What is Y-PEER News Bulletin?

Y-PEER News Bulletin is a visual content-based document, which will report and illustrate activities administered by Y-PEER network on an international level, as well as the national one. Aim of the Bulletin is to enable network members and active Y-PEERers get acquainted and informed about various seminars, workshops, events and activisms taking place within their own communities, along with those occurring within their geographical region and beyond.

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Summer School “Sexual And Reproductive Health HIV/AIDS And Youth” 7-12 June, 2014

This was a summer school organized by Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD). In this activity took part 25 youths from different organizations. Y-PEER Albania had 10 youths that took part in this summer school. They were trained about different topics regarding Sexual and Reproductive health. There were also topics related to friendly services for youths, involvement of sexual education in school curricula, speaking freely about sexual and reproductive health and how to advocate about them.

This summer school served to grow capacities of youths that are part of Y-PEER, regarding these issues and then to use the gained experience in the best way for the upcoming projects and activities that will be implanted by the network.

Updates from ALBANIA

- Electronic Youth Database And Social Networks
  For Y-PEER, Albania

The aim is to build an electronic database, so that every youth who wants to be part of the network can have the opportunity to be registered officially as part of it. This is an organized and official format with the only purpose of collecting data about youth, study areas, age, better opportunities of communication and geographic extension that network has. On the other side this serves as a determinant of development and growth as well.

There are about 90 youths, with different profiles, already registered, that can have a great potential to help with the development of the network.

- Y-PEER, Albania,
  On 6th May, 2015 organized an activity near Artificial Lake, in collaboration with the Association of Youth and Children with Diabetes, to promote health in young individuals. There was shared information about main health issues among the youth, slogans, and awareness messages. The main goal of Y-PEER was to widen the network and increase human resources. Participants in this activity were also from other youth organizations and representatives from governmental institutions.

Youths of Y-PEER network were facilitators for some sessions, thanks to trainings and experience they were capable to share and facilitate trainings for other youths nowadays.

Find more about Y-PEER Albania on the following links.

Y-PEER Albania Page:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Y-Peeralbania/1435165850140937

Y-PEER Albania Group:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/441685482656594

Y-PEER Albania, 6 Months Report 2015 (PDF):
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0Szm1ltwPtCNktCRk1yMG9iS3c/view?usp=sharing
- **Candlelight Memorial Day In Sarajevo**

It was an event conducted in 4 different locations of Sarajevo, which ended with red Ribbon made by candles on two locations. Y-PEER members distributed condoms, flyers and educational brochures about reproductive health, sexual transmitted diseases, HIV, pregnancy and discrimination.

- In May Y-PEER members were present and had chance to spread Youth voice during the two-day event "Dialogue: the Youth Strategy BiH", organized by the Working Group of the Government of FBiH. The event opened a dialogue with stakeholders in order to hear opinions and suggestions for the first strategic document for young people in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- **“A Woman Can Do Anything”**

On May 22 – 25, representatives of Y-PEER, Amela Džebo and Hrustić Elma, participated in the project "A woman can do anything", organized by the Youth Council of Ilidza. Through a variety of topics and discussion, presented the cases of rights violations against women, discussed the positive opportunities in the world of various successful women/girls and informed the participants of the existence of safe houses, support programs for women whose rights are threatened and self-defense capabilities of women.

Find more about Y-PEER Bosnia-Herzegovina on the following links:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Y-Peer-Bosnia-and-Herzegovina/184595568246108
Web: [http://www.y-peer.ba/](http://www.y-peer.ba/)

- **7th Regional HIV/AIDS Conference, Sarajevo 2015**

Y-PEER members were present during the 7th Regional HIV/AIDS Conference, Sarajevo 2015 and had chance to represent activities, exchange experience with other NGOs and other participants. 7th Regional Conference on HIV and AIDS brought together professionals working in the field, representatives of government, civil society, international agencies, members from vulnerable populations, PLHIV, and donors and advocates. Together with Partnerships in health and Institute for Public health Y-PEER BiH marked on June 24 the International day of blood donors. Volunteers were distributing flyers and educational brochures about blood donation importance and also about infections and diseases which can be transmitted by blood.

Volunteers were also giving some advice how and where people can be tested on HIV and hepatitis and where to donate blood.
Another activity that needs to be mentioned is the International Day of Solidarity with those affected by HIV/AIDS, that’s commemorated every year on the third Sunday of May. Our volunteers usually recreate the red ribbon in some form - be it as a flashlight installation, or holding candles, or even in a garden with red flowers.

- Continuing Peer-To-Peer Education
For the past months Y-PEER Bulgaria has continued its goal to popularize peer-to-peer education, as well as to bring attention to sexual and reproductive health issues. Our volunteers underwent trainings on topics related to STIs, HIV prevention and understanding of and alertness about psychoactive drugs. They have continued their fieldwork and outreach in towns across Bulgaria, promoting the topics important to our network and spreading awareness about pressing health issues.

In the past months our volunteers have showed motivation to continue their work in the sexual and reproductive health sector and to support a successful international network.

- Valentine’s Day
One of the important activities for the past months was Valentine's Day. There were campaigns all over the county with different events - some involved fieldwork where volunteers were giving condoms and info bulletins, others had concerts or game competitions and sports events.

Find more about Y-PEER Bulgaria on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/ypeer.bulgaria?fref=ts
https://www.facebook.com/ypeerbg
The Third University Program

Y-PEER China started the third batch University Program under the support of China Family Planning Association on January 30. The University Program intends to improve university students’ situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights by financial support and training opportunities. The third University Program is located in the whole China. The universities involved in the project are in 30 provinces out of 34 in China. Most of them have set up family planning offices or have connection with local Family Planning Associations. By now, Y-PEER China have supported over 160 schools, thousands of participants benefited in each school. We also call for the cooperation between youth and adults so that most teachers from family planning offices support the students’ work.

