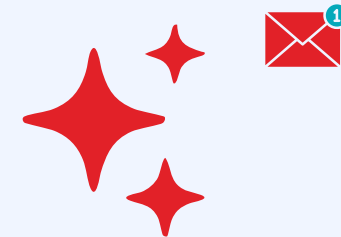
On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to Y+ Global's journey throughout 2025. Your trust, partnership, and unwavering commitment continue to strengthen our movement and inspire our work.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains unchanged. We will continue to champion meaningful youth engagement, strengthen youth-led leadership, and advocate for sustained investment in young people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Kimberly Springer
Chair of the Board

Message from the Executive Director



When I stepped into the role of Executive Director, I did so at a defining moment for the global HIV response.

Across the world, youth-led organisations found themselves navigating one of the most challenging periods in recent history. Significant funding reductions, shifting political priorities, and increasing pressure on civil society threatened hard-won progress. For many young people living with and affected by HIV, these changes were not abstract—they meant fewer opportunities to lead, reduced access to services, and growing uncertainty about the future.

Yet, amid these challenges, one thing became abundantly clear: **the need for youth leadership has never been greater.**

Throughout 2025, Y+ Global remained steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that young people continued to influence the decisions that shape their lives. We worked alongside our partners to strengthen youth-led organisations, provide technical assistance, build leadership and advocacy skills, and create opportunities for young people to participate meaningfully in national, regional, and global decision-making spaces.

This report is not simply a reflection of the activities we delivered. It is a testament to the resilience and determination of young people who continued to lead despite an increasingly difficult environment. Across 26 countries, our network demonstrated that meaningful youth engagement works; it is essential to building stronger, more equitable, and more sustainable health systems.

One of the lessons that 2025 reinforced is that investing in young people is not only the right thing to do but also one of the smartest investments we can make. Time and again, young advocates, peer supporters, researchers, and community leaders showed that when they are trusted, resourced, and supported, they drive solutions that improve policies, strengthen communities, and transform lives.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our Board, Secretariat, implementing partners, donors, community organisations, and, above all, the remarkable young people who continue to inspire us every day. Your courage, leadership, and unwavering commitment are the driving force behind everything we do.

As we look towards 2026, the challenges facing the HIV response remain significant. However, so too does our determination. We will continue to strengthen youth-led movements, advocate for sustainable investment in young people, and ensure that the voices of young people living with, most at risk of, and affected by HIV remain at the centre of every conversation, every policy, and every decision that shapes our future. Because we all know one simple fact, ending AIDS is not possible without young people and communities, together, hand in hand, continuing to lead the way.

Ikka Noviyanti
Executive Director of Y+ Global



A year that tested youth-led responses

READY Academy, South Africa — Y+ Global, 2025

About Y+ Global

Y+ Global is the leading global network of young people living with HIV, working to ensure young people living with, most at risk of, and affected by HIV are meaningfully engaged in shaping the decisions that affect their lives. Through advocacy, leadership development, technical assistance, research, and strategic partnerships, we support young people and youth-led organisations in influencing policies, strengthening health systems, and driving community-led change.

In 2025, our work became more important than ever. As global funding cuts placed unprecedented pressure on HIV programmes and youth-led organisations, we remained committed to protecting youth leadership and ensuring young people continued to influence national, regional,

and global HIV responses. We invested in young advocates, strengthened youth-led organisations, provided technical assistance, and created opportunities for young people to lead in decision-making spaces—not simply as participants, but as partners and changemakers.

Across 26 countries, Y+ Global implemented 13 multi-country initiatives spanning HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), tuberculosis, malaria, mental health, hepatitis, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), gender equality, and gender-based violence (GBV). Together with our partners, we supported young people of all backgrounds to build the knowledge, confidence, and networks needed to create lasting change in their communities.

Three strategic pillars guide everything we do



Raise Our Voice

Amplifying youth leadership to influence policies, systems, and decision-making.



Build Our Network

Strengthening youth-led organisations through capacity development, technical assistance, partnerships, and collective action.



Secure Our Future

Investing in sustainable leadership, stronger organisations, and resilient youth-led movements that can thrive despite an increasingly challenging global landscape.

