2010 ANNUAL REPORT

A year of working internationally for sexual and reproductive rights
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Annual Report prepared by Youth Coalition staff
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On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am very pleased to present the 2010 Annual Report of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YC).

This year marked another step forward in the evolution of our organization. In the lead up to the deadlines for the MDGs (2015) and ICPD Programme of Action (now extended beyond 2014), the YC recognized that we have a prominent role to play in positioning young people at the heart of the global development agenda. Throughout the year, we prepared ourselves for this role by taking steps to influence high level decision-making, by building the capacity of allied young advocates, and by working collaboratively with our partners in setting a progressive youth SRR agenda and strategizing for the road ahead.

Throughout the year, the YC made a concerted effort to directly influence decision-making processes at different levels in order to ensure the effective participation of young people in key venues and opportunities. We played an important role in planning the youth components of three of the largest conferences in the SRR world: Women Deliver, the World Youth Conference and the International AIDS Conference. Our involvement in these processes had successful outcomes, and in all cases led to increased youth participation and added spaces for youth collaboration and advocacy.

We also further expanded our work on capacity building to address several exciting new issues, including: the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) issues, and the comprehensive M&E of Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS). Our regional and national-level workshops on these topics allowed us to strengthen the ability of our participants to effectively influence national and regional-level decision-making. It also helped cultivate our own knowledge and capacity on key mechanisms and intersections within SRR, and ultimately strengthened the impact of our work at all levels.

Throughout 2010, we also continued to work in collaboration and partnership with young advocates and youth organizations from around the world, as well as organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, donors and UN agencies, particularly in the context of the 10th anniversary of the Millennium Declaration and in the lead up to the UN International Year of Youth. Strategic partnerships have always been - and continue to be - an extremely valuable part of our work. We recognize our own role in a larger movement, and hold firm in our belief that collective efforts will not only yield change, but will sustain it.

This year the YC also spent some time preparing for the next chapter of our work, developing our next Strategic Plan, which will take us from 2012 through to 2015. As we close out 2010, we will continue to think strategically about our role in the SRR movement, and about how we can work toward promoting, securing and protecting young people’s SRR by 2015. As a completely youth-led, volunteer driven, members-based organization, we are proud to be a working example of the contributions that young people can make to high-level decision making and global dialogues.

As we reflect on how far we have come in the past twelve years, we extend our sincere gratitude to our members, staff and alumni for their invaluable contributions to our accomplishments, and to our partners and funders for their loyal support. For the time being, our eyes are resting firmly on 2015. We are looking forward to new and strengthened partnerships, to growing the YC family, and to finding innovative ways of working toward a world where the sexual and reproductive rights of all young people are respected and fulfilled.

Ricardo Baruch
Chair, Board of Directors
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Youth Coalition greatly appreciates all of the organizations and individuals with whom we have worked throughout 2010. Thank you to the following funders and organizations for all of their generous support, without which we could not have achieved so much:

OUR PARTNERS

Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD); Advocates for Youth; Asia-Pacific Alliance for ICPD (APA); CHOICE for youth and sexuality; Coalicion de Jovenes por la Educacion y la Salud Sexual (COJESS); the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP); the Secretariat of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM); the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+); Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA); the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Helem; International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA); International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC); Ipas; International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Vienna Youth Force; Plataforma Nacional de Juventud; Public Health Institute (PHI); World AIDS Campaign (WAC); YouAct; Youth LEAD; Young and Wise; Youth Incentives; Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER).

OUR FUNDERS

The Summit Charitable Foundation; The Ford Foundation; Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (independently and via CHOICE for youth and sexuality); Population Action International (PAI); Ipas, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and our Anonymous Donor.
Advocacy is at the core of the Youth Coalition’s beliefs and mandate. We strive to influence decision-making processes so that they respect, prioritize and guarantee young people’s sexual and reproductive rights, and to hold decision-makers accountable to their commitments. We also work collaboratively with our partners to develop a coordinated approach to youth SRR advocacy efforts, and to create spaces where young people can be influential and effective.

