



YOUTH PEER EDUCATION NETWORK

Y-PEER Network in Kosovo

2005-2007

Y-PEER is an efficient and effective means of promoting youth participation in sexual and reproductive health issues and in building partnerships between young people and adults in advocating for: national youth development strategies, dissemination of information and knowledge on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, sharing standards of practice and strengthening the knowledge and resources for peer educators, and trainers of trainers.





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Y-PEER: Strengthening and Expanding Capacity for Delivery of High Quality Peer
Education Systems in Arab States, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Y-PEER National Network Report

- KOSOVO -

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an assessment on National Y-PEER Network in Kosovo; its programs, methodology and up-to-date achievement. It analyzes and summarizes the major figures and delivered programs and services in peer-to-peer health education. It is consolidated based on desk research and analysis of crucial documents, reports, and materials produced since 2005 for and from Y-PEER Network in Kosovo. This report also includes recommendations on strategic directions regarding future organization, potential for coordination, identification of training needs, overview of agency and donor support and potential for linking with other programs.

Since 2001, peer education approach has been promoted in Kosovo from international and domestic organizations. At that time, most common forms of peer-to-peer programs were: school-based education, public campaigns, and dissemination of information and materials on HIV/AIDS and S/RH. On the 4th of August 2004, PSI/KOSMA initiated the creation of Peer Educators Network, which involved all peer educators and trainers around Kosovo. Finally, with the support of UNFPA, in 2005, Y-PEER program was launched and consolidated in Kosovo. Even though the National Y-PEER Network in Kosovo was consolidated three years later comparing with other Networks in the region, it has achieved satisfactory results in promoting youth participation in sexual and reproductive health issues and in building partnerships between young people and adults in advocating for dissemination of information and knowledge on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, sharing lessons learned and standards of practice and improved training resources for peer educators, and strengthening the knowledge base of peer educators and trainers of trainers.

Y-PEER Network in Kosovo is a community of 700 youth activists who are working voluntarily in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other diseases and social phenomenon which threaten youth health and social wellbeing. Some of the crucial achievements of the Y-PEER Network in Kosovo are:

- Two national ToT which resulted with 50 new peer education trainers;
- Over 200 school-based workshops;
- Over 700 peer educators are actively working for the Network,
- Y-PEER ToT manual and theatre-based trainings are adopted and used for national trainings and other activities,
- Running a webpage with over 10,000 visitors per year,
- Sustainable representation and coordination mechanisms for member organization.

Members of Y-PEER Network in Kosovo are 12 NGO network members, and 10 other youth school-based informal groups. Through public campaigns that the Network has organized during these years, more than 20,000 adolescence, youth and adults have benefited, thousands of brochures, posters, and condoms were distributed.

The National Y -PEER Network in Kosovo is a strong, well-organized and structured Network, which closely follows Y -PEER standards and uses Y -PEER tools. The Network is highly integrated into the UNFPA Programs in Kosovo, which provides technical and financial assistance in the management of the Network. Network has shown strong commitment and engagement for raising awareness, sharing their knowledge, and promoting behavior change - always aiming to prevent HIV/AIDS in Kosovo.

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In completing this report I have received remarkable support from the following teams, organizations and individuals:

- UNFPA staff for their generous logistical support, in particular special thanks to Dr. Visare Mujko Nimani and Gezim Visoka, for their continuous advices and support.
- Y-PEER Focal Points, KOPF staff and other youth trainees and peer educators for their ability and willingness to help me during overall process of consolidating the report.
- Participants of 2nd Y-PEER ToT who have been an important resource in drafting this report.
- Representative of NIPHK, Dr. Ilir Begolli.

None of these organizations or individuals bears accountability for the interpretations, conclusions or recommendations contained in this report. Nor does the report in any way represent any official UNFPA viewpoint or policy. All responsibility for the report and whatever errors or misinterpretations it may contain belong with the consultant.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The methodology used to consolidate this report had a predominantly qualitative dimension. The report is written in descriptive and analytic approach, reviewing and analyzing crucial documents, reports, and materials produced in regard Y-PEER Network in Kosovo. Desk review I have conducted during several visits to UNFPA, KOPF and Y-PEER office in Prishtina. This report has a.

