



Transcript provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation¹
(Tip: Click on the binocular icon to search this document)

**Young and Restless Youth Leadership: Together We Can
Kaiser Family Foundation
July 23, 2012**

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

[START RECORDING]

SHAVON DAVIS: and it's about their status and when they last got tested. All of the 20, everyone told me they were HIV negative. Only three of them got tested in the last 12 months and surprisingly four had never even been tested before.

There was a time when HIV was seen for a matter of most concern. It seems those days are behind us. Nowadays, many young people like the ones I surveyed see themselves as untouchable as far as HIV is concerned. The truth is that young people in my community are more worried about early pregnancy than HIV or having sex with those who are chance with the infection.

We are afraid of the public shame of an early pregnancy especially the girls. HIV is mostly seen as a condition that can be treated if you can get the drugs to reduce the symptoms so that no one knows you have it. Young people know that you can live a long and healthy life with HIV. Thankful for those who are positive this is true, but in Turnstone, like in many other places, this means that young people don't care as much as they should about HIV prevention.

This is a major problem since having multiple partners is a norm for young people in Jamaica. There is pressure to have sex everywhere. A lot of the pressure is from older men and women. It's often harder for the boys. Having one sexual

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

partner in my community, and I dare to say throughout the country, is huge task for a young man. It is encouraged and expected that you will have many partners before you are ready to settle down. It is a sign of manhood for a man to be sexually active with more than one girl.

In Jamaica, the mean age for a first sexual intercourse is 13-years for the girls and 15-years for the boys. These practices are not new, it's the norm. How can we take on these challenges and make the breakthrough we need for my generation?

Jamaica's Ministry of Health has done good work to ensure that condom advertisement are on radio and television, however many young people see these ads and they don't make much of a difference in their thinking and their behavior. They seem to have gotten tired of this message. How can we make condom use more important to them?

I think many other things that are being done, have been done for a long time without a fresh approach. Because of this it seems that there is no urgency anymore. Young people like me know that HIV will be around for a long time and with medication available it is no longer treated as an emergency. Therefore, my generation has accepted this as the truth. We have become comfortable and other issues have taken priority in our lives.

One of the first things we have to do in getting young people to care is to open up and talk. When I participated in

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

an HIV prevention intervention in my community it made me really think about the risks of becoming infected and how to lower them. I was able to talk to the Esu [misspelled?] with other people who come from the same place and face the same issue that I face.

I got a chance to feel as if I was a part of something. I got the chance to hear that my friends are having similar struggles as I was. I got a chance to hear how they felt about a number of things including what but not limited to HIV. We simply didn't talk to each other about these things in our everyday conversation.

For young people the importance to having the space to talk through the issue with people we relate to cannot be overlooked. The spaces do not have to be a workshop or building, there are already places where gather naturally like on corners. Often there is no one there to guide a discussion on HIV.

Remember too that talk is not only face-to-face for us. More and more we are talking online at Internet cafes and on smart phones which are very popular. There are a lot of unsafe activities that happens in these places. There is no way for parents to police these interactions creating opportunity for interaction and real participation so those who plan for us can actually plan with us. This is still important. Our participation has to be meaningful and not as we say in

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Jamaica, a bag of mouth. This means they are all talk and no action.

Our engagement should be ongoing and when necessary it should be publicized so that others in the same situation realize that we in fact part of the discussion or solution. My experience has taught me that there's also a need to get condoms into more nontraditional outlets in communities where young people can access them without judgement.

Very importantly to reduce the risk of infection, young people need the skill trainings and jobs. So to focus on HIV alone is not enough. There must be a more comprehensive or whole person approach to HIV prevention. I now feel it's important to bring information to my peers. I know there is much more work to be done in my community. I know there are a lot of young people who may have been HIV positive and not know it.

There are also a lot who are thinking of becoming or are already sexually active who have not thought about the risks involved. Because of how much I learned through the intervention in Turnstone, I am happy for the opportunity to be a part of the solution. Thank you for your kind attention.

[applause]

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Thank you Shavon. We're going to ask everyone to hold their questions until all the panelists have spoken. I'm going to ask our next speaker to come up to

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

podium. Ilana Sod is from Mexico City. She's currently based in Miami and she's the editor in chief of news for the public affairs division of MTV in Latin America. In her capacity she runs the agents of change campaign which highlights ways young people are taking action in their communities.

