



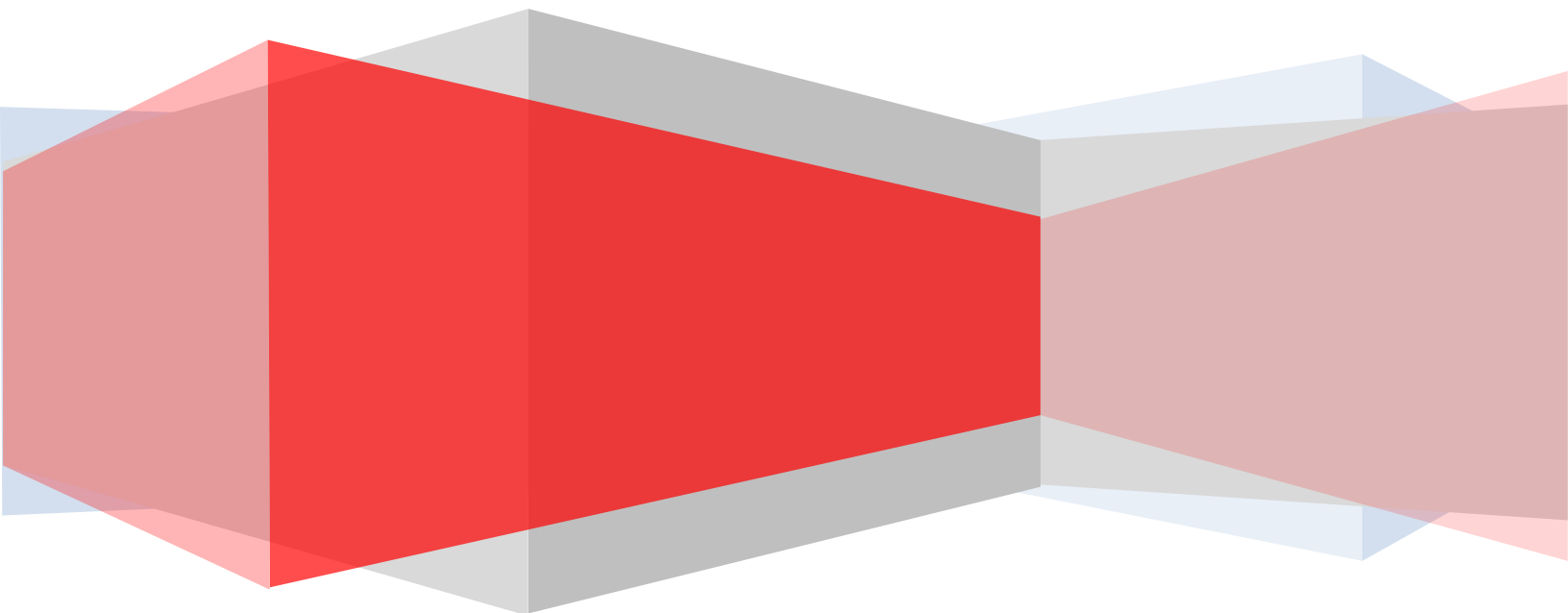
**UNAIDS**  
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR  
UNICEF  
WFP  
UNDP  
UNFPA  
UNODC  
ILO  
UNESCO  
WHO  
WORLD BANK

# Inter-Agency Task Team on HIV and Young People

Terms of Reference

July 2011



## BACKGROUND

The UNAIDS Inter-agency Task Team on HIV/AIDS and Young People (IATT/YP) was established in December 2001 to address the growing threat of HIV to young people around the world, and to contribute to a UN system accelerated and expanded response towards achieving the ICPD+5 and UNGASS goals relating to young people. The main purpose of the task team is to undertake interventions that are catalytic in enhancing programme approaches on HIV prevention among young people at the operational/country level. UNFPA and UNICEF are the co-convening agencies for the IATT/YP.

In May, 2007, a meeting of the Deputy Executive Directors of UNAIDS Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Secretariat was held in New York to discuss the issue of coordination of HIV interventions targeting young people. The objective of the meeting was to develop specific time bound actions and defined accountability to ensure a more harmonized and coherent joint UN response in support of the prevention, treatment and care of HIV among young people.

During the meeting, concern was expressed that efforts on HIV in the context of young people had failed to keep pace with the scope of the epidemic, and that three major challenges needed to be addressed:

- Insufficient investment in prevention;
- Low coverage of HIV prevention services for populations of young people, and in particular most-at-risk adolescents and young people; and
- Lack of action against the social, economic and cultural drivers of HIV infection, including gender inequality, stigma and discrimination and the failure to protect human rights.

