

YIELD HUB ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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This past year, I was honoured to have been tasked with the establishment of a new initiative, the YIELD Hub. Perhaps the most thrilling fact about this new challenge was that it stood at the intersection of two issues dear to my heart; youth participation and adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Leading and managing the implementation of an innovative and ambitious concept with the support of a small (but excellent) team has been a wonderful learning and rewarding experience. A year later, I'm proud of the work we've done so far but I'm even more excited for the future.

In 2022, we brought together youth, funders, researchers and implementers together for the first-ever action learning cycle; Gender and Intersectionality. While the cycle was a resounding success, along with it came a series of learnings.

I am most appreciative of the incredible core staff team, our advisors and funders for making the work we do possible. 2022 was most certainly exciting, filled with new milestones. Nevertheless, we're determined to scale the YIELD Hub to even greater heights in the future. For starters, we'll be running four action learning cycles in 2023; an incredible feat on its own aside from cementing our place in the AYSRHR ecosystem.

As we move forward, I am confident that the YIELD Hub will continue to make space to amplify youth partnership and influence norm change in the adolescent and youth SRHR space.

Message from the YIELD Hub Director
David Imbago

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Imbago', written in a cursive style.

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The YIELD Hub was founded on five years of research and broad stakeholder engagement on the issue of youth partnership in Adolescent and Youth SRHR, from the **Youth Investment, Engagement, Leadership and Development (YIELD) Project (2017-2021)**. This was part of a research effort that brought together the collective global evidence and wisdom of youth advocates, young leaders, non-youth practitioners and implementers, as well as researchers and funders.

Since its launch in 2022, the Hub has facilitated two Action Learning Groups. The first Action Learning Group comprised members from Engender Health, Restless Development, CAMY Fund, MenEngage Alliance, ATHENA Network, and Y+ Global.

As an outcome of the inaugural action learning cycle, various members have already taken practical steps towards the implementation of their action learning goals, such as restructuring the ATHENA Network's #WhatGirlsWant program, bridging a gap in youth participation within the MenEngage Alliance and increasing advocacy for youth social movements by CAMY Fund. In January 2023, we launched the second Action Learning Group on Measurement of Youth Partnership with representation from the IPPF Africa Region, AMREF, Torchlight Collective, Rutgers, Copper Rose and an independent consultant.

Further, we have disseminated and discussed the YIELD Theory of Change with Hub Funders and Advisory Board members in an endeavour to activate it and mobilise uptake among stakeholders. Special events have been held to commemorate international days, with a key highlight being our engagements at the International Conference on Family Planning. Finally, we hosted our first webinar in January 2023, with over 700 registrants, and are currently establishing a partnership with the HCD Exchange to provide technical support during the design phase of the upcoming Action Learning Groups.

While membership recruitment and diversity in our groups have been our biggest challenges, we have plans to work around this issue. Developing and disseminating learnings from the first Action Learning Group on our online platforms has proven quite thrilling, giving life to the learnings from this cycle. In turn, the feedback from our partners on how beneficial participating in the action learning cycle has been to their organisations is a sound reassurance of the impact action learning could have towards amplifying youth partnership in the AYSRHR ecosystem.



The learning cycle is helping my organisation advance and accelerate it's work to ensure that youth participation and leadership moves beyond the gender binary and is supportive of all gender identities.

- Ana Aguilera, Engender Health
Action Learning Member, Gender & Inclusion Cycle



OUR PILLARS



YIELD Hub

1

Objective 1:
To facilitate collective action learning for the generation of solutions, strategies, and best practices to systematically integrate youth partnership across the Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AYSRHR) ecosystem.

2

Objective 2:
To serve as the go-to platform for global cross-stakeholder alignment, coordination, and collaboration on youth partnership in the AYSRHR ecosystem.

3

Objective 3:
To activate youth partnership within the Hub's spheres of influence, as well as advocate broadly within the AYSRHR field and broader development stakeholders.

PROGRESS, CHALLENGES & LESSONS

PROGRESS

Anchored on these three pillars (objectives), the YIELD Hub has made tremendous strides over the past year as outlined below.

Objective 1: To facilitate collective action learning for the generation of solutions, strategies, and best practices to systematically integrate youth partnership across the Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AYSRHR) ecosystem.

The 'implementation infrastructure' to facilitate action learning group processes was developed (i.e., agreements with group members and tools to support our implementation and action learning processes). We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the IBP Exchange Platform; this platform serves as an online workspace for Action Learning Groups. We implemented our inaugural Action Learning Group on the topic of Gender and Intersectionality of youth partnership between July 2022 and January 2023. The group featured two representatives from each of the following organisations; Engender Health, Restless Development, CAMY Fund, MenEngage Alliance, ATHENA Network, and Y+ Global.

