

## HIV Young Leaders Fund 2010 – 2011 Grantees

The HIV Young Leaders Fund is proud to announce its first round of grantees. The 2010 Community Review Panel (CRP) selected these grantees through a peer review process. The CRP is composed of 12 young people — from 12 countries — with experience working at the grassroots level on HIV issues.

For this first round, the HIV Young Leaders Fund received approximately 2,700 applications from around the world and in five languages. The Fund was able to support 23 grantees. CRP members selected grantees based on the Fund's priorities and core values. All grantees will receive support and mentorship during the grant period.

The Fund is actively working to increase the amount of funding available for small grants in order to meet the clear demand coming from youth-led initiatives. The Fund thanks its current donors – aids2031, the Ford Foundation, UNAIDS, and the United Nations Population Fund – for their invaluable support.

### **2010 – 2011 Grantees:**

#### **Aavash Samuha Female Wing – Nepal**

The project, *Empowering the Voiceless to Combat the HIV Epidemic*, will mobilize young female injection drug users to become advocates for their needs through advocacy and leadership trainings, monthly group meetings, and education on harm reduction and sexual and reproductive rights. The project will also link the young women who use drugs with health services, and work to sensitize the local community on the needs and rights of young women who use drugs.

#### **Asociación Jóvenes en Movimiento – Honduras**

The project, *Closing the Gaps, Integrating Communities*, seeks to reach young men who have sex with men in different urban 'tribes' – emo, punk, metalheads, hippies, artisans – with information and education on STIs, including HIV. Fifteen 'tribe' leaders will receive comprehensive training on how to communicate STI and HIV information to their members, including how to link young men who have sex with men to places where they can access non-discriminatory health services. Through this peer-based and decentralized approach, the Asociación aims to reach 600 young men who have sex with men in Tegucigalpa.

#### **Association of Young Educators for Development – Democratic Republic of Congo**

The Association's project in Kinshasa aims to increase street children's awareness of HIV through peer education and empower street children to advocate for their rights to essential services from the community to decrease their vulnerability to HIV. A young person whose experience living on the street motivated him to found the Association to reach his peers leads this project.

#### **Colectivo Ama-Gi – Mexico**

The project, *Youth Leaders Respond to HIV and AIDS*, will link and train young community leaders in the states of Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo on HIV and sexual and reproductive health to better inform young people in their communities on how to lead healthy lives. The group will organize a series of workshops on topics related to HIV and AIDS, sexual and reproductive rights, HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and health advocacy.

### **Equal Opportunities for All – Tajikistan**

The Fund will support the only LGBTQ youth organization in Tajikistan to work on HIV prevention through linking its members, including young sex workers and young people living with HIV, to health services; providing psycho-social support for young LGBTQ people; and strengthening their outreach system for disseminating sexual health information, including information on accessing confidential and free HIV/STI testing services.

### **Asociación Silueta X – Ecuador**

The Asociación's project, *Information, Education, and Training on HIV and AIDS Prevention for Transgender, Transexual and Sex Worker Women From the City of Guayaquil*, will target 150 young trans sex workers and 70 part-time sex workers. In addition to working on educating their peers, the Asociación will reach out to the public to combat stigma and discrimination towards young trans sex workers through organizing five public events for awareness on trans people; a seminar and workshop for government employees in the health ministry and police department; and targeted media outreach.

### **Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS in Egypt**

GYCA Egypt's project will work in two areas of Egypt – Minia and Qaluobia – to reach young women and girls from slum areas with education on sexual health and HIV. The group's outreach in these areas will include breaking down widespread taboos and stigma around HIV and AIDS.

### **GNP+ Youth Program – Global**

The advocacy project, *Mapping and Analysis of Involvement of Young People Living with HIV in National Networks of PLHIV and Youth-Led Networks*, will research the levels at which young people living with HIV aged 16-30 are able to engage with and lead in networks of people living with HIV and youth HIV movements. The research will result in a report and advocacy tools for young people to use in their local communities and countries to advocate for the meaningful inclusion of young people living with HIV within the broader AIDS response.

### **Indibano Youth Organisation – Swaziland**

The project, *Protect Your Future: Take a Stand Against HIV/AIDS*, will establish a young mothers' peer support group and raise awareness about HIV among young people in Kakhoza District. The Organisation aims to reach both in-school and out-of-school young people in the community, with a particular focus on young women and girls. In Swaziland, 32% of all new infections in Swaziland occur in people under 25 years, and there is a high prevalence of HIV infection among young pregnant women.

### **Javiaide – Uganda**

The project, *Healthy Living for Disabled Youth Living with HIV/AIDS*, will work in Kamuli District to support food and nutrition security interventions for disabled youth affected by HIV, empower service providers with appropriate communication skills to work with disabled youth with HIV, and advocate for integrating disabled young people in all HIV and AIDS programs to ensure their access to basic social needs.