During my field visit and research, I have met with Dr. Visare Mujko Nimani, UNFPA NPO, Gezim Visoka, UNFPA Program Consultant, Bujar Fejzullahu, KOPF, Albulena Rustemi, Y-PEER Focal Point, and Dr. Ilir Begolli. Consultant has also attended the 2nd National ToT, held from 06-09 December in Ferizaj where the entire process of this training was observed.

This consultancy took place from 25th of November until 22nd of December 2007.

AN OVERVIEW OF Y-PEER NETWORK

In 1999 the UN Inter Agency Group on Young People's Health, Development and Protection in Europe and Central Asia (IAG), initiated a joint work plan to support peer education initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The first activity of the work plan was an assessment process and stock take of peer education programs in selected countries in the region. These activities were the building blocks for the development of a regional peer education network and support to country -level peer education development. Y –PEER (Youth Peer Education Network) was created with the primary objective to strengthen peer education initiatives in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

In past few years UNFPA has been increasingly recognized as UN lead agency in the area of programming with young people and particularly young people at risk. Within the framework of programming for young people and HIV/AIDS, UNFPA has supported number of behavior change communication initiatives, including peer education initiatives in general and Y-PEER in particular. Y-PEER (Youth Peer Education Network) is a groundbreaking, comprehensive youth-to-youth education approach. It is a network of over 200 organizations and institutions, consisting of thousands of young people, working in the broad areas of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. The network, which is constantly expanding, consists of youth from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, East Africa and Brazil.

Y-PEER is an efficient and effective means of promoting youth participation in sexual and reproductive health issues and in building partnerships between young people and adults in advocating for: (a) National Youth Development Strategies, (b) Dissemination of information and knowledge on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, (c) Sharing lessons learned across borders and between cultures, (d) Standards of practice and improved training resources for peer educators, (e) Strengthening the knowledge base of peer educators and trainers of trainers.

Members of Y-PEER are young people, active peer educators and trainers of trainers, but also youth advocates for adolescent's sexual and reproductive health who contribute to and benefit from the resource materials and tools, training programs and campaigns through the Y-PEER Network's Web Site, electronic communication and in-person meetings. Nearly all peer educators use the electronic Network on a regular basis. As of the end of 2007, Y-PEER linked nearly 5,000 members from 39 countries. The Network continues to evolve and grow as more young people join. The Network recognizes that having a youthful and graphically appealing web site is more important than ever. Current web site and list servers provide peer educators with the access to the state-of-the-art information and techniques on peer education, prevention of STIs and HIV/AIDS and other sexual and reproductive health related topics.

¹ UNFPA: Terms of Reference; Y-PEER National Network Report, November 2007.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN KOSOVO

Kosovo, with an estimated population of between 1,9 and 2,1 million inhabitants is going through processes of multiple transitions. Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe: Over half of its people are under the age of 25, and about 21 percent of population of Kosovo is between the ages of 15 and 25. Therefore, the challenges related to political, economic and social development during the ongoing transition period are first and foremost the challenges of young people, who are Kosovo's future workers, business people, parents, citizens and leaders².

According to official data, young Kosovars between the ages of 15 and 29 represent 60% of the total population, estimated at 1,9 million, which makes Kosovo's population one of the youngest in Europe. More specifically, 50% of young Kosovars are under the age of 25 years and 40% are children under 18 years of age. Youth is, however, officially defined as the group between 15 and 24, which covers 21% of Kosovo's total population. The so-called youth bulge is expected to grow even more, as overall population growth in the region is highest in Kosovo (which has a total fertility rate estimate of 2.9). This is expected to remain the highest in the next 15 to 20 years. Kosovo's population, which includes approximately one million young people, gives birth to approximately 35,000 children per year, is also characterized by the poorest maternal and child vital indicators in Europe. With infant mortality rates twice as high as in the neighboring countries, Kosovo estimates are 49/1000 live births, and mortality under 5 years of age is estimated at 69/1000³.

In Kosovo, where health care services are poor, both in terms of knowledge and equipment, young people have limited access to good quality sexual and reproductive health services and education. In this context, UNFPA has been advising on the development of the reproductive health care infrastructure as an integral part of Kosovo's health system. Through its work UNFPA, discovered systematic under-reporting of all major statistical data from births (80%), deaths (36%), registered marriages (90%), and possibly other categories such as abortions. In 1999 about 20% of births took place without any professional assistance, which has improved to 4% in 2001. The main concerns are the low access to contraceptives, unsafe abortions and the short interval between deliveries. There are various international NGOs and international agencies advocating for the development and mainstreaming of sexual and reproductive health education curriculum, however, as in many other countries, the issue remains taboo due to social and cultural barriers⁴.