To facilitate their participation, these institutions were provided with the much-needed time and space to share their action-learning goals openly and design their implementation plans. They also underwent a three-month implementation phase during which they began to effect internal systems changes within their organisations. As of January 2023, the primary outcome of the first action learning cycle has been the practical steps taken by the group members to implement their respective action learning goals.

ATHENA Network is moving forward with plans to restructure its flagship #WhatGirlsWant program to reflect the needs and priorities of young(er) women in all their diversity. The organisation is intentional about creating an accessible and inclusive recruitment process for their #WhatGirlsWant program as well as developing an effective mentoring and support system for those onboarded.



MenEngage Alliance has bridged the existing gap in youth participation within the Alliance. With the help of the YIELD Hub, a consultative process is underway with their Youth Reference Group to review the Alliance's current governance structures. The goal is to move youth participation beyond representation to give ownership and capability to the youth within the network to influence and participate in decision-making at all stages of the Alliance's work.

CAMY Fund, an intermediary Funder is actively learning from other action-learning group members. For example, through engagements with Restless Development, the Fund has gained insights on how to increase advocacy for funding youth social movements in Central America and how best to make such financing flexible to enhance creativity among the young feminist movements in the region.



Engender Health has already participated in two capacity-building sessions with the YIELD Hub to advance advocacy on why intersectional integration is necessary with government partners, donors, and implementing partners within the AYSRHR field. Plans are underway to expand further advocacy to different stakeholders within the AYSRHR field.



Restless Development has also taken practical steps to fulfil its commitment to being a gender-transformative organisation. The YIELD Hub facilitated a learning and exchange conversation to support a team from Restless Development pitch new indicators that would improve how they measure their work around gender to its Board of Directors.

In January 2023, we kicked off our second Action Learning Group on Measurement of Youth Partnership. During the ongoing cycle, the action learning group will explore how their work can effectively contribute to a better assessment of the impact of youth contributions and partnerships in SRHR. This second learning group constitutes a membership from: IPPF Africa Region, AMREF, Torchlight Collective, Rutgers, Copper Rose, and an independent consultant.



Objective 2: To serve as the go-to platform for global cross-stakeholder alignment, coordination, and collaboration on youth partnership in the AYSRHR ecosystem.

The YIELD Hub was officially launched in July 2022 via a ‘soft virtual launch’ announcing our website and social media platforms. This launch highlighted the initiative’s initial milestones which included the assembly of the Hub’s Advisory Board and the start of the first Action Learning Group. Our engagements with the Advisory Board have proven most beneficial, with us being on the receiving end of much needed guidance on how to select and structure action learning topics as well as identifying organisations working on issues aligned to the Hub’s work.

On our website, we’ve created a repository of valuable resources, particularly the YIELD Project’s resources previously hosted by the Summit Foundation. We also frequently post updates such as new announcements about our Advisors and our Action Learning Groups as well as blogs and resources linked to our webinars and other virtual events.



Objective 3: To activate youth partnership within the Hub's spheres of influence, as well as advocate broadly within the AYSRHR field and broader development stakeholders.

Following our launch, we've made efforts to disseminate the YIELD Project's Theory of Change (ToC) which guides our work, particularly with our Funders and Advisors. One of our primary goals has been the activation of the ToC and to mobilise uptake among stakeholders within the field. However, we have since merged this activation process with the second Action Learning Group on Measurement of Youth Partnership.

In further efforts to activate youth partnership and advocate broadly within the AYSRHR field amongst our partners; we've hosted events as outlined below;

Our first public event was a Twitter Chat, co-hosted with MenEngage and CAMY Fund, on the topic of Intergenerational Partnerships, commemorating International Youth Day. The one-hour event highlighted how adult-youth partnerships are critical to advance AYSRHR goals.

<https://yieldhub.global/announcement-save-the-date-for-international-youth-day-2022-twitter-chat/>



Twitter Chat

Intergenerational Partnerships: Strengthening Youth Leadership in the SRHR space.

Friday, 12 August 2022

8AM EDT/1PM CET or CAT/2PM EAT/5:30PM IST

Co-Hosts: 
YIELD Hub

 MenEngage Alliance
working with men and boys for gender equality

 CAMY Fund

 SIF
Intergenerational Leadership



#IYD2022 #YouthPartnerships #AYSRHR



@Hub_YIELD



ICFP 2022

The biggest event of 2022 was the International Conference on Family Planning. During the Youth Pre-Conference, we co-hosted the Day 2 Plenary led by Engender Health under the topic of Intersectionality and one concurrent session led by PMNCH under the issue of Adolescents Health priorities in SRHR. Finally, we participated in the Intergenerational Lunch with policy-makers as one of the speakers. During the conference, we co-hosted one side event with Save the Children on the topic of Partnerships for SRHR; hosted one Live Stage session highlighting the Action Learning process; and were present in three conference booths. The YIELD Hub is one of the co-authors of the Youth-led AYSRHR global Roadmap for Action launched during the conference, with the youth partnership section led by the Yield Hub and the language based on the YIELD Report.

