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ไทยแลนด์

YAP

YAP

who we are?
what we do?

UNFPA Thailand
Youth Advisory Panel
2008-2009 Report

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

UNFPA - because everyone counts



UNFPA Thailand Country Office

Bangkok, Thailand

unfpa.thailand@unfpa.org

yap.thailand@gmail.com

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Foreword

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It gives me great honor to present the UNFPA Thailand Youth Advisory Panel 2008-2009 Report. This report reflects the voice of young people, and demonstrates the impact of their involvement in critical programmes and policies related to adolescents and youth reproductive health.

UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) works across sectors, with partners and young people themselves to promote and protect the rights of adolescents and youth to grow up healthy and safe. It promotes young people's rights to access sexual and reproductive health information, education, commodities and services, in connection to the commitments of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) endorsed by many governments, including Thailand. To make this happen, we must view young people's lives in totality rather than in fragments, and empower young people to develop skills to achieve their dream, think critically, negotiate risky situation, express themselves freely, and participate in decisions that affects them.

In 2008, UNFPA Country Office Thailand adopted an approach to youth involvement through the establishment of the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP). YAP has allowed UNFPA to engage youth in policy development and programming, to help build the capacity of young people and strengthen their leadership and technical skills to better address sexual reproductive health issues, and sensitize other adults of the necessity in youth-adult partnership.

The Panel members has grown as agents of change determined to contribute their energy, creativity, and insights to the growth and progress of social development, which will certainly go beyond their roles as YAP.

This Report is an introduction of YAP - "Who they are" and "What they do". It highlights YAP's group experience and initiatives, and the personal impacts of the experience as told by each member. Through their kaleidoscope of opportunities, YAP outlines five visions it sees important in the comprehensive development of the livelihood and health of young people.

It is hope that this Report will be used by policymakers, educators, and youth programme practitioners, to learn more on what works in youth engagement and ways forward in the comprehensive development of young people's sexual reproductive health from the perspectives of young people themselves. I also hope this will strengthen the case for recognizing the talents, assets, and contributions of young people, and the global impacts they make when opportunities are given.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to YAP members for their dedication and contribution in charting their meaningful journey and colleagues of UNFPA Country Office Thailand for supervising and supporting the preparation of this Report.

Najib Assifi,
UNFPA Representative in Thailand

Who's YAP

Who's YAP?

YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL

UNFPA Thailand's YAP consist of 20 young people from different regions of the country ranging from 16-24 years of age with a mandate to participate and contribute in the development of policies, programmes, and activities to improve young people's reproductive health and rights in Thailand



YAP Vision

YAP Vision

We, YAP, has had the opportunity to address and advise on issues that affect young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Through this experience, we have identified key factors, which if successfully adopted and developed, could potentially contribute to the comprehensive development in the livelihood and health of adolescents and youth.

We fully support and plan to diligently work towards achieving the following:

- 1 YAP would like young people in Thailand to pay more attention and better understand their sexual reproductive health and rights.
- 2 YAP would like kindhearted adults to support and provide opportunities for young people to demonstrate their fullest potential, and express their opinions and make decision on matters that affects their sexual reproductive health and rights.
- 3 YAP would like communities to create enabling environments optimal for young people to safely express themselves
- 4 YAP would like to see schools, public health facilities, and local administrative organizations support and provide sufficient quality sexual and reproductive health information, services, and counseling to young people, including pregnant teens, out-of-school youth, young sex workers, young migrant workers, and young people living with HIV/AIDS
- 5 YAP would like to encourage schools, public health facilities, and non-governmental organizations programming on young people to adopt and invest in peer-education, a process in which young people can seek friendly advice from their peers, as a method of effective health promotion



the ABC's of YAP Experience

the ABC's of YAP Experience

Since our establishment in June 2008, UNFPA has supported us in meaningful participation of programmes, policies and activities that contributes to improving young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights in Thailand. This support aligns with UNFPA dedicated commitment to its Framework for Action on Adolescent and Youth (refer to table 1). We have made the most of the opportunity, made it fun in our own style, and made a big leap towards true partnership between young people and adults. We have identified some of our work and achievements that are fundamental to our panel, and are as basic as the A-B-C's.

Advise and Advocate on emerging issues, programmes, policies, and actions of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights that affects young people to ensure that the reality of young people's lives and needs are reflected

Building up Capacity in sectoral knowledge, technical know-how and skills to enhance ability to achieve mandate strategically with confidence and agility

Cooperate with networks partners and key stakeholders working in areas of youth sexual reproductive health to share lessons learnt, consolidate resources, and work together as a powerful force



Advise and Advocate

Youth Reproductive Rights Survey : Created and collected surveys to gauge the level of peer's awareness of their reproductive rights. After analyzing the data gathered, we realized that most of our peers do not know their rights to reproductive health information and services, and many do not know the seemingly complex term "reproductive health". This set the baseline for our work, including advocacy initiatives to raise awareness amongst our peers and other young people in our networks of their sexual reproductive rights.

