“Finding an organization that is going to build a house is easier than getting contraceptive information on time.”

-Juan Ramón Díaz, 23 years old, Dominican Republic
ABOUT US

The International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFP) is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. IYAFP seeks to defend human rights, advance youth education, and promote the public health of youth all across the world. Through its alliance of young individuals, youth associations, organizations, and communities, IYAFP shares a common mission to support the provision of comprehensive reproductive health care education and services with a particular focus on family planning for youth.

OUR MISSION

To enable youth from around the world to contribute a significant voice and lead interventions and decisions on family planning and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights. We are looking to empower young people to become global advocates with the skills, knowledge and resources needed to scale up youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health initiatives and services.

PILLARS

All of the work we do can be categorized under these 5 pillars:

- Advocacy
- Community Development
- Research
- Create Opportunities
- Capacity Building

This biannual progress report aims to provide updates and highlights of our activities since April 2016.
ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

We currently have 7 Executive members and are actively seeking two more youth to join our global team. Vacant positions include Director of Projects and Director of Communications and Advocacy.

We recruited 15 volunteers to help us in the areas of Strategic Vision, Partnerships, Special Projects, Social Media, Blogs, Research and Development, and Country Coordinator Engagement. These volunteers have already started work on their initiatives and IYAFP looks forward to the rich contributions of our diverse volunteers.

Our Country Coordinator team currently has 55 youth from around the world. We recently accepted 4 new youth from Swaziland, Mauritius, Yemen, and Costa Rica whom are all going through training and induction.

We currently have a total of 1164 members in our IYAFP database. The majority come from Nigeria and Kenya.
International-level activities facilitated by Executive members

In April, one Executive member and 4 general members were invited to attend a WHO consultation in Geneva titled: *Lessons from Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming to Catalyze HIV Prevention for Adolescent Girls and Young Women*. At this gathering, we discussed IYAFP’s role in the family planning field, and provided a significant youth voice (and song) in discussions about technologies and approaches in investing in youth to build their capacity and lead their communities out of morbidity.

Our Executive member, Jillian Gedeon, attended a follow-up meeting in Vancouver, Canada to re-iterate youth’s opinions on HIV prevention in late May.

In May, we had 4 Executive members and a dozen Country Coordinators attend *Women Deliver*. We led a pre-conference session about youth governance, hosted *Make it known in the Youth Zone* which had 40 attendees and over 16 different youth speakers sharing their grassroots work to empower women and girls. As a result, at least 10 youth from around the world networked with one another to strengthen their advocacy efforts.

We also hosted *SRHR Trivia* in the Youth Zone and had over 40 attendees with prizes from Bayer and MSH to give away. People learned (more) about sexual and reproductive health information and anatomy and were given access to the game on our website. We also assisted
in the planning and execution with two youth zone sessions titled, “Forging New Alliances: Dialogue with Policy Makers Part 1 and Part 2” thanks to the YHRC. During Women Deliver, we were joined by Yvonne Chaka-Chaka (famous South African artist) at the Youth Zone. She sang with us and talked about using art as an advocacy tool. See here.

We also assisted with the the organization of a flash mob to bring attention to youth needs as part of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (of which we are a member). See here.

Over the past few months, we hosted and participated in the following panels and events:

- Bridging the Gender Gap to Accelerate the Impact of Sport and HIV Programmes, AIDS 2016
- “What’s Youth Got to Do with It? Reflecting on AYSRH & Youth Engagement in the 2016 International Conferences”, International Youth Day 2016 via YHRC
- “International Youth Day SDG Quiz”, International Youth Day 2016
  - 60 participants worldwide were tested and learned about SDGs and youth demographics worldwide
- UNGA Side Event at Columbia University titled: Health as a Human Right- our demand for information, choice, and action

Earlier this year we joined the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health as well as the Deliver for Good campaign as a Tier 2 ally.
Country-level activity highlights led by Country Coordinators

**Burkina Faso, led by Isidore (33 years)**

Isidore helped lead the organization of a regional workshop on Sharing Civil Society Engagement in Family Planning repositioning in West Africa. This meeting focused on the sharing of experiences in the 9 countries of the Ouagadougou partnership (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo)

**Lessons learned include:**
- The young ambassadors approach has helped to promote Family Planning among teenagers and young people through social networks;
- The involvement of the Technical and Financial Partners / international NGOs has enabled a good synergy in accompanying civil society;
- The involvement of religious leaders contributes greatly to the removal of socio-cultural barriers to Family Planning.