ILANA SOD: Thank you Caitlin. To start, how are you? Thank you for coming this evening. I'm Ilana Sod and I'm going to show you a clip of the broadcast in MTV last year during World AIDS Day. Let's hope this works. Oh yes, it does, thank God. [Video played]

I'll explain a little bit about it in a moment. First, when I was told this panel was called Young People: Force of Change, I thought yes it is catchy yet common and so many times repeated by adults but also maybe by young people that might not even understand the meaning of it. It kept me reflecting about it because my job is to prove that young people are the force of change.

In my latest project that's the trailer of the documentary with it. I guess we wanted to test the kids that had this project that were featured in the documentary but also us in MTV and see what we could do and how we could get the attention of young people.

I'm going to present Vidalistas [misspelled? 0:10:18] as the name of the documentary. Vidalistas like viralists we coined that term. You'll detect a common element in these real

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

stories, in all of them. At the end of it I will ask you if you saw that common element in the stories. It is going to be some sort of an exam so you remember the pressure of being in school. No, I'm kidding.

The Ashoka Foundation and MAC cosmetics asked us to do a documentary on projects that generate awareness about HIV/AIDS in Latin America. We got a 120 submissions but we only chose five. It was really hard to choose the best but those five had we thought that common aspect and they really seemed to catch everybody's attention.

The first thing we thought about was what do we call this documentary? Thank God Vidalistas emerged in time to avoid this one, I'm kidding. I'm not kidding. This comes out. It didn't use it at the end, it would have been catchy, but we used Vidalistas which was based on a contest. MTV has been working with this area for more than 30 years. The challenge was how do we get the attention of kids in 2011 if it's not a priority for many kids?

I am going to play a piece on one of the teams you saw. These girl is from Argentina. [Video Played]

When we saw this story it was shocking enough to stand out, right? Four minors, women, underprivileged born carrying the virus, for them it was secondary though. For them it was showing that they could dance, that they wanted to learn crumping in Argentina which is very unusual. By then MTV was

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

just amazed and happy to showcase this story. It was an inspiration for us. We said let's do a documentary that breaks the stereotypes; show something that we like that we want to do for fun. These are the two clues to find that common element I was talking about. I asked to do fashion because I like fashion. My producer, as most men of course to do soccer; he won a little. We ended up doing both.

I'm going to show you this is one of the other projects, Vida Sex [misspelled?], which is a terrific project. It is filmed during the Super Clasico between Argentina Gay and Plubastics; those are the names of the teams. They tied five, five, much more exciting than Real Madrid in Barcelona for sure. They compete in a tournament of neighborhoods that allows them to show what's happening in the communities, what's happening with them. It has proven a success because of the proximity, the locality, the way they work with the community.

We truly believe that local action can become a global phenomenon for sure. Vida Sex is a project that defies the convention that soccer is for machos. They receive support of global funds. What would the impact be if their help got frozen?

If Vida Sex offers a lack of support the rough neighborhoods of Mexico would not be able to prevent or reduce the harm caused by needles. They would not be able to give

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

away condoms or to do rapid HIV tests, which they do during the matches. That's how they get the community involved.

This is the image; I'm going a little bit slow with the Power Point but I'm on time. Let's go back to my wish to do fashion which I love. While doing a daily review of the contest entries to my surprise and satisfaction, there was one initiative about a tailored dress made of a thousand condoms. Imagine a thousand condoms in a dress. In that moment I didn't have to think too much I was already looking for the shoes to match it.

We decided this dress had to be shown, not on any runway; it had to be like a special runway. We brought the dress from Argentina to Mexico to showcase in a place that's called Quensa Fest [misspelled?]. It's like a sweet 16, in Mexico it's 15, fair and it's the biggest fashion show for Vidalistas I think all over Latin America. We needed more help. We needed other Vidalistas that would share the same spirit that we're fearless. Also we needed a car really to get them going.

We found the Conda Neras [misspelled?] from the Conda Movil [misspelled?]. Let me see if I can show this other image. Okay. These are four drag queens that go all over Mexico giving out condoms for women and men in fancy outfits. What is really amazing is the Conda Movi which is like the Pope

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Mobile and the condom mobile, which is very attractive. It gets the attention of the audience.

Sadly after we were filming with them their car was destroyed in an accident. The worst part of it is that because of the stigma one of the drag queens was refused attention in the hospital in Mexico, in this little town in Mexico. There was police abuse, there was the newscasters made fun of them, people in Mexico didn't understand the importance of the project.

Dealing with that other teams and creative people in Mexico said, you know what we want to show the support. I guess the documentary achieved its goal. Other Vidalistas tried to give their best. They're called the Autumn Society; it's a collective of graphic artists whom are inspired by the documentary. They auctioned pieces made by them and all the proceeds went to the Conda Movi. They organized themselves, they did not have to do anything with it and they turned into Vidalistas. They do what they like. Again, they are willing to try new things to defy the system.