The Dance4Life China Program

In July Y-PEER China was invited to be an associated partner in the Dance4Life China Program and its members were trained to be the first batch of trainers. The dance4life China program will mainly inform young people about sexuality, STIs, unwanted pregnancies, gender equality, life skills and HIV and AIDS through music, dance and role models. As an associated partner in the dance4life China program, Y-PEER China will make sure young people participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of the program. Besides, Y-PEER China was invited to the annual meeting of the dance4life project to confer with further global promotion in the Netherland.

National Peer Education Training

Y-PEER China conducted National Peer Education Training for trainers from July 27 to August with nationwide participants over 240. The training was divided into two round each with two work teams conducted at the same time. The training aimed to cultivate excellent trainers for the universities involved.

These trainers will go back to their own university and train their peer educators in order to influence more peers and improve the general situation of SRHR.
- **PACIFIC Y-PEER Regional Training, On 13-25th July 2015**
PACIFIC Y-PEER Regional Training was organized by Y-PEER Fiji in partnership with the Ministry of Health (Adolescent Health Development Centre) & USP.

- The training on peer education took place from 13th until 25th of July and gathered participants from 6 different regions and areas of the country.

- **The International Day Of Solidarity**
By the end of the training the participants were expected to be able to:
- Appreciate what the USP Peer Support Network Program is about;
- Introduce Y-PEER activities/tools around the USP campuses in the Central Division;
- To develop a network of relevant partners.
- Feel confident about creating and facilitating Peer Education activities and debriefing sessions;
- Set up an Action Plan for the implementation of Y-PEER USP Peer Support Network Program in the community;
- Plan, Monitor, Evaluate & Report on any work given by the management in relation to HIV Program activities.
- Conducting Different Workshops
By beginning of 2015, Y-PEER activities have dramatically grown. Thirteen workshops have been conducted over five regions of the country, from January to March, accordingly in line with the development plan that UNFPA-Iraq CO adhered to establish and the support of several local NGOs to educate marginalized females, IDPs and refugees about SRHR & GBV, through peer education techniques.

- Launching successful TOT Workshops
As the network is growing, there was an urge to prepare new PEER trainers, thus a successful TOT workshop was launched supported by UNFPA in Erbil in February. Local peer educators, IDPs and Syrian refugees have attended the training sessions. Another TOT was in Basrah at the beginning of April. Having freshly trained peer educators will energize the network and help building new strategies to organize our work and expand its horizons.

- “Rouh”, An Interactive Play On Women’s Day
Recently, the interactive theatre experience has finally seen the light on the fifth of the present month, following a tough grind and a real tenacity from the participants who endeavored to make it happen. The interactive play, “Rouh”, was performed to celebrate the International Women’s Day through an event held by UN Woman and in front of Iraq’s Prime Minister, Iraq’s Women Minister, heads of UN agencies, local NGOs and visitors and it was met by great acclaim.

Find more about Y-PEER Iraq on the following link: https://www.facebook.com/YPeerIraqOfficialPage

- Promoting Youth Participation
Youth Participation is one of the most vital implementations in Iraq especially in the humanitarian work and civil society setting. Iraq Country Office (CO) discussed and designed well-managed activities through which, intervention of youth in humanitarian response will be both tangible and effective. In addition to social workers and the staffing that provides psychosocial support, youth groups will be an effective tool inside each and every Women Community Center (WCC). Peer Educators (PE) groups, which were created for each WCC, will start their work on young IDPs groups; in a way that every center will have its own PE coach plus 10-15 PE animators throughout the IDPs community.

- Y-PEER Iraq is evolving and structuring; and by ongoing sophistication, technical support from UNFPA Iraq CO along with PE Trainers efforts are conjointly working to draft a proper workflow for the National Network for Y-PEER Iraq.

- In the end, as Y-PEER Iraq, we believe in our stance and the cause we stood for. Challenges and difficulties are becoming heavy but our perseverance and hopes of a better tomorrow proved to be heavier. We think that time should be our friend as we see our seed is growing and fruitful results are and will be cultivated from what we worked hard for and what we believed in. Stay positive. Share knowledge but most importantly persevere!
The biggest one was on the World Population Day in Almaty and had about 200 spectators in general. Smaller activities were conducted by the activists of the international youth peer education network Y-PEER.

Activists studied the techniques of forum theatre and demonstrated the gained knowledge during the final performance on one of the central student venues in Astana. It gathered 26 representatives of Y-PEER from 5 cities all around the country and was finished as a play presented for local youth. The participants raised acute issues during the final performance about teenage pregnancy, violence against women, domestic violence, parents misunderstanding, tradition, corruption, illegal abortion, and the lack of moral and sexual education in the school system of learning.

The training took place over 5 days with the final performance May 31, 2015, prior to the international day of protection of children. Upon returning home, the participants conduct similar training for their teams of Y-PEER in their cities. Since then participants of the TbT organized and conducted such kind of trainings and plays in their own cities.

- **Theater Based Training**
  
  Since May 25 until May 31 Theater Based Training based on Theater of the Oppressed Methodology took place in Astana. This training (workshop) was conducted by the activists of the international youth peer education network Y-PEER.

- **Y-PEER Kazakhstan Interview On Tv Channel**
  
  Due to some permanent activities and remarkable results achieved by the network, Y-PEER Kazakhstan took part in a TV show to illustrate activities administrated on the national level. One of the most popular TV channels in Kazakhstan - “Kazakh TV” interviewed Y-PEER activists. The result of filming will be a TV show, around 30 minutes long, shown in every city and village in Kazakhstan in Prime Time.