► **OUR VISION**

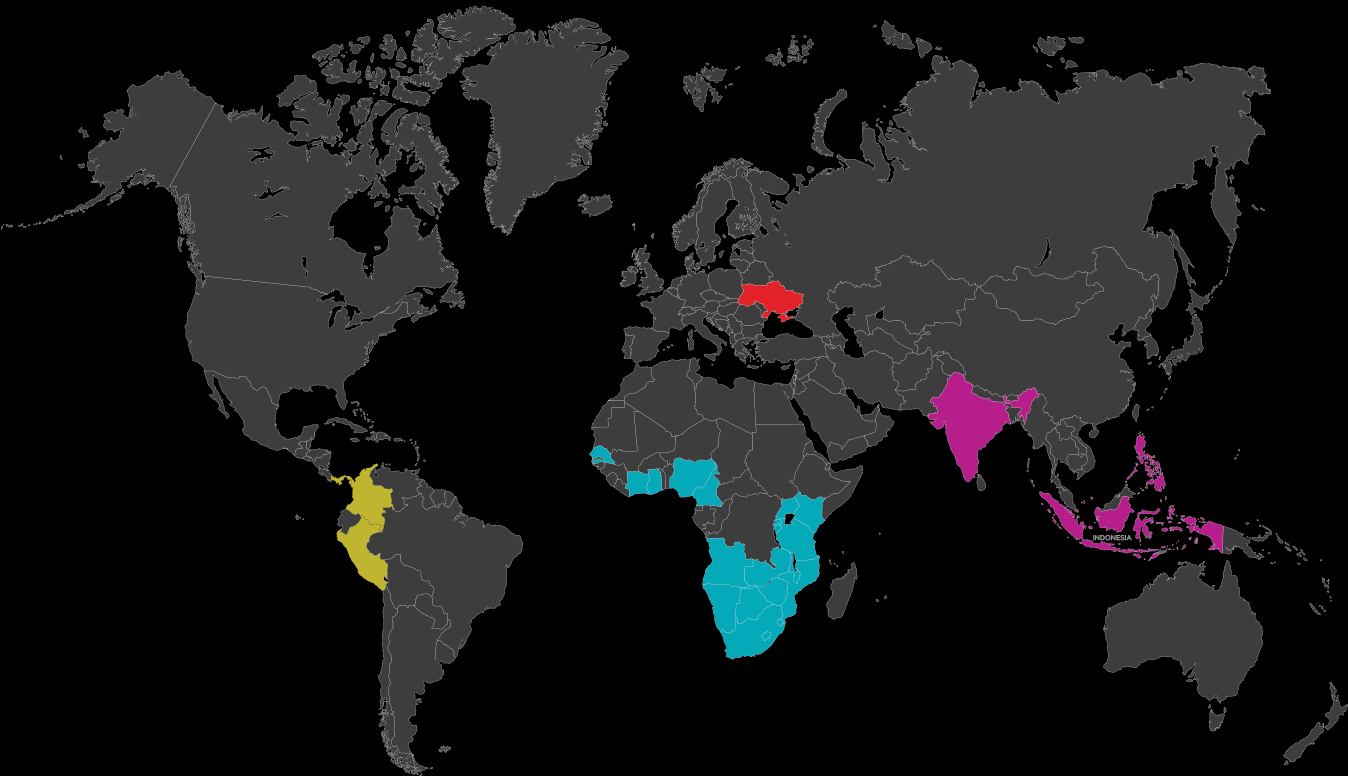
All young people living with HIV enjoy healthy and fulfilling lives.

► **OUR MISSION**

To mobilise young people living with HIV around the world to promote our right to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

► **OUR VALUES**

We challenge inequality and prejudice.
We collaborate to reach our goals.
We are bold and brave.
We are accountable to each other.
We are diverse and inclusive.



26

countries reached

80,139

young people reached

13

youth-led initiatives delivered

2025 At A Glance



Behind every number is *a young person leading change within their community.*

The Global Fund Eighth Replenishment Preparatory Meeting, South Africa — The Global Fund, 2025



26
countries



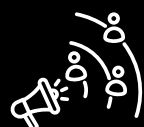
113
implementing
partners



13
youth-led
initiatives



80,139
young people
reached



1.35M
people reached
online

Throughout 2025, the global HIV response faced one of its most challenging periods in recent history. Shifting funding priorities and growing uncertainty placed increasing pressure on youth-led organisations, forcing many to do more with fewer resources while continuing to meet their communities' needs.

Despite these challenges, young people continued to lead. Together with our members, implementing partners, and donors, Y+ Global strengthened youth leadership, amplified young voices, and supported youth-led responses across 26 countries, ensuring that young people remained at the centre of leadership and decision-making and the HIV response.

Our Reach

Raise Our Voice

542 National and sub-national advocacy processes influenced. Young people strengthened their voice in policy discussions, accountability mechanisms, and decision-making spaces.

40+ Young people spoke up, raising their voices through online initiatives and campaigns.

Build Our Network

21,165 Young people strengthened through leadership, advocacy, organisational development, research, and technical skills.

37 Youth-led organisations successfully secured new funding following tailored resource mobilisation support.

Secure Our Future

330 Resources developed to strengthen advocacy, leadership, and youth-led programming.

23 Young researchers trained in abstract writing, with 9 abstracts accepted at international conferences.

WHAT MADE 2025 DIFFERENT?

Global funding shifts

Youth-led organisations adapted to a rapidly changing funding landscape while continuing to deliver impact.

Youth leadership remained central

Young people continued to influence policies and programmes at the local, regional, and global levels.

Partnerships mattered more than ever

Collaboration enabled us to sustain momentum despite growing resource constraints.

Our Impact in 2025

Throughout 2025, Y+ Global stood alongside young people living with, most at risk of, and affected by HIV during one of the most challenging periods for the global HIV response in recent years. As funding landscapes shifted and youth-led organisations faced growing uncertainty, we remained committed to ensuring that young people continued to lead, influence, and shape decisions that affect their lives and communities.

Working across 26 countries and in partnership with 113 implementing partners, we strengthened youth leadership through advocacy, capacity strengthening, technical assistance, strategic partnerships, and evidence generation. Together, we reached more than 80,000 young people, amplified youth voices in national, regional, and global decision-making spaces, strengthened

youth-led organisations, and invested in the next generation of advocates and changemakers.

Behind every number in this report is a young person whose voice was heard, whose leadership was strengthened, or whose community is better equipped to respond to the challenges of HIV and broader health and rights issues. Whether supporting young advocates to influence policy, helping youth-led organisations build long-term sustainability, or developing practical resources that strengthen community action, our work remained rooted in one belief: young people are not beneficiaries of change; they are leaders of it.

Our impact throughout 2025 was guided by three strategic pillars that continue to shape our work and long-term vision.

