

Organisational Strengthening for Youth-Led Organisations: Building Resilience and Capacity

2025

Youth-led organisations (YLOs) working in Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) face organisational development challenges that hinder their effectiveness and sustainability. These challenges often include inadequate institutional structures affecting daily operations and resource mobilisation, weak reporting and financial auditing systems, lack of leadership transition planning, and limited investment in staff capacity-building. Such gaps restrict the impact YLOs have at both the community and national levels.

For donors, funders, grantmakers, and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) collaborating with YLOs, addressing these challenges is crucial for achieving sustainable and lasting progress in Adolescent and Youth SRHR. **This requires an intentional and coordinated effort to establish flexible support systems that acknowledge these barriers and provide tailored resources and strategies to overcome them.**

At the YIELD Hub, we collaborate with funders, INGOs, researchers and youth and community groups to tackle organisational challenges through our Action Learning Groups. We invite YLOs, funders, INGOs, researchers, and other stakeholders working with youth to join these groups to reflect, learn collectively, and take meaningful actions that enhance organisational development, build capacity, and strengthen the resilience of YLOs.

Learning Objectives for the Action Learning Group

This cycle focuses on five key areas while allowing participants to identify and address additional needs specific to their organisations:

1. **Management and Governance:** Learn and reflect on processes for effective organisational management and decision-making processes, including legal registration, co-hosting arrangements, collaboration, and ensuring board engagement aligns with the organisation's mission.
2. **Financial Management:** Develop strategies for timely, accurate, and transparent financial reporting to build trust, enhance accountability, and attract sustainable funding. Emphasize the importance of publicly sharing financial information to demonstrate integrity, foster donor confidence, and strengthen stakeholder relationships.
3. **Knowledge Management:** Explore approaches to ensure update and maintain data and organizational knowledge/practices for effective internal knowledge transfer, mitigating the risk of losing critical organisational expertise when team members leave.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Understand how to use Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) to track, document and measure success.
5. **External Communication:** Develop communication strategies that align with organisational and enhance visibility and stakeholder engagement.

This Action Learning Group offers a collaborative space for funders, INGOs, researchers, and youth and community groups to reflect on these challenges, share experiences, and co-create context-specific solutions. By addressing critical aspects of organisational development, participants will strengthen their institutions, ultimately enhancing the sustainability and impact of YLOs in advancing Adolescent and Youth SRHR.

Join this cycle to be part of a committed group of stakeholders working to build resilient, well-functioning youth-led organisations capable of driving meaningful and lasting change.