- **Summer Camps To Promote Healthy Life And Social Activism**
  
  Moreover, members of Y-PEER Kazakhstan in collaboration with Department of Education organize series of youth camps in Almaty and Ust-Kamenogorsk during this summer. The main theme is Healthy Lifestyle and Social Activism. Y-PEER trainers conduct sessions of trainings in these camps in order to cover following themes: activism, volunteerism, leadership, teamwork and organization of events, SRHR. 5 camps were organized until now and around 30 participants took part in each one. Around 50 young people wished to join the network and will be invited to join TOTs in August and September.

Find more about Y-PEER Kazakhstan on the following links:

- https://twitter.com/YPEERKazakhstan
- Web: http://www.y-peer.kz/
- 20 Performances In Different Places
There were also conducted about 20 performances of the plays in communities in Osh, Jalal-Abad, Kara-Suu, Bishkek, Batken and other towns and villages. More than 2000 members with different backgrounds, from different communities, participated in performances. They also discussed the issues together.

- Project “Youth For Peaceful Changes”
This project is supported by UNFPA CO and financed by UN Peacebuilding Fund. Project designed to provide young people arena to be heard and to build dialogue with communities on youth issues via theatre based techniques.

- Forum Theatre Workshops
During the period of January-July 2015, Y-PEER Kyrgyzstan conducted Forum Theatre workshops with about 50 young people in Kyrgyzstan and designed 12 Forum Theatre plays in two main languages Kyrgyz and Russian on actual problems of youth nowadays in the country.

Find more about Y-PEER Kyrgyzstan on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/YPEERKG/timeline
https://twitter.com/@YPEER_KG
Web: http://www.y-peer.kg/

In May 2015, 4 of the Forum Theatre plays were recorded in the South of Kyrgyzstan for broadcasting by National TV channel. This has been the first experience for actors-volunteers of Forum Theatre to work on TV.
This involvement and successfully developed campaigns led to serviceable consequences: the network considerably increased visibility and broadened its horizons; peer educators acquired more helpful skills, abilities; the number of PE sessions (informative sessions) and the number of beneficiaries increased.

- “The Only Way To Do Great Work Is To Love What You Do!”

Exactly this quote describes Y-PEER Moldova’s work and the excellent results from the last six months, and not only. The high-spirited Peer Educators used this time to a maximum; they expended their knowledge and skills, broadened horizons and became more competent and experienced. All this things were possible due to exertion, motivation, love for the work done and efficacious activities.

-Organising Different Campaigns
First of all, the network Y-PEER Moldova can be proud with a dynamic involvement in some campaigns and projects, even in the successful developing of its own:

#SaveLoveMe - a campaign launched towards Healthy Life Style on St. Valentine’s Day;
#DrawDisability - a global campaign which aim is to encourage dialogue and raise awareness on disability and related issues among teachers and students;
#RespectedRightsForMe - a campaign launched in the context of the International Day of Children, celebrated on June 1.

-During the spring Y-PEER Moldova performed a national “PRO-Health” campaign and from July began a new one, named “Informed means Protected” developed by Y-PEER members in summer camps from different parts of the country. With the aim of increasing condom use among young people was launched an innovative online campaign “Use a condom for your safety”; it caught a big popularity on the social networks.

- YAP Meetings
In the last half year the regional leaders had the opportunity to meet and plan their activities during two YAP Meetings (February 25, May 30) held in Chișinău, the capital of Moldova. It should be also noted necessarily the attractive celebration by Y-PEER members of international and national holidays (Valentine’s Day; Mărtișorul (First day of spring); Mother’s Day; Children’s Day; World Population Day).

Another gratifying achievement is the 5 new skilled teams of peer educators in community centers. It is the result of a Y-PEER 6 months’ project supported by UNICEF Moldova in which the main goal was to reach the vulnerable young people, to instruct them and form competent teams of peer educators. Also now the network enjoys a strong team of Facilitators Y-PEER Moldova that was formed and trained in this summer.

- Y-PEER School Of Trainers
And probably the most prominent accomplishment is the realization of two modules of the Y-PEER School of Trainers, in which 23 young people from different parts of the country participated in training sessions on the topics: Sexual Reproductive Health, Equality between genders, Communication and Facilitation of Training Skills. These are the most important activities done by Y-PEER Moldova in the last half year, performed with diligently, love and dedication!
- **A Y-PEER Fellow In Morocco**

  In February UNFPA office in Morocco recruited a Y-PEER fellow whose mission is to provide support to Y-PEER related projects and interventions namely on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

- **A Partnership With IFMSA Morocco**

  A meeting was organized, in March, with members of the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA) to explore possible options for collaboration between Y-PEER and IFMSA-Morocco. It concluded with a common commitment to organize sessions around the country for youth in order to raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health.

  Afterwards, Y-PEER Morocco’s members organized peer education training in the Faculty of Medicine in Rabat for around 25 medical students. The training aimed to introduce peer education concepts to fifteen members of the reproductive health committee at the IFMSA–Morocco. With the acquired knowledge, the participants scheduled a training session for a group of high school students. A Y-PEER Focal Point provided support for developing the agenda and content of the training and was present during the training in the high school.

- **Y-PEER Morocco Discussing The Role Of Values In Development**

  Y-PEER Morocco’s members participated, during March, in a focus group, organized by the Rabita Mohamadia of Oulema, in the context of a study on “The Role of Values in Development.” The study is conducted jointly with the Economic Social and Environmental Council of Morocco.