Raise Our Voice

We strengthened meaningful youth participation in decision-making by equipping young people with the knowledge, confidence, and opportunities to influence policies, advocate for their rights, and hold decision-makers accountable at national, regional, and global levels.

Build Our Network

We invested in the growth of youth-led organisations and movements by strengthening leadership, providing technical assistance, supporting resource mobilisation, developing practical tools and resources, and creating opportunities for collaboration and peer learning.

Secure Our Future

We strengthened the foundations of Y+ Global and our wider network by investing in organisational sustainability, governance, strategic partnerships, institutional capacity, and long-term planning, ensuring youth-led leadership continues to thrive despite an increasingly challenging global environment.

Raise Our Voice

YOUNG PEOPLE SHAPING DECISIONS THAT MATTER

Meaningful youth engagement is about more than ensuring young people have a seat at the table; it is about ensuring they have the knowledge, confidence, evidence, and opportunities to influence the decisions that shape their lives.

Throughout 2025, Y+ Global continued to amplify the voices of young people living with and affected by HIV during a period of significant uncertainty for the global HIV response. As funding cuts placed increasing pressure on youth-led organisations and civic space continued to shrink, we worked alongside young advocates to ensure their perspectives remained visible in national, regional, and global decision-making processes.

Through advocacy preparation, leadership development, technical assistance, evidence generation, and strategic partnerships, young people were supported in moving beyond participation to become active contributors to policy discussions, accountability processes, and programme design. Whether speaking at international conferences, contributing to regional policy consultations, or strengthening national advocacy efforts, young leaders demonstrated that lived experience, backed by evidence, is one of the strongest drivers of sustainable change.



542

National and sub-national advocacy processes influenced.



21,848

Young people participated in national and sub-national advocacy and accountability spaces.



1,196

Young people strengthened with advocacy skills.



80,139

Regional and international policy spaces where young people influenced discussions on HIV, SRHR, gender equality, mental health, and youth leadership.

YOUTH VOICES ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL STAGES

Throughout the year, young advocates supported by Y+ Global contributed to influential regional and global platforms, ensuring that the priorities and lived experiences of young people informed conversations on HIV, SRHR, gender equality, and sustainable investment in youth-led responses.

Highlights included:

- 🎯 **The 9th International Workshop on Adolescence, SRHR and HIV**, where Y+ Global and the UNITED! Movement convened a capacity-strengthening session on youth-led social accountability. More than 40 participants strengthened their practical advocacy skills, while members of the Youth Reference Group helped shape the workshop programme itself, demonstrating meaningful youth leadership in action.
- 🎯 **The UNAIDS East and Southern Africa Youth-Led Forum**, where young people co-created recommendations on sustainable investment in HIV, SRHR, and mental health services, ensured youth priorities remained visible during a period of global funding uncertainty.
- 🎯 **The SADC Multisectoral Consultative Forum on SRHR and the Demographic Dividend**, where a young advocate supported through the UNITED! Movement was nominated to the Steering Committee, strengthening long-term youth representation within regional decision-making structures.
- 🎯 **The International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2025)** saw READY+ virtual hubs connect young people across multiple countries to global discussions on equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services, creating opportunities for dialogue, learning, and continued advocacy.
- 🎯 **Regional Advisory Group consultations in Angola**, where young people advocated for sustained investment in youth leadership and community-led responses, reinforced the importance of youth participation in shaping future HIV priorities.

Across these platforms, young people facilitated discussions, contributed evidence, influenced recommendations, and helped shape the policies and programmes that affect their communities.

Reimagining Youth-Led Programming on HIV & SRHR 3.0

At the 9th International Workshop on Adolescence, SRHR and HIV in Gaborone, Botswana, Y+ Global and the UNITED! Movement brought together young advocates to strengthen youth-led social accountability for HIV and SRHR. Through practical learning, peer exchange, and collaborative action planning, participants strengthened their advocacy skills while helping shape discussions on how young people can influence stronger, more accountable health systems.



9th International Workshop on Adolescence, SRHR and HIV, Botswana — Academic Medical Education, 2025

“This workshop was about turning commitment into action. By equipping young leaders with practical skills and confidence, we are strengthening youth-led advocacy and creating a more responsive HIV and SRHR movement.”

Faith Thipe, Programmes Officer: UNITED! Movement, Y+ Global



KEY IMPACT

- More than 40 participants strengthened their social accountability and advocacy skills.
- Four young leaders served on the Youth Reference Group, helping shape the workshop programme.

9th International Workshop on Adolescence, SRHR and HIV, Botswana — Academic Medical Education, 2025

ICASA 2025: Youth Leadership in Action



ICASA 2025, Ghana — Y+ Global, 2025

At **ICASA 2025** in Accra, Ghana, Y+ Global celebrated the strength of youth-led action on one of Africa's largest HIV platforms. Young advocates took centre stage by delivering opening remarks, leading technical sessions, presenting research, engaging with policymakers, and contributing to community-led dialogue on the future of the HIV response. Throughout the conference, they highlighted innovative youth-led projects, shared best practices from across the continent, and demonstrated the critical role young people continue to play in shaping a more inclusive and effective HIV response.

“At ICASA 2025, we saw our vision come to life. Young people led, advocated, and engaged as equal partners across HIV and SRHR dialogues.”