<https://yieldhub.global/the-yield-hub-at-the-international-conference-of-family-planning/>

CMTY-24

Share

ICFP LIVE Community Programming | ICFP2022.org/ICFPLIVE

Co-created solutions for gender inequality in youth partnership in the AYSRHR field

Thursday, 17 November 2022 – 12:00 PM (GMT+7)

Featuring: Richard Dzikunu, Laxman Belbase, Ana Aguilera & Olaoluwa Abagun

ICFP LIVE

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
FREE & ACCESSIBLE
#ICFP2022

Watch on YouTube



To close out the year, we hosted a Twitter Space as part of the 16 days of activism activities; this event included members of our Action Learning Group on Gender and Intersectionality and the Chair of the Lancet Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People. We also have photos

YIELD Hub TUNE IN TO OUR TWITTER SPACES EVENT!

THEME: AMPLIFYING #YOUTHPARTNERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS.
DATE: WEDNESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2022
TIME: 4:00 PM CET (UTC +1)

<p>Moderator</p> <p>DR. FLAVIA BUSTREO</p> <p>Co-Chair, Lancet Commission on Gender Based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People @FlaviaBustreo</p>	<p>Speaker</p> <p>OLAOLUWA ABAGUN</p> <p>Executive Director, Athena Network @TheOlaAbagun</p>
<p>Speaker</p> <p>RIMJHIM JAIN</p> <p>Senior Specialist, Gender Engender Health @RimjhimJain17</p>	<p>Speaker</p> <p>NIKITA KHANNA</p> <p>Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Manager, Restless Development @nikitakhanna23</p>

#16DaysOfActivism #OrangeTheWorld

Finally, we developed an exciting “thought partnership” with HCD Exchange; who have supported us in implementing the Action Learning Groups, leveraging their experience with online communities. Furthermore, we are formalising the partnership through technical support from them during the Design session of our Action Learning Groups.



OUR WINS!



1.

A diverse cross-stakeholder group representing researchers, donors, INGOs, and youth-led organisations constituted the first action learning cycle. This featured representation from different regions; Africa, Latin America, North America and Asia.

2.

2 action learning topics: Gender, Youth & Intersectionality (completed) and Measuring the Impact of Youth Partnership (still ongoing).



3.

At least **8** commitments focused on advocacy and institutional reforms based on the cycle topic were made by action learning group members.

4.

6 core members and **6** contributors making a total of **12** individuals, participated in action learning cycle meetings.



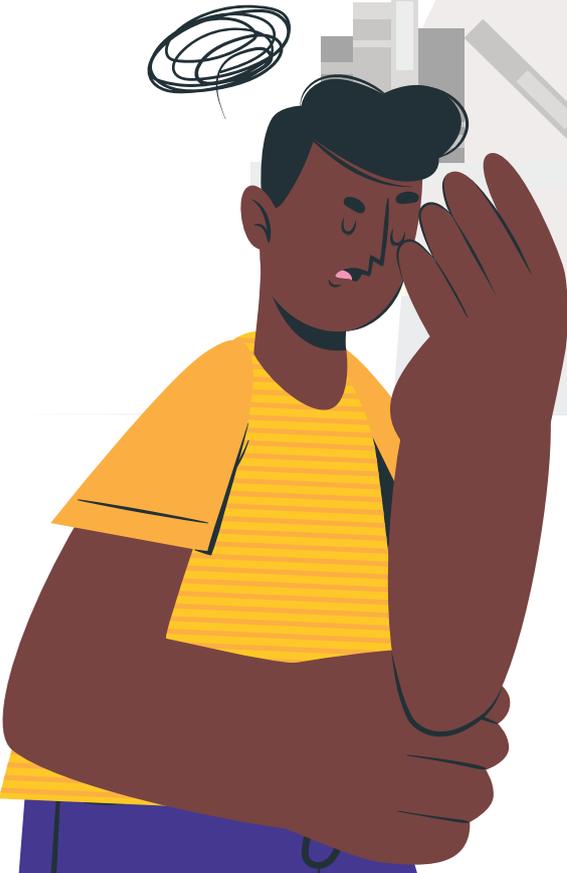
CHALLENGES

Members' recruitment was a bottleneck: Reaching out to partners and engaging in a lengthy and not consistently successful recruitment process delayed the start of the action learning groups.

By requesting institutional participation, this created an additional layer of complexity in participation. In future, we plan to launch an open call for applications to overcome this challenge.

