



READY SUMMIT REPORT

**YOUNG PEOPLE UNITE: ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES,
ENDING AIDS**

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	3
Acknowledgement	4
1. Background and Context of the READY Summit	5
Introduction to the READY Summit	5
Objectives of the READY Summit	5
READY Summit Format	5
READY Summit Participants Profile	5
2. Overview of Sessions and Discussions	6
Session 1: Bringing us together	6
Session 2: Young People Unite	6
Session 3: Looking back at Global Events Pre 2022 Regional Statement	7
Session 4: Thinking Ahead for AIDS 2024	8
Session 5: Failing to reach equality	8
Session 6: Handing over leadership to a new generation of leaders	9
<i>Figure 1: Fireside Chat</i>	11
Session 7: Skills Building – Advocacy	12
<i>Figure 2: Skills Building Session</i>	12
Session 8: Skills Building – Digital Health and Rights	12
Session 9: Skills Building – Youth Leadership and Engagement	13
Session 10: Skills Building – Climate Change and SRHR	13
Session 11: Role of Young People across the HIV Care Cascade (95-95-95)	14
<i>Figure 3: Group Work</i>	14
Session 12: Criminalisation, Stigma and Discrimination	15
Session 13: Youth Led Accountability	15
Session 14: Moment of Truth	15
3. Evaluation of the Summit	16
<i>Figure 4: How participants felt about the Summit</i>	16
<i>Figure 5: What to improve for the future</i>	17
<i>Figure 6: Overall Feedback</i>	17
4. Recommendations to the READY Summit	18
Actions and commitments	18
5. Key Considerations for Future READY Summits	19
6. Annexes	20

Abbreviations

CATS	Community Adolescent Treatment Supporters
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
ESA	East and Southern Africa
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAS	International AIDS Society
ICASA	International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer/Questioning & others
PEPFAR	U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
READY	Resilient Empowered Adolescents and Young People
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
UHC LM	Universal Health Coverage
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
WHO	World Health Organisation
YKP	Young Key Populations
YPLHIV	Young People Living with HIV

Acknowledgement

The organisers of the READY Summit 2023 would like to acknowledge the support of the following partners and stakeholders for making this inaugural summit at ICASA a success. These include ViiV Healthcare, REPSSI, PATA, ADPP, CANGO, Frontline AIDS, Y+ Global, UNDP, Zvandiri, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, GNP+, Robert Carr Fund, Speak Up Africa, Men Engage, Vibrant Young Voices, SAT, National Aids Council, PACT, SAfAIDS, Love Alliance, Her Voice Fund, Youth Care and Voice Essentielles.

Special appreciation is also extended to the Summit moderators, panellists, and support staff who worked behind the scenes to ensure the Summit's success. Last but not least, the organisers would like to thank ALL the young people, in their diversity, for attending the inaugural READY Summit 2023 in large numbers and making the READY Movement stronger going forward.

We look forward to seeing you at the next READY Summit!

Partners and Supporters



Acknowledgements



1. Background and Context of the READY Summit

Introduction to the READY Summit

HIV remains a global health challenge that disproportionately affects young people, particularly those who face multiple forms of discrimination and inequality. The African Region remains most severely affected, with nearly 1 in every 25 adults (3.2%) living with HIV, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Meanwhile, UNAIDS report Let Communities Lead, adolescents and young people aged 15 to 24 in the East and Southern Africa (ESA) region accounted for 34.3% of all new infections. In response to this, the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV and Frontline AIDS, with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, convened the inaugural Resilient Empowered Adolescents and Young People (READY) Summit. This one-day event convened young people living with HIV, adolescent girls and young women, young key populations, including LGBTIQ+, sex workers, young people who use drugs, and young people with disabilities. The summit also provided a platform for these diverse groups to unite, share experiences, and work together towards ending AIDS while addressing the underlying inequalities that fuel the epidemic.

Objectives of the READY Summit

The Summit objectives included;

- Raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by young people living with HIV, adolescent girls and young women, young people who identify as LGBTIQ+, young sex workers, young people who use drugs, and young people with disabilities in the context of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV.
- Promote cross-sectoral collaboration and knowledge exchange among different marginalised youth groups to develop innovative solutions to improve access to SRHR services and end AIDS.
- Encourage a sense of unity and solidarity among young people in the fight against HIV and social inequalities.
- Mobilise commitments and resources from stakeholders to support initiatives that address HIV and inequality among youth.

