



To Greater Heights

Strategic Plan

2021-2025




Youth Voices Count Secretariat with the Philippine Board of Trustees last December 2019 in Iloilo City, Philippines



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We are made for goodness. We are made for love.

We are made for friendliness.

We are made for togetherness.

We are made for all the beautiful
things that you and I know.

We are made to tell the world that there
are no outsiders.

All are welcome: black, white, red,
yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated,
male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all.

We all belong to this family,

this human family, God's family.

— DESMOND TUTU

Introduction to YVC

Youth Voices Count (YVC) is a regional network of young people belonging to diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). This includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, & queer (LGBTIQ) people in the Asia-Pacific area. YVC is legally registered as a non-governmental organization in Iloilo City, Philippines. It advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), youth empowerment, and human rights issues of young people of diverse SOGIESC.

YVC was initially established in 2010 by 40 young people representing 19 countries as a network of young men who have sex with men (MSM) and young transgender women in East Asia and the Pacific, predominantly focused on improving sexual health. Historically, YVC's key focus areas have been advocacy on youth-friendly SRHR service and addressing self-stigma and age-related barriers in accessing SRHR services. YVC opened its doors to young people from South Asia in 2012, expanding its geographical focus in the region. In 2015, recognizing the limitations of existing language to identify its target audience, YVC adopted new terminologies to define its target audience as young gay and bisexual men, other MSM, and young transgender people, which allowed YVC to respond to the SRHR challenges of transgender men. In 2017, YVC developed its first strategic plan where it identified itself as a regional network of sexual and gender minority youth in the Asia-Pacific. This new identity allowed YVC to recognize itself as the first and only network of young LGBTIQ people in Asia-Pacific.

In 2018, YVC reached a new milestone when it was legally registered as a non-governmental organization in Iloilo City, Philippines. This significantly improved its standing as a regional network, completing YVC's transition into an autonomous entity. With institutional and core funding support secured, YVC was able to continue supporting youth-led LGBTIQ organizations through its flagship IGNITE! Empowerment Grants program and through collaborations with other regional and national organizations.



Key Achievements

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Since its legal registration in the Philippines in 2019, Youth Voices Count (YVC) has seen significant developments and successes through its continuing projects, new initiatives, and emergency responses to the COVID-19 situation and its impact on young LGBTIQ people. In 2020, YVC welcomed three new project-based staff members: a Project Officer, to handle grant applications and membership management; a Technical Support Staff, to support the processes leading up to this Strategic Plan and YVC membership engagement in the Pacific region; and a Programme Associate, to lead the QueerXBodies series funded by UNAIDS and to provide input to the YVC digital rights portfolio.

In order to comply with the legal requirements in the Philippines, YVC established a Philippines Board of Trustees to oversee the financial and administrative operations of the organization. Additionally, the YVC Regional Core Working Group, which consists of YVC members that represent the different sub-regions and identities (LBQ and transgender) in the Asia-Pacific area, operates as an advisory body for YVC programmes, projects, and initiatives.

#UPROOT REPORT CARDS

#Uproot is a global, youth-led political agenda based on the principles of equity, inclusion, and solidarity. It aims to end AIDS by 2030 and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights by tackling the barriers, bigotry, and exclusion that jeopardise young people's health. In 2017, under the #Uproot agenda¹, Youth PACT designed #Uproot report cards² on the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS to assess how well a country is performing in achieving its commitments on adolescents and young people.

YVC supported the rollout of #Uproot report cards in several countries including Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia. This was co-funded by UNAIDS in the first phase, then by UNAIDS and UNFPA in the second phase. Youth Voices Count partnered with a youth-led organization in each country to serve as report card implementers for the project's rollout.