Lack of diversity in our membership: Our groups had an overrepresentation of INGOs, and we could only engage with one funder (intermediary) in the first two groups. Funders are particularly hard to engage in the process.





Preparation: While the action learning process is an innovative approach, it took some time before the staff and consultants fully grasped the concept. This led to a considerable amount of energy and time being expended to develop the resources needed to onboard group members into the cycle.

Activating our Theory of Change: As we endeavour to activate our Theory of Change, we have realised that we need to understand it. However, this has proven quite time consuming because the current YIELD Hub staff were not involved in the development process. Further, it has been difficult to prioritise activation in the first year without an adequately established initiative in the field of AYSRHR. As we start the second year of the Hub's existence, we have seen this come to fruition with consistent external facing engagements and events.

Participation: During the first cycle, one organisation couldn't engage as soon as we began the first session while another stopped engaging mid-process.

LESSONS

A need to rely on our Action Learning Group members and other partners via their events has emerged to allow us to disseminate our core messaging, particularly those whose core focus is in advocacy. As we move into the future, we plan to leverage existing platforms to further solidify our place in the field as we did by being part of the Youth-Led AYSRHR Global Roadmap for Action launched during ICFP 2022.

Engaging with the Advisors for feedback and guidance has proven extremely useful owing to the varied technical and political experience they bring that empowers us further to solidify our footprint within the SRHR field.

Bringing together different stakeholders to learn alongside each other has led to further positive outcomes such as networking, collaboration, and alignment to achieve concrete goals in a short time span.

The Action Learning process has motivated organisations to explore ideas and projects related to youth partnership that had prior been on stand-by or needed additional resources/information to be completed.

Flexibility is critical when engaging with members. We recognize that we are asking for organisations' time and human resources. Therefore, we need to be accommodative to their needs and availability. Prior planning is necessary to allow organisations allocate time and human resources as needed.

While partnerships among group members pre-dated membership in the YIELD Hub's action learning group, the Hub has facilitated further intentional collaboration for learning and exchange sessions.

Engaging with the Advisors for feedback and guidance has proven extremely useful owing to the varied technical and political experience they bring that empowers us further to solidify our footprint within the SRHR field.

Our second objective primarily revolves around knowledge management and content development. We understand that the effectiveness of this function within the Hub greatly depends on the outcomes of the Action Learning Groups. Post the conclusion of the first group in January 2023, we are in the early stages of developing content related to the group's process and products.

We have also learned that our best ambassadors are our action-learning group members. Our members speak so highly about our work and consistently champion the work we do to external audiences. We find that this continues to positively impact our legitimacy within the AYSRHR field as well as the peaked interest in new partners to engage in our action learning cycles.

The YIELD Hub is not an advocacy platform but requires a level of advocacy and campaigning to disseminate our messages. To succeed, we acknowledge the need to partner with other youth-led movements and organisations to co-lead these activities and improve our legitimacy.

As a new initiative, the second half of the year was the perfect time to build momentum around our existence and value-add to the AYSRHR field. In this time, we have had a very positive reception from INGOs and Researchers. However, we must strengthen our collaboration with youth-led organisations so they can perceive us as allies with a common goal.

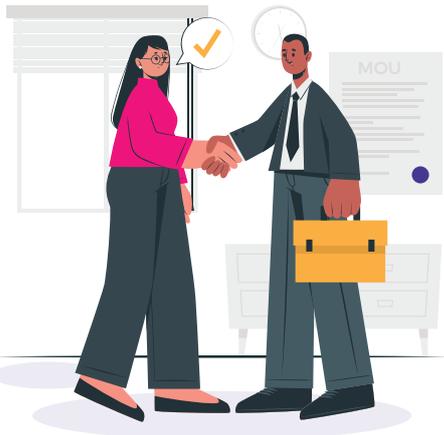


2022 in a snapshot..



1. Key Hub Milestones

- Increased youth-adult partnership in the AYSRHR ecosystem.
- Increased learning & uptake of knowledge and practices among stakeholders and beyond the spheres of influence.
- Increased collaboration and supportive community through Action Learning.



2. Four new external partnerships Excluding ALG membership), which included:

- Attendance at the Philea Forum.
- Collaboration with Save the Children.
- Contributed to the Youth-led Roadmap on AYSRHR during ICFP.
- Thought partnership with HCD Exchange.



3. 7 Hub communications products developed and published: **2** blog entries and **5** announcements on the website.



MEDIA SECTION

In this section, we've compiled some media resources for a deeper dive into our most exciting work so far:

Blogs

The YIELD Hub at ICFP 2022.

Not just demanding but learning to create SRHR Partnerships.

Advancing Cross-Stakeholder. Partnership in AYSRHR through Action Learning.



Videos ICFP 2022 Live Stage Session

Photos [Please visit our Instagram page.](#)



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