- **Launch Of “Y-PEER Morocco's Intranet”**

  Y-PEER Morocco’s intranet was launched on April 29th and was built by Hamza OUKILI, computer engineer and Y-PEER Morocco’s Alumni. The intranet is a platform that aims to support internal communications with the network as well as Monitoring and evaluation.

- **Y-PEER Morocco’s National Theater Based Training**

  The National Theater Based Training was organized for Peer Educators by Y-PEER Morocco and UNFPA country office, in Rabat. From 22 to 24 May, 15 young people participated in the training. They represented 14 NGOs and came from 12 cities and villages around the kingdom; youth coming from villages and small towns and having low education level, were given great importance.

  The 3 days training were full of interactive exercises, role-playing and teamwork. Participants were highly motivated and committed during all sessions. As a result of their hard work and the efforts of Y-PEER trainers, 3 interactive theater scenes saw the light. Each of them covers one of the most relevant topics about Sexual and Reproductive Health in Morocco: HIV-AIDS stigma and discrimination, child marriage, and sexual harassment. During the training, a session was dedicated to introduce advocacy concepts to the participants and another one was conducted to help them plan dissemination activities among their respective communities.

  The training concluded with a performance of the 3 plays. Ms. Mieko Yabuta, UNFPA Country Office representative, and youth from Rabat were among the audience.

- **Launch Of “Youth Of Morocco Project”**

  Youth of Morocco is a facebook page that was launched, on June, by Y-PEER and UNFPA; it presents stories and quotes from young people of Morocco, and aims to shed the light on the aspirations, reflections and concerns of young people in Morocco. The power of storytelling to change attitudes is the key motivation behind this initiative.

  A team of Y-PEER volunteers worked on logo design, stories collection and translation of stories from Arabic to English.

Find more about Y-PEER Morocco on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/ypeermaroc
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-of-Morocco/1590311834582015
- Updates from Nepal
- Assessment Of Situation, Services And Needs Of Young People
More than 25 camps of Kathmandu Valley were visited by Volunteers. The assessment was divided into two sections. The first section focused on the transit walk and observation focusing on different aspects such as situation of bathroom, distance of bathroom from tent, type of bathroom, light in and on the way to bathroom, sanitation and cleanliness, types of tent, etc. The second section included the interaction with camp coordination body and youth living in camp about the needs.

- Selection And Training To Enumerators On Health Need Assessment
Call and selection of 30 youth volunteers were done where they were trained 3 days on assessment tools. Young people with a different education background were selected so that different views were expressed and improvising of assessment tool was done.

- Finalization And Approval Of Assessment Tools
After different phases of improvisations, the assessment tool was finalized and approved by UNFPA, RH Sub cluster and Family Health Division (FHD), under Department of health services, Ministry of Health and Population. The final assessment tool was authorized by UNFPA as well as Ministry of Health and Population as suitable to use in the humanitarian setting.

- Selection Of Camps And Rapid Health Need Assessment
Out of all the camps registered and listed by Government of Nepal, 16 camps of Kathmandu valley were selected on basis criteria like total population, access, distance etc. Volunteers were mobilized in camps where conducted need assessment of young people through Interview and FGD Tools.

- Representation In RH & GBV Sub Clusters
Y-PEER Nepal is one of a few youth lead organization which is present in RH Sub cluster and GBV Sub cluster. Advocating and suggesting the youth and adolescents focused activities is one of the main tasks which Y-PEER is currently doing in both cluster.

- One-Day Menstrual Hygiene TOT
It was jointly organized by Y-PEER Nepal & Bhaktapur Youth information forum 4th July 2015 with support of Circle of Health International. 25 young girls age between 18-24 were selected from three different districts who will be working with Y-PEER in their activities in camps and schools of Kathmandu Valley and other districts affected by earthquake.

- Young Girls Basketball League
Y-PEER in partnership with Youth for Youth, Nepal Basketball Association is organizing series of Basketball league for school students starting from third week of July. “Empowering adolescent girls in sports” is main theme of the event and one of objective is to make students relief from mental pressure due to earthquake.

- As in April 2015, the devastating earthquake happened in Nepal; it left thousands of people homeless and forced to live in temporary tents. In such humanitarian setting, the basic need and needs of security are more highlighted; the sexual and reproductive health needs tend to be overshadowed. Recognizing the urgency to intervene on sexual and reproductive health need of women, children and young people, Y-PEER Nepal carried out series of activities to identify the real need of the internally displaced people living in temporary tents in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur. Following is the summary of Post disaster activities done by Y-PEER Nepal.

- Interaction Programs Among Youths
Soon after the earthquake, Y-PEER organized series of interaction program with different groups of young people in Kathmandu Valley. The first interaction program was organized on May 2, where Y-PEER planned to focus on the menstrual hygiene & harassment issue in camps. So far Y-PEER had been involved in more than 10 group interactions and consultations with young people including those who are living in the camps.

- Sanitary Pad Distribution Along With Menstrual Hygiene
Since 2nd week of May, Volunteers of Y-PEER had been visiting different camps of 3 districts to distribute sanitary pads. Since one of the main issues till date is proper use of pads and dispose after use, in the humanitarian setting. Y-PEER had not only been distributing sanitary pad to women and girls, but also had made the aware about its proper disposal after use.

- Online Consultation With International Y-PEERers
Y-PEER in many countries is working in Humanitarian settings, focusing on sexual and reproductive health needs and issues in the humanitarian setting. Online interaction was organized among some Nepali Y-PEERs and Y-PEERs from other country. The objective of those online consultations was to know the best practices for other countries and develop understanding about humanitarian setting and how the general trends of the needs of women, girls and young people in those settings and thus to use the knowledge in working in current post disaster situation of Nepal.