ICPD Plan of Action on Young People : Assessed the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) Plan of Action on young people and Thailand's progress in fulfilling its promise. We addressed the key gaps to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, education and information for all young people at ICPD+15 national consultative meetings and regional review meetings.

Peer Education Programme : Visited UNFPA supported school peer-education programmes in Lampang province, and met with teachers and peer-educators of the program. Based on our observations and discussions, key recommendations such as the need to customize peer-education training curriculums to varying types of schools and the pressing need for interventions to ensure "safe-sex" messages and attitudes are conveyed rather than "no sex" abstinence-only approaches were presented to the provincial public health office. These and other recommendations and priorities were recognized and recently included into Lampang's 2010 workplan.

National Standards of Youth Friendly Services: Reviewed the draft of the national standards and provided critical reviews to the Ministry of Public Health. Our recommendations included the need to involve youth participation in the design of the standards and for more specific and clear standards to avoid misinterpretations. We included these recommendations on Solution Exchange² and suggested them to UNFPA for further follow-up.



¹ Fifteen years ago at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, 179 governments agreed an inspiring and visionary plan to give universal access to services and information to improve the sexual and reproductive health of everyone by 2015.

² Solution Exchange, an initiative of the United Nations Agencies, harnesses the power of Communities of Practitioners (CoPs) communication to help attain national development goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), leveraging the knowledge, experience and energies of development practitioners towards the common objective of problem-solving.



Building up Capacity

Basic Reproductive Health 101: Acquired knowledge on the effectiveness and methods of different contraceptive; symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of different STIs and HIV/AIDS; symptoms of pregnancy; and life skills including negotiation and risk assessment. The session answered our burning questions related to sexual reproductive health – and provided us valuable accurate information to better fulfill our mandate.

Professional Etiquette: Gained simple tips on ethnics of respecting other individuals in the professional setting and displaying courteous behaviors. We learned how to give handshakes, how to properly introduce and greet others, how to dress for business functions, how to be courteous during a business dinner, and how to be a good conservationist (the importance of being a good attentive listener). This experience helped us gain confidence in bridging positive relations with our adult partners.

Advocacy Writing: Trained to frame advocacy messages mindful of the audience, tone, and precision of key message. This skill has assisted us in delivering more effective and concise messages and recommendations.

Participatory Focus Group Approach: Learned how to apply theatre as a community community media in conducting participatory focus groups in problem solving, critical dialogue, cultural learning, and community mapping. We applied the process of image theatre and community mapping during our trip to Lampang to better identify key challenges of peer-educators, and assess their demands for youth friendly health services.

Gains from National and Regional Forums: Received invaluable opportunities to participate in national and regional meetings, workshops and conference that has allowed use to enhance our sectoral knowledge; gain best practices from other programmes and countries; strengthen our networking skills; boost our confidence in speaking English; and foster our personal growth.



Cooperate & Networking

Youth Alliances: collaborated with other young people involved in promoting and supporting the well-being of young people. We explored partnership opportunities with YPEER to strengthen the standards of peer-education in Thailand, and worked with the National Youth Council to draft Thailand's Youth Declaration. Working with other young agents of change has influenced our work and visions, to ensure that the diverse needs of young people are included.

