



**IYAFA**

**2018**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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# A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are delighted to report back on another year of youth leading their communities to lead change in the family planning agenda. No matter where in the world, family planning and access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services is relevant and a fundamental right - regardless of context, identity, culture, or economic background. We want to see a world where every young person has access to the services and information they need to make informed decisions about their life, and the freedom to choose what sexual and reproductive health service is right for them.

Being a young person today means being in charge of a myriad of decisions on a daily basis. What career do I want? Should I buy a car or take the bus? Should I go to the party on Friday night? How do I ask this person out on a date? Should I binge watch this television series or go grocery shopping? No matter how big or small the decision, sexual and reproductive health is a critical factor in being able to follow through with the decisions one chooses to make. Agency over one's body, life, and aspirations is only possible with access to such services.

5 years into growing IYAFF, we are incredibly humbled by the global movement we have been able to build off this common mission. From bringing on a **new cohort of Country Coordinators** and **an array of in-country projects**, to continuing our work with the **Empowering Evidence-Driven Advocacy** project, to playing a substantial role in making sure youth voices were heard at **ICFP 2018**, we are proud of the collective efforts of each and every one of our team members. We do the work that we do to make sure that youth are included, heard, and respected in global policy conversations and in advocacy for their sexual and reproductive health and rights.



**JILLIAN GEDEON**  
Executive Director





“Youth need to have access to comprehensive sexuality education and be provided with information that will allow for them to make better, informed decisions about their lives and their bodies.”

**Bereket A. Hailelassie, IYAFP Member of Ethiopia**



# WHAT

The International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (abbreviated as IYAFP but colloquially referred to as “IY”) was born out of the collective vision and passion from young leaders wanting to see a global push towards youth friendly sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Five years ago in Addis Ababa, several youth attendees at the 2013 International Conference on Family Planning acted upon this desire to close gaps in youth friendly SRHR and created what is now a global, youth-led movement for better family planning and comprehensive SRHR for all young people.

*We empower youth aged 15 to 30 with the knowledge, skills, and network to take center stage in everything family planning and SRHR.*

We are a living, breathing example of meaningful youth engagement - youth are embedded into every process, every decision, and every strategy. All of our projects are led, directed, and executed by youth, for youth, and we are proud of the structures we have created to give space for young people to flex their leadership and creativity.



# WE DO

We invest in our youth network to see real change on the ground.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING, SUPPORT, OPPORTUNITIES