- Radio Program Dautari
Y-PEER in partnership with Chetena Forum started radio program named “Dautari” which means peer when translated in English. The first episode of the program was in July 5. The main theme of the radio program is sexual and reproductive health issues among young people.

Find more about Y-PEER Nepal on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/ypeernepal
Web: http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/nepal/
- Launch The Produced Y-PEER Video Clip “Let’s Dream”
The launch of “Let’s Dream” video clip aimed at showcasing a rather different approach to communicating messages to young people through an innovative approach. The video brought together young people from around the world, thus setting an example for Palestinian youth to opt for more and search for a united message to share and communicate on the local, national, and international levels.

The launch was prepared as to invite representatives from: private sector, civil society, international organizations, media (local and international, example: Thomesen Ruters), Higher Council for Youth and Sports, and young activists, volunteers, and youth groups. The video and audio versions of the video clip were also distributed to local, regional, and international media outlets in an attempt to increase and sustain the reach of the music production.

- Y-PEER Orientation Reception
The Y-PEER Orientation Reception was organized to bring together existing Y-PEER members with prospect and/or new network members. Introductions to the network were delivered by the focal point in charge, Rand Jarallah, and Y-PEER Ambassador, May Abu Asab. The reception also included screening of Y-PEER video and ‘Let’s Dream’ song clip. The main purpose of the reception was to provide an overview the Y-PEER Network, share previous achievements, and explore potential interventions to advocate and expand the Network on the local, national, and international levels.

- Orientation Sessions With The Palestine Technical College
The Y-PEER Network Palestine organized orientation sessions at Palestine Technical College in collaboration with Sharek to provide young females with an overview of the Network in Palestine and with an opportunity to take part in the Network and act as active citizens in their communities. The orientation sessions aim to broaden the scope of young people in order to consider social change and think as changers in their communities.

- Orientation Session In Ramallah
An orientation session was organized in Ramallah for young Palestinians to discuss in an open discussion volunteerism and civic participation. The participants were initially briefed about the Y-PEER Network in Palestine, and then an open discussion was carried out accompanied with two exercises that are focused on civic participation.

- Y-PEER Basic Training – West Bank And Jerusalem
The Y-PEER Basic trainings aim to introduce prospect members of the Network to the main topics and themes addressed by the Network through an interactive manner that ensure constructive team discussions over sensitive and controversial issues. With the assistance of internal Y-PEER trainers and external trainers, the Y-PEER Palestine was able to provide the participants with a complete overview of the Y-PEER Network and succeeded in exposing them to different ways of thinking.

Find more about Y-PEER Palestine on the following link:
https://www.facebook.com/YPeerPalestineOfficialPage
Updates from Philippines

- July 2015
Y-PEER Philippines is conducting a Sunday Session on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health among young girls in Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) until August, empowering 30 young girls to be a peer educator, in partnership and collaboration with Ministry of Health, PUP ROTC Corps Sponsor.

- #PurpleMySchool Campaign
Y-PEER Philippines and its local members support the #PurpleMySchool Campaign. #AntiStigmaAndDiscriminationamongLGBT #WARAYA #DavaoYouth #IliganYouth #AklanYouth #YPEERPilipinas #YPEER.
You can also support the Campaign just visit: http://www.campaign.com/PurpleMySchool.

- July 11, 2015
Y-PEER Philippines conducted a workshop during World Population Day with the theme: “Vulnerable Populations in Emergencies” to have consultation on the Adolescent/Youth Package during Humanitarian Settings.

- June 2015
The team conducted the training on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies (ASRHiE) in partnership with UNFPA Philippines.

- May 2015
HIV 101 session were developed among 200 young people of ROTC officers from National Capital Region in partnership with Y-PEER Philippines and Youth Consortium.

- May 2015
AIDS Candlelight Memorial 2015.

Find more about Y-PEER Philippines on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/ypeerpilipinas
https://twitter.com/YPEER_PHL

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0Szm1ltwPtCT2FYbmFhaW43RzQ/view?usp=sharing
- **Y-PEER Syria Team**
  Y-PEER Syria team worked successfully with different stakeholders and parties in the mentioned period on reactivating the network again in Syria after two years of difficulties. Their different activities conducted in this time period included the followings.

- **Several Meetings With Partners And Stakeholders**
  They were organised to assess the needs, to design and to implement activities that respond to the needs of the Y-PEER target groups;

- **Weekly awareness peer education sessions in IDPs services centers**
  It started in July and will continue every week aiming to raise the awareness of the IDPs beneficiaries about health related issues and other subjects such as (GBV, Stigma and discrimination, STDs etc) using the Peer Education Training Techniques;

- **Interactive Theatre Training**
  Interactive Theatre Training With The Syrian Family Planning Association youth committee members that took place in August, in preparation for an interactive theatre show to be presented during the world humanitarian day event in Damascus;

- **Participation Of The FPC Alaa Khachi**
  Participation of the FPC Alaa Khachi in the world humanitarian day by performing songs during the event.

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Find more about Y-PEER Syria on the following links:

- [https://www.facebook.com/YPEERSYRIA](https://www.facebook.com/YPEERSYRIA)
- Web: [http://www.youthpeerarabic.org/](http://www.youthpeerarabic.org/)
- In this half-year **Y-PEER Turkmenistan** has done a lot of diverse, interesting, useful activities. So below there are some of them.

- Summer Camps in “Gok Dere” About Healthy Life Style
And by tradition our volunteers, who pass competitive selection, went to hold sessions in the summer camps in “Gok Dere” about Healthy Life Style between teenagers and youth by informational company promoting Healthy Life Style between teenagers and youth people in the summer camps.

- Also from 24th until 26th of March in Y-PEER was carry out the training of trainers, which were attended by 20 volunteers.