READY Summit Format

The one-day summit was participatory and consisted of keynote addresses and intergenerational dialogues, followed by in-depth panels exploring inequalities in the youth movement and planning for future events. The summit also included interactive skills-building workshops on advocacy, digital health, leadership, and climate change in the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV. Further to this, the Summit also had breakout sessions that focused on issues such as youth involvement in HIV care, tackling stigma and discrimination, accountability, and power dynamics within the youth movement. The day wrapped up with a plenary session that was forward-looking and closing remarks, emphasising the importance of uniting and taking action against inequalities to end AIDS – with a focus on young people in their diversity. The Summit was moderated by Selma Ndasilohenda (Namibia) and Tinashe Rufurwadzo (Zimbabwe).

READY Summit Participants Profile

The READY Summit was convened before the 22nd edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) from 4th to 9th December 2023, which was hosted in Zimbabwe. Participants for this summit included local, regional, and international delegates that included young people in their diversity, media stakeholders, local social media influencers, representatives from youth-focused NGOs, healthcare professionals, policymakers and government officials, and funders, among other stakeholders. Their titles and roles are attached as part of this report as part of the participants list. Please refer to Annex 2 for the full participant list.

2. Overview of Sessions and Discussions

The READY Summit consisted of a variety of sessions that were held interactively, with participants invited to share their ideas to help contextualise the learnings to their own experiences. Some of the interactive components of the sessions involved working with participants to look back and review progress in the READY movement since the AIDS 2022 Conference and looking forward to the AIDS 2024 Conference. Further to this, the Summit had a number of skills-building and breakout sessions focusing on various themes of interest to young people in their diversity. Facilitators and presenters for the various sessions were drawn from stakeholders of the READY Movement, including Y+ Global, Frontline AIDS, Y+ Malawi,

the PACT, UNDP, GNP+, UNFPA, ARASA, and Zvandiri, among others. Please see Annex 1 for a complete list of the partners and supporters of the Summit.



“My key highlight for attending the READY+ Summit 2023 was the fact that we as young people passionately expressed our perspectives on destigmatising HIV, and also our integration in policy-making decisions.”

READY Summit Delegate

Session 1: Bringing us together – setting the tone for the Summit theme and objectives (Itumeleng Komanyane and Lisungu Harawa)

Discussion Points

- READY was designed to unite the different movements of young people living with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa [and the world], and it has done that, given the presence of different groups of young people across the world at the Summit
- The idea of the READY summit was to bring Young People (YP) together, hold each other accountable, and develop a blueprint for YP in Africa and beyond
- READY has been transformative, a journey of self-discovery and an example of what can be achieved if young people have solidarity
- READY has been a great tool towards achieving accountability for the different donors and governments through a collaborative approach

Session 2: Young People Unite – keynote address (Paul Ndlovu)

Discussion Points

- HIV affects young people in all their diversity. The latest UNAIDS data (2023) shows higher rates of new HIV infections among the youth, and this requires all stakeholders to unite and put resources and act towards one goal of ending AIDS by 2030.
- Engagements at different levels (national, regional, and global) in meetings, dialogues, workshops, and conferences
- Young people are not statistics or numbers; therefore, tokenism and exploitation need to be challenged.
- The environment has continued to be criminalised for young people, especially those from the LGBTIQ community
- READY aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, and 5.
- There is a need to recognise the agency and capacity of young people as equal stakeholders in all engagements
- Adults need to interact in youth spaces as well rather than young people being the only ones to participate in adult people space.

Session 3: Looking back at Global Events Pre 2022 Regional Statement – Review of the regional consultation outcome document (Joyce Ouma)

Discussion Points

- The aim of the consultations pre-2022 was to reach as many youth advocates as possible, serve as a platform for all young people in their diversity to voice concerns and promote the utilisation of digital technology to reach decision-makers.
- The consultations with different stakeholders for young people pre-2022 focused on five different areas;
 - Access to SRHR services
 - Legal barriers removed
 - Communities uphold the rights with a focus on stigma and discrimination
 - Young people support
 - Migrant communities and cross-border young people
- Since the pre-2022 consultations, there has been a lot of advocacy and engagement in regional and global spaces for and by young people in their diversity.
- There was a crisis for AIDS 2022 when HIV activists were denied visas to attend the conference, but this changed after some global-level advocacy pressure for this to be reversed.
- Some of the key achievements since the 2022 consultations include;
 - Engagement of YP in the key influential platforms at the country level, e.g. PEPFAR
 - Engagement of YP in advocacy process during key days, e.g. Women Deliver and UHC LM
 - Training YP in the READY to Advocate and the READY Academy
 - Launched the “We Matter Value Us” guidelines
 - Developed and disseminated the READY to Evolve Strategy
- Government commitment to funding is still lagging behind
- While there has been an acknowledgement of the work done by different stakeholders since 2022, it was agreed that young people have made very little progress towards improving access to quality SRHR services in their diversity.
- It was noted that legal barriers and criminalisation have remained a challenge for young people living with HIV in their diversity because of the lack of legal reforms.
- For sustainability, the domestic HIV response needs to be funded by local financial resources.
- More resources are needed to fund the HIV response at the national, regional, and global levels as a way forward.