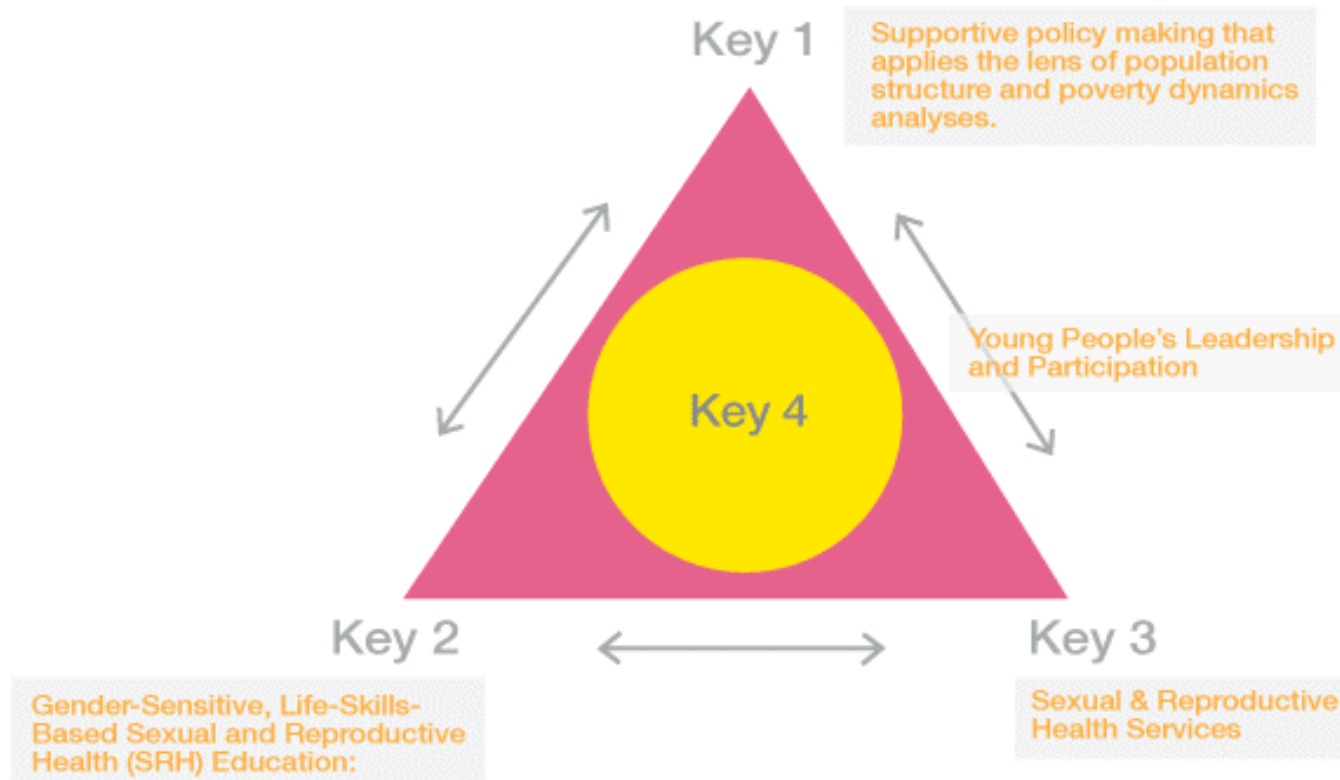
Government: teamed up with the local and central government on agendas to strengthen the sexual and reproductive health of young people. We designed and facilitated a sex education and life-skill walk rally for the training of youth DJs in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health, Department of Health, Division of Reproductive Health; and contributed in the Lampang Provincial Public Health Office Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (YSRH) programme annual work plan.

NGOs: worked together with the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT) on the 15andcounting campaign to promote the 15th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD+15) and its commitment to young people, particularly their rights to sexual and reproductive health information, counselling and services. "<http://www.thai15andcounting.com>"



Table1 : UNFPA Framework for Action on Adolescent and Youth

The Framework for Action was developed to contribute to the comprehensive development in education, livelihoods, and citizenship of adolescents and youth. It also function as a guide and strategic position of UNFPA's support of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH). The Framework consist of the following four key areas:



The Four Keys

Key 1: Supportive policy making that applies the lens of population structure and poverty dynamics analyses: UNFPA will focus public policy on young people and incorporate their issues in national Millennium Development Goal (MDG)³-based development and poverty reduction strategies.

Key 2: Gender-Sensitive, Life-Skills-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Education: UNFPA will take a lead in facilitating the provision of comprehensive, gender-sensitive, life skills-based SRH education in schools and community settings.

Key 3: Sexual & Reproductive Health Services: UNFPA will promote a core package of health and sexual reproductive health services and commodities that will include, at a minimum, contraception, HIV prevention, and maternal health services.

Key 4: Young People's Leadership and Participation: UNFPA will give special attention to working "with" young people through meaningful youth-adult partnerships. This includes the commitment and support given to the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP).

The Four Keys can be visualized as a pyramid - the apex is the Key on Policy, Population and Poverty, the base of the pyramid comprise of the two Keys of Sexual Reproductive Health Education and Services. Youth Participation is a crosscutting component of all Keys and strategically positioned at the core of the pyramid. The two-way arrows indicate that each key feeds into and reinforces one other.

³ Millennium Development Goal (MDG): UNFPA's role has to achieve MDG 2 on education, MDG 3 on gender equality, MDG 5 on maternal mortality, and MDG 6 on HIV prevention.

Personal Experiences



Apichat Muenjongjaidee (Toey)
20 years old, Chonburi Province, majoring in Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, Burapha University.