- Educating Children
The number of educated children by our volunteers is 6337. We are developing very often many teambuilding activities for our peers.

- Our trained volunteers conducted **special sessions about reproductive health, Healthy Life Style**, in the secondary schools on the principle of peer education. The total number of trained students is 1229.

- Also volunteers with the motivation of the “Youth Voice” company learned about some good public speaking tool to use them while participating in some political events, beside that it is important and very useful skill for their life and future.

Find more about Y-PEER Turkmenistan on the following link:
http://www.youthpeerarabic.org/
Albania

- World Population Day Celebration In Albania
The theme for this year’s World Population Day celebrated on July 11 is “Vulnerable Populations in Emergencies”. The world is seeing a record number of people displaced by crises – some 60 million according to the latest UN figures. UNFPA works in emergency settings around the globe to respond to the rights and needs of women and girls, helping them maintain their dignity, securing their safety, and restoring their access to sexual and reproductive health care. With this occasion, the young volunteers engaged in the Youth Voice campaign have conducted an outreach camping, with the support of IPPF, ACPD and UNFPA Albania. UNFPA Albania has also organized an event at the Summer School Academy for Minority Rights in Voskopojë. The Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Mr Bledi Klosi, UNFPA Country Director for Albania, Mr. Ian McFarlane, activists of human rights and the Youth Voice activists were among the distinguished guests and participants of the event.
Source: http://eecayouthvoice.org/world-population-day-celebration-in-albania/

Azerbaijan

- Azerbaijan Team Conducts Consultations With Youth From 3 Regions
Young people from Azerbaijan are all very excited to start the second phase of the Youth Voice campaign! In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and National Assembly of Youth Organizations of Azerbaijan, they are going to three regions of Azerbaijan (Lankran, Ismayilli and Aghdam) where they will conduct 5 days of trainings and consultation with young people from those regions. The results of the consultation and the youth messages will be presented during a final meeting in Baku where decision makers from government and different stakeholders will participate and engage in dialogue with young people.
Source: http://eecayouthvoice.org/azerbaijan-team-conducts-consultations-with-youth-from-3-regions/

Bosnia-Herzegovina

- Youth Voice Campaign Updates From BiH
Y-PEER Bosnia and Herzegovina team has been very busy lately! The young volunteers have conducted awareness raising sessions and workshops in schools, organized out-reach activities, provided information and materials at info-booths – as you can see from the many photos they shared with us! These are all preparatory activities for the implementation of the Youth Voice Letter Campaign and upcoming round table meetings with school administrations. Besides these activities, the teams had two meetings with the Mayor of the Ilidža Municipality and the representative of Institute of Public Health of the Sarajevo Canton.
Source: http://eecayouthvoice.org/youth-voice-campaign-updates-from-bih/
Georgia

The article is written by Giorgi Shakarashvili, a new FPC from Georgia, who has been a part of the Y-PEER network community since 2014. His introduction to the community was through Regional advocacy campaign “Youth Voice Georgia”, initiated by EECA regional office of UNFPA. During Youth Voice Campaign held in Georgia there were 6 NGO’s” which have participated in planning and organizing events, such NGO’s as: GYDEA Georgia, Association hera XXI, European youth parliament Georgia, Georgian youth parliament, LGBT Georgia and Real people real vision. The young people participating in different discussions and consultations have stated several recommendations in the advocacy paper. “The first recommendation is about education, we suggest that adaptive out of class literature and programs should be made, especially for minorities. Formal and informal study regarding SRHR should be supported by the government and tutors should be recruited. Schools should be provided with modern technology and internet, especially in high mountain villages. Our next recommendations include:

- Human rights field; the first recommendation is about early marriage, which should be prevented, to make sure girls have enough opportunities for their personal development. Our second recommendation is about raising the access to informal education, especially in high mountainous regions. Our third recommendation is about young people who are under government care, to support them after they are out of care, making various youth friendly services.

- Health and social protection field; we believe that young people should receive quality reproductive health services in confidential and youth friendly environment. The medical stuff should be recruited and special youth friendly services should be opened for the young people with disabilities.

- Youth employment and participation. Young people should receive governmental support for suitable employment, building regional youth centers and mobilizing youth to involve them in various activities, especially involvement of young people from high mountain villages. We are still working hard for advocating and implementing our ideas”.