“My key highlights at the READY summit include the review of outcomes for AIDS 2022. I feel like spaces for YPLHIV to review commitments made at big conferences are a challenge for young people. The READY SUMMIT created a space for discussions on the advocacy areas for the AIDS 2024 conference.” [READY Summit Delegate.](#)

Session 4: Thinking Ahead for AIDS 2024 – interactive plenary session collecting recommendations for future high-priority events for young people in their diversity (Chengetai Dziwa and Maxwell Katekwe)

Discussion Points

- Young people in their diversity need to prepare for the upcoming AIDS Conference in 2024
- 5 advocacy areas which were discussed and reviewed for adoption by the Summit delegates going forward include:
 - Access to ARVs
 - Advancing gender equality through meaningful engagement
 - Countering the Anti-Gender Movement
 - Youth Leadership
 - Economic empowerment
- Going forward, young people are demanding HIV responses that are appropriate, that influence change in policies and learn from what we are doing, including sensitivity to the language that people use.
- Young people have power, but it's incumbent upon them to use this power to their advantage. One way to do this is to set an agenda for engagement and participation in various programmes and activities at different levels.
- Young people need to fight tokenism to ensure meaningful youth involvement in interventions and programmes addressing their challenges and needs.
- Donor engagement needs to focus on meaningful and ethical engagement
- For one reason or another, there are still some SRH services that are not youth-friendly; hence, there is a need to develop new diagnostics that are youth-friendly, e.g. cervical cancer treatment
- Advances in HIV diagnostics that improve ART Adherence need to be shared with young people and adopted by organisations and/or governments at the country level.
- We need to adopt the term 'long-acting technologies' rather than ARVs. There is more diversity in terms of technologies available for young people.
- Strengthening young people's capacity to participate in high-level platforms such as the Global Fund at national and global levels is necessary.
- In terms of gender equality, there is little mention of LGBTI in initiatives and interventions for young people at national levels, and this leads to the exclusion of this group of young people.
- Young people asked the stakeholders about the need for a guidance document on how to engage young people in the HIV response.

Session 5: Failing to reach equality – where is the gap? Panel Discussion on intersecting voices on inequalities in the young movement

Discussion Points

What are the challenges of accessing SRHR + HIV Services?

- For young people, in all their diversity, criminalisation, stigma, and discrimination are affecting their access to SRHR and HIV services. Some of the stigma and discrimination are still at the community levels, where the influence of gatekeepers such as religious and community leaders is strong. Transgender youth are treated as potential vectors (spreaders) of the disease and have limited rights for recourse or to demand accountability from society and/or their peers.
- Access to the SRH commodities for young people is limited, and the strategy for distribution can sometimes be exclusive or discriminatory, for example, towards the transgender community of restrictions such as the age of consent.
- There is a general lack of inclusive services for trans people and sex workers.
- In 2023, healthcare workers still have limited access to training in offering youth-friendly services to young people in their diversity (e.g. confidentiality and ART)

- There is a general lack of involvement of young people in decision-making at all levels (national, regional and global)
- Young people with disabilities are often excluded from programming or at least the designing of programmes, as shown by the lack of braille material in advocacy and engagement materials currently used by most organisations working with and for young people.

What suggestions do you have for solving the issues? What do you hope to see after the conference?

- There is a need for more advocacy for increased access to and demand of SRHR/HIV services for all young people in their diversity, such as the LGBTI community and sex workers.
- There is a need for capacity strengthening for young people, HRDs and organisations that represent their needs in the HIV response.
- HIV spaces need to be open for all young people in their diversity.
- We need to continue distributing information on SRHR and HIV services through both mass and targeted channels.
- There is a need to support peer-led organisations in SRHR work.
- There is a need for differentiated service delivery models for HIV interventions to cater for young people in their diversity and variety of contexts.
- SRHR and HIV services at national levels can be more available if young people can advocate for their governments to focus on sustainable health financing by matching the Abuja protocol budget thresholds.
- Young people and those who support their cause need to appreciate how the anti-gender and anti-rights movements have impacted their work and, to some extent, reversed gains made over the years in the HIV response and SRHR advocacy work.
- Young people need to gather and use data for advocacy (evidence-based engagements).
- AIDS 2023 theme is counterproductive because communities have been leading in the HIV response since time immemorial.
- Strengthening models such as community-led monitoring (CLM) is necessary. However, the issue of who owns the data needs to be addressed. It is not clear who owns the data between the community, CBOs, government, and donors such as USAID.
- Young people and associated stakeholders must focus on the root of all challenges they face, especially at the community level, because that could be the missing link in all initiatives.
- Young people and their allies need to collaborate more and have one voice when it comes to key advocacy asks, such as lack of access to quality HIV and SRHR services.
- AGYW need to be empowered economically for interventions to be effective.
- There is a need to decentralise forums such as the READY Summit so that other young people who cannot travel to conferences, such as ICASA, can participate in the deliberations.

