



# REPORT

OF CONSULTATION WITH  
YOUNG PERSON WHO  
INJECT DRUGS IN THEIR  
DIVERSITIES ON THE COVID-19  
RESPONSE MECHANISM



JUNE 2021



# Acronyms

ANAYD	African Network of Adolescents and Young Persons Development
AYP	Adolescents and Young People
AYPLHIV	Adolescents and Young People Living with HIV
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
CSS	Community Systems Strengthening
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HTS	HIV Testing Services
IGA	Income Generating Activity
NACA	National Agency for the Control of AIDS
NDLEA	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NPTWG	National Prevention Technical Working Group
RSSH	Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
YFC	Youth Friendly Centre
YFSW	Young Female Sex Workers
YPWD	Young Persons with Disabilities
YMSM	Young Men having Sex with Men
YPWID	Young Persons Injecting Drugs





# Preface

This report shares an insight on the support received from YouthRise for Young People Who Inject Drugs (YPWID) in Nigeria.

At ANAYD - African Network of Adolescents and Young Persons Development, we focus on improving the lives of adolescents and young persons (in their diversities) across Africa, particularly to end HIV among other issues.

The support was provided to consult YPWIDs (in their diversities) on the issues/challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic that they face in Nigeria.

This report delves into the needs and realities of Young People Who Inject Drugs (in their diversities) with the aim of including these needs in the Nigeria COVID-19 Response Mechanism, making input into improving programming, and thus, the lives and well-being of YPWIDs across Nigeria.

This is therefore a handy document for AYP-focused and YPWID organizations in Nigeria as they respond to the COVID-19 needs of young people in Nigeria.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mr Aaron Sunday'.

Founder/Executive Director  
ANAYD







# Acknowledgement

The African Network of Adolescents and Young Persons Development (ANAYD) is exceedingly grateful to Youth Rise for the support that made this engagement possible.

We appreciate the efforts Olayide Akanni, the consultant who led this process and Chinazo Anthonia Umenwobi, our Director of Media and Communication who developed this final report.

Very specially, we acknowledge the participation of the Young People Who Inject Drugs (in their diversities) from across Nigeria who participated actively in this process. Their stories and participation will contribute to improving the of the COVID-19 Response Mechanism across Nigeria.

The African Network of Adolescents and Young Persons Development (ANAYD) acknowledges the support and partnership of:

- YouthRise Nigeria
- Equal Health and Rights Access Advocacy Initiative (EHRAAI)
- Hero's Health Community Support Initiative (HHCSI)
- The Nigeria Network of People Who Use Drugs (NNPUD)
- Drug Harm Reduction Advocacy Network Nigeria

Finally, we are very grateful for the continued support and passion of our Staffs and Volunteers, whose efforts made this activity a success.



# Executive Summary

This report provides information on the consultation with YPWIDs in Nigeria in their diverse groups, and gives insight on the COVID-19 related priorities of this group.

Findings show that the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted young key population more. The priorities resulting from the consultation with YPWIDs on this project show that for this group the reality is a little different and probably more difficult than most.

The thematic areas of focus were – Diagnosis and prevention, Human rights and Gender-based Violence (GBV), Treatment, and Socio-economic. The major challenges were lack of access to Covid19 diagnosis services; increased police harassment; stigma and discrimination; loss of jobs and livelihood; increase in deaths from overdose; and displacement.

Consultation with the YWIDs showed the follow as COVID-19 responses that YPWIDs will appreciate - Increased focus on female YPWIDs and their children; advocacy to National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and the Nigerian Police; Peer-to-peer led interventions; skill acquisition and IGA support; and Integrated programming (providing malaria treatment services to children of PWIDs, antenatal care for female PWIDS).

During the grant writing process, a YPWID partook in the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meeting and shared the identified inputs for inclusion in the grant request.