Kazakhstan

Forum-theater Workshop In Kazakhstan

Theatrical performances help increase knowledge, change the mindset and behavior, and also raise and discuss sensitive topics in groups. The statement focused on the promotion of certain messages, and also creating an emotional response in the audience, who can deduce inferences. During the play the actors can show the results of misbehavior, and through audience participation in the performance, the audience can feel the danger of risky behavior and adopt the safe side, thus securing their understanding about the relationship between the decisions and their results. Theater forum is an educational platform that helps participants understand how they can change their surroundings and society. Using this platform every viewer can offer his own scenario, thus viewers are no longer detached observers, from that moment they are the main driving force of the production. Theater forum presents the problem to the audience and asks them for help in order to solve it. This training (workshop) was conducted by the activists of the international youth peer education network Y-PEER. Activists have studied the techniques of forum theatre and demonstrated the gained knowledge during the final performance on one of the Central student venues in Astana. The participants raised acute issues during the final performance about teenage pregnancy, violence against women, domestic violence, parents misunderstanding, tradition, corruption, illegal abortion, and the lack of moral and sexual education in the school system of learning. Upon returning home, the participants will conduct similar training for their teams of Y-PEER in their cities. Mr. Hjalmar Jorge Joffre-Eichhorn was invited for the workshop. The training took place over 5 days with the final performance May 31, 2015, prior to the international day of protection of children. Source: http://eecayouthvoice.org/forum-theater-workshop-in-kazakhstan/
Moldova
- Why Should Youth Become A Priority For The Government?
The results of the first stage of the Campaign in the Republic of Moldova have been presented in the framework of a press conference with the participation of the Constantin Cearanovschi, President of the “Generația cu inițiativă” Association, Natalia Cojohari, Assistant Representative ad interim of UNFPA Moldova, and Ion Donea, Head of the Youth Programs Department of the Ministry of Youth and Sport. More than 7,000 young people from 37 towns and villages of Moldova were invited to send a postcard with their answer to the question “Why should youth become a priority for the Government?”. As a result, more than 3,000 young people had sent their responses which included the recommendations for the Government of the Republic of Moldova. In particular, they require from the Government: - the education system to be adjusted to the conditions of the labour market; - the young people to have access to the necessary information and education regarding their health, including the sexual and reproductive health, and to the youth friendly health care services regardless their social status; - the discrimination based on gender and age to be eliminated while employing young people; All the young people responses were analyzed and systematized in the framework of a declaration which will be proposed to the Ministries and will be included into the national youth development policies.
The Campaign will last till September 2015 and foresees a range of public thematic debates (education, health, employment and volunteering, non-discrimination and environment) in order to validate the solutions proposed by the young people to be presented to the Government.
Source: http://eecayouthvoice.org/why-should-youth-become-a-priority-for-the-government/

Turkey
- Before General Elections, June 7th, in the country, Turkey team planned a workshop for young people with UN Youth Thematic Group about post-2015 Agenda and how to reach and communicate with stake holders to share youth messages including following topics: human rights, communication skills, and parliamentary system on May 15th. A call for participants was shared and applications gathered to form a group to work together for the second phase of our Youth Voice Campaign. 15 young people between 18-25 that have rich experience on youth field and motivated to work further together with the coordination team were selected to attend the workshop. On planning session, after an informative day, participants were paired up according to their cities and they came up with their plans including visits, e-mails sending and reaching stake holders using social media.
- As Turkey team we are in touch with local groups so that planning and revising would be done together to ensure Campaign’s goals are fulfilled. There is a mail group, Facebook group we use and also by calling local groups share their updates. Documents groups are using to prepare themselves and gain more understanding about frames shared by Youth Voice coordination team and UN Turkey right after workshop.
Read more on the following link: http://eecayouthvoice.org/youth-voice-campaign-updates-from-turkey/
The Y-PEER Global Advisory Board Meeting officially started on May 8, in Amman, Jordan. FPCs from 3 regions (Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Arab States and Asia Pacific) gathered together to discuss the future of the Y-PEER Network.

During the Global Advisory Board Meeting were discussed best practices from across the Y-PEER networks and how to overcome challenges in each region. It was presented what has been achieved internationally and regionally for the past year and a half.

It was held a highly interesting panel discussion on partnerships, featuring representatives from UNFPA, PETRI, NCCA and Y-PEER alumni during the Global Advisory Board Meeting.

During the meeting participants discussed about Global advocacy and Post-2015 Development Agenda. They shared ideas and suggestions how to mobilize Y-PEER communities through social media. Moreover, the team of ICs and FPCs discussed about Y-PEER capacity building, sustainability and accountability.

One of the outcomes of the event was merging the regional action plans and building the International Action Plan 2015.

During the meeting were elected 4 International Coordinators. We kindly congratulate our new ICs Sharaf, Sonja, Jihad and Ahmed!
Meet our Y-PEER International Coordinators

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PETRI Advocacy Training took part in Sofia, gathered 18 youth leaders across the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region. During the 3 days of training, young people had the opportunity to learn more about advocacy tools, discuss the challenges they are facing with while advocating for youth issues, with the focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Comprehensive Education and meaningful youth participation in local and global development processes.

Training became a starting point of implementing part of Phase II of Regional "Youth Voice" Campaign, launched by UNFPA and aims to ensure that young people are in the center of the future development agenda, through mobilizing young people from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to bring their voice and advocate for their priorities related to the ongoing discussion around the Post-2015 agenda and to support them to reach out to the decision makers in their country and to contribute to the debates that will shape the country’s position vis-à-vis to the youth components of the Post-2015 development agenda.

Mary Jobava, youth advocate from Georgia says: "The training for youth voices and priorities gave me a chance to improve my capacity in the advocacy skills related to Post-2015 Agenda and ICPD.

I especially liked the fact that during the training we had a chance to share our working experience, to talk about the challenges, in the field of SRHR and discuss the effective advocacy campaign skills. As a follow up of the training, I had a chance to share my acquired knowledge with the members of regional YAP (Youth Advisory Panel)

Sargis, 17, volunteer from Armenia says: "Before participating in that training I knew about youth issues in my country but I didn’t have the keys of solving the problems. It was really useful and important training in my advocacy experience, because now I have the keys, now I know how to implement the actions for improving the situation in my country regarding youth issues. After training I am motivated and ready to contribute my skills into the positive changes in my society".

The second part of the article you may find on the following link: http://petrisofia.blogspot.com.tr/
This blog post was written by YCSRR member *Evdokia Romanova of Russia. Evdokia attended the EECA Youth Voice Advocacy Training with other youth advocates from the region before taking part in the UNFPA regional conference from May 27-29, 2015 on the topic of advancing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in the region through the post-2015 development agenda.

- From May 27–29th I had the opportunity to participate in the regional conference “Promoting Health and Rights, Reducing Inequalities: Towards Better Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcomes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)”, which was organized by UNFPA and brought together 140 participants from 27 countries in the EECA region, parliamentarians, civil society representatives and young people.