Session 6: Handing over leadership to a new generation of leaders in the HIV and SRHR movement (Lois Chingandu [Frontline AIDS], Maximina Jokonya [Y+ Global], Patrick Onyango [REPSSI] and Luckmore Pamhidzai [YPNSRHHA & AFRIYAN])

Discussion Points

- This session was designed to give young people attending the READY Summit tips and secrets on how to be good leaders through a panel of current leaders who shared experiences from their leadership journeys. Taking a 'fireside chat' format, some of the leadership secrets and principles shared with the young people that they should have to include;
 - Integrity
 - Work ethic
 - Knowledge
 - Empathy
 - Self-introspection
 - Power of association
 - Grounding

- Believe in people and their capacities (second chance)
 - Know you value
 - Accountability
 - Skills building
 - Good attitude
 - Education
- Below are some of the quotable quotes from the panellists in this session with regard to young people and leadership;



“What I learned (in my leadership journey) is that when you are young, you take a lot of things for granted, and there are a lot of things you think you know. I learnt that myself and realised that I had a lot to learn when I became a leader. I looked at those above me who I wanted to emulate and started looking at them very closely...and I watched and learned from them. My own journey of leadership that I like to share is that I had my first child when I was 20, which was very young at the time. At the time, I did not have a degree and had just completed my nurse training and got married because of that pregnancy. It was almost a forced marriage by my parents for cultural reasons. The marriage was not good, very abusive, and eventually when he left, I did not have the guts to leave. I went back to school and started at Diploma Level, 1st degree, Masters and then Postgraduate studies. I always use that story when I talk to young people...to say you can take detours in your life, but every detour always goes back into the main road. You can change your life as I changed my life, and I use that experience to mentor other young people...it is not over...there is no excuse to give up...and it is never too late. Even if you are sitting here (in the READY Summit 2023) and you do not have a degree... it’s not too late...for you to get your degree...so I had two children when I was doing those degrees... for those 8 years, I was working, divorced, with two children and going to school...and I accomplished all of them. My principle is you can throw 10 balls in the air and catch all of them if you dedicate yourselves.” **Lois Chingandu (Frontline AIDS):**



“I am very passionate about the power of young people. I have worked in different contexts in Africa, some of them very difficult, and I have seen youth represent resilience, self-determination and overcoming doubt. I have always had a strong belief in myself and, as a result, took leadership as a young person who is 29 years old. I have learnt so much over the years and use that experience to mentor young people in our organisation as they embark on their leadership journeys...My advice to young people is that the world is about giving and taking, and there are no free handouts. Focus on what you bring to the table in order to get results. Young people need to study, get experience and skills, and be knowledgeable in their respective fields.” **Patrick Onyango (REPSSI):**



“Develop yourself as a young leader, for example, through getting an education to ensure that you can influence the agenda for groups that you represent. We need to develop ourselves as young people and have the same skills as them. We need to learn the structures and policies of decision-makers in order to make a difference because they will never open the doors for us without a fight...As a leader, I am not always at the forefront. I take young people along with me. I lead from the side. I make sure that in every platform I am on, I always have young people with speaking opportunities and the limelight shining on them because we shine together...Young people must be accountable to themselves and others when given opportunities to represent others in conferences and summits. They need to spend less time on gadgets (and social media) and other acts but focus on bringing out the voice of those underprivileged, not in those rooms. Maximise on the opportunities given.” **Maximina Jokonya (Y+ Global):**



“We as young people are not leaders of tomorrow but as of today. We are not passive beneficiaries of programmes, but we are rights holders who have capacity...On meaningful youth engagement, we are not just talking about organisations and adults creating spaces as young people. Still, we are talking about adults believing young people that we have the capacity to do things for ourselves. We have experience and knowledge and know what works best for them if involved. Involving young people in development often leads to effective and sustainable programmes because we know the right approaches and language to get to our peers... Lastly, leadership is not a title but a responsibility.” **Luckmore Pamhidzai (YPNSRHHA & AFriYAN):**

Figure 1: Fireside Chat



Session 7: Skills Building – Advocacy

Discussion Points

- Advocacy is about influence and is a process of transforming attitudes, practices, and policies
- Advocacy is political and contentious.
- Advocacy is about negotiation and persuasion.
- Advocacy is about changing social perception and influencing desired changes.
- Advocacy should be evidence-based for it to be successful.