**Palestine, led by Hamza Moghari (22 years)**

Hamza celebrated International Youth Day (IYD) by doing the following:
- Featured IYAFP Palestine members with quotes on their Facebook page
- In cooperation with the Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association (PFPPA)/IPPF in Palestine, IYAFP youth launched a campaign called "Know It, Own It" where they went to public gathering spaces like cafes, boardwalks and disseminated flowers with information about SRHR and CSE, reaching more than 50 youth.

He also conducted an awareness-raising session for 25 students at Al-Azhar University - American Corner about family planning’s health and social dimensions.
Nigeria, led by Chibuike Alagboso (30 years)

Celebrated IYD by organizing a two-day online campaign to advocate for youth-friendly health centers. 20 members participated in hosting an online counseling portal via secure chat platforms for youth to ask about anything related to their SRHR.

Bangladesh, led by SM Shaikat (30 years)

Shaikat celebrated IYD by organizing a live Q&A on how youth can fight child marriage and gender-based violence in Bangladesh. He also led the creation and execution of Bangladesh’s first ever National Youth Family Planning conference in September. With collaboration from USAID, Engender Health, Ipas, SERAC-Bangladesh, and the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, over 150 youth showed up to learn more about being active family planning advocates in their communities.

Lessons learned from this conference:

For more information, see here.

Dominican Republic, led by Juan Ramón Díaz (23 years)

Juan presented at a UNFPA Press Conference and as a youth representative. As a youth, he took advantage of International Youth Day to read a declaration asking for attention in topics related to youth (sexual health, education, employment, government investment, etc).

“I learned how big the impact of this kind of declarations is, and how important is to use specific data to make announcements and bring the attention of the media! It was very nice”
Uganda, led by Joan Amanda Banura (23 years)

Amanda organized an IYD program alongside youth from IYAFP and UYAFPAH to gather youth to the Marie Stopes Uganda clinic. As a team of youth, they disseminated 50 HIV testing strips, leaflets on body changes for both male and female, and male condoms (500) to 200 people.

Pakistan, led by Umair Asif (25 years)

Umair created an online channel for 150+ young journalists and writers to raise the voice of young Pakistanis on global, regional and local SRHR and family planning issues. It has so far received 30,000 blog views and 3000 Facebook followers.

He also organized a Child Marriage Forum through the child marriages campaign of his organization, Kafka Welfare Organization, where 90 youth discussed the amendment of the child marriage laws in Punjab.
Creation of Opportunities

Over the past few months, we gave youth the opportunity to speak on the following panels, sessions, and events:

- **Make it known in the youth zone**, Women Deliver 2016
- **Using the Global Consensus Statement to Accelerate ASRHR**, Women Deliver 2016
- **Bridging the Gender Gap to Accelerate the Impact of Sport and HIV Programmes**, AIDS 2016
- **Virtual Cafes**: hosted by IYAFP every 2nd Friday

IYAFP helped our Country Coordinators (CCs) secure the following opportunities by connecting them with key stakeholders and partners and by writing them letters of recommendation:

- Country Coordinator of Congo attended a WHO Consultation on School Health in the African Region, Brazzaville, Congo (October 2016);
- Country Coordinator of the Philippines joined the FP2020 Experts Advisory Committee;
- Country Coordinator of Zambia was awarded Pollination Project Funding;
- Country Coordinator of Palestine was invited to attend and participate in a ‘Breast Cancer Scientific Day’ hosted in cooperation with UNFPA and PFPPA;
- Country Coordinator from Dominican Republic was on the 120 under 40 selection committee.