Modester Mangilani, Senior Programmes Officer, Y+ Global

KEY IMPACT

- Young advocates led sessions, presented evidence, and engaged in high-level policy discussions throughout the conference.
- Y+ Global's community booth created a space to showcase youth-led initiatives while gathering insights to inform the organisation's 2026–2030 Strategy.
- Young people joined the Stop AIDS Death March, calling for sustained investment in HIV prevention, treatment, and care.



ICASA 2025, Ghana — Y+ Global, 2025

Strengthening Youth Leadership in Global Fund Processes

Across our network, Y+ Global continued to strengthen meaningful youth participation in Global Fund and Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) processes, ensuring young people move beyond consultation to become recognised partners in national decision-making on HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria.

In Mozambique, sustained support enabled Plataforma de Advocacia para os Adolescentes e Jovens (PAAJ+) to successfully advocate for the establishment of an Adolescent and Youth Constituency within the Global Fund CCM. This milestone was further strengthened when the READY Focal Point was elected to represent the constituency, ensuring that young people’s voices

are formally represented within one of the country’s highest HIV, TB, and malaria decision-making bodies.

In Cameroon, the Youth-to-Youth (Y2Y) Consortium supported young people to strengthen their engagement in Global Fund processes through advocacy workshops, national consultations, the establishment of a Youth Advisory Group, and the launch of the Youth Against Pandemics **digital platform**. Together, these initiatives created more structured and sustainable opportunities for young people to engage with CCM processes, contribute evidence-based recommendations, and influence national discussions on HIV, TB, and malaria.

“Real change begins when young people move from being consulted to becoming recognised partners in decision-making. Meaningful representation in the CCM gives young people the opportunity not only to speak, but to influence the decisions that affect their lives.”

Gabriella Romero, Senior Programmes Officer, Y+ Global

KEY IMPACT

- Mozambique: Established an Adolescent and Youth Constituency within the Global Fund CCM, with youth representation formalised through an elected READY Focal Point.
- Cameroon: Strengthened structured youth participation through a Youth Advisory Group and the Youth Against Pandemics platform, creating sustainable pathways for engagement in Global Fund and CCM processes.



LEAP Academy: Investing in the Next Generation of Leaders

In November 2025, Y+ Global, in partnership with **Frontline AIDS** and with support from the **Elton John AIDS Foundation**, launched the inaugural **LEAP Academy** (Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy and Pride). Bringing together emerging young leaders from across West and Central Africa, the Academy created a safe and empowering space to strengthen leadership, advocacy, safeguarding, mental health, and digital storytelling skills in health and human rights contexts where young advocates often face significant barriers to participation and visibility.

The Academy marked an important milestone in Y+ Global’s expanding commitment to strengthening youth leadership across the region, equipping participants with the knowledge, networks, and confidence to champion health and human rights within their own communities.

“The LEAP Academy was never just about a week of training. It was about investing in a new generation of young leaders who will continue strengthening health and human rights long after the Academy ends.”

Enoc Siméon KRA, Programmes Officer: LEAP Academy, Y+ Global

KEY IMPACT

- Launched the first LEAP Academy cohort for emerging young leaders from West and Central Africa.
- Established a new regional partnership with the Elton John AIDS Foundation and Frontline AIDS to strengthen youth leadership and advocacy on health and human rights.
- Equipped participants with practical leadership, advocacy, safeguarding, digital storytelling skills and more.



Gender Transforming Communities: Raising Women’s Voices

Through the Gender Equality Fund (GEF), Y+ Global invested in the leadership of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), supporting them in influencing the policies and services that shape their health, rights, and well-being. In Nigeria, 15 AGYW-led and AGYW-serving organisations strengthened gender-transformative approaches to HIV, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, SRHR, and gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring that the voices and priorities of young women informed advocacy at national, state, and community levels.

One of the year’s most significant achievements came in Rivers State, where Y+ Global supported the Greater Women Initiative for Health and Rights (GWIHR) in directly **developing the proposed HIV Anti-Discrimination Bill**. Through sustained advocacy and dialogue with state authorities, adolescent girls and young women successfully influenced provisions allowing girls under the age of 18 to access HIV services without mandatory parental consent, an important step towards expanding equitable access to HIV services.

“When young women are given the opportunity to shape the policies that affect their lives, they become powerful advocates in advocating for the change they want to see in their communities and for building stronger and more responsive health systems.”

Ayomiposi Sanmabo, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Officer.

KEY IMPACT

- Supported 15 AGYW-led and AGYW-serving organisations across Nigeria.
- Reached 5,863 adolescent girls and young women in all their diversity through advocacy and capacity strengthening.
- Contributed to the development of the proposed Rivers State HIV Anti-Discrimination Bill, advancing more equitable access to HIV services for adolescent girls and young women.



Gender Equality Fund, Nigeria — Y+ Global, 2025

Keeping Young People at the Centre of Global Health

At the **World Health Summit 2025** in Berlin, Priscilla Ama Addo, READY+ Junior Programmes Officer at Y+ Global, joined global leaders, policymakers and donors to advocate for sustained investment in community-led and youth-led responses to HIV. Against the backdrop of discussions on the Global Fund’s Eighth Replenishment, she highlighted the importance of ensuring young people remain at the centre of global health decision-making and emphasised that continued investment is essential to protecting the health and rights of future generations.

The Summit also marked a significant moment with Germany’s US\$1 billion pledge to support the fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, reinforcing the importance of sustained global solidarity and investment in community-led responses.

“Young people are not asking to be included for the sake of representation. We are calling for meaningful investment in our leadership because the decisions made today will shape the future of our generation.”