Figure 2: Skills Building Session



Session 8: Skills Building – Digital Health and Rights

Discussion Points

- Digital health platforms are important in promoting self-care and access to information and services on the doorstep.
- There is a need to equip AYP to access information, digital health and rights and learn how to be protected in digital spaces.
- Health and personalisation of health data submitted to digital spaces to access services could be dangerous. Still, digital platforms allow better access to services and information, e.g., menstrual apps and adherence apps.
- Young people need to be careful because many websites collect personal information, especially in the era of dating sites and social media.
- Young people need to be taught digital resilience, which focuses on controlling how they see and consume content.
- Digital health apps are an important aspect of digital health and rights into the future, but there are challenges, especially in the developing world, where access to the internet, power, and data is expensive and not available to everyone.

Session 9: Skills Building – Youth Leadership and Engagement

Discussion Points

- This session highlighted that there are intersections and struggles of being a young person living with HIV and also being part of the LGBTQ community.
- It was highlighted that misinformation was targeted at YKP.
- The session also noted little to no representation in leadership and the lack of inclusion and participation in decision-making.
- On challenges, it was noted that young people face challenges that include criminalisation of the LGBTIQ community, limited work opportunities for YPLHIV and tokenism as far as engagement is concerned.
- Interventions by organisations to support youth engagement in SRHR spaces for Key Populations were noted to include;
- Linking at the service delivery level
- Working with faith-based communities
- Intentional Inclusion of representation in programs and projects to address tokenism
- Decentralising services to the community level
- Engagement of local stakeholders
- Mentorship and coaching of young leaders
- Utilising mainstream media
- Development of a manual for supporting faith leaders while engaging with young people
- Familiarising ourselves with laws to identify gaps

Session 10: Skills Building – Climate Change and SRHR

Discussion Points

- Climate change has a lasting impact on human health.
- Climate change has links to GBV because it has links to poverty, livelihoods, and food insecurity at the household level.
- There is a need for SRHR in climate change on vulnerability assessment and a need to have actual indicators that can be used by all partners working with young people.
- There is a need for more financing and accountability of SRHR and climate change.
- More needs to be done so that people can better understand climate change's impact.
- Three actions from the report: Create a platform for stakeholder involvement at all levels, Summit of the Future in September 2024,
- Climate change exacerbates gender inequalities and disrupts services and access to commodities for the poor and vulnerable in society.
- Due to climate change, there is a high risk of abuse for young girls; poverty is a catalyst to climate change's impact on access to SRHR and HIV services for young people and the threat of young people engaging in transactional sex.
- Climate change is linked to emotional abuse, food security and dilapidated (health) infrastructure at the household and community levels.
- Climate change is also linked to increased risk of intimate partner violence, mental health issues, harmful coping mechanisms, risk for early pregnancy, child labour and risk of drug abuse among young people.



“The READY Summit was amazing!! It was even better than I thought; the diverse discussions, insights, and collaborative atmosphere made it a highly enriching experience ...”

READY Summit Delegate

Session 11: Role of Young People across the HIV Care Cascade (95-95-95)

Discussion Points

- There is a need to continue spearheading innovative approaches towards enhancing adherence and attainment of the ART targets, e.g. Zvandiri app.
- Programme implementers and other stakeholders, such as the government, need to intensify using technology and digital health platforms to reach other young people.
- Peer-to-peer approaches and support, such as the CATS, are needed to improve treatment outcomes for YPLHIV. Other approaches include differentiated service delivery and psychosocial support groups.
- There is a need to hold service providers and policymakers accountable through scorecards and community-led monitoring.
- The READY movement needs to continue to provide leadership for the youth-led HIV response and advocacy efforts in different countries and at the global level since the need is still there.
- There is a need to increase awareness and demand the creation of better treatment options.
- There is a need to intensify community engagement and education through awareness creation and sensitisation on social media, especially around key days such as World AIDS Day. Some of the engagement options include multimedia (online and offline) knowledge dissemination and spaces like community dialogues.
- The READY movement and stakeholders need to continue strengthening the capacity of advocates and HRDs to engage in the HIV response to address the challenges faced by young people in their diversity.