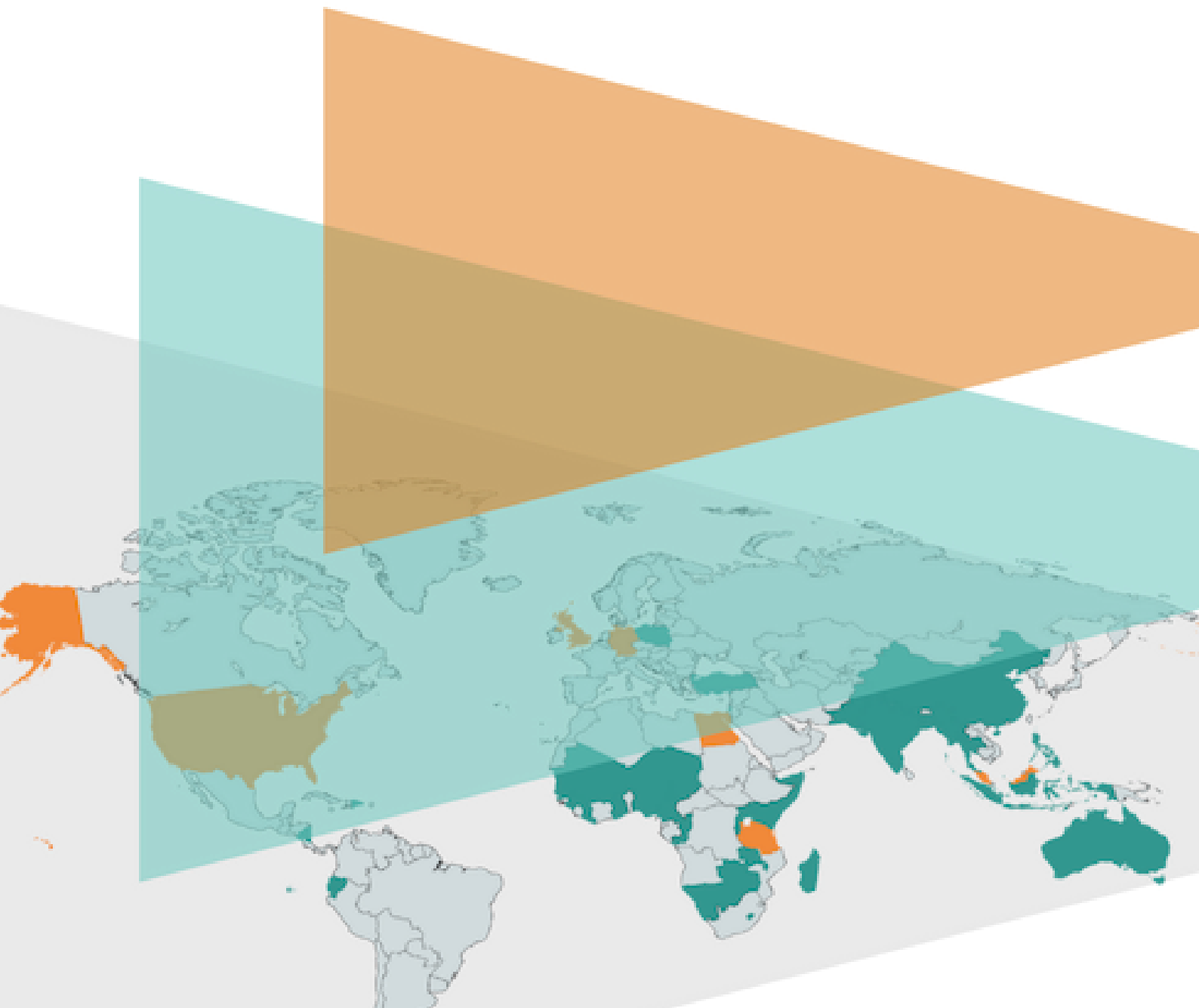
OUR VISION

**Our vision** is to provide universal access to high-quality family planning & sexual and reproductive health and rights services and information for all youth, girls, and women, no matter where they are from.

# TRANS

IYAFP is a principled organization. This means we stand by our values, and we are proud to walk our talk. Our organization is run entirely by people under 30, which means we have to say goodbye to team members so we can provide opportunities for other youth to take the lead.

Still, goodbyes are sad and, in 2018, we said them thrice.





# ITIONS

In June we said goodbye to **Dr. Jean-Christophe Rusatira**. With us from the beginning, Chris ran our research and helped us submit abstracts to conferences, helped us train youth on research methods, and made sure that IYAFP's presence was rich in Eastern Africa.

In July, we bid **Marietta Wildt** a fond farewell. She came in with leadership prowess and a keen commitment to enhancing partnerships and relationships. Anybody who worked with us in 2018 knew who Marietta was.

In November, we said goodbye to **Dr. Catherine "Kate" Baye**, who left an indelible mark on IYAFP, especially through her work with ICFP. Also with us from the beginning, Kate played an integral role in helping to build IYAFP and its vast network to what it is today.

Some good news though! For every goodbye we had to say this year, we were able to say hello! In mid-2018 we brought four new executive team members on board with in the following capacities:

Alan Jarandilla Nunez, Co-Director of Policy and Advocacy | Bolivia

Siobhonn Job, Director of Sustainability and Fundraising | Trinidad and Tobago/USA

Michalina Drejza, Director of Research and Development | Poland / UK

Kemar Holder, Chief Financial Officer | Barbados

We are *thrilled* with the diversity that the IYAFP executive team holds and are excited to take on new challenges with these new (family) members.



# OUR



## FULL CHOICE & AGENCY

We believe youth know what they need best. We fight for their right to be able to make informed decisions about their bodies and their sexual health.



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Youth are the best ambassadors for reaching peers in their own communities. We believe in harnessing the skills and network of youth to create the change that's needed.