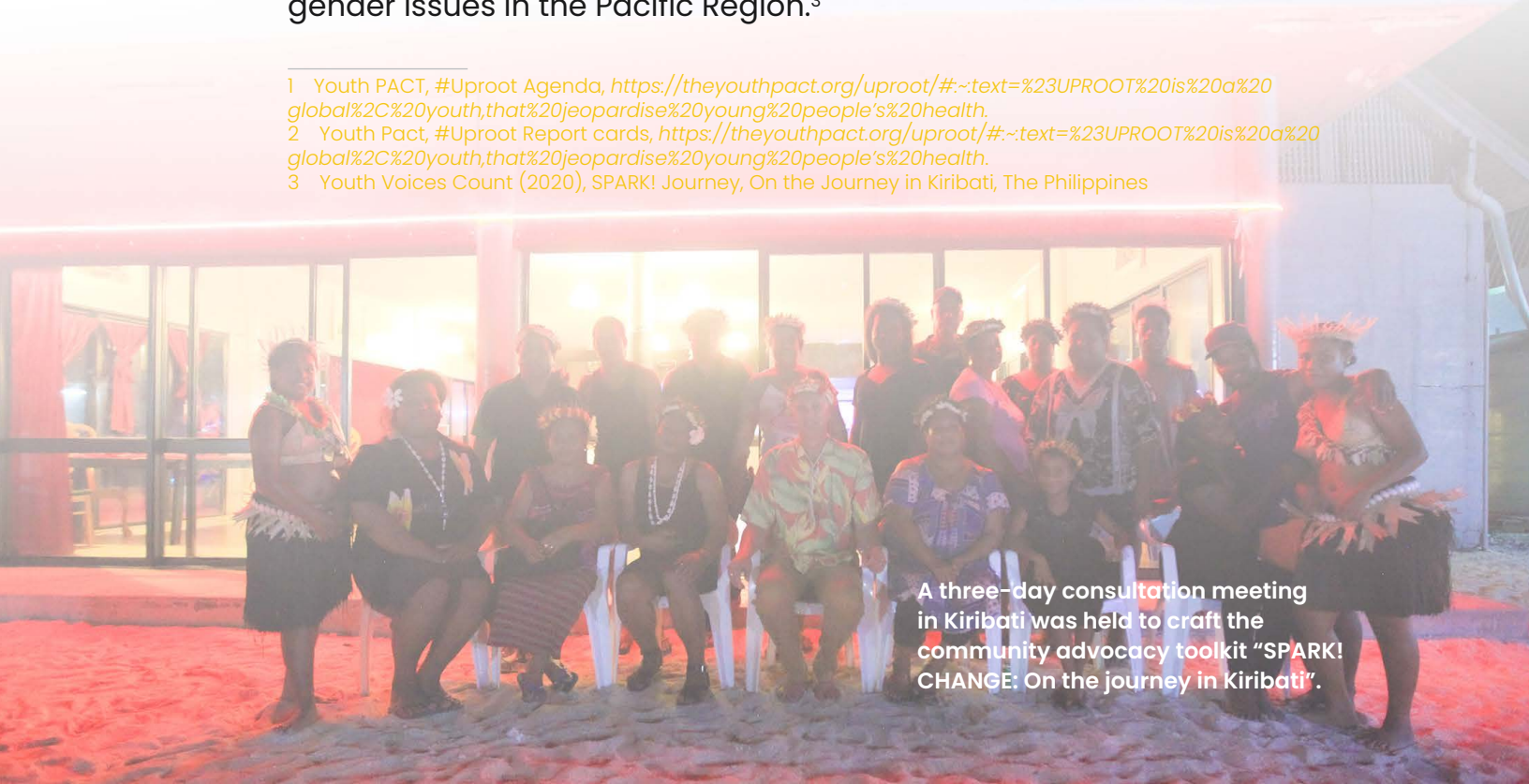
SPARK CHANGE!

SPARK! Change was an initiative by BIMBA, Inc. and YVC, which successfully secured funding from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). It resulted in the organizing of consultation meetings and workshops in Kiribati to develop a Community Advocacy Toolkit. The toolkit was then used to help organizations work on sexuality and gender issues in the Pacific Region.³

1 Youth PACT, #Uproot Agenda, <https://theyouthpact.org/uproot/#.~:text=%23UPROOT%20is%20a%20global%2C%20youth,that%20jeopardise%20young%20people's%20health>.

2 Youth PACT, #Uproot Report cards, <https://theyouthpact.org/uproot/#.~:text=%23UPROOT%20is%20a%20global%2C%20youth,that%20jeopardise%20young%20people's%20health>.

3 Youth Voices Count (2020), SPARK! Journey, On the Journey in Kiribati, The Philippines



A three-day consultation meeting in Kiribati was held to craft the community advocacy toolkit "SPARK! CHANGE: On the journey in Kiribati".



IGNITE EMPOWERMENT GRANTS

Youth Voices Count (YVC) is committed to supporting LGBTIQ youth-led initiatives in the region. Following the same vision of its IGNITE! Mentorship Programme in 2015, the youth empowerment grants support youth-led projects that tackle LGBTIQ issues in countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. In April 2020, YVC announced the five grantees of the first round of IGNITE! Empowerment Grants: Inclusive Bangladesh (Bangladesh), Equite (Sri Lanka), Ya_All (India), UniGen (Vietnam), and Bahaghari LGBT Center (Philippines). In November 2020, the second round of the IGNITE Empowerment Grants was launched. It was supported by COC Netherlands and Open Society Foundation. The second round of grantees of the IGNITE Empowerment Grants included Queer Youth Group (Nepal), Inter-University LGBT Network & Young Out Here (Singapore), The Queer Muslim Project (India), MYRainbow & Queer Asian Project (Malaysia), and YKP PNG & KP Advocacy Consortium (Papua New Guinea).⁴

COVID-19 RESPONSES

Since March 2020, YVC has engaged in several COVID-19 responses along with its members and partners. This has allowed YVC to support its members from various countries by providing immediate and community-led responses and relief support. Relief packs were distributed in four cities in the Philippines through the leadership of the Board of Trustees of YVC based in the Philippines. The relief packs contained food and other basic necessities. Support to online counselling services was also provided by YVC with a minimal financial support amounting to around 350 USD. It was given to Lunas Collective, a feminist chat service based in the Philippines primarily to support survivors of domestic abuse and to also provide

⁴ Youth Voices Count, *YVC Announces the 2nd Round IGNITE! Empowerment grants recipients, 8 November 2020*, <https://yvc-asiapacific.org/2020/11/08/yvc-announces-the-2nd-round-ignite-empowerment-grants-recipients/>

information on sexual and reproductive health. Three online webinars and dialogues were also organized by YVC along with some of its regional and global partners. A regional survey was launched to gather information on the well-being of LGBTIQ adolescents and youth during COVID-19, securing 543 responses from across East Asia and Southeast Asia. A regional discussion paper was developed with the findings and launched afterwards.⁵

QUEERXBODIES SERIES

QueerxBodies is an interview series, funded by UNAIDS from October to December 2020, that celebrates queer activists and influencers in the Asia-Pacific region. It emphasized on the intersection between being queer and other lived experiences, such as race, religion, HIV status, neurodiversity, disability, indigenous cultures, and more. This initiative explored the diverse and underrepresented queer experiences. It aimed to demonstrate that there is no blanket LGBTIQ narrative (contrary to the skewed lens of mainstream media) and that all stories are nuanced yet valid in their own right. In total, the project produced 5 video interviews published on the YVC YouTube channel, and 5 feature articles published on the YVC website.⁶

⁵ Acaba, Jeffry & Bionat, Justin Francis, (2020), "*#CopingWithCOVID: The Well-Being of LGBTIQ Adolescents and Youth during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia and the Pacific*", Youth Voices Count, Inc., June 2020.