Figure 3: Group Work



Session 12: Criminalisation, Stigma and Discrimination

Discussion Points

- No representation for the LGBTIQ+ community in policy-making spaces like the parliament (Eswatini)
- Lack of information in the local communities
- Stigma related to poverty and other societal issues (Zimbabwe)
- Lack of community buy-in and prioritisation of issues
- Identifying allies in different systems, including the justice and parliamentary system
- Developing one-stop services/ Youth Friendly centres to provide a safe space for YKPs
- Inclusive protection for crimes against YKP, including violence and understanding the judicial and law system in different countries
- There is a need to build the resilience of the YKP in all their diversity for them to address criminalisation, stigma and discrimination
- There is a need for mindful and strategic packaging of advocacy messages aimed at different stakeholders

Session 13: Youth Led Accountability

Discussion Points

- The focus was on the approach that involves empowering young people to actively engage in holding governments and institutions accountable for their actions and decisions. This included activities such as advocating for transparency, participating in policy-making processes, and monitoring the implementation of programs and services that directly affect youth.
- In this session, the discussion was about accountability (how the government makes commitments and still does nothing or does not commit to its pledge).
- The session focused on discussing how young people can promote accountability by putting their reality and life experience side by side with that of the communities where they come from. It was also noted that it is important for young people to deliberate on how they can best prepare their advocacy cases (identify issues, provide evidence, identify spaces, and follow up).
- It was noted that involving young people in the accountability process improves governance and helps develop leadership skills and civic engagement among youth. Civil society organisations should support youth-led advocacy efforts to influence policies, laws, and regulations that impact young people and their communities.
- It is important for young people to advocate and not sit back but follow up with target stakeholders and donors to achieve progress in their advocacy efforts.

Session 14: Moment of Truth - Navigating power dynamics within the youth movement sector

Discussion Points

- HIV spaces such as ICASA and IAS (and many more) bring together HCP, researchers, donors funding HIV response, pharmaceutical companies, YPLHIV, CSO and policymakers to engage.
- It was noted that when people of diverse backgrounds congregate in HIV spaces, this makes a strong advocacy voice for HIV response. Having different persons in their intersectionalities together advocating for positive HIV response creates an uproar and showcases the need for an HIV response tailored to our different countries and spaces. Intersectionality helps understand people's different needs and emphasises the need for research and evidence-based advocacy.

Favourite/Most Useful Session: Most participants indicated that the “fireside chat” was their favourite session. One of the participants stated that:

“The one (session) with Luckson, Lois, Maki, and Patrice. I am at a point in life where I feel lost and almost giving up, but the session gave me hope.”

Another participant indicated that the fireside chat allowed them to hear from real-life experiences and indicated that:

“(During the) intergenerational fireside chat, we were able to tap into real-life experiences and walked into the shoes of those who have walked the mile.”

Other sessions mentioned were on skills building. Participants stated that the facilitated sessions by the leaders helped them understand more about what they can do as young people to become better leaders. In addition, the role of young people across the HIV cascade was also mentioned as a key session that helped them understand what part they can play in ensuring that countries achieve the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets. No session was reported as not useful; the only issue mentioned was running out of time during some sessions.

Improvements for future events: In terms of improving the Summit, issues around translation into French and Portuguese were the most highlighted issues that require attention in future events. Another issue that was indicated as requiring improvement is on time, and this includes having more time for sessions, allocating more time for participants to engage, including adding another day to allow for this time increase. In responding to whether they had additional comments about the Summit, one of the participants stated that:

“No, I had a good short informative session at the Summit...hoping there'll be more engagements I can be a part of ...”

One participant made a recommendation about simultaneous interpretation:

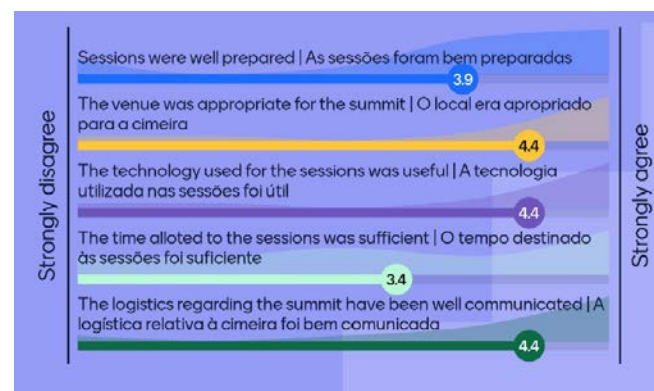
“One gap in the whole Summit was the unavailability of translation for non-English speaking participants maybe because it was only (running) for one day, but I recommend bringing even three (translators) to be on specific tables with non-English speakers.”

The feedback also highlighted the need to include more young people living with disabilities in the Summit for better inclusivity of this constituency.