## WELCOMING EVERYONE

We are an all-inclusive youth organization. Youth from around the world join our network and contribute to youth empowerment.





# VALUES



## COLLABORATION

We work with people of all identities and pursue partnerships whenever possible.



## ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

We hold ourselves as well as other organizations, coalitions, and governments accountable for equitable youth engagement and responsible SRHR progress.



## SUSTAINABILITY

Working with youth is dynamic. We believe in building systems for governance in organizations that create sustainable youth leadership.



## INVESTING IN YOUTH

Empowered youth empower other youth. We take the time to support, build, and invest in each other's leadership.

# A GROWING AND STRONGER NETWORK. MEET OUR NEWEST COHORT!

Every 2 years, we welcome a new cohort of Country Coordinators.

In early 2018, we welcomed 82 \*awesome\* new Country Coordinators (CCs) who were thoughtfully selected from the 421 applications we received. These new Country Coordinators represent a total of 81 countries (Palestine has 2 CCs).

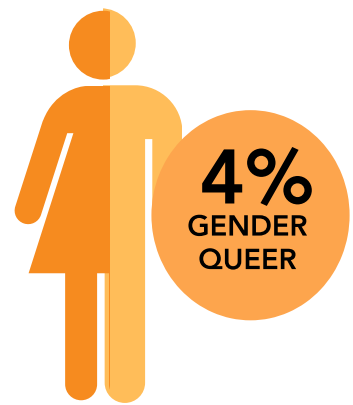
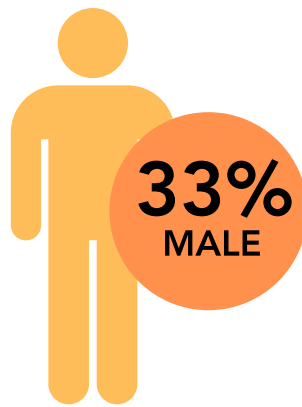
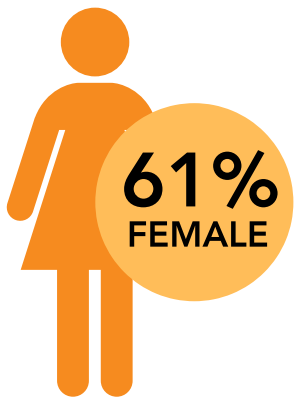
## DEMOGRAPHICS

81

COUNTRIES

82

COORDINATORS









# WHERE





# WE ARE

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central Africa Republic
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Republic of Congo
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi

## MIDDLE E. & N. AFRICA

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Iraq-Kurdistan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Morocco
- Palestine – West Bank
- Palestine – Gaza
- Syria
- Tunisia
- Turkey

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- Fiji
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Vietnam
- Tajikistan

## THE AMERICAS

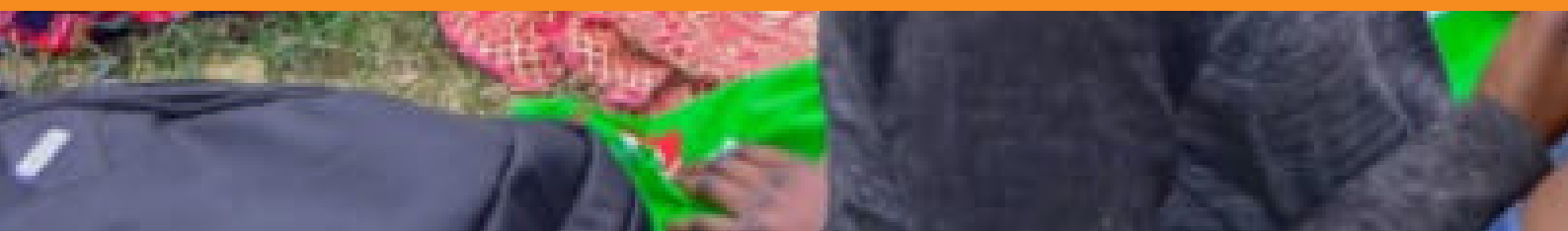
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Nicaragua
- Peru
- United States
- Saint Vincent and Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago

## EUROPE

- Albania
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Germany
- Switzerland



# COUNTRY COORDINATOR AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



# MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

General members are 15-30 year olds who join their country's chapter to run events, meet new friends, and support one another in family planning and SRHR advocacy under the leadership of the Country Coordinator.