⁶ Youth Voices Count, QUEERxBodies, https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNUK7_fH3T9nGute2L4vScFeiiQXy0z-W

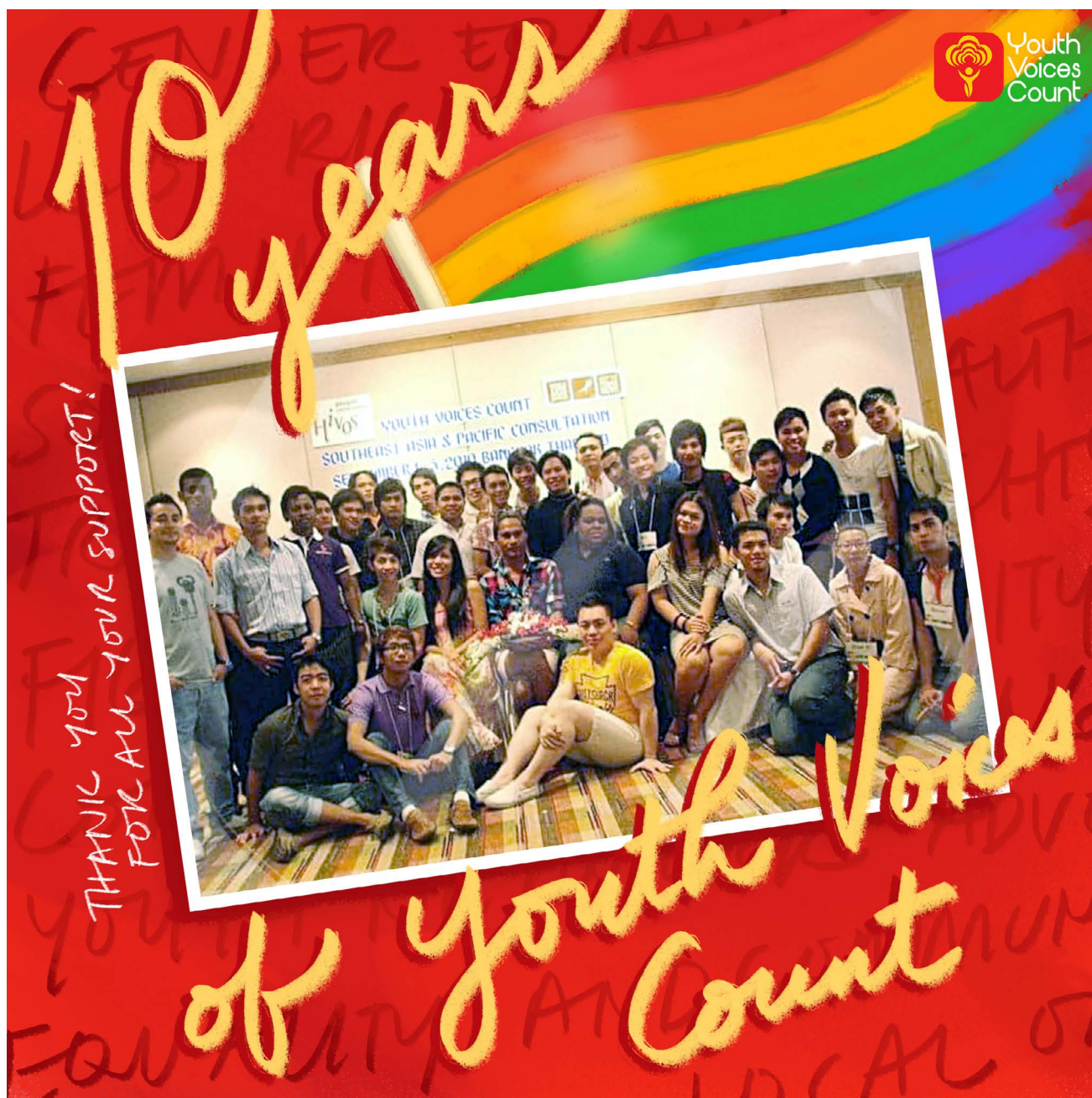
Developing the Strategic Plan

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the strategic plan's development process for Youth Voices Count (YVC). While the consultation plan included online surveys for collecting input from the region's vast number of YVC members, it had to cancel all face-to-face meetings. The organization understood the difficulties of conducting large-scale online sessions, so they decided to hold meetings in smaller groups. Overall, YVC organized five Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) for different sub-regions, including South Asia, South East Asia, the Mekong region, and the Pacific. They also conducted fifteen Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). A total of fifty-five responses were gathered from the online survey.