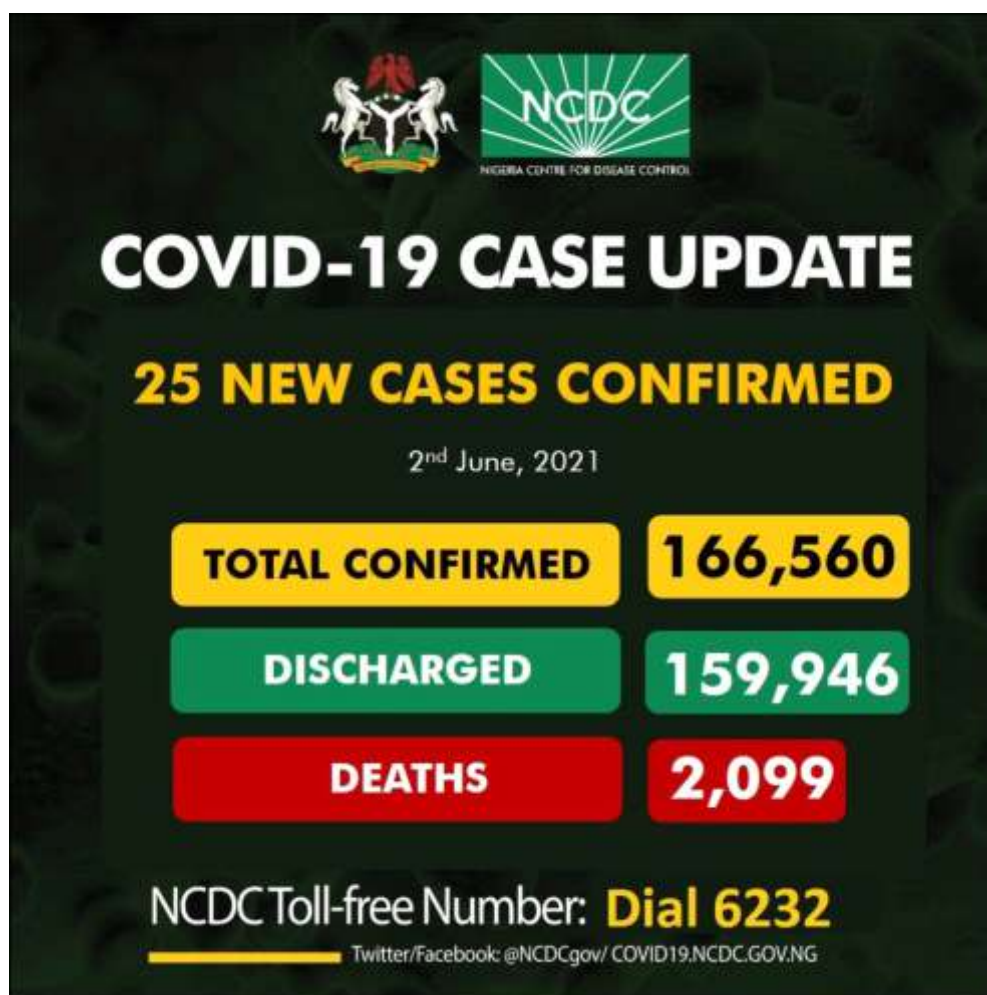
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## Section 1: Background

As the new decade began, no one would have thought or expected that there would be a time when the entire world would come to a halt. The COVID-19 which resulted in lockdowns and restrictions across the world has impacted lives and human existence in a very peculiar way.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted vulnerable populations the most, particularly young key population. Currently, according to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), there are 166,560 confirmed cases, 159,946 discharged and 2,099 deaths.





In April 2020, in order to support countries to respond to the COVID-19 mitigating its impact on HIV, TB and Malaria programmes and strengthening health and community systems, the Global Fund established the COVID-19 response mechanism (C19RM).

On 7 April 2021, the Global Fund launched the 2nd phase of the C19RM. Thus, all countries receiving funding from the Global Fund are eligible to receive C19RM funding including multi country and non-eligible countries in crises.

The C19RM Response Mechanism supports countries to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 On programs to fight HIV, TB and Malaria, and initiates urgent improvements in health and community systems.

The COVID-19 Response Mechanism Guidelines specifically calls for consultations with Civil Society, Key and vulnerable populations as well as communities, including those most severely affected by COVID-19, including those countries experiencing significant disruption.