I guess that by now you might know what the common theme between all these stories is and if not I'm going to tell you. Obviously it's creativity. I guess the best weapon to fight prevailing precept that the enthusiasm and energy wears out when you grow up, which is part of this talk.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

How do we reach creativity and really fast? Remember the clues throughout the presentation. It's five requirements, do not overthink it, single ideas, basic plans, they're going to get you into MTV. Do not overthink it, single ideas, basic plans that's the most important. Honest and sincere ideas without the fake intention to impress. Be local, nearby our lives where we can measure theme packed. You have to do it with joy I guess, like what you do or do what you like. It will naturally live longer.

The fifth rule I guess it's to take a couple of showers. That may sound weird but really ideas come out when you take a shower. It's when the problems are solved. Like mother says, right? Thank you. [applause]

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Thank you Ilana. Our next panelist is from the Philippines. I'm happy to introduce Phillip Palmos or Phi as he goes by. He is the current executive director of the Youth AIDS Philippines Alliance; a youth led organization working with young people living with HIV, young men who have sex with men and young sex workers in Manilla. Phi, do you want to come up to the Podium? [Applause]

PHILLIP PALMOS: Hi, what the all feeling, your silence is a little bit making me nervous. Again, I'm Phillip from the Philippines so it'll be very easy for you to remember. I started working in the advocacy the number of infections is two infections in a day. Everyone was alarmed as the situation has

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

never happened before. Before I attended this conference the rate infections back home is being accounting one for every hour. Though I am tasked to speak about my experiences in a low prevalence country, I believe that it is important for everybody to know that the Philippines in a very short amount of time now have a high incidence rate HIV and 40-percent of that are young people from 15 to 24 years old.

I've read somewhere that if one wants to move and inspire people those people should know you. Let me tell you a story. There was a young gay man in the Philippines and 2010 was a banner year for him. A thriving career in singing and in the performing arts, he made connections, friendships and relationships at that time.

He was actually approached then by the most famous actress in the Philippines after his performance just tell him how wonderful he was. Everything was going so well and then September came. September 20th, 2010 a sort of this young gay man's has stopped and another one started. He tested positive for HIV. That person is standing in front of all of you now. I am living with HIV for almost two years and every day I am discovering new things about myself. New things, which I did not have the chance to look at before.

I was lucky that when I tested positive I know where and to whom I should go. This made me realize sooner that I am

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

greater than my condition and that I can turn this hardship into triumph.

This is one main problem in the Philippines especially for young people living with HIV because of staunch Catholic opposition to basic sexual reproductive health education to be integrated in schools. The issue of HIV and AIDS is still, after 30 years, a taboo topic that should not and cannot be discussed. The effects of this is disheartening as this kind of situation just further promotes stigma and discrimination in communities, schools, workplace and even hospitals thus preventing young people of accessing treatment.

This situation also keeps the epidemic in the dark much more like the early days of the epidemic in the 1980s. These cultural factors counter an evidenced based approach in addressing the consistently growing number of HIV infections in the country. The lack of sincerity from the government in addressing the issues of those infected by HIV, like access to treatment and availability of funds for ARV's, makes some if not most of the young people to just keep their status to themselves.

One main issue as well to the Facebook generation is of how media reports and portrays young people living with HIV or purely HIV in general. Wherein as compared to other diseases such as malaria, dengue and leptospirosis, no education on transmission, protection and treatment modalities are being

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

shown when it is being reported in television and sometimes in newspapers.

When I read a speech by Harvey Milk which he delivered during the defeat of Proposition 6, I thought that it speaks to me and all living with HIV. Although it was aimed at coming out as gay, I believe that he thought that at that time that there was something coming, that this too would require greater involvement and standing up.

It goes as, "We must continue to speak out and most importantly every gay person must come out. As difficult as it is you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends, if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in. And once they realize that we are indeed their children, that we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, and every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And once you do you feel so much better."

GIPHA or the greater involvement of people with HIV and AIDS, which is derived from a principal inbred in the Paris AIDS Summit, declaration of 1994, where leaders of 42 nations met together to determine how they could effectively respond to the AIDS crisis. It's a powerful tool in engaging young people to take ownership and claim their place in the worldwide response to AIDS. As hard as it may seem we who are empowered

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

should put a face, a positive face of the epidemic, one who we can relate to and identify with.

The I Am Positive Campaign, the campaign that we are doing in the Philippines which is targeted to students in colleges and universities and to various communities all around our country; is using the health belief model. A concept wherein it addresses the feeling of invincibility and showing a particular group that they can be affected by something, in case HIV. In these campaigns there's always a time that an HIV positive individual will disclose the participant.

