

OUTCOME STATEMENT: PRE-AIDS 2022 EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION



We, young people living with, most at risk of and affected by HIV at the Pre-AIDS 2022 East and Southern Africa Regional Youth Consultation in Pretoria, South Africa, in June 2022. We congregated as a diverse but unified force for change, representing 10 countries, believing in the power of our voices to influence a more effective HIV response that responds to our needs.

We applaud the significant progress in HIV treatment and care; however, we are convinced that progress towards ending AIDS and eliminating new HIV infections can be accelerated.

Pervasive levels of stigma and discrimination expose the significant disparities and vulnerabilities which stall progress in the HIV response. Young people, especially those from key populations, continue to face barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights due to legal barriers, service delivery inefficiencies, discriminatory practices, disempowerment, and marginalization in decision-making spaces.



Yet we know that by working together with governments, intergovernmental agencies, civil society, academia, and private sector partners, we can take big and bold steps to a brighter future for all young people affected by HIV.

We are mindful of emerging opportunities to advance the needs of young people in all our diversity at the global and regional levels. This is a moment to unite and collaborate on key regional and global processes, such as the Global Education Summit, the development of the Africa Continental Strategy for Education, Health, and Wellbeing, and AIDS 2022. We know that our shared goal to end AIDS can be realized if we work together.

This is our voice and urgency as we continue working towards a world where all young people access quality sexual reproductive health and HIV services without prejudice whilst living our best lives without being judged.





We call on governments, parliamentarians, intergovernmental agencies, civil society, academia, and private sector partners to ensure:

2 Legal barriers to young people's participation and access to services are removed.

- Recognize the rights of young people living with HIV and those at high risk of HIV and support laws and policies which promote access to health services.
- Develop robust accountability mechanisms for the implementation of laws supporting young people's access to health and justice services.

4 Young people are supported to participate in all aspects of decision-making ethically and meaningfully.

- We should be involved in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, with investments made to support movement and network building.
- Academic institutions and organizations supporting research should ensure that evidence generation efforts led by young people are strengthened and shared with decision-making platforms.
- Governments and CSOs should ensure that young people living with HIV and those at high risk of HIV are informed on key policies affecting their health and well-being and are equipped with advocacy skills to claim their rights.

1 Young people have access to a range of quality sexual and reproductive health and HIV services.

- Develop interventions tailor-made to support adolescents and young people living with HIV and young key populations, including but not limited to protective barriers for young people identifying as lesbian, bisexual, or queer women, intersex young people.
- Invest in mental health services, and inclusive comprehensive sexuality education using expanded content.
- Consult young people to identify their changing service delivery needs and those responses are tailored to meet those needs.

3 Communities uphold the rights of young people living with HIV and young key populations and counter stigma and discrimination.

- Apply The 'Do No Harm' principle in all media reports featuring young key populations in the HIV response.
- Support and provide parent-child communication programmes and psychosocial support services that are designed and implemented by young key populations.

5 Young migrant and cross-border communities are prioritized.

- Enhance the capacity of health facilities to include the provision of migration-friendly services.
- Integrate economic empowerment interventions.
- Foster inter-country coordination of sexual reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support, health protocols, and ART programming.
- Ensure that the Health Management and Information Systems revision incorporates migrant communities in data collection.

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