

Y-ACT'S REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE



**Terms of Reference for Y-ACT's
Regional Steering Committee:**

2023-2025



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE



Background

Y-ACT, Youth in Action is a multi-country youth-led program established in 2017 at Amref Health Africa. Y-ACT mentors, supports, and increases the capacity of youth advocates and youth-led organizations to influence youth-identified health policy and resource priorities. Y-ACT believes that Africa's youth have a huge opportunity to shift policy landscapes to address challenges that the youth face and subsequently achieve their full potential. Y-ACT's wider reach comprises youth-led organizations in 21 countries. Since inception, Y-ACT has been funded by various partners, contributing to movement building, youth advocacy and capacity strengthening of youth-led organizations in the region.

Amref Health Africa is the leading Public Health NGO in Africa which was officially founded in 1957 with a vision of bringing **lasting health change in Africa**. Amref is committed to youth development and demographic dividend by creating adequate opportunities and skills for young people while ensuring gender equality; intentionally putting Women and Young People as its Target Population in its new Corporate Strategy (2023-2030).

Y-ACT's Youth Steering committee

Y-ACT seeks to establish a Regional Youth Steering Committee to act as a strategic advisory group on integrating the meaningful engagement of youth using the Y-ACT's models and enhance the youth portfolio in line with Amref's Global Corporate Strategy and identified social determinants of Health. The Youth Steering Committee would act as a sounding board for the Y-ACT program, while supporting the amplification of youth voices and facilitating their participation in key processes to influence policy, advocacy and programming. The YSC shall hereby remain non-sectional, non-political and non-religious in all and/or any affiliations.

Members of the group will be drawn from young experts aged between 18 and 35 years from the Sub-Saharan Africa region and the Diaspora. Y-ACT shall provide secretariat services for the Steering Committee by coordinating meetings, producing documentation and managing correspondence, information management/ dissemination and related tasks.

The duties and responsibilities of the Steering Committee shall include:

- Provide strategic input to Y-ACT's programming, ensuring the integration of young people's interests and priorities in various contexts;
- Support Y-ACT in the design of new youth programs and initiatives, as well as in forging partnerships for the expansion of its positive impact across the continent for youth development;
- Contribute to the shaping of events by co-creating relevant thematic areas, recommending potential panelists, speakers and moderators for Y-ACT or global youth-related events;
- Support in mapping out relevant global convenings that Y-ACT and its wide youth network could participate in to amplify youth voices for policy influence;
- Develop outcome documents resulting from various consultations and their engagements with young people;
- Provide other inputs into the background papers and processes as may be required by the Y-ACT team.



Recruitment and Membership Criteria

An initial call for expression of interest will be issued to recruit 7-9 young experts with the greatest passion for youth development in Africa to serve in the YSC on voluntary basis for a two-year tenure.

The Membership of the Steering Committee will include:

- Diverse young men and women between the ages of 18-35 segmented from the Sub-Saharan Africa and Diaspora region
- Young women and men with a record of accomplishment of working on programs and advocacy initiatives towards meaningful engagement of young people in their countries, regions and/or the continent.
- Young people representing diverse backgrounds and experiences, including groups less represented in different fora.

Leaving No One Behind: The steering committee is committed to promoting diversity by including individuals from various genders, with a focus on young women and individuals living with disabilities.

Desired Experience and Practice:

- Passionate about the betterment of Africa by working with others to ensure that various inequalities are eliminated and the potential of youth is utilized.
- Good understanding of current development issues and emerging realities and their nexus with Health and wellbeing such as Climate Change, Livelihood, Education, Migration, including awareness of and participation in development issues affecting young people.
- Track record of engagement in youth development and empowerment in, but not limited to, inclusive economic growth, employment, and entrepreneurship; engagement in governance/political participation, leadership and decision making; or preventing violence and other harmful practices against women and girls.
- Awareness of Gender and Social Inclusion and commitment to the values of AMREF including respect for all women and girls.
- Experienced in policy advocacy and programming interventions, governance, gender equality and youth empowerment should be prioritized.
- Ability to exercise high integrity, tact and discretion when dealing with diverse processes and stakeholders.



Steering Committee Structure and Meetings:

- **Onboarding:** After selection, the new Steering Committee will receive an official welcome and introduction to the models, structure and work of Y-ACT in Africa.
- **Structure:** Upon agreement with the committee members, the Steering Committee shall appoint two co-chairs and a secretary. The YSC shall decide to further establish sub-groups for meaningful engagement.
- **Frequency of meetings:** The YSC shall, at a minimum, convene quarterly via virtual platforms, with encouraged communications to develop and implement their workplans within their sub-groups. Meetings in person will be arranged wherever possible. The Y-ACT team should be informed of meeting reports.
- **Availability:** Selected members should be available to dedicate at least 2 hours every quarter for the consultations and meetings described above.
- **Participation:** Y-ACT will take measures to ensure that group members can participate meaningfully and actively in this role.
- **Remuneration:** The position is on a voluntary basis. Data reimbursement will be provided by Amref after every meeting. When any in-person meetings are planned dependent on availability of funds, all expenses of YSC members will be covered by Amref, including per diems as per Amref's policy.

How will you (th) benefit from being selected?

- **Youth Leadership and Empowerment:** YSC members will have the opportunity to participate in events, shape and influence policy discussions through platforms supported by Y-ACT, AMREF and other high-profile partners that directly impact youth. Be part of a platform where you can advocate for important issues, challenge the status quo, and work towards meaningful change.
- **Mentorship, learning, and networking opportunities:** As YSC members, you stand to benefit as participants in peer-to-peer learning sessions and leadership events. You will gain access to seasoned professionals and subject matter experts who can serve as mentors, offering guidance and support in your career and personal development.
- **Skill Development:** Through YSC, you shall act as advisers on ongoing projects and research on thematic reports on youth. This provides valuable opportunities to develop crucial skills such as communications, advocacy, and project management, among others. Benefit from the resources, support, and opportunities provided by Y-ACT to further your initiatives and projects.



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