



Call for Submissions on effective initiatives, programmes and processes to work with and for adolescents and youth in the HIV response

DEADLINE: 31 August 2013

UNAIDS will use these submissions to inform the Thematic Segment on *HIV, adolescents and youth* at the 33rd Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), 17-19 December 2013.

Scope of submissions

UNAIDS is seeking examples of initiatives, programmes or processes for adolescents and youth that effectively:

- Prevent new HIV infections, for example programmes that increase demand for and access to HIV prevention services for adolescents and youth such as condoms as well as SHR and HIV integration;
- Increase demand for and access to HIV treatment, care and support services for adolescents and youth living with HIV;
- Create enabling social and legal environments for adolescents and youth in the HIV response.
- Engage youth in decision-making on programmes and policies that affect their lives (i.e. engagement of young people in programme design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, etc.).

Who can submit?

UNAIDS is seeking submissions from governments and state-sponsored programmes and processes; civil society groups; faith-based organizations; the private sector; and the UN system - that work with and for adolescents and youth in the HIV response.

How will your submission be used?

The submissions will be used to inform the background paper to the UNAIDS PCB Thematic Segment. Some of the submissions may also be selected to be highlighted at the Thematic Segment on 19 December 2013 (budget permitting). The submissions may also be compiled in a document on good practices for adolescents and youth in the HIV response.

In which languages can submissions be made?

It is preferred that submissions be made in English and French; however, attempts will be made to translate other UN languages.

How to submit?

Submissions should be made using the online submission form accessible via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GLQ3MFJ> by **31 August 2013**. Should you be unable to access the electronic submission form, please contact Nina Sun, sunn@unaids.org, with copy to Mikaela Hildebrand, hildebrandm@unaids.org.

Where to get more information?

For more information on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, please see <http://www.unaids.org/en/aboutunaids/unaidsprogrammecoordinatingboard/>

For further information on this call for submissions, please contact Nina Sun sunn@unaids.org, with copy to Mikaela Hildebrand, hildebrandm@unaids.org.



Submission Form

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Thematic Segment on *HIV, adolescents and youth* at the 33rd Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, 17-19 December 2013

Please complete all boxes below electronically and submit by email to Nina Sun, sunn@unaids.org, with copy to Mikaela Hildebrand, hildebrandm@unaids.org, by 31 August 2013.

COUNTRY:	CONTACT PERSON Name: Jack Beck Title: Director of Communications Organisation: Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) Address: 436 14 th Street, Suite 1500, Oakland, CA, USA Tel: +1.510.332.0786 Email: jbeck@msmgf.org
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE:	Type of initiative (please tick all that are relevant): Prevention of new HIV infections <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Increase access to HIV treatment, care and support for adolescents and youth living with HIV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Enabling social and legal environments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Youth leadership/engagement of youth in HIV-related decision-making processes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please indicate): _____
IMPLEMENTER(S):	IMPLEMENTED BY (tick all that apply): Government: <input type="checkbox"/> Civil society: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Private sector: <input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based: <input type="checkbox"/> UN or other inter-governmental organisation: <input type="checkbox"/>
INITIATIVE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE (indicate initiative start year):	HAS THE INITIATIVE BEEN EVALUATED / ASSESSED? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X If yes, please attach the evaluation/assessment report with this submission.
SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVES (Maximum 500 words describing the purpose, target audience, activities and components of the initiative) In every world region, men who have sex with men (MSM) face significantly higher rates of HIV than the general population. Young people are also at increased risk for HIV, comprising over 40% of new HIV infections worldwide. Young MSM (YMSM) face the heightened risks of both populations, as well as a number of vulnerabilities that are unique to YMSM. While data on HIV among YMSM are extremely limited, existing studies show high HIV prevalence among YMSM around the world: Russia (9%), Malawi (22%), Namibia (17%), Botswana (21%), United States (19%), Peru (13%), China (6%). Despite the clear need for intervention, YMSM are often left out of research, policy, and programs designed for general MSM, general youth, and the general population. This has led to funding gaps, inappropriate programming, lack of surveillance data, access problems, and an absence of youth-specific services targeting the unique needs of young gay men.	