² UNDP Kosovo: KHDR 2006 – A New Generation for a New Kosovo, 2006, p 15.

³ Ibid.

⁴ UNFPA: Young People in Kosovo: their situations, needs and the prospects, 2007, p 11.

Regarding the youth sexual and reproductive health care, the family, schools and friends are the main sources of advice, along with television, as an information source. This indicates that health care services in Kosovo do not directly influence significantly the level of information of young people. When assessing the media campaigns organized on smoking, drug use, environment, HIV/AIDS and violence, it appeared that around three quarters of the targeted population was reached, mainly through television. Radio, leaflets and posters or newspapers come way behind as a means of informing youth⁵.

The post-conflict situation of Kosovo, with its young population and the presence of around 30,000 UN troops, has contributed to the expectation of an increase in HIV/AIDS infections. For this reason, since 2000, a UNAIDS working group was established together with the National AIDS Committee, as part of the Institute of Public Health. However, similarly to many other Eastern European countries, until up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS incidence are not available. It is, therefore, possible that the incidence of AIDS is much wider than it appears to be. So far, about 76 cases have been registered, which does not represent an epidemic. However, according to UNDP, due to a severe lack of reliable information on HIV positive people, as well as prevention programs that enhance testing and monitoring, the real threats are unknown⁶.

Young people in Kosovo face various difficulties in their transitions. Social transformation brings modern liberal values and lifestyles into contradiction with the traditional Kosovo culture. Although the majority of young people seem to manage with these changes, many young people are stigmatized for their behavior. The harsh socio-economic conditions, challenges posed by the complex education system, the lack of health care services and adequate information, together with high indices of youth unemployment, barriers to youth mobility and the overall vulnerability of young people to risk behavior, all reinforce the need for comprehensive youth policy and programming. However, young people's isolation, disempowerment and anxiety will not be solved before the greater political questions that concern Kosovo are resolved. All governmental efforts currently focus on resolving the status of Kosovo⁷.

⁵ UNICEF: Youth in Kosovo, 2004, p 23.

⁶ UNFPA: Young People in Kosovo: their situations, needs and the prospects, 2007, p 12.

⁷ Ibid, p 19.

UNFPA Role

In past few years UNFPA has been increasingly recognized as a UN lead agency in the area of programming with young people and particularly young people at risk. Within the framework of programming for young people and HIV/AIDS prevention, UNFPA in Kosovo has supported a number of behavior change communication initiatives, including peer education initiatives in general and Y-PEER in particular.

UNFPA office in Kosovo is the principle donor of National Y-PEER Network. Annually, supports the Network, channeling funds through Kosova Population Foundation (KOPF). UNFPA also monitors the work of the Network and provides overall technical and professional assistance. One of the most important UNFPA support is participation of Kosovo in Y-PEER International Advanced Trainings and meetings. Recently, UNFPA has hired a Y-PEER Focal Point Gezim Visoka as Program Consultant to leading the UNFPA youth component at a national level. This decision taken by UNFPA in Kosovo speaks about the commitment that UNFPA office has in strengthening and supporting Y-PEER Network.

Since 2005, UNFPA office in Kosovo has supported Y-PEER Network directly and through KOPF with 69,358.00 USD.

UNFPA Financial Support to Y-PEER Network in Kosovo			
Implementer	Amount	Purpose/Project	Date
KOPF	28,790.03 USD	Organizing Y-PEER meetings, overall coordination, trainings and webpage maintenance.	2008-2010
KOPF	4,318.50 USD	3 rd Anniversary of Y-PEER	03 Aug 2007
KOPF	7,557.38 USD	Organizing Y-PEER meetings, overall coordination, trainings and webpage maintenance.	2006-2007
Y-PEER	8,611.10 USD	Participation on Y-PEER International Advanced Training of Trainers.	2005-2007
KOSMA	5,758.01 USD	Organizing Y-PEER meetings, overall coordination, trainings and webpage maintenance.	2005
Y-PEER /KOPF	6,333.81 USD	Support for 1 st Y-PEER National ToT	2006
Y-PEER /KOPF	3,238.88 USD	Adaptation, translation, and printing of Y-PEER ToT and theatre-based Manual	2007
Y-PEER /KOPF	4,750.35 USD	Support for 2 nd Y-PEER National ToT	2007
Total	69,358.00 USD		

PROGRAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Y-PEER Network at global level is created to achieve the following objectives and outputs:

1. To have strengthened quality and relevance of sexual and reproductive health education and HIV/AIDS prevention efforts through delivery of standardized and high quality peer education;
2. To have expanded and accelerated Y-PEER as a networking mechanism and strategic approach in HIV/AIDS prevention for young people;
3. To have facilitated the process of institutionalization of peer education through the Y-PEER approach on a sub-regional and country level;
4. To have strengthened regional capacity for delivery of successfully demonstrated program strategies on HIV/AIDS prevention geared at young people at risk; including young sex workers, drug injectors, MSM and PLWHA;
5. To have facilitated integration and application of strategic communications for behavior change into HIV/AIDS prevention program for young people;
6. To have promoted participation of young people and representatives of populations at risk in planning, design, and implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

In a comprehensive analysis of programs, initiatives and efforts that Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has undertaken we can conclude that there are broad number of activities that have contributed and supported in achievement of above mentioned objectives. This section of report will describe and will highlight programs and initiatives conducted to achieve each of these Y-PEER fundamental objectives.

OBJECTIVE

1

To strengthen the quality and relevance of sexual and reproductive health education and HIV/AIDS prevention efforts through delivery of standardized and high quality peer education, Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has conducted the following activities.

a. National Training of Trainers

Since 2005, Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has organized two national advanced ToT. These trainings aimed to strengthen the knowledge and the capacity of current active peer educators on S/RH education and HIV/AIDS prevention and equipping them with adequate skills and competences to be able to carry on the expansion of peer education initiatives and multiplying gained knowledge to other youngsters. First training was held during October 2006 with 25 peer educators and representatives of local NGO and youth groups oriented in youth health education. Recently, Y-PEER Network in Kosovo organized 2nd national ToT with 22 new trainers and local coordinators.

BASIC FACTS

- Two National ToT organized
- Y-PEER methodology used
- 50 active trainers
- 700 active peer educators
- 10,000 adolescents and youth reached and educated

These two trainings were supported by UNFPA and developed through Y-PEER methodology and the entire process of planning, designing, developing and evaluating this training was conducted by Y-PEER Focal Points and advanced trainers who participated in International Y-PEER Advanced ToT. Introduction of Y-PEER methodology was effectively adapted to cultural and local context. Training Manual was adapted to local language and context. Theatre-based techniques were new and very appropriate component of community-based peer education. Evaluations reflect very satisfactory results. Their knowledge level was improved significantly after attending national trainings.

The role of these new trainers was to continue with similar training at local level. Due to lack of funds in all municipalities could be organized such trainings. Based on the reviewed evidence, as a result of these two national training and other local workshops, from 2006 around 10,000 youths throughout Kosovo were informed and reached through peer education school and community based activities, public actions, media and through IEC materials produced from peer educators. This number is based on number of school sessions, street and public actions, delivered printed and media messages, and other forms of reaching deeper rural regions of Kosovo.

b. Regional and Local Workshops

At the same time, working in building and strengthening the capacities of peer educators by delivering qualitative and advance trainings, youth peer educators have conducted more basic workshops on HIV/AIDS, STI, and peer-to-peer communication strategies. Mainly, these workshops were held in school environments and less in community centers. The program of these workshops consisted of sharing basic information on HIV/AIDS, prevention methods, risky and safe behaviors, sharing knowledge and good practices with their peers, friends, relatives in their respective communities. The statistics collected from reviewing UNFPA and Y-PEER data, show that throughout Kosovo, peer educators held regular school sessions.

BASIC FACTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10,300 adolescents and young people are educated, through Y-PEER Network since 2005.• Youth peer educators regularly conduct school and community based workshops.• 20,000 youngsters are reached during 2001-2004.

Since 2005, through Y-PEER Network and its member organization over 10,300 adolescents and youth profited from school and community based awareness-raising, and education workshops and sessions. These events were made able through the funds of UNFPA and local partners such as the Kosova Population Foundation. It is important to mention also that during the period between 2001 to 2004, around 20,000 young people were reached and profited from peer education programs undertaken by UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, PSI, and KIPH.

c. Public Campaigns and Actions

Y-PEER Network in Kosovo appear very experienced in organizing public campaigns. Planning and approaching strategies make Y-PEER and its partner organization leaders in youth behavior change and awareness-raising public campaigns in Kosovo. Annually, World AIDS Day is marked with various actions, always including new and innovative approaches in delivering messages and marking the day.

