Youth Advocacy and Activism: Strengthening Capacity and ensuring Legitimacy
What is the problem?

National networks of AYPLHIV still lack adequate capacity to enable them function effectively.
What was our contribution?

- In partnership with PATA, Aidsfonds, Aids Alliance and Y+; AY+ developed a Network capacity self-assessment tool that is used to identify capacity strengths and challenges of national Networks of AYPLHIV.
What was our contribution?

The information will be used to get an overview of AYPLHIV Network capacities and priorities and will help to inform a capacity building and resource mobilization plan for regional and global Networking structures and youth serving organizations.
Capacity Assessment tool

- The tool can also be used to track the Networks growth and development over time.
Issues:

- Many networks are entirely run by volunteers that have no salary but instead receive stipends (some of them)
- Variation in membership numbers
- Registration
- Access to youth-friendly services
- Involvement/inclusion in programming
- Disclosure and Adherence; quality treatment
- Stigma and discrimination prevention
- Economic development
- Involvement of YPLHIV at decision making tables
- Enactment of laws related to gender based violence and SRH
Challenges:
- Capacity to deliver; people, resources, tools, experience
- Identity; who (local, national, regional) and how they communicate/link together
- Communications are partly ad-hoc
- Implementation of strategic plans is problematic due to lack of funding
- Delivery; Too much to deliver
- Some don’t have strategic plans but have an operational plan based on projects available
- The only source of income is external funding

Challenges:
- Leadership; transitioning from YPLHIV spaces
- Knowledge on organizational governance; lack of support in understanding the roles and responsibilities of their governance
- Volunteerism and livelihood of networks; presents a challenge for sustainability of the structures as well as for supporting the livelihood and development of leaders within these networks
- Management support; few networks have received technical support to improve their project and financial management
- Access to information; disconnection between networks of YPLHIV and most recent research/data
Opportunities:

➢ Human resources: provision of TA, Equipping human resources with tangible skills that will support their livelihood and eventual transition out of the YPLHIV spaces.

➢ Increased flexibility to understand and develop the sets of skills and competencies necessary to run networks.

➢ Incorporating mentorship programs that expand skills and capacities within networks/organizations.

➢ Governance: Capacity development for governance structures within YPLHIV spaces would support YPLHIV understand their roles and responsibilities.

➢ Project and Financial Management: Develop clear expectations from all stakeholders within the project, support volunteers and resource mobilize.

➢ Insource – not outsourcing: nurturing the capacities of the members/staff of the network to fulfill key functions in the network instead of outsourcing to third parties.

➢ Define priorities for everyone involved in the project, Guidance on meaningful and responsible engagement.
Analysis

- Generally, for all topics there was some improvements in scoring (past 1 year)
- 5 networks have paid staff, of which staff from 4 networks are paid as per national standards.
- All networks work with active volunteers (ranging from 5 to 20 volunteers)
- 2 networks were registered in 2018, yaaay!!!
- The Zambia Network of YPLHIV will be getting funds from Actionaid to also cover staff salaries
Ensuring MYP; partners, Govt’s, policy makers

- Engaging YPLHIV in design, implementation till the end at M&E and in the development of policies and guidelines
- Consultation
- Mentorship
- Including young people’s priorities in programs
- Govt’ to validate the work of YPLHIV networks
- Availing domestic funding e.g office space
- TA from donors
- Flexibility
- Updated disaggregated data
- Donors, should stop dictating what to do with the funding - we know where the gaps are!
- Need for strong support from Govt in development to understand issues of demand for these YPLHIV
THANK YOU!!!