Priscilla Ama Addo, READY+ Junior Programmes Officer, Y+ Global

KEY IMPACT

- Amplified youth perspectives in global discussions on HIV, SRHR, and sustainable health financing.
- Advocated for meaningful investment in youth-led and community-led responses during discussions on the Global Fund’s Eighth Replenishment.
- Strengthened Y+ Global’s presence within one of the world’s leading global health forums.



World Health Summit, Berlin, Germany — World Health Summit, 2025

Build Our Network

STRENGTHENING YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

Strong movements are built on strong leaders, connected organisations, and meaningful partnerships. Throughout 2025, Y+ Global continued to invest in the people, networks, and systems that enable youth-led organisations to grow, collaborate, and lead sustainable change.

Across our programmes, we strengthened the capacity of young leaders and youth-led organisations through technical assistance, leadership development, peer learning, mentorship, resource mobilisation, and strategic partnerships. We supported organisations in building stronger governance, improving programme delivery, securing new funding, and developing practical tools that strengthen community-led responses.

By investing in youth-led organisations—not only as implementers but as equal partners—we are helping to build a more resilient movement capable of responding to today’s challenges while shaping tomorrow’s HIV response.



21,165

Young people strengthened through leadership development, advocacy, organisational development, and technical capacity building.



37

Youth-led organisations successfully secured new funding following tailored resource mobilisation support.



330

Knowledge products, tools, and resources developed to strengthen youth-led programming and advocacy.



113

Implementing partners collaborating across 26 countries to advance youth leadership and community-led action.

READY Academy 3.0: Building Resilient Youth Leaders

As funding cuts placed increasing pressure on youth-led organisations across Eastern and Southern Africa, **READY Academy 3.0** provided a space for more than 30 emerging young leaders to strengthen their leadership, advocacy, and accountability skills. Hosted in Pretoria, South Africa, and supported by **Frontline AIDS** and the **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mozambique**, the Academy focused on empowering participants to navigate changing funding landscapes, engage decision-makers, and champion the health and rights of young people in their communities.

Through interactive learning, peer exchange, advocacy simulations, and resource mobilisation training, participants gained practical tools to translate their ideas into action. Building on previous academies, participants also competed for seed grants to support youth-led initiatives, helping ensure that learning extended beyond the classroom and into community-led action.

KEY IMPACT

- More than 30 young leaders from Eastern and Southern Africa strengthened their leadership and advocacy skills.
- Participants received practical training in advocacy, resource mobilisation, and meaningful youth engagement.
- Seed grants supported participants in turning innovative ideas into youth-led community action.

“Being in the room where decisions happen changes everything, from policy priorities to accountability, to meaningful youth engagement in decision making”

Sheryss Saide, READY+ Focal Point Mozambique



READY Academy 3.0, South Africa — Y+ Global, 2025



Youth Next Level: A Roadmap for Sustainable Youth Leadership

As funding uncertainty placed increasing pressure on youth-led organisations, **Youth Next Level (YNL)** provided a practical roadmap for governments, donors, and partners to strengthen and sustain youth leadership within national HIV responses. Developed in partnership with **UNAIDS**, the guidance supports meaningful youth engagement by moving beyond one-off participation towards long-term investment in youth-led organisations and decision-making.

In 2025, Y+ Global convened youth-led organisations from across regions to explore how YNL could be applied within national HIV responses. Through peer learning and practical action planning, participants identified opportunities to embed youth leadership into policies, programmes, and funding processes, ensuring that progress made over recent years is protected and strengthened for the future.

KEY IMPACT

- 🎯 Strengthened awareness and uptake of the Youth Next Level guidance among youth-led organisations.
- 🎯 Supported young advocates to develop country-level action plans for integrating YNL into national HIV responses.
- 🎯 Reinforced sustainable approaches to youth leadership during a period of global funding uncertainty.

“As youth-led organisations, we have consistently demonstrated our ability to drive change, but the reality is that our impact is limited without sustained investment. That’s why Youth Next Level is crucial: it provides a roadmap for institutionalising youth leadership in HIV responses globally, but also about not losing those gains”

Ikka Noviyanti, Executive Director of Y+ Global



READYRFP Meeting Zimbabwe — Y+ Global, 2025



The Youth Next Level (YNL) guidance did more than provide a roadmap for meaningful youth engagement; it also strengthened the foundation of Y+ Global's growing global network. In 2025, Y+ Global invited youth-led organisations to formally join the network through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) informed by YNL principles, thereby creating a shared commitment to meaningful youth leadership, collaboration, and collective advocacy.

As civic space continued to shrink, these partnerships strengthened solidarity across organisations led by and representing young people living with, affected by, and most at risk of HIV. By the end of the year, 46 organisations had formally joined the Y+ Global network, reinforcing a more connected and coordinated movement working towards a common vision for youth leadership and health equity.

- 46 organisations formally joined the Y+ Global network through MoUs.
- MoUs aligned partners around the principles of the Youth Next Level guidance.
- Strengthened collaboration, shared learning, and collective advocacy across diverse youth-led organisations.



HER Voice Fund, various locations — Y+ Global, 2025

Growing Stronger Together

A network is only as strong as the organisations that make it up.

Throughout 2025, Y+ Global continued to invest in youth-led organisations through technical assistance, mentorship, small grants, and long-term partnerships. Across programmes including HER Voice Fund, Love Alliance, UNITED! Movement, READY+, and Youth-to-Youth (Y2Y), we worked alongside partners to strengthen leadership, expand community-led action, and support locally driven solutions that respond to the realities young people face.