They join in a voluntary capacity. Together with the chapter, they carry out various project-based activities in the country focusing largely on education, advocacy, and skill-sharing around intersectional youth-friendly SRHR. We recruit members twice every year via applications that ask about their age, why they want to be part of IYAFP (their passion) and what they think they would contribute.

We received 2882 membership applications from over 100 countries for the 2018-2019 cohort.

But, it's not about the numbers. It's about the shared mission and commitment to see a world where all youth have access to information and services related to their sexual and reproductive health, and have their rights fulfilled.



# GLOBAL

*We received over 38 applications for grassroots projects.  
6 were selected to receive \$1,000 worth of seed funding.*

## EGYPT

Building the capacity of IYAFP members in Egypt to be able to convey key SRHR messages while also building a service delivery mapping toolkit that would help refugees in Egypt gain access to sexual and reproductive health services.



## NAMIBIA

Building the capacity of youth-led organizations on how to address HIV/AIDS issues in their communities, finding synergies for collaborations, sharing resources and collecting data about HIV/AIDS issues among young people in their community.

## DENMARK

Focusing on delivering comprehensive sexual education to female asylum seekers and refugees in the Holstebro Asylum Center through a 'friendship bench' where women could sit and talk to volunteers about SRHR. 7 volunteers and 2 nurses were mobilized for the project.



# IMPACT

## NEPAL

Evaluating and informing the knowledge, attitude, and performance of Female Community Health Volunteers on Sexual and Reproductive Health issues.



## GUINEA

Training country leaders and youth on sexual rights and safe and abortion to run advocacy campaigns and media sensitization targeting MPs, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice via social media campaigns and in-person meetings with key stakeholders and government officials.

## ZAMBIA

Providing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services to adolescents and youth in Livingstone, Zambia. The project sought to contribute to the reduction of teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS rates through access to sexual and reproductive health information and services among in-school and out-of-school adolescents and youth in Livingstone.



# LEVERAGING

The purpose of the IYAFP network is to connect global advocates with one another and give them a platform to leverage their work for more opportunities. We're thrilled to have had the network open up the following opportunities to our youth.

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## NAMIBIA HERVOICE FUND

IYAFP-Namibia received a HerVoice fund to run an advocacy project bringing together adolescents and local policy makers on the same table to talk about policies and programs around SRHR, HIV, and gender based violence.

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## BANGLADESH WITH SERAC YOUACCESS

IYAFP-Bangladesh had received a PAI YouAccess grant worth \$5000 (planning phase).

# THE NAME

**GOALKEEPERS  
YOUTH  
ACTION  
ACCELERATOR**



**NIGERIA**

**GOALKEEPERS YOUTH ACTION ACCELERATOR**

IYAFP-Nigeria won a Goalkeepers Youth Accelerator grant to run an evidence based advocacy project in Nigeria worth \$30,000.



**HEALTH. ACCESS. RIGHTS**

**CONGO**

**IPAS INTERNATIONAL**

Ipas International awarded IYAFP-Congo \$1933 to improve awareness of and advocate for safe abortion.

NETWORK-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES  
FROM LOCAL  
TO  
GLOBAL





# IYAFP-FIRSTS

## IN-PERSON MEET AND GREET

It is often difficult to meet one another when our global operations are exclusively on the internet. So, every chance we get to meet each other in person is an opportunity that we never want to forgo. We are so thankful to our Country Coordinator, Christelle Favre, for opening up her doors and inviting all of the present Country Coordinators and IYAFP Executive for dinner and team-building the week of ICFP 2018.



## A BOOTH!

2018 was certainly a year of firsts for us - IYAFP ran a booth both at AIDS 2018 and ICFP 2018. People could stop by to learn about the organization, sign up as a member, and connect with youth. We also distributed engaging t-shirts that have traveled to all corners of the world.