During my experience doing this campaign I shared my journey to them, my thoughts, my fears and what I am hoping that they do. Seeing their surprised faces, hearing their gasps after telling them my secret was just overwhelming. I felt at that moment that I can be a beacon of change for these boys and girls who are just starting their lives, just carving their bright future ahead of them. To them it may be a realization but for me it is empowering. In that moment, I know that I'm on the right place and I'm doing the right thing.

I am giving a face to a virus they thought won't infect or affect them. A virus they don't really care about. My organization, The Youth AIDS Phillipinas Alliance, Incorporated, as what was mentioned, the only youth led and youth focus organization in the Philippines working on HIV and AIDS. We actually have a drop-in center which caters to young

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

key affected populations and provide temporary shelter for them. We have an online support group exclusively for young people living with HIV where we share our fears, our hopes, our issues and then talk about it as one community.

As what was seen in many years, the role of young people in the HIV and AIDS response has been an immensely important and powerful force. As very vulnerable population to the infection, our voice was one of the key in turning the tide in ending AIDS.

Now we ask, in taking the lead in the HIV and AIDS response, what type of leadership can we expect from this new leadership that was shaping up? Jason, a chemist and one of the emerging leaders in the HIV and AIDS response and is living with HIV back in the Philippines said that, "The leadership that the young people living with HIV can offer is a brand of leadership culled from experiencing firsthand the difficulties and challenges of living with HIV.

This leadership coupled with youthful energy that we as young ambassadors for positive change can only offer." Because he believes that those that can do something about it we won't take things sitting down. We are already empowered with the knowledge that we have about HIV.

We only need the courage to stand up against HIV. It only goes to show that we are ready; we are ready to take the torch from our wiser counterparts to lead on and take this to

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

another level. This type of leadership and energy spreading around the world and we must do everything that we can to sustain it and make those voices heard.

We need our wiser counterparts to help us and to be on our side as we are now ready to take up the challenge in leading the response the way forward. One thing that cannot be taken away from young people is their hunger to try to different things. The aggressiveness of the unknown further excites our mind which is why we are a strong partner in going to communities and exploring new possibilities.

The issue of generation gap has long been acknowledged. Of who should approach or who is afraid of whom is a tale as old as time. We are entering the phase where the two parties should entice each other to come aboard with what each is doing. Even though a tale as old as time it may be, the two parties can learn greatly with one another. As we stay here the entire week listening to sessions and learning innovations and best practices from around the world, I hope that this further energizes us to keep the promise and remember those who are not here to be witness of the things that we are doing, of the great work that all of us are doing.

In closing, I would like to quote a few lines from one of my favorite songs as a reminder for all of us of our commitment to ending HIV and AIDS. "When you look to the heavens with someone you love and light shining bright from

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

afar, hope you see my face there and then offer a prayer. And please let me be, let me be that star." [inaudible 0:34:03]

Thank you very much for your time. [applause]

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Wow, learning new things about all of the panelists. Thank you Phi, thank you for the performance. Our next and final speaker is Samuel Kissi. He is here representing African. He's also a member of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and part of the Curious Minds broadcast in Accra, Ghana where he is from and where he is based. Samuel. [applause]

SAMUEL KISSI: Thank you very much Caitlin and thank you all to the other panelists for your presentations. I've scribbled all over the paper I had, which is always a problem I have with writing down my presentations because things keep coming to me.

In Ghana, we have a call to action when the men and women are coming from the farm or coming from their [inaudible 0:35:13] and there's a call to action. All through the discussions that I've sat through since this internalized conference that it has been running through my head looking at the urgency and I want to spark your own.

On that note, in Ghana when I say Troboy [misspelled?] you say yeah. Troboy. Troboy. Troboy. It's to remind you that we don't have time that time is not on our side that we need to act now and we need to act quickly. I am happy that I am

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

hearing that the last time the AIDS conference was in the U.S. was 22 years ago. Many of you with us in Mali, Bamako when talked about young people's leadership 30 years after HIV, we haven't known a generation; we haven't known life without HIV. I hope that looking into the future that 30 years from today we will not be talking about the same issues we are talking about here today.

This morning on my Facebook page I updated my status and said that like the floppy diskette, I hope that soon we will be talking to our children about HIV as something that used to exist but isn't anymore. That is the feeling in 2000 with which I get involved with all these discussions hoping that this will not become a ritual. That we not get comfortable, that we not feel helpless in the face of all the statistics that you've heard and all the challenges that we confronted with regards to HIV and AIDS.