Rather than delivering programmes alone, Y+ Global helped create opportunities for organisations to learn from one another, access funding, strengthen governance, and build the confidence to lead sustainable change within their own communities.

Partnership in Practice

Technical assistance goes beyond training; it is about building lasting partnerships that strengthen local leadership.

In 2025, Y+ Global convened partners from the Youth to Youth (Y2Y) project to share experiences, strengthen collaboration, and identify practical solutions to challenges facing community-led HIV responses. The meeting provided an opportunity for organisations to exchange lessons, strengthen programme implementation, and explore innovative approaches to expanding youth leadership and meaningful engagement within Global Fund-supported programmes.

By creating spaces for peer learning and collaboration, Y+ Global continues to strengthen the capacity of youth-led organisations to deliver sustainable, community-driven impact.



Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CESI) Partner Meeting, Kenya — The Global Fund, 2025

Secure Our Future

BUILDING RESILIENT MOVEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Securing the future of the HIV response means investing in more than programmes; it means investing in the people, organisations, partnerships, and systems that will sustain youth leadership for years to come. Throughout 2025, Y+ Global remained focused on strengthening the foundations of the youth-led movement, ensuring that young people and their organisations are equipped to navigate an increasingly complex and uncertain political and global funding landscape.

As shifting funding priorities and shrinking civic space continued to challenge community-led organisations, we invested in organisational resilience, strategic partnerships, knowledge generation, and long-term planning. From developing practical resources and strengthening governance to shaping our next Strategic Plan and expanding collaboration with global partners, our work was driven by a commitment to future-proof youth leadership and to ensuring that young people remain at the centre of the HIV response.

By strengthening the systems that support youth-led action today, we are helping build a more sustainable, connected, and resilient movement for tomorrow.



330

Knowledge products, tools, and resources developed to strengthen youth-led programming and advocacy.



5-Year Strategic Plan

Commenced the development of Y+ Global's 2026-2030 Strategy, informed by a comprehensive organisational evaluation.



Global Partnerships

Strengthened collaboration with governments, UN agencies, donors, and youth-led organisations to advance sustainable youth leadership.

Responding to Change



In January 2025, sweeping changes to United States global health funding, including support through USAID, CDC, and PEPFAR, created immediate uncertainty for HIV programmes around the world, with significant implications for young people and marginalised communities.

Recognising the need for evidence to inform advocacy, Y+ Global joined forces with youth-led networks, including Youth LEAD, Youth RISE, The PACT, J+LAC, and others, to **assess the impact of funding disruptions** on youth-led organisations and HIV programmes. The findings, published as an infographic fact sheet, provided timely evidence to support advocacy efforts, resource mobilisation, and calls for sustained investment in youth-led and community-led responses.

KEY IMPACT

- Completed a participatory end-term evaluation of the 2022–2025 Strategic Plan.
- Engaged members, partners, donors, Board members, and the Secretariat to inform future priorities.
- Laid the foundation for the development of Y+ Global's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan.

Looking Ahead: Shaping Our Next Strategic Chapter



As the global HIV response continues to evolve, so too must the organisations that support it. In 2025, Y+ Global embarked on a comprehensive **end-term evaluation of its 2022–2025 Strategic Plan**, creating an opportunity to reflect on achievements, learn from challenges, and identify priorities for the future. Through a participatory process involving members, partners, donors, Board members, and the Secretariat, the evaluation captured diverse perspectives to help shape the organisation's next chapter.

More than an organisational review, the evaluation reaffirmed Y+ Global's commitment to remaining responsive, accountable, and led by the young people it serves. The findings are now informing the development of Y+ Global's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, ensuring that future priorities reflect the changing needs of young people and strengthen the organisation's ability to champion youth leadership in an increasingly complex global landscape.

"Planning for the future starts by listening. By reflecting on our journey and learning from the experiences of our members, partners, and young leaders, we are building a strategy that is grounded in evidence, shaped by community, and ready for the challenges ahead."

Eddy Rudram, Communications and Advocacy Manager, Y+ Global

Knowledge That Strengthens Movements

Strong youth-led movements are built not only through funding and partnerships, but through knowledge that can be shared, adapted, and applied long after individual projects have ended. Throughout 2025, Y+ Global continued to invest in practical resources that equip young leaders and youth-led organisations with the tools and guidance needed to strengthen advocacy, improve programme quality, and respond to emerging challenges.