There were three ways to gather input: an online survey conducted among YVC members and key stakeholders, nine FGDs with YVC members from different sub-regions, and KIIs with YVC key stakeholders.

The information gathered was used to identify core values, programmatic pillars, focus areas, vision, and mission. With this information, the YVC governance board and the secretariat focused on defining key terminologies, ethical and legal concerns of using various terms, defining YVC target audience, and other related matters.





In celebration of a decade of advocacy work, this strategic plan, “To Greater Heights”, is a continuation of Youth Voices Count’s focus to realize equality, equity, and justice for young LGBTIQ people across the Asia-Pacific.

Background

The youth makes up about 19% of the Asia-Pacific region's total population. Over 60% of the world's youth live in the Asia-Pacific region. This consists of over 750 million young women and men from the ages of 15 to 24 years.¹ Young people in the region in all their diversity are challenged in many ways. Because of that, they are unable to reach the full potential of their lives.

Evidence on the realities of young people from diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, expressions and sex characteristics is limited. Majority of the countries in the region criminalize in full or partially the LGBTIQ identities, sexual behaviors and unions. Many of these countries do not have laws and policies that protect LGBTIQ people from stigma, discrimination and violence perpetrated based on or as a result of their SOGIESC. Currently, there are 72 countries and states in the world that criminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults. Of the 72, there are eight that administer the death penalty. Meanwhile, there are only 24 countries that allow same-sex couples to marry.²

Stigma and discrimination can negatively impact the rights of LGBTIQ youth, such as their fundamental right to live free from violence and discrimination. Bullying can lead to an increased likelihood of avoiding school and of low personal and academic self-esteem. These obstacles can also limit future employment options for LGBTIQ people. In some contexts, the challenges of identifying as LGBTIQ can lead to an increased risk of homelessness or an increased likelihood of entering sex work as a means of survival. LGBTIQ youth are at higher risk of threats and verbal, physical, and sexual abuse. They may be unable to secure help and support from those assigned to protect the community.³

1 UNESCAP, *Regional Overview: Youth in Asia and the Pacific*, <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-regional-escap.pdf>

2 UNDP (2015). *Report of the Regional Dialogue on LGBTI Human Rights and Health in Asia-Pacific*. Bangkok.

3 Plan International, *LGBTIQ+ Inclusion*, <https://plan-international.org/sexual-health/lgbtiq-inclusion>

Young LGBTIQ people also are at a significant disadvantage in accessing available sexual and reproductive health services, compared to other young people. There are often extra challenges in accessing sexual health services due to discrimination or lack of expertise among service providers. In the Asia-Pacific region, HIV epidemics are concentrated within the Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) and transgender communities, and the younger counterparts of these communities are more vulnerable. Ninety-five percent of all new infections among young people occur among the most at-risk adolescent populations. According to UNAIDS Data Hub, there were around 610,000 young people (between 15 and 24 years old) that are living with HIV in the Asia-Pacific region.⁴ LGBTIQ youth are significantly more likely to report depression and suicidality compared to their heterosexual cisgender peers.⁵

Despite various advancements, a rise in conservatism and extremism looms over the world, endangering the liberties that humankind achieved.⁶ Marginalized communities, such as those belonging to LGBTIQ community, run the grave risk of being at the forefront of the brutality of conservatism and extremism. As such, the role of civil society and community networks, organizations and groups led by and working with communities most marginalized and vulnerable is more critical than ever.

This strategic plan, “To Greater Heights”, is a continuation of Youth Voices Count’s focus to realize equality, equity, and justice for young LGBTIQ people across the Asia-Pacific. It aims to achieve this by enhancing advocacy through capacity building; strengthening partnerships by actively seeking and maintaining collaborations, and; fortifying solidarity by working towards common goals to address injustices against LGBTIQ people and their communities. This plan of action will be implemented from 2021 to 2025.

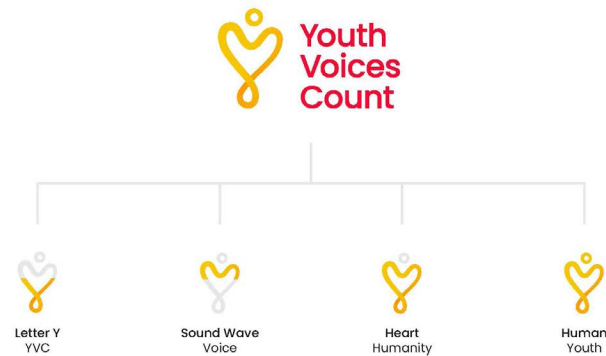
⁴ <https://www.aidsdatahub.org/sites/default/files/resource/call-action-hiv-responses-young-msm-young-transgender-2015.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/2020/05/13/research-brief-asian-pacific-islander-lgbtq-youth-mental-health/>

⁶ UNDP (2016), Preventing violent extremism through promoting inclusive development, tolerance and respect for diversity, Bangkok.

Logo

The Brandmark



FROM THE BRAND GUIDE "Think of YVC as your sibling who's got your back. Passionate and always looking out for you — unapologetic in their principles in life and unwavering in their support for who you are. YVC is the kind of person who makes time to ask you how you've been, how they can help, and then actually do it. They also encourage you to stand up for yourself by educating you on your rights and more, and then be on your side as you take on the world."



A Regional Network For
Adolescent and Young LGBTIQ
in Asia-Pacific




Vision & Mission

VISION Youth Voices Count envisions a world in which young people of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) lead safe, free, fulfilled, and enriched lives with equal and equitable opportunities to achieve their full potential as whole human persons.