# ICFP

As the chair of the Youth Sub-Committee for the 2018 International Conference for Family Planning (ICFP), IYAFP oversaw the organization of the youth pre-conference, the youth plenary, the mentorship program, and much more.

## THE YOUTH PRE-CONFERENCE

A conference for youth, by youth. It lasted 2.5 days, had hundreds of participants, no panels, and 63 breakout sessions!

**600** PARTICIPANTS  
**54** COUNTRIES  
**63** BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## POSTERS & PANELS

IYAFP led a panel discussing evidence-based advocacy courtesy of our EEDA Project, presented a poster on youths' knowledge about policies in Kenya, and presented on IYAFP's internal research looking at the benefits of youth networks.



# 2018



## THE YOUTH PLENARY

We took the audience around the world with two dozen family planning stories, reminding us all that family planning, and its relationship with comprehensive SRHR, means something different to everyone. We thank former executives Catherine Baye and Marietta Wildt for organizing this plenary.



## THE CLOSING CEREMONY

IYAFP supported the debut of “We Are Family” during the closing ceremonies, a musical piece featuring Otuck William, Yvonne Chaka-Chaka, Avril, Butera Knowless, Naveeni, Xenia & TrevMoMatic

# Sex O'Clock News

*It's like your daily six o'clock  
news, but edgier.*

# NETWORK-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

## IYAFP-PILOT/PASSION PROJECTS



Sex O'Clock News is an IYAFP initiative with the purpose of providing young people aged 15-30 the opportunity to exercise their writing and communication skills while learning about SRHR updates from around the world. This platform's intent is to translate pertinent information from high-level events and international conferences into digestible tidbits for young advocates around the world.

What makes this platform unique is that it is international in scope but curated exclusively by youth, for youth.

We piloted this concept at ICFP 2018 where we created a email-based Daily Digest with our youth-curated list of conference highlights and updates. With over 800 subscribers currently on our list-serv, we hope to scale this concept to keep youth in the loop of what is going on in the world of sexual and reproductive health and rights.



**"Youth need to be involved in SRHR because these are issues that affect us directly. We can change the narrative because we are the ones who know what we need. Youth must get more and more involved because this is the time to make things right for the next generation."**

**María Agustina Biritos,  
Argentina Country Coordinator**



# NETWORK-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

IYAFP-PILOT/PASSION PROJECTS

## GLOBAL CONSENSUS STATEMENT MEANINGFUL ADOLESCENT & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Together with Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) and the Partnership for Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health (PMNCH), we conducted various stakeholder interviews with organization leaders, youth, and donors to understand what meaningful adolescent and youth engagement meant to them. Using this information, we created a consensus statement (read: check list) to formalize the approach of meaningfully engaging young people in operations and projects.

By the end of 2018, we had 180 endorsements from governments, donors, and organizations. 2019 will see us building an accountability framework and workplan to celebrate organizations that uphold their endorsement.

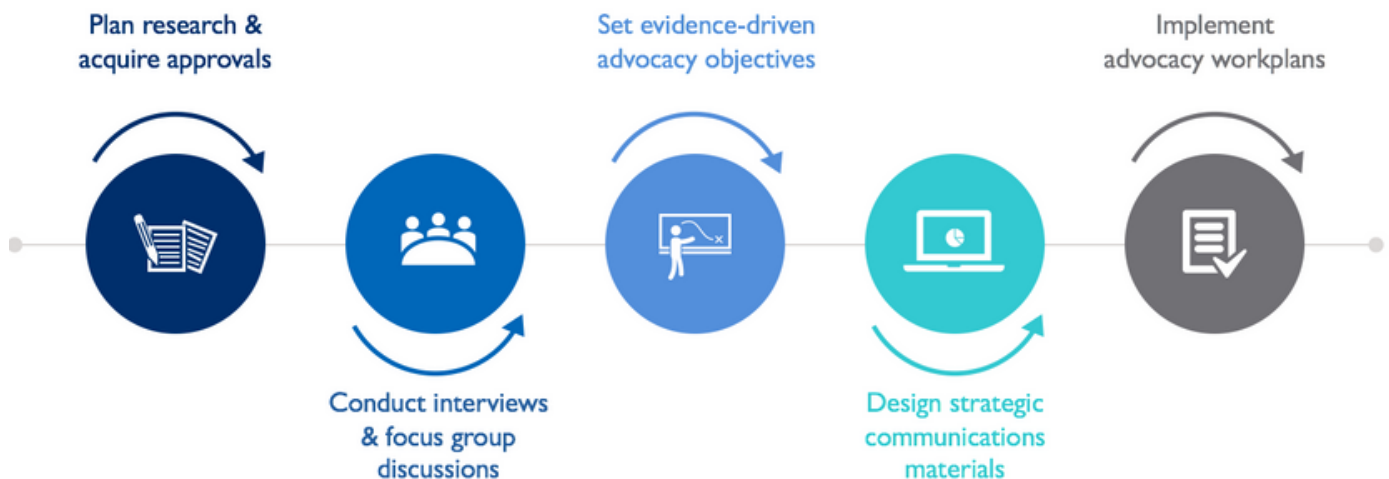
Read the statement here: <https://www.who.int/pmnch/mye-statement.pdf>