Figure 5: What to improve for the future



Figure 6: Overall Feedback



Overall feedback on sessions and logistics: The participants scored high in most of the areas related to sessions and logistics. The scores were from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). For example, the venue, technology used, and communication on logistics scored 4.4 out of a total of 5, as shown below. Time allocation, which was highlighted as an issue, scored lower (3.4/5), while session preparedness was scored at 3.9. Overall, the participants showed that they were happy with the Summit, and the few issues highlighted as challenges would need to be addressed in future events.

4. Recommendations to the READY Summit

Actions and commitments			
	It was recommended that:	Actors	Timeline
1.	AIDS 2024 Conference is coming, and young people need to be heard, especially regarding advocacy.	Y+ Global, FA, and other stakeholders	June 2024
2.	Going forward, there is a need to continue with the same advocacy thrust and focus as below, with some slight additions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to ARVs and other long-acting technologies - Advancing gender equality and equity through meaningful engagement - Countering the Anti-Gender Movement - Youth Leadership - Economic empowerment 	Stakeholders working with young people	2024
3.	There is a need for the READY movement to focus on addressing criminalisation & stigma, and discrimination because it affect the effectiveness of interventions among young people in their diversity regarding access to SRHR and HIV services.	FA, Y+ Global	2024
4.	The READY movement needs to initiate and conduct youth-focused consultations to determine what is missing from current interventions and develop an action plan for the future.	Y+ Global, FA	2024
5.	The READY movement and its allies need to advocate for sustainable financing of the HIV response by making the government accountable to the Abuja Declaration health budget thresholds.	Stakeholders working and partnering with READY	2024
6.	The READY movement needs to conduct more advocacy initiatives but must find effective ways of engaging with the different advocacy targets.	stakeholders and partners involved in the READY	2024
7.	The READY movement needs to champion focus on the economic empowerment of young people within its strategies.	FA	2024

8.	The READY movement needs to invest in research on the links between climate justice and SRHR to inform its strategies from 2024 going forward.	Y+ Global, FA	2024
9.	The READY movement needs to focus on building institutional capacity for its national and regional partners/allies to ensure its future sustainability.	FA, Y+ Global	2024
10	Donors, government, and stakeholders in the READY movement need to advocate for diversity and representation in the engagement of YP in spaces and have them leading main sessions in key platforms where adults participate.	All partners engaged in the READY	2024

“The READY summit needs to improve by giving information on the types of effective long-acting antiretroviral treatment and HIV prevention AYP would prefer in order to adhere to treatment”, [READY Summit Delegate - Comfort Mukobe](#).

5. Key Considerations for Future READY Summits

- The organisers and funders of the Summit need to be commended for convening this inaugural meeting at ICASA 2023. Thus, it would be important to have such summits or iterations at future regional and global events where young people and various stakeholders would be gathering. This would give an opportunity for young people in their diversity and the READY movement opportunities to review its work and advocacy. The iterations of the Summit could be in the form of focused half-day side events, dissemination of key publications and panel discussions.
- The design of the summit program resulted in too many sessions that needed to be covered, resulting in very few deliberations through report-back sessions. It is suggested that future summits must be convened over a longer period. Still, given the financial implications, it would be best suited to redesign the programme and do either skill-building sessions or breakout sessions to allow for more time for discussions and action planning by the delegates and the different target groups.
- Deliberate effort is needed to ensure the availability of translation services for delegates from Portuguese—and French-speaking countries.
- While it was important to keep the young people in their diversity at the centre of the deliberations and discussion, it would have been strategic to give the young people an opportunity to interface with a sample of donors and government representatives (attending ICASA 2023) over issues of concerns as part of the review and action planning component of the Summit.

6. Annexes

Annexe 1: READY Summit Programme

Annexe 2: READY Summit Participants List

Names	Surname	Organisation
Itumeleng	Komanyane	Frontline AIDS
Chengetai	Dziwa	Frontline AIDS
Virgilio	Suande	Frontline AIDS
Liopelo	Ramahloko	Frontline AIDS
Tinashe	Rufurwadzo	GNP+
Maximina	Jokonya	Y+ Global
Fairoze	Diedricks	Y+ Global
Joyce	Ouma	Y+ Global
Maxwell	Katekwe	Y+ Global
Eddy	Rudram	Y+ Global
Tawanda	Chibonore	Y+ Global
Lusungu	Harawa	Y+ Global
Nonsikelelo	Shabhangu	Y+ Global
Carlos	Oliviera	Y+ Global
Ibrahim	Kalimbaga	Y+ Global
Sherlys	Saide	Y+ Global
Gabriel Seubboon	Chaiyasit	Y+ Global
Tshepo Jonathan	Ngoato	Y+ Global
Siphokuhle	Tyawana	Y+ Global
Takudzwa	Cosmas Mabhiza	Y+ Global
Donaldo	Da Silva Tomas Randinho	Y+ Global
Pedro	Kakoka	Y+ Global
Comfort	Mukobe	Y+ Global
Cyprian	Komba	Y+ Global
Zwelithini	Motsa	Y+ Global
Maria	Helena	Y+ Global
Priscilla	Ama Addo	Y+ Global
Vanessa	Tmabvuva	Y+ Global
Faith	Thipe	VYV