The need for young people's involvement and particularly our leadership in the global HIV response is inevitable. If you look at the statistics, they are so hard to ignore, so many young people are getting infected every day with HIV. When you look at the impact of those who are infected and even those who are affected by HIV, it is too hard to ignore. I have not come to talk about this today.

A few weeks ago I was Geneva at the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board. When in session where we're talking about

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

getting to zero, what young people can do. I was telling the participants in that meeting that even at my young age I'm beginning to get tired of going to the same meetings and talking about the same issues.

We're are not talking about these same issues because we have nothing new to say but it is because that change is not happening fast enough. That everything seems to be in a slow motion. We are having to talk about the same issues and we need to really start challenging ourselves and looking at how we can change the nature of HIV in the world now.

The young people had a preconference a few days ago and the on the last day that I participated there was a question and answer session. One of our young colleagues Barry from Gambia who's also a young person living with HIV was talking about how frustrated and even angry he is at the state of affairs. I think that many young people share this concern. You have heard many good examples of what is happening in Mexico, what is happening in Jamaica and the Philippines and I'm sure you all have good examples from your country.

Back home in Ghana I'm involved with the media advocacy organization. We move from the studio to the community sometimes to try to educate people about HIV and AIDS. Young people are affected by HIV but we are standing up and we are trying to get our inputs, get our contributions out there.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

On the global front there are many examples, I cannot even list them all. Looking at the new possibilities that we presented with by social media; you know about Crowd Out AIDS and other such crowd sourcing initiatives. You know about for instance the UNAIDS new generational leadership initiative. Currently the ICPD review is going on. Young people are getting actively involved in this. Most of the UN agencies are beginning to actively involve young people and even determining their own strategic plans. UNAIDS, UNFPA and many other UN agencies are doing this.

For me it's not just about what you are doing now. It is about what more we need to do and what new things we can do. I know many here are asking the same questions. People are getting tired, we're getting frustrated and we need answers on how we identify good practices that are happening in our countries, in our communities and how we can bring these to scale.

I'm going to talk briefly about some of the key issues that we've been talking about over the last couple of days. Particularly with the young people and the D.C. Youth Force; talking about equality, access and partnership. I'm looking at it from my perspective as a young person who has been involved in advocacy at the country level and also at the global level and how I think this should pan out.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Equality is extremely important. We have so many times where young people I invited, their input is sought, but because we are not seen as equal partners our inputs are not given the weights that they deserve. In my part of the world it is said that the young person should be seen but not heard. When you get the opportunity to go and make inputs you are listened to and then often you'll be applauded for being an eloquent speaker and all of that. Sadly that is where it usually ends. We need equality; we need young people to be at the table as equal partners.

A few years ago I was sitting in a session and I was complaining about the input of some of my other young colleagues because I realized that we have been—we were there, we had been invited to make inputs into some policy discussions and there at that table the young people were only talking about getting a seat at a table. I was thinking about this, I was actually complaining and I thought of it and I thought that somehow you cannot blame us so much.

We spend so much time at the back of the door trying to get inside, knocking and asking for a seat at a table. So much said that even when we got a seat at a table we forgot what it is we are actually asking for. At the seats we're also asking for more seats at a table instead of making our inputs.

This brings me to the first issue of access. We need capacity building; we need to invest in building the capacity

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

of young people. We know our reality, we know our issues, we know how HIV affects us but we need capacity building in order to participate in all the spaces that you require us to give our inputs.

Go to any of the UN agencies, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS in just 13 minutes of a meeting you'd hear about a hundred acronyms. It's difficult to just pull a young person from a community and bring them to the table and expect them to be able to contribute in space like that. We need to invest in building young people's capacity so that they can understand these processes, so that you can tap into their knowledge and their feelings and how they think that programs should be developed and implemented.

We need capacity building for young people even for the linkages between sexual reproductive health and rights and HIV. We need capacity building for young people to understand how budgets work and how they can get their inputs in there. We need capacity building for young people in country development plans and action strategies.

Young people's inputs are central to all of this when you're developing the national strategic plan for HIV. You need young people to be there, you need to build their capacity so that they can be effective contributors to these processes.

Often we talk also about the nonexistence of viable youth organizations or youth led organizations. This is also

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

so because many young people do not have the technical support or even the financial support that they need to survive as youth led organizations.

The issue of funding is one that we have all become so used to but it is still an issue that is as relevant today as it was 10 years ago because although there is a difficulty generally across board in terms of funding, it is particularly so for young people because nobody wants to support the corpus of youth organizations. Nobody wants to support the strengthening of youth organizations so that they can be independent and viable organizations.