# EMPOW

## EVIDENCE-DRIVEN

IYAFP has partnered with Population Reference Bureau to implement the Empowering Evidence Driven Advocacy (EEDA) project. This 3-year project (2017-2020) works with youth as local researchers and advocates in upholding their governments to family planning policies and commitments they have made in order to drive progress. We are running this project in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda.

EEDA is a two-part initiative, with the first phase rooted in qualitative data collection and analysis done by qualified youth researchers. The second phase is informed by the first, with development of strategies and objectives aimed at increasing accountability of targeted governments to improve implementation of policy commitments.



This year, we are proud to have:

- Onboarded and trained 22 youth as research and/or advocacy associates
- Invited 112 youth participants to workshops about data collection and policy communication
- Conducted over 60 focus group discussions with 271 youth aged 15-24
- Launched 2 online surveys with 77 youth respondents aged 18-24
- Come up with 5 sets of findings focussed on challenges, opportunities, and recommendations



# ERING

## ADVOCACY

EEDA has a focus in increasing the capacity of youth advocates as SRHR influencers and advocates to hold governments accountable through the measurement of policy implementation. The priority on evidence speaks to the realities of young people and their particular challenges when accessing SRHR. This context is crucial for decision makers to make improvements on family planning access and services.



Key research highlights from all 5 countries:

- Service providers are biased and make it difficult for youth to access services.
- Word of mouth is one of the main sources of sexually-related information for youth, which makes comprehensive sexuality education in school crucial.
- Local leaders do not have family planning and youth friendly services in their agenda and work-plan. Some are not even aware of the importance of family planning among young populations.

# LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

Let us get into it.

We are not reporting on the negative. Nothing is negative.


Are some things less positive than others? Sure!

But, in all things there is a lesson.

So, even though 2018 was an AMAZING year for IYAFP (you're reading about it now!), it was not perfect.

We had our fair share of challenges, but we are here and we are still standing.

So, join us as we peek behind our curtains. We want to share some of our 2018 lessons with you.



**We are older,  
we are wiser and  
we are committed to  
transparent knowledge  
sharing.**

# LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

## CHALLENGE 1

# MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!

If we could sustain our operations on passion, youthful exuberance and good cheer, we would live a worry-free life. Instead, we do what we can with what we have, and we are constantly using resources to seek more resources. Non-profit life!

We acknowledge, and we are immensely grateful for, the yeses we got this year, and we readily admit we also had our fair share of noes. For us, a “No” is a signal to work harder and smarter. It stokes the fire and we’re motivated to improve. But, gosh, do they hurt! Like most nonprofits, we traditionally seek out grants and project-based funding. Yet, how sustainable is this approach? Short answer: Not very sustainable at all.

At the end of 2018, we recognize that our approach needs revamping. We love projects, but if we want to focus on the longevity of our organisation so we can execute our mission, and do so effectively, we need to move away from them. Not entirely, but just enough to create room for other sources. For 2019, we’re exploring those sources. (And, hey, if you have any ideas or some unrestricted cash funds you’re willing to send our way, you know where to find us!)



# LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

## CHALLENGE 2

### I LOVE YOU, BUT...

Are we lucky? Maybe. We have never been in a bad partner or donor relationship. Still, we recognize that relationships are tricky. Good relationships require parties with a commitment to effective, honest, and timely communication.

They require parties that show mutual respect for one another. They require empathy. But, where do you find these parties?

Why is there no Tinder for nonprofits?

We mean a quick, easy way to size up an organisation, swiping (left? right?) on those that appeal to you, where intentions are transparently set forth at the beginning, and there are explicit signs that you are both looking for the same thing. Something like this would force us to approach networking more like a science, and compel us to be more targeted in our tactics.

Instead, we find that we have approached networking with a little (read: lot) less structure. Our approach thus far is more akin to hanging out in a bar, and hoping to meet someone. Does it work? Sometimes. Has it worked for us? Well, we have the MOST amazing partners. Truth be told, we have been lucky, but we do not always want to rely on luck (and youthful spunk).

We have realised that if we are always at the same watering hole, we are missing all the other like-minded individuals and organisations who could be fantastic donors and partners. We find we need to switch up our approach. So, by finding a balance between maintaining the flexibility we have and introducing the structure we need, we are overhauling our strategy so we can keep to familiar spaces, and still strategically branch out and explore new ones, too.

Once we find ourselves in these relationships, we must remember to reject complacency and to continue advocating for ourselves and for our youth. We will be taking a good, hard look at ourselves in the mirror and asking the difficult questions. How can we make our relationships better? How can we make them more equal? What can we do to navigate these relationships more effectively?

**Takeaway(s):** Foster your relationships! Be more strategic in the types of relationships you seek out and the ways in which you do so. Building the relationship is not the end of the road. Don't forget to negotiate (and renegotiate) the terms and boundaries of the relationship.

# LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

## CHALLENGE 3

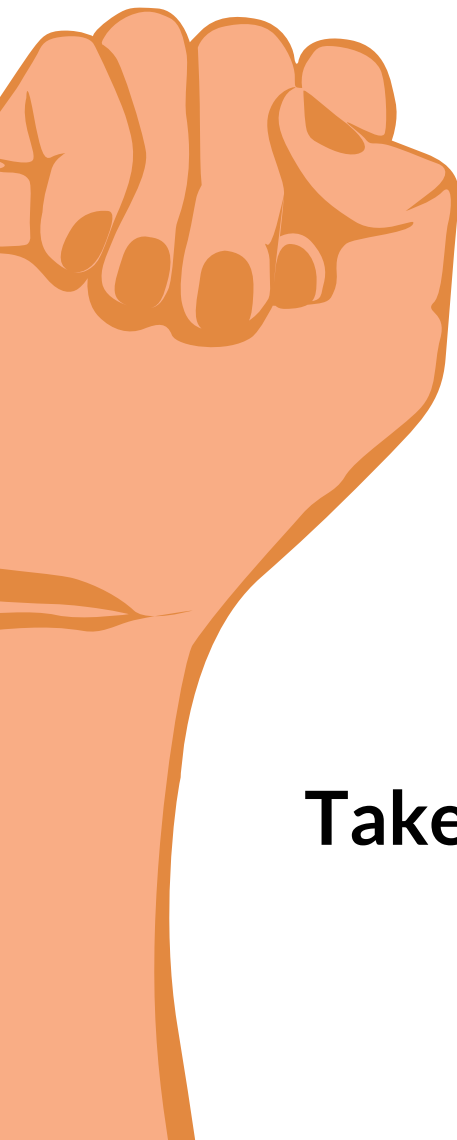
### BUILDING AWARENESS ABOUT IYAFP

Is it unreasonable to want IYAFP to be a household name? The benefits of name recognition cannot be overstated. Sadly, we are not (yet!) able to reap those benefits. We had a slow start to the year, but ICFP has shown us how much louder we could be, and how receptive people are to what we have to say. And, we have SO MUCH to say!