This country-level response is to capture the needs of the various groups, while addressing the challenges faced. To achieve this, organizations (in this case YouthRise) have provided support for consultation with diverse groups to harvest their needs for input into the country C19RM.

### **Objectives**

- To disseminate key and relevant information on the C19RM Fund to the constituencies of YPWIDs
- To facilitate consultations that will enable YPWIDs identify HIV, TB and Malaria programmes priorities, gaps in the context of COVID 19 and relevant responses to address them
- To contribute to ensure that priorities identified by YPWIDs are included in Nigeria's 2021 C19RM funding requests
- To support meaningful engagement and participation of YPWIDs in Nigeria's process of formulating requests for C19RM funding from the Global Fund

### **Outputs/Outcomes**

- 20 - 13 Male, 7 Female, YPWIDs (in their diversities) from across Nigeria consulted
- Top priorities of YPWIDs (in their diversities) identified
- 1 YPWID engaged with the CCM in the C19RM grant writing process
- Presentation of the identified gaps and priorities in the context of COVID 19 and relevant responses to the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)



## Section 2: Methodology

### Process

This project was implemented through:

- Consultation with YPWIDs (in their diversities) from across Nigeria
- Participation in the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) COVID-19 response mechanism
- CSO priority harmonization, activity and costing meeting

### Consultation with YPWIDs

The consultation which held in Abuja Nigeria hosted 20 YPWID participants from across Nigeria – FCT, Anambra, Lagos, Akwa Ibom, Benue, and Kaduna states. This meeting was held on the 25th of May, 2021 at Top Rank Hotel, Jabi Abuja.

### The key discussion points include:

- The COVID-19 response mechanism (C19RM) overview
- Needs and priorities of YPWIDs
- Recommendations for response



Consultation with YPWIDs in their diversities

## **CSO priority harmonization activity and costing meeting**

A country level meeting was held between the 16th and 18th of June at Bolton White Hotel and Top Rank Hotel Abuja, to harmonize the priorities identified by the various constituencies. The meeting was attended by Civil Society Organizations representing the following constituencies:

- Adolescents and Young Persons
- Key Population – FSW, PWID, MSM, PLHIV
- Malaria
- TB
- Nigeria Labour Congress

The COVID-19 Response Mechanism Guidelines specifically calls for consultations with "civil society, key and vulnerable populations as well as communities, including those most severely affected by COVID-19", including those countries experiencing significant disruption. Therefore, this CSO engagement is vital to the C19RM to ensure that the needs of all constituencies and communities are captured and prioritized in the grant request.

During this meeting, the priorities identified by each constituency was harmonized and costed based on the funds available for Civil Society and Communities on the Global Fund C19RM Fund.



Constituencies reviewing and costing activities

## Key priorities and recommendations

The following priorities and recommendations were identified and submitted to the CCM for inclusion in the C19RM Nigeria grant.

Thematic Area	Challenges faced by AYPWID in their resulting from COVID-19 Pandemic	Emerging Priorities	Proposed Solutions	Proposed activities
Diagnosis & Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited access to lubricants, condoms, syringe &amp; clean needles</li> <li>Limited resources for PWIDs to purchase prevention commodities and hikes in transport fares during the lockdown also exacerbated the sharing of condoms, lubricants and clean syringe &amp; needles)</li> <li>Limited HIV testing as people who inject drugs usually shy away from been tested. Fear of going to undergo HIV testing at facility level</li> <li>Fear of been isolated from family and friends</li> <li>Increased cases of overdosing of drugs</li> <li>Increased susceptibility among crack users to TB infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commodities Stock outs</li> <li>Overdose management/ Strengthening capacity of communities to deliver support services</li> <li>Door to door Outreaches, Sensitising Communities on Overdose</li> <li>Improve peer engagement, involve the drug users, community members</li> <li>Promote awareness on how people needed to know their HIV &amp; TB status</li> </ul>	<p>Capacity strengthening/building on covid19 for caregivers and health-workers collaborate with security personnel to ensure delivery of services to reach out to PWIDs living with HIV/TB</p> <p>Establish facilities and shelters for female PWIDs and kids</p> <p>Establish helpline/emergency lines in case of emergencies of overdoses or violence (GBVs) &amp; (IPVs) and provision of Nanoxolone</p> <p>Peer led or to door outreach and communication interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support screening for TB among crack users</li> <li>Establish Helplines for peers of PWIDSs to be able to reach out for emergency support to handle Overdoing</li> <li>Support Community led distribution of Minaxolone</li> <li>Integrated programming (providing malaria treatment services to children of PWIDs, antenatal care for female PWIDS)</li> <li>Strengthen social support services</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No access to Covid19 diagnosis services (OSS)</li> <li>• Misinformation/lack of information on covid19 symptoms and similarities with TB</li> <li>• Difficulties in conducting peer to peer outreaches as a result of regular displacement of PWIDs</li> <li>• Limited engagement of PWID community in decision making</li> </ul>			
<b>Socio Economic Impact</b>	<p>For PWIDSs, the Post covid19 situation like the second phase of the lockdown has resulted in job losses; displacement; depression, idleness and higher intake of drugs among YPWIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio economic impact of the pandemic</li> <li>• Skills Acquisition programmes</li> <li>• Psychosocial and Nutritional support services for PWIDS to encourage uptake of available services</li> </ul>	<p>Support Income-generating activities through:</p> <p>Establishment of Skill acquisition centres, which will address economic concerns of YPWIDS</p>	