The meeting emphasized that in order to intensify HIV prevention, build on existing good practices and lessons learned, and take effective programmes to national scale, countries need to “know their epidemic.” This knowledge is essential to strengthen the response to AIDS globally and facilitate full implementation of prior commitments made by Member States.

The meeting participants reviewed the current situation of HIV among young people and agreed that, in order to achieve the global commitments of moving towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, the composition of the IATT/YP needed to be reconstructed and expanded.

As a follow-up action to the decision to reconstruct and expand the IATT/YP, and the revised UNAIDS Division of Labour<sup>1</sup> which designated UNFPA and UNICEF as co-convenors in the priority area of “Empowerment of Young People to Protect Themselves from HIV”, this document presents Terms of Reference for the restructured body and some key principles of working modalities and cooperation both at the global and regional levels

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<sup>1</sup> UNAIDS Division of Labour, 2010

## PURPOSE OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK TEAM ON HIV AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### **Goal**

To foster a joint accelerated, harmonized and expanded global, regional and country-level response aimed at increasing young people's<sup>2</sup> access to and utilisation of HIV prevention, treatment, and care services to reach the goal of universal access.

### **Specific Objectives**

- To advocate with key global, regional and country level partners a harmonized approach to 'knowing the epidemic' as it affects young people and scaling up gender- and rights-based, evidence-informed and sustainable HIV interventions for young people – particularly for those groups of adolescents and young people most at risk and vulnerable to HIV infection;
- To build the capacity of Joint UN Teams on AIDS and/or Technical Working Groups on AIDS and partners at country level to scale up HIV prevention, among young people ;
- To provide evidence-informed policy, operational, and technical guidance on country level planning, management and implementation of HIV interventions for young people;
- To produce strategic information and tools, including M&E tools, to track progress on implementation and inform further programming;
- To promote collaboration and harmonisation within and across organisations, including UN agencies for more effective gender and rights based global, regional and country level responses to the AIDS epidemic among young people. These responses should be linked and coordinated with broader youth related initiatives and should exploit linkages between existing adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV efforts;
- To support and broaden networking and collaboration amongst stakeholders, in order to galvanize the international community and mobilize resources (through working with international financing institutions) to reach the goal of universal access;
- To identify, disseminate, and advocate for gender- and rights-based good practices in, and evidence-informed approaches to, HIV programming for young people; and
- To support global/regional initiatives on HIV and young people organized by UN system organisations and other key partners.

## IATT/YP MEMBERSHIP

### **Roles and Responsibilities of IATT/YP Members**

Within the framework of their respective mandates, comparative advantages, capacity and technical expertise, the IATT/YP members are expected to:

- Commit to the goals and objectives of the IATT/YP which in turn are consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS by the High-Level Meeting on AIDS in 2006 and 2011.

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<sup>2</sup> Defined as 10-24 years of age.

- Address issues related to policies, strategies, resource mobilization and allocation, and tracking of progress on increasing young people’s access to and utilization of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services;
- Ensure linkages, coordination and information sharing with other IATTs pertaining to young people and HIV such as the IATT on Education, the IATT on Prevention of HIV Infection in Pregnant Women, Mothers and their Children and Care and Treatment of HIV-infected Children and the IATT on Children and HIV/AIDS;
- Introduce principles, messages, tools, and activities of the IATT/YP into members’ own agencies at country, regional and global levels;
- Attend IATT/YP meetings and actively participate in and contribute to IATT/YP Working Groups and other initiatives;
- Contribute to the development and timely review of IATT/YP technical products (publications, reports etc.) and to their dissemination through members’ websites and internal distribution channels;
- Advocate for and represent the IATT/YP, as appropriate and as agreed by the IATT/YP Steering Committee;
- Contribute to core support for the IATT/YP, as possible.

### ***IATT/YP Membership***

Membership will include UNAIDS Cosponsors<sup>2</sup>, the UNAIDS Secretariat and selected youth networks/associations, bi/multilateral donors, civil society, foundations, research institutions, the private sector, and international financing institutions. UNFPA and UNICEF will serve as the co-conveners. Expansion of the IATT/YP will be staged and the decision on whether to extend an invitation for membership will be based on defined and agreed criteria.