Nwankwo Francis	Casmir	VYV
Patricia	Humura	VYV
Faith	Onuh	VYV
Ivy	Jebet	VYV
Millicent	Sethaile	HER Voice Ambassador
Cynthia	Wakuna	HER Voice Ambassador
Brenda Bakobye	Khayumbe	HER Voice Ambassador
Grace	Ngulube	HER Voice Ambassador
Selma Ndasilohenda	Iyambo	HER Voice Ambassador
Gracious	Lekgoathi	HER Voice Ambassador
Simpihiwe	Palesa Manhica	HER Voice Ambassador
Sikhulile	Hlatjwako	HER Voice Fund
Chrystal	Bonxo	HER Voice Ambassador
Namayanja	Sheirat	HER Voice Ambassador
Nthabeleng	Nts'ekalle	HER Voice Ambassador
Emilia	Madzinga	HER Voice Fund
Oliver	Muindi	HER Voice Fund
Olerato	Keegope	HER Voice Fund
Poeletso	Mahloko	UNITED Movement
Musonda	Memory	UNITED Movement
Charles Innocent	Chinguwo	UNITED Movement
Ravel	Gatoto	UNITED Movement
Alice	Mtuga	UNITED Movement
Michael	Reid	PEPFAR
Tiffany	Iheme	PEPFAR
Lebohang	Mothae	National AIDS Commission Lesotho
Jacqui	Utamura-Nzisabira	UN Women
Fatou	Lo	UN Women
Berry	Nibogora	UNDP
Farai	Chirongoma	UNDP
Petronella	Muyoya	We Belong Africa (UNDP)
Siphosetu	Mamba	UNDP
Roqiana	Gunza	UNDP
Petronella	Mulenga	UNDP

Zach	Machacha	UNDP
Gaudencia	Muzambi	EKN Zimbabwe
Dr. Margret	Verwijk	EKN Zimbabwe
Wellington	Muchechetere	Young Africa
Ennie	Chiramba	Young Africa
Astou	Fall	Speak Up Africa
Woppa	Diallo	Speak Up Africa
Awa	Yanogo	Speak Up Africa
Saibata	Sawadogo	Speak Up Africa
Cathy		ViiV
Jenny	Cozins	ViiV
Morag	McLaren	ViiV
Thea	Wills	Global Fund
Cynthia	Mambo	Global Fund
Vuyiseka	Dubula	Global Fund
Itoero	Ekanem	The PACT
Vanessa Gamuchirai	Gonye	Media
Rumbidzayi	Zinyuke	Media
Michael	Gwarisa	Media
Talent	Gare	Media
Fadzai	Ndangana	Media
Emmanuel	Kafe	Media
Gwendoline	Mugauri	Media
Anesu	Masamvu	Media
MAAGBOR BONA	WELISANE	YELs
JUAREZ LOPEZ	ROBERT JUNIOR	YELs
Simon	Elibarick	YELs
Kanari	Catherine	YELs
Chege	Veronicah	YELs
Chukukwere	Darlington	YELs
Oboyi	Joy	YELs
Kaskaya	Abdulina	YELs
Chpazaure	Robert	YELs
Don Darcy	Ndike	YELs

Tambudzai	Magwenzi	YELs
ABDESSAMIE	ELHAMIDY	YELs
Paul	Ndlovu	Zvandiri
Feli	Ngubo	Zvandiri
Febby	Gandaumanje	Zvandiri
Claris	Chigama (ZA)	Zvandiri
Kundayi	Rusirevo (CATS)	Zvandiri
Rashid	Hamisi (ZM)	Zvandiri
Pamela	Kuvheya (CATS)	Zvandiri
Sungano	Bondayi	Zvandiri
Alice	Armstrong	UNICEF
Kristopher	Mills	USAID
Nyasha	Museruka	ATHENA Network
Natasha	Mbirikuwanda	AfriYAN
Godwin	Zulu	AfriYAN
Luckmore	Pamhidzai	AfriYAN
Brian	Mafuso	UNFPA ESARO
Florence Riako	Anam	GNP+
Lesego	Tlhwale	GNP+
Sbongile	Nkosi	GNP+
Anne	Githuku-Shongwe	UNAIDS