- I had the chance to present the outcomes of the training course that was held prior to the conference and give a small speech on the priorities of young people. I discussed the importance of education and meaningful youth participation in sexual and reproductive health and rights decision-making, and also talked about the importance of giving us, young people, the chance to present our messages related to the Post 2015 agenda. During the conference there were many presentations on topics such as: maternal health, comprehensive sexual education, contraceptives and migration (with a focus on SRHR). However, no one was speaking about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). I therefore took this as my chance to raise my voice on this topic.

- When participants at the conference divided into small groups to work together on the conference declaration, I was in the group “Sexual and Reproductive Health for young people”, where I advocated for the importance of acknowledging sexual orientation and gender identity as a crucial right of any young person in society. On the second day, I joined the session “Sexual and Reproductive Health of Key Populations at Higher Risk of HIV” where I advocated for the importance of providing more visibility to the issues of transgender youth, who remain invisible in research and outreach programs despite having the fastest growing rate of HIV infections.

- During the conference the Sofia Declaration of Commitment was adopted and youth advocates fought hard to include youth priorities and identify the main problems facing youth from the EECA region. I successfully pushed to change point #7 in the second part of the declaration to include language on key populations. Let us hope that this declaration, or at the very least the discussions we had during the conference, contribute to the process of bringing positive change to the lives of young people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The Y-PEER PETRI-Sofia (Peer Education Training and Research Institute) is a joint project based on a strong partnership between Y-PEER International Network, UNFPA, Ministry of Health of Bulgaria and National Center for Public Health and Analysis of Bulgaria. Its mission is to strengthen and spread internationally high quality peer education in the field of adolescence sexual and reproductive health. Since its establishment in 2007, PETRI-Sofia has organized, facilitated and supported numerous trainings in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of the young people. Recently PETRI team has been expanding and has gained several new Team Members!

Meet & Greet

Liuba Chirilov, PETRI-Sofia Fellow

“It is an honor for me and I am extremely excited to join the always positive and proactive team of PETRI Sofia. This fellowship will be a marvelous experience for me to strengthen my capacities and serve for our positive Orange Family. I have arrived from Chisinau, Moldova and so far I have experienced the great atmosphere and welcoming co-workers who are so considerate and amicable.

I hope that for 6 months being a PETRI fellow, I will do my work responsibly and passionately in order to further strengthen and develop our network. I am looking forward to keeping in touch with you and willing to assist you in our work. If you need my help at any time, please don’t hesitate to contact me using e-mails below.”

petri.bulgaria@gmail.com or liuba.chirilov@gmail.com

Akmaral Sman, PETRI-Sofia Fellow

“Dear orange newsletter readers,

I am Akmaral, PETRI fellow in Sofia. I originally came from Kazakhstan and I love this city so much. I was quite nervous at the beginning and I had no idea whether I make it or not, but my colleagues made me feel like I am on a right spot. No doubt, Y-PEER is the fantastic network where you can find new friends, learn, practice your skills and gain new experience. Wherever we travel, we will never be back as we were before and I am looking for some challenges and new goals that I can achieve here in PETRI. Hopefully, I will be back with a pack of experience and memories that I will be able to share later on. Stay tuned, we never know what opportunities you can also have, and maybe we will see you here in Sofia :)”

Find more about PETRI-Sofia on the following link: http://petrisofia.blogspot.com
- The Y-PEER International Center for Youth Development is a product of a unique collaboration between UNFPA, Y-PEER and the National Centre for Culture and Arts in Amman Jordan. The center was inaugurated on 11 May, 2015 and has aims to be a pillar in promoting youth development and leadership.

- The center will provide technical assistance, quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation of Y-PEER capacity building activities. Through interdependence between key Y-PEER programme components (EISCOSA – Education, Information, Skills development, Community mobilization, Outreach, Services and Advocacy), Y-PEER International Center for Youth Development is established to respond to the needs of young people on both, the grass-root and policy level.

- The center will also welcome two Y-PEER fellows each year, to assist in the coordination, planning and implementation of center’s activities. The annual activities include capacity building through organizing standardized trainings and events, establishing and maintaining database for professional educators and trainers, facilitating collaboration and communication with potential partners, contributing to research and knowledge provision on youth issues.

- The National Centre for Culture and Arts (NCCA) of King Hussein Foundation is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that was established in 1987 by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein with the mission to promote social development, cross-cultural understanding, and creativity by utilizing the performing arts nationally and internationally. Its activities and programs reach out to an audience of approximately 37,000 persons annually.

- Since 2004, the NCCA has been a full member representing the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) in Jordan, and in 2009 the center became the representative of the Jordanian Chapter of The International Theater Institute (ITI) – UNESCO. NCCA offers professional training programs in theatre accredited by the Ministry of Education in Jordan, using the curriculum of John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington-DC. Dance program is accredited by The Royal Academy of Dance-UK. NCCA houses the National Interactive Theater Troupe (NITT) and MISK Dance Company that perform a variety of artistic genres locally & internationally.

The Y-PEER International Center for Youth Development offers the following programs:

- Training of Trainers on Peer Education Techniques;
- Theater-Based Peer Education Training (accredited by ITI, UNESCO);
- Harnessing Potential of Celebrities and Journalists in Advocating for Young People with Particular Focus on HIV Prevention;
- Training of Trainers on Peer Education on Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings;
- Training of Trainers on Civic Engagement and Youth Participation;
- Training on Project Development and Management.

* Expert consultants and trainers are available for all topics mentioned above.

** NCCA is appointed by UNFPA as the Global Centre of Excellence on Theater Based Peer Education Training, accredited by ITI.

Find more about PACT training programs on the following link: www.pactjo.org
Meet Our Editorial Team!

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August, 2015

Scan to get the download link.