Mission

MISSION Youth Voices Count is a regional network in the Asia-Pacific region mobilizing, building capacity, and empowering young people of diverse SOGIESC in the region to advocate for equality and equity through a human rights-based approach to economic, social, cultural, health, and educational justice.



Core Principles

In 2017, Youth Voices Count (YVC) embarked on a new journey to establish and expand as the first and only network of young LGBTIQ people in Asia-Pacific region. The core values that YVC identified in 2017 ensured its internal growth and inward-looking attitude. These values were: Youth-Led; Safety and Confidentiality; Innovation and Creativity; Sharing and Collaboration; and Transparency and Accountability. As YVC heads into a new expedition to expand its role in the region, a new set of outward-looking core values will facilitate the growth of the organization.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

YVC believes that solidarity between key actors is the key to achieving its mission. These key actors include communities, civil society, human rights movements, opinion leaders, and other young LGBTIQ people as changemakers. YVC will ensure that Global Solidarity will remain a cross-cutting priority of all YVC programs by ensuring that YVC projects and initiatives reflect and incorporate common goals of global human rights and youth-led movements.

INTERSECTIONAL

In order to achieve the YVC mission to positively influence all aspects of the lives of young LGBTIQ people, all YVC interventions need to be intersectional. Young LGBTIQ people are complex human beings composed of various identities, expressions, and needs. To make the most sustainable and positive influence in their lives, YVC will ensure that its projects and interventions consider these complex realities and design its interventions to address cross-cutting issues.



INTERGENERATIONAL

It is crucial to YVC's mission that there is an intergenerational approach that brings together different generations to create synergies and collaborations. Young people must have proper space and recognition to participate. However, a siloed participation that does not engage other actors, including those from different age categories, schools of thought, movements, and principles, may not result in positive outcomes. To protect all actors, YVC will guide its work towards creating intergenerational synergies and solidarity.

SOUTH-TO-SOUTH

YVC will recognize the power of south-to-south approaches focused on enhancing and utilizing local expertise, experiences, and wisdom. It will continue to prioritize south-to-south learning, experience, and sharing of expertise. These can help recognize the expansive proficiencies of regions, localities, and communities. To put this into action, YVC will harness the expertise of its members to design and implement interventions. It will also continue to facilitate cross-learning platforms for its members.

Focus Areas

- **LGBTIQ YOUTH-FRIENDLY
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH SERVICES**
 - **MENTAL HEALTH AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING**
 - **EQUAL AND EQUITABLE
ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT**
 - **NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND
GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO
YOUNG PEOPLE**
 - **A SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL
NETWORK**
- 

LGBTIQ YOUTH-FRIENDLY SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Young people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions and sex characteristics face a myriad of challenges in accessing available sexual and reproductive health services in their localities, particularly HIV and STI related health services. Age-related barriers and discrimination, age of consent laws and policies, and gender-based discrimination and violence prevent these young people from accessing these services. Youth Voices Count (YVC) believes that sexual and reproductive health and rights constitute a core part of the lives of young people and that without the fulfillment of SRHR needs in an age appropriate manner, young people are deprived of achieving the full potential of their lives, as well as mental and physical well-being.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING

Mental health and psychological well-being is another core part of the lives of young people. Oftentimes, young people of diverse SOGIESC do not access much needed mental health and psychological support. This is due to a lack of SOGIESC-sensitive services, lack of awareness, financial and geographical limitations. Mental health is disproportionately stigmatized in Asia-Pacific along with those who seek mental health support, consequently discouraging access to mental health services. LGBTIQ youth across the world have become victims of such stigmatization of mental health. Mental health is a prerequisite for achieving the full potential of the lives of young people.

EQUAL AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Young people from diverse SOGIESC backgrounds are denied education and employment justice due to stigma, discrimination, criminalization, and family disownment, among other reasons. Young LGBTIQ people are largely under-educated, unemployed, informally employed and lack basic employment securities. In many Asia-Pacific countries, no mechanisms are available to challenge injustices faced by LGBTIQ people in accessing equal and equitable opportunities to education and employment and undermines the overall contribution of LGBTIQ communities to economic growth and social development.