The following IYAFP Executive members, Country Coordinators, and Member volunteers were recipients of this year’s 120under40 award. This opportunity was shared with them through IYAFP and many were nominated by their IYAFP colleagues:

- **Burcu Bozkurt** - Director of Operations
- **Chris Rusatira** - Director of Research and Development
- **Tom Oludhe** - Country Coordinator for Kenya
- Margaret Bolaji - Member, Nigeria
- Isaac Ejakhegbe - Member, Nigeria
As part of our operations, IYAFP awards seed grants to Country Coordinators for Community Development projects related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Full project proposals for these 1000 USD grants are currently being reviewed. Recipients will be announced and notified in early 2017.

For summaries of the 2015 projects, please see our annual report [here](#).

Country-level highlights

**NIGERIA**

- Chibuike Alagboso, the Country Coordinator for Nigeria, along with a member of his IYAFP team, Pamela Egbujzo, recently collaborated with the Save the Deaf and Endangered Languages Initiative to organize a health promotion and sensitization workshop on family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Together, they delivered the presentation and answered related questions to over 200 youth part of the deaf community. A sign language interpreter helped interpret the lecture to the deaf community.
- Margaret Bolaji (25 yrs), member of IYAFP, organized an IYAFP-sensitization training on adolescent sexual & reproductive health and rights. With support from the Country Coordinator, she reached 68 young girls in Northern Nigeria.
- Chibuike helped disseminate IYAFP resources containing SRH information and games to 50 adolescents in hard to reach areas of Nigeria.
UGANDA

• In partnership with UYAFPAH and the Women’s Health Foundation, Amanda helped mobilize over 1,000 community members and brought services closer to them at the St. Stephens church Lukuli play grounds. The services brought over included: free HCT, free information on contraceptives, free male and female condom demonstrations, free full body check ups, and awareness on safe drinking water.
• Joan Amanda Banura from Uganda had youth create a Reproductive Health Space at the 6th Annual National Youth Festival 2016. With support from UYAFPAH, they gathered about 10 youth-based organizations to offer free health service information such as HIV counseling and testing, male and female condom use, how to make re-usable sanitary pads, menstrual hygiene, family planning methods such as pills, coils, IUD, and using telecommunications to get information on SRH in Kampala city. About 300 young people attended the Reproductive Health Space.
• Joan conducted a project titled School and Community Outreach: Project to Sensitize Youth on Family Planning and Sexual and Reproductive Health. For two weeks, she engaged 25 youth officers of 5 districts.

KENYA

• Tom Oludhe (31 years) led the dissemination of adolescent SRHR Information for a duration of two months to empower adolescent girls and young women to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. 62 girls attended the program.
We are building out our webinar and workshop series for our Country Coordinators. Our first workshop was about Grant Writing techniques and it took place on December 10th, 2016.

Country-level highlights

NIGERIA
- Chibuike organized a group of youth to take an e-course on governance courtesy of MSH. 9 people attended and participated in a focus groups discussion to provide MSH feedback about the course.
- A member from IYAFP-Nigeria organized a peer educator training program for university resident floor representatives from Ibadan/University College Hospital. 40 student residents attended the program to learn about SRHR.

UGANDA
- Amanda organized a group of youth to take an e-course on governance courtesy of MSH. 16 youth gathered at MSH’s headquarters to learn about governance and give feedback on the course.

KENYA
- Tom engaged community elders in his community to experience an interactive question-answer session on ASRH issues and county data. A hot discussion topic was whether or not adolescents should access family planning. This discussion involved 230 community members to convince them to be advocates for comprehensive SRHR programs in their communities.
We submitted an application to Grand Challenges Canada seeking funding to help us create an electronic application to help us with data collection and management of youth activities and country policies.

IYAFP IN THE MEDIA

- Interviewed by Devex: June 2016
- Blog post on our experience at Women Deliver
- 120 under 40 press release.

Membership to IYAFP is absolutely free to any youth or ally across the world.

Learn more on our website at www.iyafp.org

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