### ***Criteria for IATT/YP Membership***

- Focus area
  - Expertise and experience working in the area of HIV in the context of young people
- Level of coverage
  - Global
  - Regional
  - National
  - Community
- Commitment to achieving the goals of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support with a particular focus on young people
- Commitment to evidence-informed programming and programming which respects human rights, culture and gender equality
- Active and consistent participation by organisational and constituency representatives holding high-level decision-making authority

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<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, World Bank

## **IATT/YP WORKING MODALITIES**

### ***IATT/YP Meetings***

The IATT/YP convenes one to two meetings annually to report on results achieved and activities planned, discuss future priority areas, and plan strategically to advance HIV prevention, treatment, care and support among young people. Teleconferences, video-conferences and meetings to discuss specific issues are called as appropriate. Communication between meetings will be through email. IATT/YP activities will be conducted and managed through Working Groups with designated facilitators.

### ***Secretariat***

As outlined in the Division of Labour area on empowering young people to protect themselves from HIV and in line with the role of convening agencies, UNFPA and UNICEF will be jointly responsible for convening the IATT/YP. Regional and country level focal points on prevention are similarly responsible for convening whatever work groups, technical support mechanisms, IATTs or other mechanisms that already exist or are needed at regional and country level.

Specifically, UNFPA and UNICEF will be jointly responsible for the following at the global and regional levels:

- Coordinate partners, including UN agencies to identify technical support needs and gaps and see that they are addressed;
- Convene partnership group members for agenda setting and planning;
- Facilitate and convene a collective inter-agency and partnership process on standard setting, normative guidance, policy development, planning and programming;
- Ensure leadership, advocacy, coordination and consultation under the designated area of responsibility;
- Advance the mandate and strategic focus of the area;
- Provide managerial and human resources required to convene the work of the area;
- Ensure the collective analysis and timely reporting in line with accountability frameworks outlined in the Division of Labour; and
- Coordinate and lead the generation of strategic information of the area.

### ***Steering Committee***

The Steering Committee, a core working group that meets regularly on behalf of the larger multi-stakeholder IATT, will be tasked with providing the overall communication and guidance around the results related to prevention and young people.

The Steering Committee will be responsible for:

- The coordination of work undertaken by the IATT/YP, tracking and facilitating follow-up items from IATT meetings;
- Working with the Secretariat to track progress of IATT/YP Working Group commitments and establishment of joint Working Groups as appropriate;
- Communication and co-ordination with other IATTs concerned with HIV in the context of young people and children, including participation of IATT/YP members in meetings of other IATTs (and vice versa);

- Working with the Secretariat in planning meetings and building the agenda, work-planning and budgeting of IATT activities, and ensuring momentum between IATT meetings.

Members of the Steering Committee will include:

- Representatives from UNFPA and UNICEF (as IATT/YP Secretariat)
- Senior technical staff from UN cosponsors mandated to work in this area
- Senior technical staff from non-UN major partners such as (PEPFAR, Global Fund, CDC, etc).
- Members of the Priority Area Working Group ( UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, ILO and UNAIDS) which was established as a short term, ad-hoc mechanism to support the development of the Outcome Framework Business Case on Young People
- Civil society organizations, including faith-based and youth-led/youth-serving organizations
- The private sector
- Working Group facilitators

### ***Working Groups***

The IATT/YP may establish core and/or ad-hoc Working Groups to implement and coordinate specific, time bound activities on behalf of the IATT/YP. Members may opt to participate in one or more Working Groups based on capacity, comparative advantage and interest. For each Working Group, the IATT/YP Steering Committee will identify a chair responsible for submitting a work plan on behalf of the Working Group members for approval by the Steering Committee. Once approved, the facilitator will coordinate the implementation of the work plan and provide regular updates on implementation progress to the IATT/YP members. Working Group chairs, in consultation with members, may choose to work with external partners with relevant areas of expertise to support activities of the Working Group. These partners do not have to be an IATT member and can be recruited on an as-needed, short-term basis.

### ***Links to Regional Inter-Agency -Coordination Mechanisms***

Regional teams will serve as the entry point for delivery of technical support at the country level. Representatives of regional inter-agency groups working on HIV and young people will be invited to participate in IATT/YP meetings to facilitate on-going interagency communication between teams working on these issues at the global and regional levels.

### ***IATT/YP Funding***

As co-conveners, UNFPA and UNICEF will assume funding responsibility for convening the biannual IATT/YP meetings. Costs to attend the meetings will be borne by member organizations. Members may be asked to contribute financially as and when needed, particularly to support joint activities undertaken in Working Groups or activities which are already included in the work plan. The IATT may also mobilize funds as appropriate for specific joint activities.

### ***IATT/YP Work Plan***

Time bound activities, outputs and outcomes will be agreed and reported on during IATT/YP meetings.