To know us is to love us. And with love comes support. Yet, we did not provide enough opportunities for you to get to know us. In 2018, we worked in isolation. We saw all the great things happening on the inside, and we neglected to share them with you. From all our projects, our wins, our activities were kept top secret, and not intentionally. Maybe we are workaholics. Maybe we find it hard to step away from the daily (but fun!) grind taking quick pauses to send out updates on what we have been doing. Whatever the reason, by not keeping others aware of our activities, we lost chances to promote our name and our youth.

#### **Takeaway:**

We were fairly loud in 2018, but in 2019 we want to be even louder by ramping up our PR and marketing to make sure more people know who we are and what we do.



# LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

## CHALLENGE 4

### TRYING TO HUG THE RAINBOW: LGBTQ+ INCLUSION

We proudly stand on a platform of inclusivity. As an organisation, we welcome all (respectful) persons and perspectives. We embrace diversity, and we strive to actively include all people into the IYAFP family. We walk this talk by engaging in activities that benefit these populations, address their needs, and shed light on their concerns.

We recognize that LGBTQ populations are marginalized within most communities. Last year, after taking stock of our organisation, we realised that we simply do not provide enough support to LGBTQ youth. We set out to do better. Wrapping up 2018, we realised we dropped the ball again, and for a second year we have not reached out or engaged in meaningful work with LGBTQ populations. Shameful? Yes. We are committed to aiming for more active inclusion of LGBTQ populations in our work.

#### Takeaway:

We preach inclusivity and meaningful engagement, yet LGBTQ populations are not actively included in our work. We want to fix that. We are actively seeking out opportunities to engage in work that benefits LGBTQ youth.

# LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

## CHALLENGE 5

### COUNTRY COORDINATOR SUPPORT



This is not so much a fail, but it certainly is a “mea culpa” moment. Our Country Coordinators are the essence of IYAFP, so naturally we want to give them everything they need, everything they want, and all with limited resources.

Tying into Challenge #3, our Country Coordinators deserve far more promotion, as well.

Each month, they are doing AMAZING work around the globe, and they are doing it in silence and in silos. For 2019, we want to change that. We want you to know them. We want you to see them. We want you to appreciate their work. We have worked this into our strategic plan for 2019, and we are excited to see where we will be in 2020.

**Takeaway:** Our Country Coordinators deserve more. We are working to give it to them.

Situations that seem painful (or at least irksome!) while you’re deep in them can turn out to be sources of knowledge, and of growth. We are grateful for the opportunities we had, and for the challenges we faced in 2018.

We look forward to the lessons of 2019 and we commit to applying our new knowledge so that we take new roads when we can, and avoid familiar pitfalls when we cannot.

# OUR FINANCES

FINANCIAL YEAR 2018

## REVENUE

GRANT FUNDING	386,653
DONATIONS	4,000
OTHER REVENUE	1,995

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<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>392,648</b>
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## EXPENDITURES

<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b> (Ex. Project funding, conference grants, advocacy events, consultancies)	320,008
<b>MANAGEMENT &amp; GENERAL</b> (Ex. Taxes and licenses, financial and communications tools, overhead)	23,351
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	5,734

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<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>349,093</b>
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<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>37,560</b>
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**"INVEST IN YOUTH,  
AND LET THEIR  
VOICES BE HEARD."**

**ALEX OMARI,  
COUNTRY COORDINATOR OF KENYA**

# THANK

As we look forward to all that 2019 has to offer, we are reflecting fully and meaningfully on our 2018. Our 2019 is certain to be a period of growth and exploring uncharted territories, yet we bravely face this future and we have you to thank for that.

IYAFP is nothing without its partners, members, donors, and Country Coordinators. You all keep the network strong, vibrant, and growing. For this, we say thank you!

Thank you for believing in us, for contributing your time and efforts to us, and for supporting us as we grow in service of our mission. You have made a difference in our life and so you made a difference in the lives of many youth around the world. We think that's pretty awesome, and that you deserve kudos. We hope to see and hear more of you in 2019. We are committed to continuing our work so that we remain deserving of your support.

# YOU

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:



Bill & Melinda Gates Institute *for*  
Population *and* Reproductive Health



Knowledge for Health





**iyafA**

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