<b>Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PWIDS on ARVs faced severe difficulties with adherence.</li> <li>• Several incidences of loss to follow up recorded resulting from constant police raiding of PWID bunks during the lockdown forcing them to be constantly on the move; service charge; transportation costs to facilities during the lockdown was also a major challenge</li> <li>• Fear of been isolated from family and friends</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer to peer-led interventions at the community level that will include provision of PPEs</li> <li>• Provision of Nutritional support and palliative</li> <li>• Home services to female PWIDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support peer to peer-led interventions at the community level that will include provision of PPEs</li> <li>• Provide escort support services for PWIDS to get Hep B, and Hep C treatment</li> </ul>
<b>Human Rights &amp; GBV issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who use drugs were targets during the COVID 19 pandemic, heightened and raids by police were more frequent; bribes demanded</li> <li>• Several instances of police harassments, arrests, raiding; of male and female PWIDS. PWIDS were constantly on the move because of socio economic issues/displacement (but this impacted more severely on female PWIDS who also encounter GBV and IPV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy reform on drug use</li> <li>• Decriminalisation of drug use, addressing the human rights abuses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy to lawmakers and other arms of government e.g., NDLEA, Police, etc. to address persistent issues of arrests, harassments of PWIDS</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy reform in order to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address arbitrary arrests and create an enabling environment</li> <li>• Review of the NDLEA act</li> <li>• Address the criminalization of drug users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the capacity of service delivery centres to address the GBV/IPV needs of PWIDS</li> <li>• Provide temporary shelters for female PWIS and their children</li> <li>• Policy reforms</li> </ul>

## Section 3: Challenges And Recommendations

### Challenges

In the implementation of this project, the following were the challenges or bottlenecks encountered.

- The limited funds meant that a few representatives of the population were reached during the consultation

### Recommendations

As a result of findings from this project, we recommend the following:

- Meaningful engagement of young people who use and inject drugs community at the country level
- Improvement of social protection and mental health systems in Nigeria to cater for the increasing need for these services in the country
- Donors and government to support CBO's engagement in prevention and service delivery
- Government to use a community-led approach in the implementation of the C19RM
- Translation of COVID-19 messages into the 4 prominent languages – Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa and Pidgin to ensure wider reach

### Lessons learned

This project has further revealed the need to treat every group of the young key population independently as needs and priorities are peculiar to each group.

### Conclusion

As the world finds ways to provide a structure that responds to the COVID-19 reality in countries, it is important not to leave any group behind as that can result in the creation of new gaps that mitigates efforts made. It is also paramount that the effective and meaningful engagement of communities and civil society organizations be prioritized for a robust response to the pandemic.