This year, the YC decided to make a specific and concerted effort to directly influence and contribute to decision-making processes at different levels. Subsequently, we became involved in the governing and decision-making mechanisms of several different bodies, including the Leadership and Accountability Program Committee (LAPC) of the XVIII International AIDS Conference (IAC), the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) for the MDGs Civil Society Hearings, and the Steering Committee of the HIV Young Leaders Fund (HYLF). We also participated in the language negotiation process during the 43rd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and the 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). In each of these roles, we made certain that young people’s voices were heard and incorporated, and we worked to promote and strengthen the effective participation of young people.

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

1. 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
   March 2010, New York (USA)
   - Supported oral submissions developed by the International Sexual and Reproductive Rights Coalition (ISRRC) reiterating international commitments towards women’s health including ICPD, Beijing and MDGs; and by the Center for Reproductive Rights on criminal legislation that restricts women’s rights and contravenes the Beijing PfA.
   - Developed a joint oral submission on young women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights along with World YWCA.
   - Worked with partners and allied states to ensure the inclusion of progressive language into a resolution entitled “Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women.”
   - Organized and facilitated a Progressive Youth Caucus to strategize for young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights while at CSW.

2. 43rd Session of the Commission on Population and Development
   April 2010, New York (USA)
   - Worked closely with partners to lobby States to include progressive youth SRHR language into Final Resolution, with positive results. Final Resolution contained references to human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexuality education, and sexual and reproductive health information.
   - During UNFPA’s panel on ‘Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Reduction’, YC member Neha Sood (India) gave a presentation on the need to invest in adolescents’ health, education and livelihood to ensure progress towards MDG 5.
in the development, implementation, and evaluation of SRR-related policies and programs.

As a result of our involvement with the LAPC, 20% of the conference scholarships for the 2010 IAC was allocated to young people, specifically young key-affected populations, including but not limited to young people living with HIV, young people who use drugs, young sex workers, young men who have sex with men, LGBTQ-identified youth, and young women. Additionally, thanks to our efforts, one youth symposium session and one youth skills-building workshop (each organized by young people) were accepted by the LAPC as non-abstract driven sessions to take place during the main conference.

Similarly, our participation in the MDG CSTF enabled the YC to bring progressive youth perspectives to the organizing of the MDG Civil Society Hearings and their outcomes, and to ensure adequate youth representation amongst speakers and respondents at the Hearings. In fact, almost all proposals for youth speakers and respondents that we put forth were accepted, and YC member Neha Sood (India) was selected to deliver a speech on young people’s SRR and the MDGs. We were also able to influence the MDG Summit outcome document, with Neha making concrete recommendations to the zero draft of the document during informal negotiations. Another task of the CSTF was to contribute to the selection process of civil society representatives for the six thematic roundtables and plenary sessions at the MDG Summit. YC member Imane Khachani (Morocco) was selected to speak at Roundtable 5 on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. In this venue, Imane was able to speak to country delegates directly and to address many of the deficiencies in the MDG framework and in the Summit outcome declaration with regard to adolescents.

Equally important has been our coordinated advocacy efforts with partners. In April 2010, the YC worked closely with partners and some permanent missions at the 43rd Session of the Commission on Leadership and Accountability Program Committee (LAPC) International AIDS Conference 2010, Vienna (Austria)

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HIV Young Leaders Fund (HYLF) 2010, Washington DC (USA)

- We are a partner and stakeholder of the HYLF, a community-driven funding mechanism for youth-led HIV initiatives, and we have sat on its Steering Committee (SC) since November 2009.

- Throughout 2010, the YC inputted on the key strategic discussions on effective and sustainable operations, helped the HYLF clarify its vision-mission and long-term goals, and set funding priorities for 2011.
Population and Development to lobby States to include progressive youth SRHR language into the Final Resolution, with positive results. The Final Resolution contained references to human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexuality education, and sexual and reproductive health information. Further to our lobbying efforts, we were invited to speak on UNFPA’s panel on ‘Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Reduction’. YC member Neha Sood (India) spoke about the need to invest in adolescents’ health, education and livelihood to accelerate progress towards MDG 5. She also spoke about the need to engage adolescents and young people meaningfully in policy formulation and program design, implementation and evaluation.