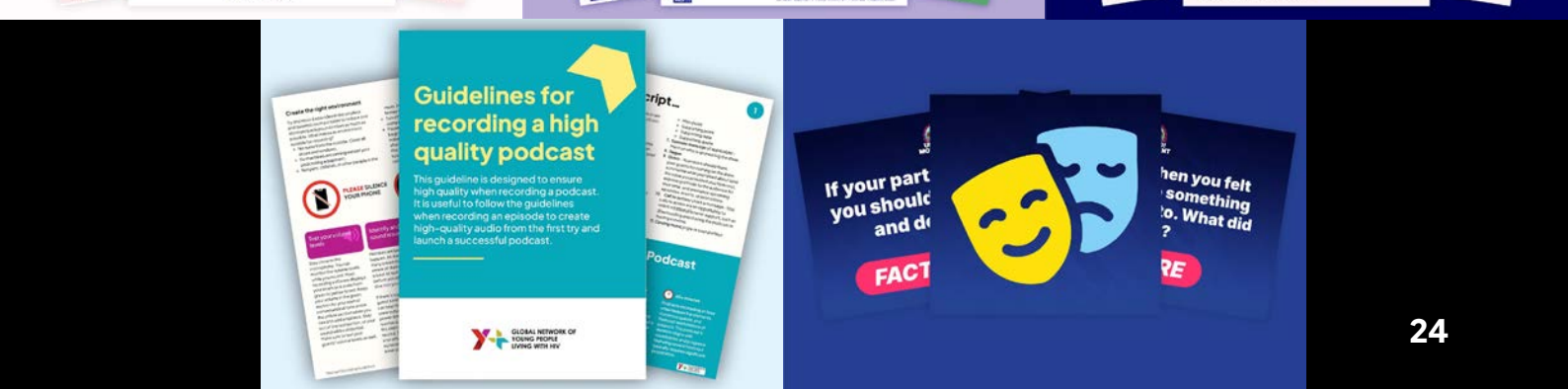
From strengthening meaningful youth engagement through the Youth Next Level guidance, to capturing lessons through the End-Term Strategic Evaluation, and expanding access to learning through resources developed under READY+, the Love Alliance, and the HER Voice Fund, these knowledge products are helping organisations strengthen their work, share good practices, and build more sustainable community-led responses.

"Knowledge becomes powerful when it is shared. Every resource we develop is an investment in the capacity of young people and youth-led organisations to lead, innovate, and create lasting change."

Maxwell Katekwe, Senior Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Officer, Y+ Global



Y+ Global Board Meeting, Thailand — Y+ Global, 2024



Strengthening Y+ Global for the Future

Building resilient youth-led movements begins with building a resilient organisation. Throughout 2025, Y+ Global continued strengthening its governance, systems, and organisational capacity to ensure it can continue supporting young people in an increasingly complex global environment.

The year also marked an **important leadership transition**. As Executive Director Maximina Jokonya concluded her tenure, Y+ Global undertook a thoughtful succession process to identify the organisation's next leader. Guided by the Board,

the process reflected Y+ Global's commitment to strong governance and continuity, ensuring the organisation remains well-positioned to navigate future opportunities and challenges.

In this transition, Y+ Global continued to invest in strategic planning, safeguarding, digital systems, organisational learning, and stronger internal processes. This strengthened the foundations that empower young people, partners, and communities to drive change worldwide.



The Board and Secretariat also recognised the invaluable leadership and contributions of Executive Director Maximina Jokonya, whose tenure helped strengthen Y+ Global's strategic direction and organisational growth. Y+ Global appointed Ikka Noviyanti (Indonesia) as its new Executive Director at the beginning of 2026, following a planned leadership transition within the organisation.

A MILESTONE FOR THE MOVEMENT

Frontline AIDS Accreditation: A Mark of Quality and Trust

In 2025, Y+ Global achieved Frontline AIDS Accreditation, becoming a formally recognised partner within the Frontline AIDS Partnership following a rigorous peer-led assessment against internationally recognised standards of governance, accountability, programme quality, and meaningful community engagement.

More than an organisational milestone, the accreditation reflects Y+ Global’s long-standing commitment to youth leadership, strong governance, and the delivery of high-quality, youth-led HIV programmes. It also provides partners and donors with greater confidence that investments in Y+ Global support an organisation that is accountable, resilient, and committed to continuous learning and improvement.

“This accreditation is more than recognition of our organisation; it reflects the collective strength of our global network and our shared commitment to placing young people at the centre of the HIV response.”

Maximina Jokonya, Former Executive Director, Y+ Global



Frontline AIDS Accreditation Ceremony, Ghana — Frontline AIDS, 2025

Amplifying Our Impact

Stories have the power to inspire action, strengthen movements, and connect communities across borders. Throughout 2025, Y+ Global continued to amplify the voices of young people through digital campaigns, strategic communications, knowledge sharing, and creative storytelling, reaching audiences worldwide.

From global awareness days and advocacy campaigns to webinars, podcasts, and the launch of practical resources, our communications brought youth-led stories to life, shared evidence and best practices, and created opportunities for dialogue on crucial issues such as HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, gender equality, and other challenges facing young people.

Every campaign, resource, and story contributed to a shared goal: ensuring that young people remained visible, heard, and connected during a year of unprecedented change for the global HIV response.



1.35M+

People reached through digital communications.



40+

Campaigns, digital activations, and global awareness initiatives delivered.