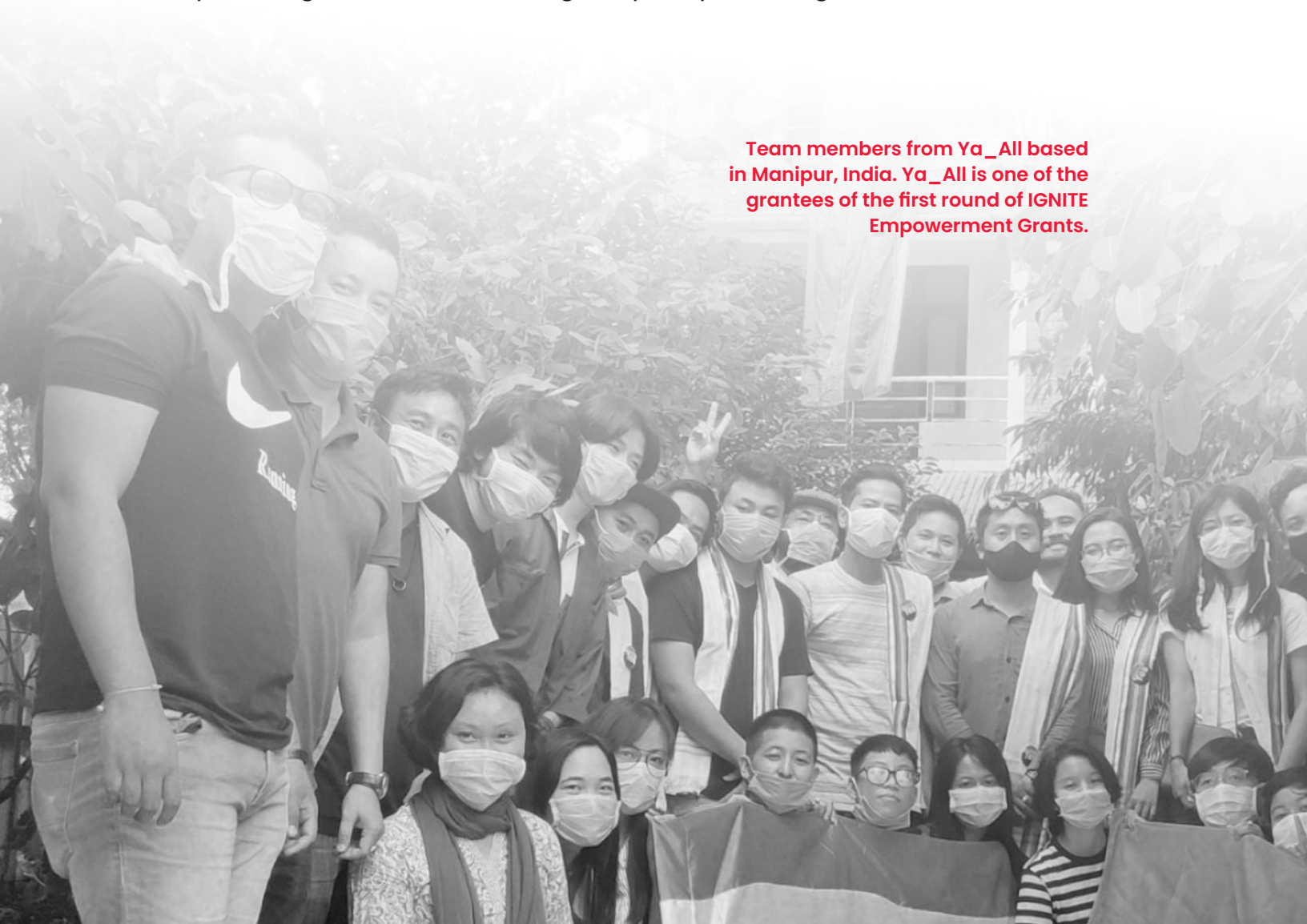
NATIONAL, REGIONAL, & GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Regional, national, global governmental, intergovernmental and civil society bodies have made commitments to protect LGBTIQ youth and their access to equal and equitable opportunities for growth. This includes the areas of health, education, human rights, economy, climate change, climate justice, and participation. It is crucial to ensure that the duty bearers of these regional-level, national-level, and international-level commitments are held accountable.

A SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL NETWORK

Strength and sustainability of YVC is contingent on the strength and sustainability of its relationship with members and mobilizing process. A south-to-south, intergenerational and intersectional approach must be adopted to strengthen YVC's membership network and membership mobilizing and engagement processes. A key component of improving YVC's strength and sustainability is empowering the organization as a network. This includes empowering its members through capacity-building.

Team members from Ya_All based in Manipur, India. Ya_All is one of the grantees of the first round of IGNITE Empowerment Grants.



Programmatic Pillars

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights are challenged worldwide due to vulnerable and marginalized communities becoming victims of gross human rights violations. These include members of minority sexual orientations, gender identities, expressions, and sex characteristics. Protection and promotion of Human Rights of young LGBTIQ people will remain a programmatic pillar of Youth Voices Count (YVC). This means recognizing the role of Human Rights in defining YVC's scope historically, currently, and in the future. Human Rights will remain a core element of the work of YVC, with attention to SOGIESC rights, gender equality, and gender justice.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health and well-being, as defined by the World Health Organization, is a status in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community. Health is a core programmatic pillar of YVC, with specific attention given to sexual and reproductive health and mental health. Interventions influenced by this programmatic pillar will aspire to transcend sexual and reproductive health and mental health. This ensures that young LGBTIQ people are considered holistic human beings whose wellbeing is paramount to their optimal contribution to the community.

EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

All of YVC interventions will be guided by the programmatic pillar of empowerment and development. As a network of LGBTIQ youth, the YVC will implement programs that aim to empower and develop their lives and rights. Doing so will ensure that each person achieves their full potential as individuals and as part of a community. While this remains a larger-than-life goal, YVC believes that aspiring to a higher-than-self aim could help meet the essential needs of LGBTIQ youth.

Definition of Young People

Youth Voices Count recognizes that young people are defined diversely across the region. YVC believes that by providing an age range, it will significantly compromise its mandate to serve young people in all their diversity. While YVC aims to cater to young people from the age of 15 years and above, the organization will work with its partners, including donors and implementers, to recognize appropriate age categories in different local contexts.