Another partnership that we are very proud of is our work with the HIV Young Leaders Fund. The YC has been part of the decision-making and operational processes of the HYLFs since its inception in 2009. The HYLF was established to support youth-led organizations and their programs at country level, and we sit on its Steering Committee as a way of supporting young and key at-risk populations in their advocacy efforts on HIV and AIDS. Throughout 2010, the YC inputted on the Steering Committee’s key strategic discussions on effective and sustainable operations, and helped the HYLF clarify its vision-mission and long-term goals, and set funding priorities for 2011.

MDG Civil Society Hearings
June 2010, New York (USA)

• The YC was able to increase visibility of youth SRHR during the Civil Society Hearings as we were the only youth organization invited to sit on the panel, which was limited to a total of 13 representatives of diverse constituencies. This positioned us well to advocate within the taskforce for the presence of progressive SRHR advocates at the Hearings.

• A speech delivered by the YC during the Civil Society Hearings enabled us to provide specific language recommendations for the zero draft of the MDG Summit outcome document which was being negotiated by Member States at the time.

MDGs Summit 2010
September 2010, New York (USA)

• We were able to highlight youth SRHR with Member States through our participation at a Country Delegates Brunch. As one of only 5 speakers invited, and the only youth speaker, we were able to address how maternal mortality and morbidity affects adolescent girls and young women. The speech, given by YC member Imane Khachani (Morocco), can be found on: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VP_j5_lwfCI

• The YC was also invited by the Secretary General to speak directly to country delegates at the Round Table 5 session on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

• The YC participated as a panelist at the official side event: 1.8 Billion Strong: Young people driving the MDGs’. The YC spoke on the need to include young people in national development plans and highlighted the organization’s work on poverty reduction strategies in Ghana and the Philippines. The panel was co-sponsored by UNFPA, IPPF, and inter-agency on youth development network.
During the year, the Youth Coalition also formed several working groups with other youth-led and youth-serving organizations, and created spaces for collaboration. These pursuits allowed us to draw on a diversity of skills and experience, and we worked to increase awareness about sexual and reproductive rights at global conference and advocacy venues and to build support among key stakeholders. These relationships also allowed us to strategize and plan our activities collaboratively, to develop consistent and evidence-based advocacy messages and create effective communication tools to deliver those messages to different stakeholders during events. One example of our cooperative efforts was the YC’s involvement with the Vienna Youth Force (VYF) in the lead-up to the XVIII International AIDS Conference. The YC had three members actively involved in the VYF, and took the lead in coordinating its activities and discussions. Together with the Youth Force, we organized the IAC Youth Pre-conference which provided a platform for more than 300 young people around the world to identify challenges and develop advocacy messages and plans for the main conference of the IAC. The Youth Coalition also organized strategic caucuses at key events throughout the year, including a progressive youth caucus prior to the 54th Session of the CSW, and a youth SRR caucus co-sponsored by IPPF prior to the World Youth Conference 2010. These events provided spaces where progressive young people from different countries and networks could strategize for effective youth participation throughout the events, and set a common agenda in lobbying for young people’s SRR.