## Section 4: Appendices



Group photograph of participants



ANAYD Team at Bolton White Hotel for CSO harmonization and costing meeting



# Attendance

## Consultation with YPWIDs

**ANAYO** AFRICAN NETWORK OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PERSONS

**YOUTH RISE**

ONE DAY CONSULTATION MEETING ON C19RM WITH YPWID/HIV AND YKPS

LOCATION: ABUSA TOP RANK HOTEL

DATE: 25/05/2021

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

NAME	SEX	AGE		PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	SIGN	CONSENT FOR PICTURE
		15-19	20-24				
Mammen Deborah Samuel	F		✓	08163398350	mdabby97@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓
Abel Gloria O.	F		✓	07032286544	abangloria98@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓
Tony Atagoro-I.	M		✓	07066715314	atagoraton@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓
Abdullah Jones	M		✓	08105878341	icrisis_tony@yahoo.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓

**ANAYO** AFRICAN NETWORK OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PERSONS

**YOUTH RISE**

ONE DAY CONSULTATION MEETING ON C19RM WITH YPWID/HIV AND YKPS

LOCATION: ABUSA TOP RANK HOTEL

DATE: 25/05/2021

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

S/N	NAME	SEX	PHONE NUMBER	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	SIGN	CONSENT FOR PICTURE
1	Egghagere James O.	M	07033617199	Coordinator	mgpudabwato@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes.
2	Aniedi Emah Aikpan	M	07066158519	Program Manager	a-aniedi@yahoo.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes.
3	Rita Musa	F	07033301805	Medical Secretary	r.damirah@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes.
4	Olajide Alamin	F	08023037998	Consultant	olajide@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes.
5	Amunize Chibweke I.	M	08124067977	Head of the Community Support Initiative	amunizechibweke@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes.
6	Baki S. Mggorji	M	08156460411	Executive Director P.O. (Community LEAD)	baki.s.mggorji@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes.
7	Aaron Sunday	M	08164373505	Executive Director	aaron.sunday@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes.
8	Daniel Asa	M	08097750723	F.O	danielasa@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes.





**ANAYO**  
AFRICAN NETWORK OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT

**YOUTH RISE**

ONE DAY CONSULTATION MEETING ON C19RM WITH YPWIDLIHIV AND YKPS

LOCATION: ABUSA THE RAIN HOTEL

DATE: 25/05/2021

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

S/N	NAME	SEX	AGE		PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	SIGN	CONSENT FOR PICTURE
			15-19	20-24				
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3	Emmy Akinruli	F			0701655482	Ajunaadiberto@gmail		✓
4	Bako Abdulmalik	M		✓	0704355815	bavaprotiazi@gmail		✓
5	Samuel P. Gwara	M		✓	07019264370	gwara Samuel@gmail		✓
6	Frederick Emmanuel	M		✓	0813222774			✓
7	RUTH OKWE GABRIEL	F		✓	0811442436	Nellyxcede@gmail		✓
8	Isaac Joseph	M		✓	0703155597			✓

### CSO Harmonization meeting

**YOUTH RISE**

ONE DAY CONSULTATION MEETING ON C19RM WITH YPWIDLIHIV AND YKPS

LOCATION: BOLTON WHITE HOUSE ABUSA

DATE: 17/06/2021

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

S/N	NAME	SEX	AGE		PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	SIGN	CONSENT FOR PICTURE
			15-19	20-24				
1	Boris-D. Maggaj	M			03156461211	b91n87outniscan@gmail		

**ANAYO**  
AFRICAN NETWORK  
OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PERSONS EMPOWERMENT

**YOUTH RISE**

ONE DAY CONSULTATION MEETING ON C19RM WITH YPWID/HIV AND YKPS

LOCATION: AGUA JDS FARM HOTEL

DATE: 16/06/2021

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

S/N	NAME	SEX	AGE		PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	SIGN	CONSENT FOR PICTURE
			15-19	20-24				
1	B919. D. M99951	M		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0815646411	b91957attunangy.org		

**YOUTH RISE**

ONE DAY CONSULTATION MEETING ON C19RM WITH YPWID/HIV AND YKPS

LOCATION: JDS FARM HOTEL AGUA

DATE: 18/06/2021

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

S/N	NAME	SEX	PHONE NUMBER	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	SIGN	CONSENT FOR PICTURE
1	B919. D. M99951	M	0815646411	b91957attunangy.org			