→ YAP has provided me with a wonderful opportunity, allowing me to become good both at receiving new ideas and offering my own ideas. YAP has provided me with various opportunities to learn from other YAP team members about the subject of reproductive health, enabling me to realize the importance of child and youth rights, to gain interpersonal skills and to comprehend life and workplace necessities. Moreover, YAP has given me an opportunity to be feel different and to actually work on independent ideas. This has allowed me to change greatly and learn more. Not only do we have a lot of fun working as a team but we've also really work well together. Being with YAP is definitely a time to remember as well as an invaluable life experience. More importantly, it makes me stronger. Thank you, everyone, for creating YAP: United Nations, the people of the world, my lovely mentors at YAP who have given me the opportunity, advice, and good guidance to my life. I'm hoping only good things will happen to everyone. 🙏

Apichat Muenjongjaidee (Toey)

→ I feel so good to have become a working part of this organization. Ever since the first day of its setup, I'd played a part in a brainstorming camp and found out that it was very interesting. Therefore, when it was announced that they were seeking applicants I wasted no time- I enthusiastically submitted my application. In fact, I took my friends with me so they could also apply. At first, I basically thought about finding myself some working experience with an international organization, and seeing how work is done in such an organization. However, once I'd joined the team, and learnt to work as a team with others both those who are younger and older than I am - I found everyone was so friendly and welcoming. We have had so much fun learning about so many topics together ever since the first camp. Before joining the team, I possibly held a narrower view of the world. However, having joined the team and meeting our "brothers and sisters" allowed me to learn that, in fact, our world is so wide and open. While I took part in many activities organized by YAP, I did unfortunately miss some due to other commitments. However, for the projects in which I've been involved I love all of them. And the most important thing I've learnt from working with YAP is the value of "teamwork". 🙏

Arunchat Khuruwanich (Smith)



Arunchat Khuruwanich (Smith)
22 years old, Bangkok, Chairman of the Bangkok Youth Council, National Children and Youth Development Promotion committee member.

— → Being a YAP member has allowed me to obtain a good deal of knowledge -- even trifles which I would otherwise simply have overlooked -- thanks to my "brothers and sisters" from the YAP team who act as a link. I have learnt how to work systematically and to coordinate well with other organizations. With YAP, I got to work with large organizations and learn how to behave; as a result, I have become mature. Moreover, through activities organized by YAP, I was also given the opportunity to communicate knowledge to others. More importantly, YAP is like a family, full of tender, loving care from "brothers and sisters", providing an endless stream of knowledge. ☺

Atchara Saithong (Am)



Atchara Saithong (Am)
18 years old, Bangkok,
Grade 12,
Chanhunbamphen School.

— → I have had an opportunity to work with my "brothers and sisters" -- who initially were strangers to me -- from the YAP team. Everyone is definitely talented. Though I somewhat felt intimidated due to the challenging scale of assigned projects, everyone from the YAP team always kept encouraging me. Once my friends have learnt that I am "YAP", they find it relatively easier to consult with me on Sexual and Reproductive health issues. One of the good times at work was when we were on site at Thailand's Northern Province "Lampang," where I had an opportunity to witness the local youth's good understanding of reproductive health, as well as to see how they get to deal with emergency problems. Moreover, I have taken with me this invaluable working experience, as a YAP team member, to Beijing, China, as well. The point I'd like to make to organizations involved on ensuring access to reproductive health for youth in my community is that discussing about sex, including as part of a school curriculum through sexual education is still an embarrassing topic for many. Organizations need to give reproductive health education greater importance, as young people are our nation's future. If they fail to understand correctly the concept of reproductive health, problems such as abortion, school drop outs, being bullied, and drug addiction, will take place. ☺

Kanison Dokmai (Nick)



Kanison Dokmai (Nick)
18 years old,
Mae Hong Son Province,
Grade 12, hoping to pursue
higher-level education
in the field of psychology.



— → Caremeh is an ethnic Red Karen from Mae Hong Son Province. She made valuable contribution in the review of the National Standard of Youth Friendly Services. Caremeh has recently relocated to the United States. YAP will miss her, but wishes her all the very best. ☺

Caremeh (Mouse)



— → I have been determined to ensure that both children and young people are actively part of a team to monitor, promote and work on HIV prevention, creating good health and reproductive health in cooperation with adults; working as a team with them -- particularly as equal partners. Thanks to UNFPA, "such" an atmosphere has been made possible. I am delighted to have been blessed with love and warmth from our friends at YAP. We might come from different backgrounds -- in location, culture, religion, work experience and skill level -- but overcoming our limitations, we somehow have molded into the power of one, as we have remained supportful to each other and became active at work. We have gained many skills. Whether working for YAP or with other teams at YAP.

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