Over the years, the YC has also become a reliable source of speakers and moderators for various dialogues and panels. Throughout 2010, YC members and staff informed and engaged their audiences by contributing to a numerous events. Nowhere was this more evident, than at the CSW. While in attendance, the YC moderated and co-sponsored ‘Advocating for Sexual and Reproductive Rights: Youth Leading the Way!’ with IPPF, Ipas, and SEICUS. We also promoted youth SRR as facilitators and speakers at ‘We are the Millennium: Young advocates propelling sexual and reproductive health and rights within the MDGs’, which we also co-sponsored with the Coalition to Advance Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health. Additionally, the YC served as a panellist at ‘Outlawing Women: Effects of laws criminalizing women’s sexuality’, co-sponsored by the Center for Reproductive Rights, the ATHENA Network, UNDP, the AIDS Legal Network, POWA, Sonke Gender Justice, the World YWCA, the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, and the Youth Coalition. Beyond CSW, we also contributed to various sessions and discussions at key global dialogues, including Women Deliver, the International AIDS Conference, the World Youth Conference, and the MDG Summit.
In all, the year in advocacy was a successful one. We worked diligently throughout 2010 to not only hold decision-makers accountable on youth and SRR issues, but to also become involved in the bodies and mechanisms making key decisions. In addition, we worked in close collaboration with our partners, without whom our advocacy efforts would not have been as compelling or effective. Further to that, we took steps toward leading a coordinated approach to youth SRR advocacy, which will be key in planning for the years to come. Looking ahead, we are dedicated to ensuring that international decision-making is relevant and valuable to advocates working at all levels. We will also continue to nurture our partnerships and to work with our partners to establish a cohesive youth SRR movement and agenda. Together, we will strive to ensure that by the time 2015 comes to pass, we will meet our targets, and young people’s sexual and reproductive rights will be protected and respected.
It is the Youth Coalition’s goal that young people working in the field of SRR have a full understanding of their sexual and reproductive rights and are empowered to effectively advocate for them. Therefore, we organize trainings, workshop sessions and youth caucuses in order to increase the knowledge and capacities of young people working in our field, and to strengthen our partnerships with youth-led organizations and networks working on SRR. Through our trainings, we also endeavor to promote networking and coalition building between the young people we engage and other organizations and networks advocating for sexual and reproductive rights, so that we can work collaboratively in setting the strategies and agenda for our movement.

Throughout 2010, the YC conducted a number of workshops that yielded some exciting results, a few challenges and valuable lessons learned. As result of our capacity-building efforts, we trained close to 300 young people from over two dozen countries on a diversity of SRR and intersecting issues, and built their skills on advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and much more. This year we also broke ground with pilot trainings on issues new to the YC, strengthened our follow-up on national-level capacity building we had begun last year, and built the capacity of the dozens of young people who took part in the youth caucuses we organized at key events throughout the year.

**TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS**

1. National Budget Advocacy and M&E Training
   March 2010, Accra (Ghana)

   - Strengthened the advocacy and M&E skills of 13 young people on public budgeting and budget tracking in Ghana, with participants representing 9 different organizations and nearly all the districts of Ghana.

   - Strengthened national-level partnerships and collaboration with the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), Young and Wise (a project of the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana), and UNFPA regional offices, thereby strengthening the YC’s capacity on national budget advocacy and M&E, as well as providing technical assistance to young advocates in Ghana.

   - Post-training, the training group was invited by the National Development Planning Commission to a meeting of Chief Directors of the various government Ministries on the Medium Term Development Framework. Our training partner, Young and Wise, participated in the meeting on behalf of the group and shared our recommendations, which ensured that there was greater reference to youth, youth development and sexual and reproductive health of young people in the document.

   - The follow up team has also been involved in the development of Ghana’s National Strategic Plan on HIV (which is a derivative of the MTD Framework), as well as in analysis and debates around the 2011 budget.
The first of our two pilot trainings in 2010, ‘Understanding the Global Fund’, was held in Cape Town, South Africa and equipped 25 young activists with the knowledge and tools necessary to better understand and get involved in the mechanisms and structures of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) at the national and international levels. Post-training, participants were empowered to create and implement action plans about the GFATM at their respective regions or countries to increase awareness, participation, and inclusion of young people and their issues at various levels of the GFATM processes. The second pilot training was held in Beirut, Lebanon, and hosted participants from seven different countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The workshop explored the intersections between Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) and SRR, and encouraged participants to make cross-movement linkages and do more collaborative work. The workshop also addressed international and regional advocacy, and gave participants an overview of key international human rights instruments and mechanisms and other useful resources.