YOUTH VOICES COUNT

Strategic Framework

2021-2025

As a regional network of youth from diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions, and sex characteristics, Youth Voices Count (YVC) believes that the ability to address the concerns, issues, and challenges of its constituents through an intersectional lens is the key to success. YVC will use the UNAIDS three-lens approach for engagement and participation of young people: as leaders, as partners, and as beneficiaries. YVC believes that this approach will uphold the ideal of “nothing for us without us” and ensure that “no one is left behind”.

YVC will continue to focus on “well-being” as an overall standard in all programs and strategies. “Well-being” refers to a positive rather than neutral state. It frames health as a positive aspiration. It is consistent with the biopsychosocial model of health, which considers physiological, psychological and social factors in health and illness.

Contextual realities, such as post pandemics, climate change, climate justice, and ecological sustainability will influence and contribute to evolving YVC strategies, programs, and activities. YVC acknowledges that young people live complex lives, which require complex solutions and interventions identified through a participatory and intersectional approach.

Strategic Framework

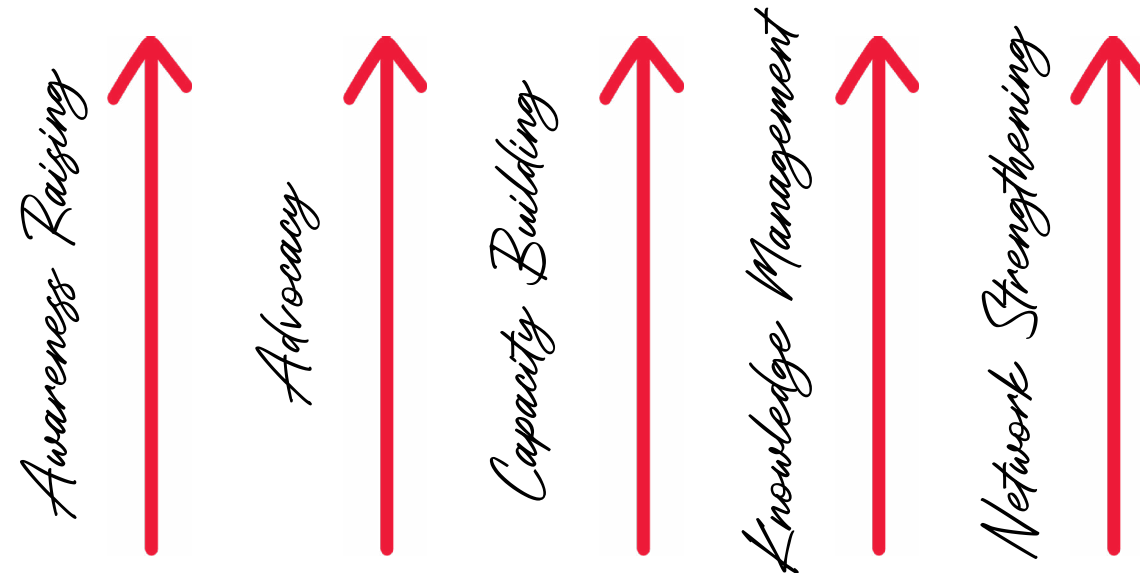
2021-2025

FOCUS AREAS

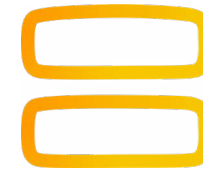
- LGBTIQ youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services
- Mental health and psychological well-being
- Equal and equitable access to education and employment
- National, regional, and global commitments to young people
- A sustainable regional network

VISION Youth Voices Count envisions a world in which young people of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) lead safe, free, fulfilled, and enriched lives with equal and equitable opportunities to achieve their full potential as whole human persons.

MISSION Youth Voices Count is a regional network in the Asia-Pacific region mobilizing, building capacity, and empowering young people of diverse SOGIESC in the region to advocate for equality and equity through a human rights-based approach to economic, social, cultural, health, and educational justice.



PILLAR
Human Rights



PILLAR
Empowerment and Development



PILLAR
Health and Well-being

Strategic Approaches

AWARENESS RAISING

Youth Voices Count (YVC) will use awareness raising within and beyond the young LGBTIQ community as a strategic approach in designing its interventions. YVC recognizes that in many contexts, awareness-raising and advocacy go hand-in-hand. However, YVC also recognizes that raising awareness, on its own, is a crucial element in mobilizing, influencing positively, building solidarity, and empowering young LGBTIQ communities. The interventions under this strategic approach will include initiatives that aim to raise awareness on SOGIESC, human rights, mental health needs, and other concerns among young LGBTIQ communities and the general audience.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy will be used to design YVC interventions with stakeholders at the regional and global levels to achieve the organizational mission. YVC acknowledges that external interventions that influence legal and policy changes may be illegal in different countries. As such, YVC will remain a supporter of country-level advocacy initiatives which will be led by YVC country partners exclusively.

CAPACITY BUILDING

YVC will utilize capacity-building as a strategic approach for mobilizing, and empowering young LGBTIQ people. YVC will focus on strengthening the capacity of its members to mobilize LGBTIQ youth, other supportive communities, and actors to protect and promote the human rights of LGBTIQ people in local contexts through different approaches. YVC will also use its interventions to empower young people by providing knowledge, skills, networking and partnerships. Evolving capacity-building and recognizing the development factors of young LGBTIQ people accompanied by mentorship approaches will be used to design YVC interventions.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Data and information gathering and strategic information development is a core feature in all YVC activities. It will help foster south-to-south experience and expertise sharing. The YVC recognizes this strategic approach as a core element of advocacy. YVC will include data generation, analysis, and strategic information development into its programs, projects, and initiatives. It will also proactively seek to make such information available in multiple languages in the region to facilitate greater access.