This is an extremely important thing that I think we need to take cognoscente of. We need partnership as well with our adult partners. We need partnership with those from other movements, from the human rights movement, from the women's movement, we need partnership. We are here and we are ready to contribute. There are an unprecedented number of young people living today, 1.8 billion and we're all here to contribute what we can. It will not mean that we are coming to replace what all the others are doing. We want to work in partnership.

In my work last year, we're doing a couple of trainings, building on people's capacity on country development plans in different countries. One of the things I realized was that young people's participation or the extent to which young people are involved vary from country to country and from

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

movement to movement. It was not because they are institutionalized and the cognizance for getting young people's input.

It was mainly because in some places we were lucky to have allies in very important positions who understood the importance of involving young people. While this is extremely good for us and we hope that all of you will be good allies in your countries and on the regional, global level wherever you are working.

We need institutions that have cognizance that allow for young people's participation. Institutions that allow for systems to incorporate their views so that regardless of the person in that position young people's views will not be swept under the carpet; this is extremely important.

Also we realize that when young people their input is sought they are consorted at the initial stages where consortiums are done. Whether it's the brainstorming and all of that. Then we lose our voice and we lose the seat at a table when there is time to do the priority and target setting. We lose the seat when it is time to talk about where to locate financial resources. This is not meaningful youth participation. When we're talking about youth leadership, we need to ensure that young people are involving all of these stages. That they are involved in the initial planning, that they are involved when are cutting down, when we are

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

determining priorities. You cannot keep the young people out. I think this is the reason why so many initiatives of young people can be found in policy documents but are not implemented. At the end of the day there are no budget lines to support these. This is extremely important.

I can give briefly an example two weeks ago where in Ghana we called as young people to the validation of a youth action matrix that the Ghana AIDS commission had developed. They had a consortium that have done the costing. We had about two hours to look through all of it and give our input. We told them no, this is the first time we have seen this; we cannot possibly give you a very good input.

Give us time, let us regroup and come back to you. With the help of UN FP and other partners we met with many other young people, went through the action matrix and the costing that had been done by consortiums, asking him questions. It almost seemed like an interrogation at that point. At the end of the day, the fear that they had was that, oh the young people are going to push this from 5 million to 20 million. That was not what happened.

What happened was that in certain places we asked that the priorities be shifted, that some monies be moved from some places to other places because we also have understanding of the realities. We know that there are ways that money can be

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

allocated that it will be more meaningful to young people on the ground.

We need you, we need your support but we need all young people to be involved in the HIV response. We need access, we need partnership and we need equality. We can and we must end HIV together. Thank you. [applause]

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Thank you Samuel. We wanted to open it up for questions from the audience either to a particular speaker or on an issue of youth leadership that has been keeping you awake at night on something you'd like to discuss with the panel or with the audience. Do we have a microphone? Yes, we do. If people have thoughts or questions and can just come on up to the mic. Is the mic on?

FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes. My question is for Phillip directly and then if anyone else wants to jump in or if you can't that's totally fine. I think the name that you quoted from a friend of yours from the Philippines was Jason, is that right? Does that sound familiar?

Yes, and you were talking about—you said a quote from him, something about how we as HIV positive youths are in the best position to advocate and spread our message because we understand our problems the best. I've always found it a little bit challenging to understand the difference between HIV negative youth and positive youth in the ways they advocate. I just wondering if you could touch on that a little bit?

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

I find when I'm hearing positive youth talk about the ways that their involved in their cause, they're talking a lot about stigma reduction and advocacy for human rights. Whereas a lot of negative youth might not be able so much to relate to the discrimination, the challenges that positive youth face so they come from a much more preventative point of view.

I was just wondering if I'm maybe off the chart with that or if that's something that you've found to be a problem in youth advocacy? If so, is there a way that we can bridge this divide between negative and positive youths so that we're both fighting for—not that we're not fighting for the same cause but that we can both fight in the exact same direction.

PHILLIP PALMOS: I have to say that it's really a challenge because you are right that the HIV negative youth tends to really focus on prevention. HIV positive youth focuses on stigma reduction. This is just natural because someone living with HIV you have these issues of like coming out, disclosing your status, there is much more layers than education and giving out awareness to your peers.

Whereas if you are HIV negative you can always say that you must do this, you must do that. Nobody if they ask for your HIV status you can readily say I am HIV negative but for someone who is positive there are many layers and they're too many considerations that you need take before you disclose to someone.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

What we're doing with our organization, because when it started it exclusively for young people living with HIV and young key affected populations. The gap between that is what you said, that these groups have specific focus for themselves. That is why in 2009 we've opened it up to both youth working on an HIV both positive and negative so that there will be a convergence and a collaboration.