Among our other workshops in 2010 was a training we held in Ghana on National-level Budget Tracking and Monitoring and Evaluation, a follow-up to our success-
ful 2009 pilot workshop in Ghana on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). The original training had developed the knowledge of young activists in Ghana on the PRSP process and shown them how to influence national budgeting to include line items such as reproductive health supplies. The second training was an effort to strengthen the participants’ capacity to monitor and evaluate their national PRSP and budget after it had been set, and to give them the tools hold their government accountable to those commitments. In addition to the follow-up training, in November 2010 we replicated the original PRSP workshop in another national context – the Philippines. Since the Philippine PRSP was expiring at the end of 2010 and a new one was being formulated, we felt that we had a crucial opportunity to strengthen the capacity of young people in-country to meaningfully participate in all stages of the writing and revision of the next Philippine PRSP.

In particular, the YC and its partners increased our focus on follow-up and monitoring processes for the workshops held in 2010 by significantly scaling up technical support and guidance to our partner organizations. We

>> THE YEAR IN TRAINING CONTINUED

4 Youth Pre-Conference, World Youth Conference August 2010, Leon (Mexico)

- Increased the capacity of 80 young people, including official WYC delegates representing all regions across the world on SRHR, ICPD and the MDGs during the WYC.

- Facilitated several workshops for a total of 210 young people and were represented on many panels during the WYC, including: facilitating workshops on ‘Youth Advocacy and Rights’ with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, ‘Holding Governments Accountable to Youth SRHR’ with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, ‘Youth participation and best practices on advocacy’ with YouAct and CHOICE, ‘Young People’s Involvement in MDG 6’, with the Global Youth Coalition on HIV and AIDS, and a presentation on the YC’s MDGs linkages fact sheet series.

5 MENA Regional Workshop for Young People on the Linkages between SOGI, SRR and Advocacy October 2010, Beirut (Lebanon)

- Worked with 16 participants from Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

- The workshop explored the intersections between SOGI and SRR, and encouraged participants to make cross-movement linkages and do more collaborative work. The workshop also examined international and regional advocacy, mapped SOGI and SRR work at both levels, and included an overview of key international human rights instruments and mechanisms, and other useful resources.
have worked diligently to capacitate and develop new young leaders and we have worked closely with them throughout the year to develop and hone their own projects, and to provide them with technical assistance from planning to implementation. Many of our past participants have been able to go on and participate at various events and discussions related to the topics they learned from their training. One particularly great example of leadership from our participants is from our GFATM training. Several of the young participants who received a leadership award from the Youth Coalition to support their country-level projects (in Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines) have reported increased youth participation at the GFATM processes in their own countries, and have been building relationships and holding consultations with the constituencies of their respective Country Coordinating Mechanisms. Similarly, participants of the budget-tracking and M&E training in Ghana have reported an increased analysis of youth SRR needs in the national budget. In addition, participants of the WYC youth events were successful in strengthening progressive youth participation throughout the conference, and specific language developed at the SRR caucus and Pre-conference was reflected in the introduction and education, health and gender equity sections of the NGO statement. The WYC Government Forum outcome document also contained references to language developed at the caucus and Pre-conference.

As mentioned earlier, the YC also held a number of youth-specific events and caucuses throughout the year. In addition to being occasions for networking and strategizing, these events are also a crucial opportunity to build the capacity of young participants on SRR and advocacy. Prior to the 2010 World Youth Conference, the YC organized a SRR caucus for progressive advocates, as well as a more general Youth Pre-Conference. While the SRR caucus focused specifically on developing advocacy strategies for the WYC’s NGO, Interactive and Government Forums, it also allowed us the opportunity to strengthen the assembled advocates’ skills in advocacy strategizing. Meanwhile, the Youth Pre-conference hosted a range of participants, including official NGO delegates, SRR caucus participants, and youth activists outside of SRR. The Pre-Conference helped youth advocates develop an understanding of youth SRR within the MDGs framework and across thematic areas, and

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Poverty Reduction Strategy Training
November 2010, Manila (Philippines)

- Strengthened the capacity of 11 young participants participate in all stages of the next Philippine PRSP (the MTPDP II).

- Since the training, some participants and our training partner, the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP), attended a draft consultation for the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan II, and contributed to a workshop focusing on the chapter on Social Development, Peace & Security.

