



## What we can together do against AIDS in Africa

### We are the National Member Organizations in Africa of the world's largest youth Movements:

- World Organization of the Scout Movement
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Association
- World Young Women's Christian Association
- The International Award Association
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- The International Youth Foundation

### Who we are and what is our common specificity

Together our seven organizations and their networks directly represent more than 100 million young people worldwide, of whom over 20 million are members on the African continent. In addition, our youth organizations and their networks indirectly reach another 200 million in Africa through families and peers. The power of our youth networks to reach scale at such unprecedented levels is unparalleled. Such an Alliance can and should bring a great added value in the fight against HIV/AIDS such as:

- Ability to reach scale: up to 20 million or more youth in Africa through effective programs
- African-led and African influenced with deep community ties
- Access to young girls and women and ability to address their vulnerabilities
- Reach to young boys and men to improve their social and interpersonal skills
- Ability to reach out of school youth through our non-formal educational focus
- A holistic approach, to prevention, care and support
- Powerful in advocacy against stigma and discrimination and for youth interests with consistent messages
- Ability to influence behaviours in young people in the long term through a sustained effort that reaches across generations
- Complementarity of programming and opportunities for learning from strengths of each other
- Access to existing infrastructures and tools for reduced transaction costs

### Our common objectives are to:

- Scale-up existing effective HIV/AIDS prevention programs to reach more young people;
- Expand care, access to treatment, support and opportunities to those already infected with the HIV virus to improve their quality of lives;
- Build the capacity of volunteer-based, grassroots, youth organizations to design and implement more effective youth-focused HIV/AIDS prevention programs;
- Increase youth knowledge and skills to protect themselves from the HIV infection, other STIs and unwanted pregnancies.



## **Our principles**

The Alliance is committed to the following **underlying principles** that are embedded in all the interventions:

- Youth are agents of social change, not passive targets of information; they can be central to the fight against AIDS through their involvement in design, implementation and evaluation aspects of a common project
- Using holistic approaches to prevention, care, access to treatment, support and advocacy against stigma and discrimination, within and outside the Alliance national Member Organizations
- Empowering young girls and women especially in the fight against HIV/AIDS
- Involve and support people living with HIV/AIDS in all aspects of the program

## **Our priorities**

Thus, our *priority* interventions for young people will focus on:

- *Strengthening Youth* – Expanding lifeskills and values formation programs
- *Skills-based Peer Education* – Expanding peer-to-peer education programs to ensure requisite skills are built and linking with appropriate youth-friendly services.
- *Advocacy* – Through open dialogue that raise awareness of harmful cultural practices and advocating against stigma and discrimination with one voice and with consistent messages.
- *Livelihoods* – approaches that not only provide marketable job skills development and income earning opportunities for young people, but also strengthen community safety nets by providing the similar income earning opportunities to orphans' caregivers, to child heads of households and to families weakened by the disease and by famine.

## **At national level**

We plan to form a national coalition of the affiliate organizations in every country of the African continent. The interventions aimed at the organizational level will focus on strategic capacity building, through joint training and technical assistance activities, in order to enable these mostly volunteer driven organizations to:

- *Improve their organizational skills* in basic management and communication, as well as in financial management and reporting, curricula development, teacher training and improved advocacy skills.
- *Strengthen the collaboration* and workings of each country's Alliance through ongoing\_coaching.
- *Peer learning on best practices* or effective programs for youth through networking and exchange of ideas; sharing assets, documenting and disseminating what is working well in prevention, care and support.

The overall desired outcome is a decrease in the prevalence rates among young people. Specific measurable outcomes will be established for each country.

In every country the entire programme should fit within the existing national strategy against AIDS.

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