Generally when Peer Educators have street action they organize a plan, target group and the method. During street actions, they deliver for free condoms, brochures, put posters in youth and generally frequented areas. Part of trainings is also how to talk to random people and how to inform them about S/RH and HIV/AIDS issues. Y-PEER in Kosovo has also successfully performed in some occasions in the streets, wearing t-shirts and holding posters and placards with messages.

d. Theatre-based Trainings

Recently, UNFPA in collaboration with Y-PEER Network in Kosovo and NGO ARTPOLIS began a pilot project conducting five theatre-based trainings projects in Prishtina, Ferizaj, Peja, Mitrovica and Lipjan region. These projects aim at building the capacities of selected experienced Peer Educators, as well as certified Y-PEER trainers, to plan, design and deliver high quality theatre-based peer education training programs; train participants in utilizing the “Theatre Based Techniques for Youth Peer Education: Training Manual” on local and national level; Establishing “National Y-PEER Theatre Festival”. This project is developed and lead from Zana Krasniqi, Y-PEER Focal Point on theatre-based education. Further, Y-PEER theatre-based techniques manual is adopted and translated into the Albanian language. The program of these trainings is based on Y-PEER methodology. Up to date, two trainings are organized in Mitrovica and Prishtina. In each of the trainings, ten selected peer educators will prepare a theatrical play and perform it their schools, local cultural events, and in the National Y-PEER Theatre Festival. Regarding the beneficiaries, directly 50 peer educators will be trained on theatre-based peer education, indirectly around 3,000 adolescents and youth will be reached. In conclusion, it is planned to continue conducting similar trainings and make this festival traditional and annual event of Y-PEER Network in Kosovo. Each group’s play will have a theme:

BASIC FACTS

- Five theatre-based trainings.
- 50 trained peer educators on theatre-based performances.
- 3,000 youth will be reached
- Establishment of National Y-PEER Theatre Festival
- Adaptation of Manual in Kosovo context

- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Gender sensitivity
- Unplanned Pregnancy
- Family planning,
- PLWHA
- Vulnerable population and most-at-risk-people, etc

OBJECTIVE**2**

To expand and accelerate Y-PEER as a networking mechanism and strategic approach in HIV/AIDS prevention for young people, Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has undertaken the following actions.

a. Structure of Y-PEER Network in Kosovo

Y-PEER Network in Kosovo is integrated within the Kosova Population Foundation (KOPF), one of the long-term and principle UNFPA local partners in Kosovo. Y-PEER network was established and consolidated during 2005 when Zanita Halimi, an experienced peer educator attended the 5th Y-PEER International advanced ToT in Istanbul, Turkey. Since that time, Y-PEER has been consolidated, based on a local NGO (KOPF), it has created sustainable representation structures and has safely started to promote Y-PEER values, techniques, and education approaches. Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has 22 active municipalities where each of them has a representative



to the governing body of Y-PEER. Peer educators of these regions come from local NGO's, youth groups, and other school-based youth initiatives. Twelve local NGO's are members of the network. Mainly they are community and youth centers and work on youth education, health, psycho-social, sports, integration, promotion, advocacy, research and development programs. Most of them are well organized organizations, but at the same time they are faced with many difficulties running their programs as a result of lack of funds and governmental support. These organizations have integrated peer education into their programs and Y-PEER continually tries to support and strengthen their capacities.

Y-PEER STRUCTURE IN KOSOVO

- Y-PEER council is main governing, coordination, and representation.
- 22 representing municipalities.
- 12 member organizations
- Five Y-PEER Focal Points and international certified trainers.

Y-PEER council is main governing, coordinating, and representative body of the network. Its role consists of coordinating, managing communication, and implementing programs based on Y-PEER standards. Y-PEER Network in Kosovo is managed mainly by Y-PEER Focal Points and advanced trainers, with technical support and mentoring from KOPF. Y-PEER council conducted regular monthly meetings and has also other sub-working groups who are engaged actively and regularly in conducting trainings, communication,

website, and distribution of materials.

Currently, Y-PEER network in Kosovo have 5 focal points and international certified trainers. All of them are active and each of them support network in different perspectives. The financial aspect of Y-PEER programs in Kosovo are managed from KOPF.