### **Kabula Youth Initiative for Sustainable Development – Malawi**

This organization's project, *Youth Action for Mitigating the Impact of HIV/AIDS*, will run in five villages in Blantyre District. The group will strengthen the capacity of youth groups to respond to

HIV through increasing knowledge sharing and collaboration among local networks. It will also hold trainings that give groups the skills they need to develop advocacy agendas, including around the rights of young people living with HIV, learn how to monitor and evaluate their work, and work on issues of stigma and discrimination.

### **Making Sex Work Safer – Tanzania**

The Fund is supporting the *Making Sex Work Safer* project, which will conduct weekly peer education sessions among young women sex workers on sexual health, workplace safety, and human rights. The project will conduct specific trainings on HIV treatment options and treatment adherence. It will also support young sex workers interested in developing their leadership to advocate for their needs and rights within their communities.

### **Male Attitude Network – Nigeria**

The Fund is providing core funding for an organization of young people working to educate the public on sexual rights and ensure young men who have sex with men can access health services in Abuja. The Network has difficulty accessing a safe space for its activities due to the risk of violence young men who have sex with men face, and will use its grant to rent two safe spaces that enable the organization to host support group meetings, education workshops, and a 24 hour palliative care center.

### **Pa-O Women Union – Burma**

The project, *HIV/AIDS Education and Home Visit*, will reach out to young people through home visits in four villages in Shan State, Burma, to increase young people's understanding of HIV prevention, reduce HIV stigma, and encourage young people to use available medical services to lead healthy lives. There is a high rate of injection drug use among young people in Shan State, yet many young people are not aware of how to prevent HIV, and there is heavy stigma due to misconceptions about the virus.

### **Pariwartan Samuha – Nepal**

Pariwartan Samuha is a group of young people who use injection drugs and young people living with HIV in Kathmandu. Through the core funding provided by the Fund, Pariwartan Samuha will work on HIV prevention among drug users and on mitigating drug-related harm. The organization strives to improve the living condition of young people living with HIV through referrals to different health care and support services. The group also seeks to minimize stigma and discrimination among infected and affected youth in the community through training, advocacy, and sensitization programs.

### **Pink Life LGBT Solidarity Association – Turkey**

The project, *Pink Steps for University LGBT Youth*, will raise awareness on HIV and AIDS related issues among LGBT youth at four universities in Ankara. It will train 100 young people on HIV prevention, treatment, and advocacy, and then seek to mobilize participants to identify and take action against problems in their universities. Common problems for LGBT youth in schools include lack of information about sexual and reproductive health services, powerful stigma around their sexuality, and violence as a result of the stigma and discrimination. After the project, the organization will publish a booklet documenting its activities so that other NGOs in Turkey can learn about LGBT youth activism around HIV.

### **School of Volunteers – Tajikistan**

The project, *Nothing For Us Without Us*, will reach out to young people who use injection drugs in Kurgan-Tjube to help them create local alliances and youth-led groups to address societal stigma towards people who use drugs and inequities in accessing health services. Many of the people who use drugs in Kurgan-Tjube, a town in Southern Tajikistan 120 km from the Afghan border, are also living with HIV and sometimes engage in sex work. The project will also train eight outreach workers who are current or former young injection drug users and/or sex workers to provide peer-based referrals and information.

### **Sodeistvie Counseling Center – Russia**

The Center will mobilize the young people living with HIV community to become advocates through creating meaningful volunteer opportunities, improving peer-based counseling services and organizing trainings on treatment, adherence, stigma and other issues faced by young people living with HIV. It will also work to advocate for the interest of young people living with HIV at local government institutions.

### **Spiritual and Psychological Centre Jerela – Ukraine**

This Ternopoli based project will expand the access of young women aged 16 – 28 who use drugs and/or engage in sex work to health services. It will educate these young women on how they can practice harm reduction in their daily lives, including HIV prevention. Private counseling will also be offered through the Centre.

### **Uganda Young Positives – Uganda**

Uganda Young Positives (UYP) is a national organization that brings together young people living with HIV to advocate for scaling up HIV prevention, care, and support services. The Fund's core support to UYP will enable the group to conduct school and community outreach; train young positives on basic treatment information, including different treatment regimens; organize a meeting with treatment providers and young people living with HIV to exchange experiences; and liaise with policy makers and programmers on how to improve treatment access for young people in different districts.

### **User Network of Mizoram – India**

This network of young people who have used or use drugs seeks to improve the living conditions of young people living with HIV in Mizoram and also to prevent new HIV infections that stem from injection drug use. The Fund's grant will support a comprehensive harm reduction program for young people in the area, including home visits from outreach workers, peer outreach in places where young people are using drugs, referrals to youth-friendly health services, and information delivered via SMS.

### **Young Mothers Support Group – Uganda**

The project, *Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Young Women Living with HIV/AIDS*, will create support groups for young mothers living with HIV, build the capacity of young mothers living with HIV to do advocacy, and train service providers on the sexual and reproductive health rights of young positive mothers.

### **Youth AIDS Filipinas Alliance – the Philippines**

The Fund will provide core funding for a network of young Filipinos working to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination. The Alliance also works to support the meaningful

participation of young Filipinos living with HIV in the nation's AIDS response through leadership development and local government advocacy.