NETWORK STRENGTHENING

As a strategic approach, YVC will continue to use network strengthening in designing its interventions. YVC believes the sustainability of its vision depends on the sustainability of YVC as a relevant, context-related, and adaptable regional network. YVC will put this into action by strengthening its member base and governance and proactively establish better presence in different regional and international platforms and working committees.



Objectives

2021-2025

OBJECTIVE 01

Strengthen YVC and its members' capacity to advocate for LGBTIQ friendly and SOGIESC sensitive sexual and reproductive health services for young LGBTIQ people.



OBJECTIVE 02

Expand YVC's role in advocating for mental health and psychological well-being among young LGBTIQ people in Asia-Pacific.



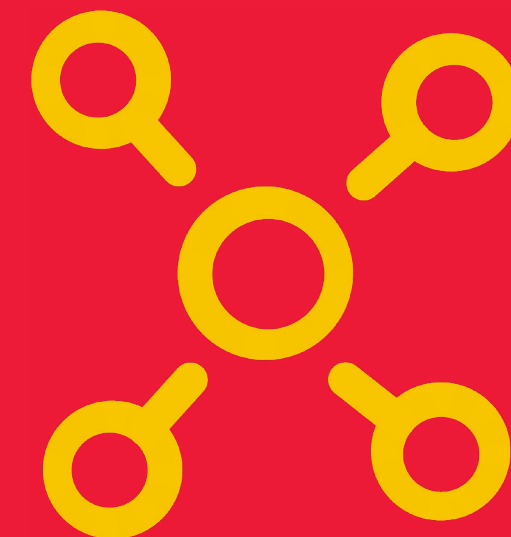
OBJECTIVE 03

Establish YVC's role in advocating for education and employment justice for young LGBTIQ people.



OBJECTIVE 04

Increase the capacity of both YVC and its members in engaging and monitoring national, regional, and global commitments made to young people.



OBJECTIVE 05

Strengthen YVC as the first and only network of young LGBTIQ people in Asia-Pacific to ensure its sustainability, effectiveness, and relevance.



Programmatic Objectives

RESULT AREAS

OBJECTIVE 01 STRENGTHEN YVC AND ITS MEMBERS' CAPACITY TO ADVOCATE FOR LGBTIQ FRIENDLY AND SOGIESC SENSITIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG LGBTIQ PEOPLE

- Strengthen YVC presence and engagement with national, regional, and global platforms, networks, and organizations working towards improving sexual and reproductive health and rights for vulnerable communities
- Design and implement tools to assess LGBTIQ and SOGIESC sensitivity of current sexual and reproductive health programs and country-level interventions
- Strengthen YVC communications through national and regional campaigns on the importance of LGBTIQ and SOGIESC sensitive sexual and reproductive health and rights programs and interventions for vulnerable communities
- Conduct researches and surveys to gather strategic information on LGTIQ and SOGIESC sensitive sexual and reproductive health and rights for vulnerable communities for advocacy at the national, regional, and global level



OBJECTIVE 02 EXPAND THE ROLE OF YVC IN ADVOCATING FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF YOUNG LGBTIQ PEOPLE IN ASIA-PACIFIC

- Improve YVC communications on mental health and psychological well-being among young LGBTIQ communities through campaigns
- Strengthen YVC partnerships and collaborations with national, regional, and global organizations working on mental health
- Conduct researches and surveys to gather strategic information on the mental health situation of young LGBTIQ people in Asia-Pacific

OBJECTIVE 03 ESTABLISH THE ROLE OF YVC IN ADVOCATING FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT JUSTICE FOR YOUNG LGBTIQ PEOPLE

- Explore and establish relevant partnerships with national, regional, and global bodies working on access to education and employment issues for vulnerable communities
- Establish a pool of ambassadors or celebrity focal points to raise awareness on education and employment justice for young LGBTIQ people
- Conduct researches and surveys to gather strategic information on issues related to education and employment justice for young LGBTIQ people
- Support national, regional, and global policy advocacy on education and employment justice for vulnerable communities

OBJECTIVE 04 INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF BOTH YVC AND ITS MEMBERS IN ENGAGING AND MONITORING NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL COMMITMENTS MADE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

- Strengthen YVC partnerships with national, regional, and global bodies monitoring human rights commitments
- Increase YVC presence in national, regional, and global civil society working committees, advisory panels and bodies that monitor human rights commitments
- Conduct researches and surveys to gather strategic information on the progress of commitments made to young people across the meeting
- Support YVC members to monitor national commitments made to young people through capacity building and channeling of resources

OBJECTIVE 05 STRENGTHEN YVC AS THE FIRST AND ONLY NETWORK OF YOUNG LGBTIQ PEOPLE IN ASIA-PACIFIC TO ENSURE ITS SUSTAINABILITY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND RELEVANCE

- Improve YVC governance, financial management, and internal communication systems
- Strengthen YVC membership systems like mobilization and recruitment, and improve communication and coordination among YVC members
- Develop YVC secretariat and Core Working Group capacity in program designing, strategy development, project implementation, finance management, partnership building, and monitoring and evaluation
- Intensify YVC resource mobilization strategies to ensure the financial sustainability of the network



Artwork by Abigail Amon



A Regional Network for
LGBTIQ youth in Asia-Pacific