Y-PEER Council hold regular monthly meetings with all network member organizations, and other youth peer educators in local informal initiatives. Usually the purpose of these meetings is to evaluate what has been done and what plans should be taken in the next month. During these meetings, besides discussing overall developments and activities the Network has carried out, the peer educators also discuss future planning, designing and undertaking particular actions. One of the supervisors who provides technical assistance to Y-PEER considers these meeting to be a excellent events in bringing together all Y-PEER members and exchange, activities, ideas, opinions and experiences. Depending on the type of project guests from donor community, partners, government, etc. are invited. Presence of these stakeholders is a good chance to advocate their support of Y-PEER programs.

Member Organizations
Youth Services of Ferizaj
Youth Energy
NGO Fisniket
RCK Lipjan
Youth Center in Suhareka
Youth Assembly in Kacanik
Youth Center ARTI
Youth Council of Secondary School in Decan
Youth Center in Shtime
Youth Vioce
Youth Center in Gjilan
Youth Center in Viti

Every year, on 4th of August, Y-PEER celebrates its anniversary with biggest event in the year with peer educators. Besides the entertainment part of this event, Y-PEER holds elections of new members to the council. Each municipality is represented with five peer educators which each of them have the right to vote one on their group. During 2007, over 100 peer educators participated in marking Y-PEER's 3rd anniversary. During this event peer educators proposed, suggested, and commented on certain elements of the national program.

b. Communication strategies and website

Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has developed several communication tools and approaches. Internet and mailing lists are most often communication approaches. Network has its website and discussion forum within it.

This website is designed and maintained by peer educators. There you can find basic information on HIV/AIDS, STI, Y-PEER training resources and toolkits, photo gallery and discussion room. During 2007, the network's webpage had over 10,000 visitors.

Reviewing the database of email and webpage forum, peer educators communicate regularly about their activities, discuss and share information and knowledge with others. Regularly, Y-PEER updates the entire network with news, important information, and other issues regarding the HIV/AIDS, S/RH, and general youth and health communication. In addition, peer educators spread time to their own contacts by exchanging information from Y-PEER.

COMMUNICATION FACTS

- Internet is main communication tool.
- Y-PEER Network webpage www.kullerat.net.
- 10,000 visitors during 2007
- Most comprehensive electronic tool on sexual education in Kosovo

Among the many responsibilities that Y-PEER Focal Points have, communication and exchange of information with other peer educators in the region is a basic principle and the essence of the network. Y-PEER globally has already created mechanism and tools for facilitating this communication. There is a website, mailing list and other tools that make the Y-PEER Initiative a real “network”. In the case of Kosovo, comparing with the national communication synergism, Y-PEER FP appears not too successful in communication with other peer educators in the region. They write rarely, usually only when they have to report an event. However, focal points have been more active writing articles for Y-PEER Newsletter which is published several times a year. During last year, Y-PEER Focal Points from Kosovo was one of the editors of the newsletter where he collected and co-managed the revision of all articles for that edition. Moreover, there should be more motivation of Y-PEER to communicate with other countries in the region.

c. Y-PEER Strategy in Kosovo 2008-2010

Currently, UNFPA and Y-PEER in Kosovo have initiated the drafting of a strategic document which will guide and orient the Network for the next two years. The draft of strategy is already prepared by Gezim Visoka, Y-PEER intern at UNFPA office in Kosovo.

This strategic document will be discussed and consolidated with consultation of Y-PEER activists, UN agencies, and other partners. The purpose of this Y-PEER development strategy is to improve the quality of programs, sustainability and development planning for peer education in Kosovo.

Y-PEER Kosova – Development Goals 2008-210	
1.	Institutionalization of peer education
2.	Financial sustainability for Y-PEER
3.	Adaptation and implementation of Y-PEER standards
4.	Sustainable mechanism for implementing, M&E programs
5.	Comprehensive representation and sustainable structure of Y-PEER
6.	Motivation and awarding mechanism for peer educators
7.	Promotion and networking
8.	Sustainable elite of trainees and peer educators
9.	International participation and cooperation

It also proposed intervention and improvement on current operation structure. The timeframe for implementing this strategy is two years, 2008-2010.

The aims of the strategy consist of achieving or improving ten development goals. In essence, this strategy proposes the reconstruction of current Y-PEER operation structure, increase efforts for fundraising, broader engagement and implementation of Y-PEER standards, and other resources, and institutionalization of peer educations.