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Co-facilitator, YC member Igor Mocorro (Philippines), and some participants from the Philippine PRSP Workshop.
to develop advocacy messages and specific language for the recommendations document to be developed in the NGO meeting. Similarly, the YC contributed significantly to the Youth Symposium held prior to the 2010 Women Deliver Conference. The symposium hosted 100 young leaders from all over the world, and its aim was to empower and equip the participants with the tools, resources, and knowledge to take the advocacy messages of Women Deliver home to their peers. The YC played a key role in the symposium, facilitating an introductory session on advocacy skills, and also moderating several small discussion groups.

Despite the success of the trainings we have conducted this year, we are always ready to learn from ourselves and the challenges we encounter. In planning workshops, the YC is mindful of how we can engage diverse constituencies, make high-level decision-making more accessible, and perhaps most importantly, how we can make a long-term impact. Each of our trainings provides us with valuable lessons learned and this year has been no exception. In particular, as we have and continue to engage participants in emerging and complex areas of work, it is important that we keep strengthening our follow-up mechanisms and our monitoring and evaluation processes. Planning longer-term engagement and consistent support will help demystify complicated processes, such as PRSPs and the GFATM, and increase the ability of young people to participate in the decisions that affect them. Furthermore, holding a workshop on SOGI issues required a detailed analysis of regional and cultural context in order to be relevant, effective, and safe. Our national-level partners are invaluable resources in providing context and support to our trainings. Post-training, we work closely with them to support our participants in several ways: by creating mechanisms for sharing information, experiences and lessons learned from practice; by reviewing participant action plans and seeing them through to implementation; and conducting follow-up capacity building activities to ensure that participants’ knowledge and skills are reinforced. In building on the challenges of past trainings and working closely with national-level partners, we are building the capacity of young advocates all over the world to set their own agenda and ensure that the sexual and reproductive rights of young people are being addressed in their respective countries.
As the YC’s organizational structure is dynamic and volunteer-based, it is crucial that we invest in key mechanisms and strategies to ensure that we remain a strong, efficient and sustainable organization. Currently, these mechanisms include our governing body, the Board of Directors (BD) and our membership gatekeeper and caretaker, the Membership Committee (MC). These two committees, in addition to key in-person meetings such as our Annual General Meeting, are fundamental to sustaining the YC’s position as a capable and enduring youth-led organization.

Throughout 2010, we had many plans, activities and partnerships to manage. Over the year, we contributed to nearly two dozen events, many of which we hosted and facilitated ourselves. Further to that, we experienced significant organizational growth, accepting 5 new members to the YC family. We also added a new staff member to our office in December, when Sarah Kennell joined the team as our new...
Program Officer, who will be coordinating the YC’s International Year of Youth strategy. Finally, under the guidance of our Board of Directors, we also began taking some exciting new steps in planning for the YC’s future. As the work of our Board of Directors is crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the YC, and to monitoring and evaluating the impact of our work, it is crucial that the BD meets in-person three times a year. In-person meetings are a key opportunity to review progress towards annual goals and to strategize for the coming year.

In 2010, the BD used their meetings as an opportunities to strategize for the YC’s planned participation in several high level advocacy venues, including CSW, CPD, the World Youth Conference and the MDG+10 review. Strategizing in-person for these events was especially important in order to ensure quality participation in each of these events throughout the year; this was done by analyzing mid-term reports prepared by the YC’s different taskforces (Human Rights, Young Women’s Health and Rights, MDGs and Poverty Reduction Strategy task forces). The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss and plan for expansion within the membership, organizational finances, and future plans.