Curriculum and programs targeted to young people is integrated and it is more standardized that we do not limit it to young people living with HIV and to young people who are affected but is still vulnerable to HIV. Did I answer your question?

CAITLIN CHANDLER: I just want to add that the Global Network of people living with HIV has a Y-plus program, it's a network of young people living with HIV and they've published a tool which is available at this conference on how organizations can better engage and support the leadership of young people living with HIV. That might be something to check out. Yes?

NINA FORENCHICH: Thank you for an excellent panel. My name is Nina Forenchich [misspelled?] and I'm from UNICEF. I'm just curious to ask you about your perceptions regarding the positioning of HIV in the broader range of issues that are affecting young people? I'm wondering to what extent you are finding it easy or difficult to deal with HIV alone versus HIV

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

integrated with other issues like drugs or sexuality or other issues affecting young people?

Do you see that as something that's increasingly becoming difficult to talk about HIV only and you need to start talking about other things? Or do you find it perfectly alright at the moment? I'm asking this because in some of the regions that where we work, particularly in low end concentrated epidemics, the issue of HIV alone is becoming more and more difficult to push for.

It gets much more traction when it's linked to other broader topics as well, which actually runs the risk of being forgotten. There's a very real tension that we see when trying to suggest youth participation and I wanted to get your sense. Are youth programs focused on HIV enough or is it better in your experience, in your opinion to link it to other causes? If so, which ones?

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Who would like to respond?

PHILLIP PALMOS: Okay. I always believe that for different groups there should be different interventions. I think what we need to work on is really the shaping of the message and of our communications targeted to young key affected populations.

I have to agree with you that when you work with HIV and AIDS and then anchor to a much bigger issue it is a bit easier for you to go to communities and all that. I also—it

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

slipped my mind, I'm sorry. What I can really say is that—oh right, okay, I have it now. Because back in the Philippines there are too many campaigns that are being done and one of our main concerns is that HIV is being glamourized, that it's okay.

Most of the campaigns in the Philippines nowadays have these photo shoots and all that glamour stuff. We have celebrities saying it's okay and things like that. Us on the ground level are a bit worried of what is the type of message that we are giving out to the public in terms of that? I really believe that what's important is that how we shape. It doesn't matter where it is targeted just as long as we do not stigmatize in shaping our messages to certain group of population. I think that that's what's important about it.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Yes?

SAMUEL KISSI: Thank you, this is a very important question. I think that no that we should not, at least from my experience coming from a developing country, I realize that talking about HIV alone is always very difficult. I think it's actually to some degree ineffective. We need to situate HIV within the broader context of sexual reproduction rights and sexual reproduction health.

In Ghana, through the work that I have done, one young person told me that it doesn't matter how much I know about HIV and how it is transmitted when I am hungry. If that person has no source of income, if she's dependent on somebody for her

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

entire livelihood, then if that person is insistent on having sex with her without protection for instance.

I find that it's extremely important to see to it that discussing around HIV within sexual reproductive health and rights. We need to talk about it in terms of when we are providing education, sexual education to other young people. That is why we are placing a lot of focus on comprehensive sexuality education, livelihood skills and things like that so that we can reduce the vulnerability or dependency of young people on others.

As long as young people are vulnerable, open to exploitation, it doesn't matter how much knowledge they have about HIV. I would say that no, I don't think we should ever want to discuss, talk about HIV alone. It should be situated within the broader context of sexual reproductive health and rights, of livelihood, of family planning and things like that.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Thank you. I will take a question from over here.

TIFFANY THOMPSON: My name is Tiffany Thompson [misspelled?] and I work for a youth program called the Youth Health Primer Project in Philadelphia, which is a program on Philadelphia Fight. My question is specifically for Ilana, if I'm saying your name correctly but anyone can answer it. I wanted to talk a little bit more about your steps you said to be local.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Specifically because I think in Philadelphia and in pretty much everywhere, each neighborhood and in each part of the city is so different. I always struggle with trying to have message that's local to Philadelphia that doesn't represent one community more than the other, unless a specifically targeted to say Latinos in North Philadelphia.

I wanted to just talk a little bit more about what exactly do you mean by be local or to act locally, to target your creative message locally?

ILANA SOD: I guess in the case this team of soccer players, yes they are local project that deal with universal expressions as art, as design, as sports and that's the way you can be global. Being local I think it works because it's something that they live every day that they work with their communities. I don't know if I'm being really clear about it or if I understood your question well? With us, it worked that way because it was projects developed with their communities but they all share values as art and sports that are global, I guess.