330

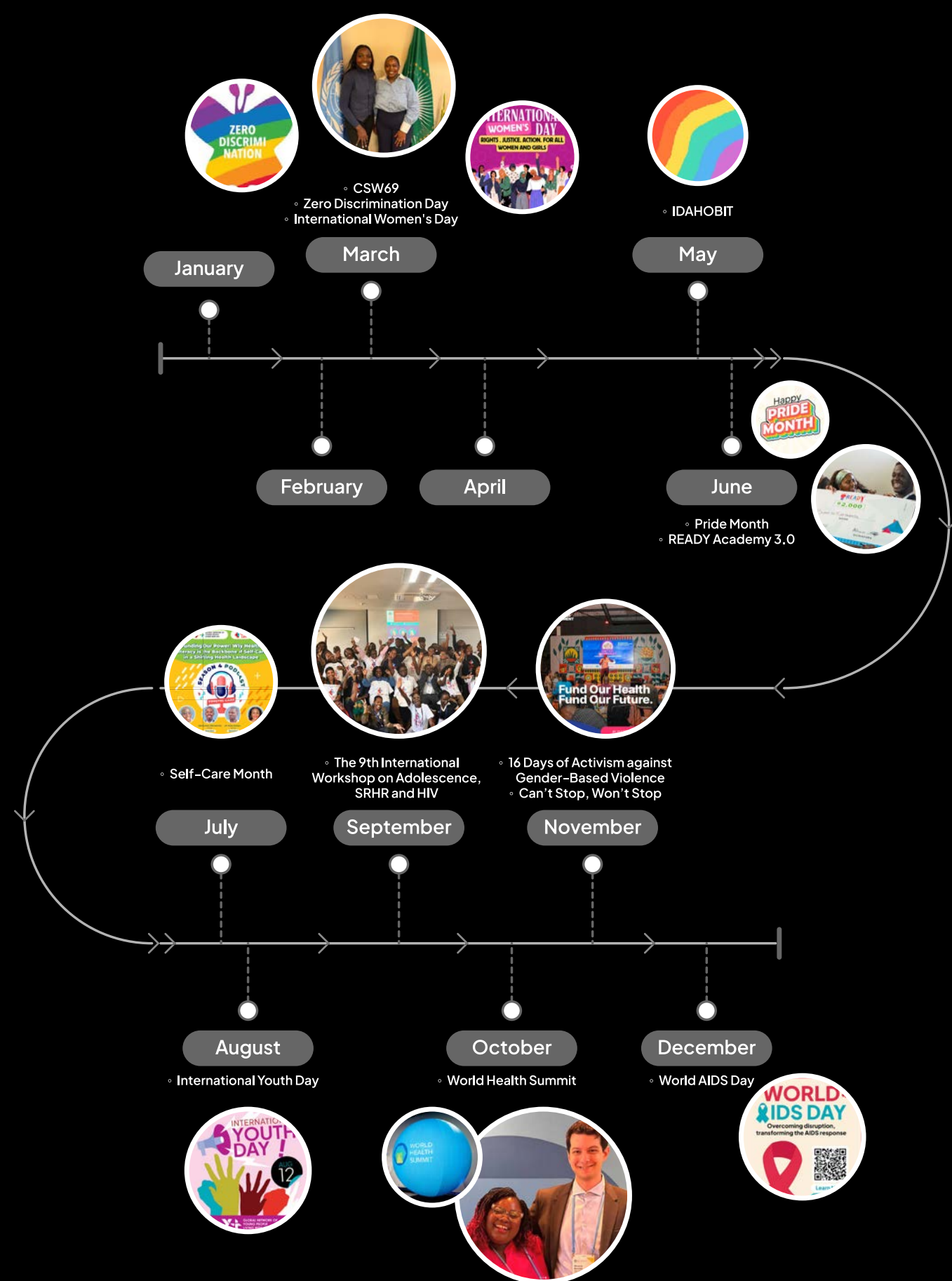
Knowledge products and resources developed and shared.



Thousands

Participants engaged through webinars, online dialogues, and virtual learning opportunities.

THE YEAR IN CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS



CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT

Can't Stop, Won't Stop: Equipping Young People for Real Change

Through the UNITED! Movement, Y+ Global, launched the Can't Stop, Won't Stop campaign, a youth-led call to protect investments in HIV and SRHR while strengthening the leadership of young people across Eastern and Southern Africa. Through powerful storytelling, digital advocacy, and regional mobilisation, the campaign amplified young people's voices at a critical moment for the HIV response, demonstrating that youth leadership remains essential to protecting hard-won progress and driving sustainable change.



Self-Care Month: Putting Young People's Health First

Throughout **Self-Care Month**, Y+ Global worked alongside partners of You(th) Care to encourage young people to take greater ownership of their health and wellbeing. Through a month-long digital campaign, webinars, and community engagement activities, young people explored the importance of mental health, treatment adherence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and self-care interventions that empower them to make informed decisions about their own health. The campaign reinforced that self-care is not an individual responsibility alone—it is an essential component of resilient, people-centred health systems.



KNOWLEDGE SPOTLIGHT

Love Alliance Gender, Youth & Inclusion Learning Hub

Knowledge sharing is one of the most powerful ways to strengthen youth-led movements. In 2025, Y+ Global launched the **Love Alliance Gender, Youth & Inclusion Learning Hub**, an interactive platform bringing together practical tools, case studies, and learning resources to support organisations working at the intersection of gender equality, youth leadership, and HIV. By making evidence and good practice more accessible, the Learning Hub enables partners across the network to strengthen programmes, share experiences, and apply innovative approaches within their own communities.



LOOKING AHEAD

Throughout this report, we have shared stories of young people stepping forward to lead, advocate, innovate, and inspire change. These stories remind us that, even in times of uncertainty, young people continue to shape stronger communities and a more inclusive HIV response.

As we look towards the future, we know the work is far from over. The challenges facing young people and the global HIV response are changing,

but so too is the strength of the youth-led movement. Every partnership formed, every leader supported, every organisation strengthened, and every voice amplified brings us one step closer to a future where young people are recognised not only as beneficiaries of change, but as the driving force behind it.

The years ahead will bring new opportunities, new partnerships, and new challenges. As Y+ Global begins implementing its

next Strategic Plan, we remain committed to standing alongside young people, investing in their leadership, and creating the space for them to influence the decisions that shape their lives and communities.

To our members, partners, donors, and the thousands of young people who continue to lead with courage, passion, and hope—thank you for being part of this journey.