In August 2010, the YC’s membership gathered for our Annual General Meeting. This year’s AGM had several focal points, but the prime focus was making preparations for the coming five years. The AGM began with an internal training designed to strengthen our own capacity on the MDGs, ICPD and the changing global health architecture. The training gave us even footing on which we could have initial discussions on the YC’s plans and advocacy strategies in the lead up to 2015. The membership and staff also did a great deal of review and assessment throughout the meeting, including a review of our existing Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy and indicators and of the YC’s current Strategic Plan (SP), assessing its efficacy and suitability.
The YC’s Board of Directors and Executive Coordinator met pre- and post-AGM. The first meeting was a chance for the exiting BD to review membership and taskforce participation, and to evaluate their own performance and working methods throughout their term. Meanwhile, the second meeting served as a handover period between boards; it allowed for some time to review recommendations made by the outgoing Directors, and included discussions on the preparations for our pending ECOSOC application and ensuring membership sustainability through the coming years. At each of the meetings, the BD held discussions on the development of our new Strategic Plan, as the YC’s current SP will expire at the end of 2011. Work on the new draft SP has already begun, and it will take us from 2012 right through to 2015 – a crucial deadline. Discussions and review from the AGM and BD meetings will feed into the new SP. Looking to the future, we hope to strengthen the YC’s reputation as a credible leader in youth and SRR, and set a progressive youth agenda that is on course for 2015.
In 2010, the YC made the shift toward more strategic communications and long-term planning. At our AGM in August, the membership and staff discussed our communications goals and objectives and undertook an evaluation of our existing communications channels. Ultimately, the review resulted in the decision to enter the world of social media. In September 2010, the YC’s Facebook page was launched, and has proven itself to be both an effective means of information-sharing and a useful advocacy tool. The YC has also just recently launched a Twitter account, and we are planning to add more social media channels to our efforts. Some of the information we have been able to share through our online tools has included our own, entirely youth-written publications.

For over a decade, the YC has produced quality, youth-friendly resources on SRR, and this year was no different. In 2010, we launched a successful series of MDG-related factsheets that enjoyed wide distribution across several conferences. Whether it is via our website, listserv, social media channels or our publications, all of our communications efforts are in service of young SRR advocates and our allies. Looking ahead, the analysis and innovation of the past year will unquestionably help to form the communications pillar of the YC’s next Strategic Plan, and will hopefully serve to strengthen our reputation as a reliable and leading youth SRR organization.

**PUBLICATIONS**

In 2010, the Youth Coalition published a series of three factsheets analyzing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from a youth perspective. Over the past decade, the MDGs have played a vital role in setting the priorities for international development agendas. However, due to inadequacies in the MDG framework, progress remains to be made on key issues related to young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights. These factsheets explore the linkages between the MDGs and these key issues (HIV, Maternal Health and Comprehensive Sexuality Education) and recommend a way forward. The MDG Factsheet Series includes:

- The Linkages between the MDGs and Young Women’s Health
- The Linkages between the MDGs, Young People and HIV
- The Linkages between the MDGs and Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Young People
The factsheets are a useful tool in supporting advocacy efforts and were created in the lead-up to the ten year review of the Millennium Development Goals. The series was printed and distributed at several conferences, including Women Deliver 2010 and the World Youth Conference it is also available for download on the YC’s website.

ONLINE PRESENCE

Since the Youth Coalition’s inception, our website (www.youthcoalition.org) has played a key role in sharing information and resources with other young activists, and holds a detailed account of the YC’s history and activities. In 2010, the YC website received a record number of 1,113,897 hits, and continues to be indispensable to both our own members and external visitors.

Another longstanding Youth Coalition resource is the YC NEWS, our subscription-based listserve. The YC NEWS has a committed subscriber base of youth advocates, SRR organizations and other allies, and continues to grow. In 2010, we gained 60 new subscriptions, bringing us to 580 subscribers. The listserve is an effective means of disseminating information about upcoming Youth Coalition workshops and publications in addition to other youth and SRR-related opportunities and resources.

In September 2010, the Youth Coalition launched its official Facebook page to complement our website and listserve. The Facebook launch was the first in a series of steps planned to significantly strengthen our online presence in order to increase the YC’s visibility, improve our communication with partners, and to help us reach large numbers of young advocates. Facebook allows us to share resources and opportunities instantly, and to distribute digital content more easily to our followers. Since its launch in September 2010, the YC’s Facebook page has garnered more than 650 followers from over 20 different countries.

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