TIFFANY THOMPSON: Thank you.

ILANA SOD: Sure.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Over here on the—your left, my right.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you for the presentations. My question is to young leaders [inaudible]. I'm curious, I'd

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

like to know which selection criteria, do you record normally use so that you reach the right people, because I know there is an organization in which you funded in Uganda. It's certainly known in the international world but on the ground we don't know anything that it does.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: [interposing] I would be happy to speak to you after but I'd like ask that people keep their questions keep their questions for the panelists. Do you have a question for the panelists?

FEMALE SPEAKER: The ones I had were specifically for you.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Okay, I'm happy to talk to you after but this is about our speakers. Could I take the question over here? [interposing]

FEMALE SPEAKER: Can I ask to the panelists—?

CAITLIN CHANDLER: I think actually we'll talk to you after and let this man ask a question. Thank you.

ALLEN FRONGPONG: Again, thank you for all the presentations here today. My name's Allen Fronpong [misspelled?], I'm here from the U.S. Again this question is for any of the panelists. In terms of your lived experiences in doing this work and your positions of leadership, if can speak about the assets or the things that you feel are a great qualities that are needed for leadership for young people in order to do this work?

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

For me, when I think of leadership, leadership is a part of organizing and organizing well and being a part of doing effective work. I think for HIV I think something that the UNICEF representative spoke to well—I think we're at a point where HIV can't be afforded to be treated as a silo disease prevention kind of effort and that we need to be able to join with other sectors and other movements to do work.

I think it would be good for us to think about what are the good qualities required, what are the levels of leadership required to do that? I'm offering that as a question for the panelists.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Do you maybe—?

SAMUEL KISSI: Thank you very much. I think that you are very right. Young people live in a very complicated world now. We have access to so many things. We have so many opportunities but we also we are also faced with tremendous challenges. We have unprecedented levels of unemployment, young people are experiencing homophobia and violence in places and so many challenges.

I think that for a young leader, first you need commitment and passion to want to create a change. I think the situation that we find ourselves in also calls for a lot of creativity and innovation because people are inundated with every day with so many other issues. We need to be creative

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

and find ways that we can draw people's attention to why we think the issues we are discussing are important.

Young people have heard so much about HIV that it's almost something that we are growing numb to in many places. It is important that we find creative of engaging young people and making sure that we bring their voices to the floor and making sure that their initiatives and their interventions that we develop are really effective and are meeting the real needs of young people on the ground.

PHILLIP PALMOS: Thank you very much for that question. One strength that I can see on youth leadership is also in a way their vulnerabilities. We are consistent and we are always hungry to try different things. Also the aggressiveness of the young people is also a strength which is why they're vulnerable.

One thing that we can really do is to tweak it and move it in the right direction. Use those vulnerabilities because as I said, since we are well in trying different things and we are aggressive in exploring new possibilities then the mentorship and the guidance of our wiser counterparts should into account so that those energies will be used in a greater sense. Also in that we will be able to engage them in the response.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: I think Shavon spoke earlier about treating the whole person and how I think that's also what the comment was speaking to. Do want to maybe comment on that?

SHAVON DAVIS: Basically when I say there must be a older person approach to HIV, meaning it should be more comprehensive or like the same thing focusing on HIV not as I said here in the speech. Like me, I learn about HIV through a training program by Administry of Health in Jamaica. I think you should—when they [inaudible] HIV with younger people like myself, you should be more like a one on one talk or something like that. Basically that's it, yes.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: I just think that's a very beautiful concept, the whole person concept. Thank you. I have here and then here.

CARLOS CHAVEZ: Yes, hi. My name is Carlos Chavez [misspelled?]; I'm a 50-year-old man, Latino doing HIV/AIDS prevention for a while. I would like to ask you first of all, thank you, thank you for being here and for educating us. I think many times adults need to be educated about what's going on and we are reluctant to listen to. This is a question and a comment.

Number one, do you think media portrays a lot of influence in the young adult's behavior. If it's so, I'm a little uncomfortable seeing that not only MTV but any TV station, CBS and Telemondo and you name it, hardly talk about

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

issues of condom negotiation and condom use among teens.

Correct me if I'm wrong, we're talking openly about sex and again *Jersey Shore* is and I really hardly watch those things.

They're indiscriminate sex but it has never been an issue of responsible sex. I'm not against them having fun because I did my thing when I was young but and I'm not here to share that with you, however even the smallest TV-

[END RECORDING]

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.