In order to elevate and address the needs of YMSM in the response to HIV at the local-, national-, and global-level, the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) established the MSMGF Youth Reference Group (MSMGF YRG). First convened in 2010, the MSMGF YRG is composed of 18 YMSM advocates working for the health and human rights of YMSM in their respective regions around the world. The YRG advises and coordinates the work of the MSMGF on YMSM issues, advocating for the empowerment of YMSM within the global HIV response through skills building, cross networking, and meaningful participation in the decision-making processes that affect YMSM.

The MSMGF YRG meets bi-monthly via teleconference and biennially in person to strategize and advance initiatives to meet its goals. By bringing together accomplished YMSM advocates from every major world region, the MSMGF YRG is able to identify pressing cross-cutting issues and leverage the expertise of MSMGF YRG members and the resources of the MSMGF Secretariat to address them.

Since its inception in 2010, the MSMGF YRG has primarily focused on: A) elevating YMSM issues at major international forums; and B) generating data on YMSM health and human rights through research initiatives.

MSMGF YRG members have convened panel discussions at the most recent International AIDS Conference (“Putting the Pieces Together: Responding to the Needs of Young Men Who Have Sex with Men and the HIV Epidemic”) and the AIDS 2012 MSM Pre-Conference (“Targeting YMSM: An International Look at Programs and Funding for Young MSM”).

MSMGF YRG members also collaborated with the MSMGF Secretariat to produce a policy brief using data on YMSM from the MSMGF’s 2012 Global Men’s Health and Rights (GMHR) survey. Entitled “Young Men Who Have Sex with Men: Health, Access, & HIV,” the publication featured a secondary analysis of GMHR data from more than 2400 YMSM, indicating that YMSM around the world experience higher levels of homophobia, unstable housing, violence, and other factors that hinder access to HIV services, compared to older MSM. The publication concluded with a set of recommendations for supporting YMSM health and human rights that were developed collaboratively by members of the MSMGF YRG.

OUTCOMES OF THE INITIATIVE (Maximum 150 words describing the outcomes of the initiative):

The MSMGF YRG’s efforts thus far have been effective in raising awareness of the unique issues faced by YMSM globally and the urgent need to address them. Both panel discussions at the 2012 International AIDS Conference were delivered to full houses and received very positive reviews. The YMSM policy brief was particularly successful in this regard, generating news stories in multiple outlets across three continents. The data and analysis presented in the policy brief was showcased at the first-ever LGBT panel at the World Bank’s 2013 Spring Civil Society, used to inform debate in Scottish Parliament, and helped guide the development of a national youth strategy to address HIV in Lebanon.

WHAT STRATEGIES, IF ANY, HAVE BEEN USED TO EXPAND THE SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE INITIATIVE? (Maximum 400 words)

In order to expand the scope and coverage of the initiative, members of the MSMGF YRG launched a formal strategic planning process. The process began with a full-day strategic planning meeting, where members from each region provided an overview of needs, challenges, and opportunities in their region; presentations were followed by group discussions regarding strengths and weaknesses of the MSMGF YRG in terms of meeting needs identified and taking advantage of existing opportunities. Members chose to split into three standing working groups, each focused on advocacy, research, and programs and services, respectively.

These working groups have been meeting regularly over the past year to develop global strategies for each focus area. By the end of 2013, these strategies will be fused into a single strategic plan that will guide the expansion of the MSMGF YRG's work moving forward. Once the strategic plan is finalized, members of the MSMGF YRG will work with the MSMGF Secretariat to raise funds to support the activities identified by MSMGF YRG members. Once funded, the MSMGF Secretariat will host the projects and oversee implementation in close partnership with the MSMGF YRG.