OBJECTIVE**3**

To facilitate the process of institutionalization of peer education through the Y-PEER approach on a sub-regional and country level, National Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has not achieved any satisfactory progress and results.

d. Institutionalization of Y-PEER

Kosovo institutions time after time acknowledge peer education as a tool to reach youth and change risky behaviors. The responsible institution for the youth sector, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has tried to promote health education, but in particular peer education is their weak part. An effort has been undertaken by UNFPA to institutionalize youth peer education through a project of nearly half a million US Dollars. But even after this project was finished, MCYS has not shown serious commitment and the institutionalization is still pending. Within the Youth department, there is a sector on Health education, but peer education is still not their priority or area of interest.

BASIC FACTS

- Peer Education is still not institutionalized in Kosovo.
- Government has failed in institutionalizing peer education.
- Y-PEER in Kosovo need more funds to fulfil this component

UNFPA through Care International has engaged the MCYS in a two-year project aiming to increase knowledge about responsible sexual health and application of appropriate reproductive health behavior among young people. This high profile project has not involved Y-PEER network at any stage. Independently, it aimed to strengthen the capacities of two local youth centers, trained a tenth of new peer educators, trainers and master trainers, and has also developed promotional and education materials. One of the expected outcomes of this project was that MCYS will continue engaging these elite peer educators in their continuous programs with youth, but in fact no further action took place.

One of the Y-PEER who is currently Y-PEER Focal Point in Kosovo, was part of that project and was certified as “Master Trainer”. She said that all members of the team of master trainers are now passive, even the two youth centers are no longer undertaking activities on sexual and reproductive health. External evaluation of this project concludes that central and local government institutions should take the responsibility of overall coordination of activities and should develop mechanisms that promote and strengthen youth peer education. Furthermore, this report emphasized the need and the importance of involving and working with National Y-PEER Network in Kosovo.

An upcoming chance to institutionalize peer education is within the Global Fund that Kosovo obtained this year. There is a component aiming at standardization and institutionalization of peer education. UNFPA and Y-PEER should actively advocate and use this opportunity to achieve this goal. Even though in the past Y-PEER in Kosovo has undertaken some efforts to institutionalize peer education, it has failed as a result of lack of funds and institution serious commitment. Now, there should be more done towards this component of the national program.

OBJECTIVE**4**

To strengthen regional capacity for the delivery of successfully demonstrated program strategies on HIV/AIDS prevention geared at young people at risk; including young sex workers, drug users, MSM and PLWHA; Y-PEER in Kosovo has undertaken the following activities.

a. Adaptation of Y-PEER Toolkits and strategies

Y-PEER ToT Manual. During the spring 2007, Y-PEER Network in Kosovo adopted Y-PEER ToT Manual to Albanian language and to cultural context, mainly on few sensitive issues and terms. Six hundred copies of the manual were printed and were distributed to the trainers, peer educators and member organizations. Another amount of them were used during the 2nd national ToT, held during this month. Bernard Tahirbegolli reflects on the usefulness of this manual by saying that “through the entire process of planning, developing, implementing and evaluating national ToT, this Y-PEER manual was a perfect guide and clear facilitator...if we didn’t have it in our language it might have taken us longer to develop and conduct such advanced training”. This manual is updated in the webpage and it can be downloaded easily from youth workers and others who want to read it. Other Y-PEER toolkits and resources are used by peer educators during their activities and workshop programs.

BASIC FACTS

- Y-PEER ToT Manual has been adapted into local language, context and printed in 600 copies.
- Theatre –based Training Manual has been adapted into local language, context and printed initially in 50 copies.

Y-PEER Theatre-based Training Manual. This manual has been adopted and translated to Albanian language. Initially, 50 copies were printed for the purpose of using them for the Y-PEER theatre trainings which are currently happening in some regions of Kosovo. This manual is very much useful and it will open new opportunities to initiate and promote theatre aspect in the national Y-PEER programs.

Y-PEER Standards. Standards that are made by Y-PEER are partly implemented in Kosovo. Currently, the standards are not officially adapted and not translated into local language. In order to deliver qualitative peer education programs, Y-PEER in Kosovo should increase efforts in implementing and using Y-PEER’s principles of planning, recruiting and retaining, training and supervision, management and oversight, and monitoring and evaluations.

Other tools, like icebreaker cards, guides and supplementary materials have been used during trainings, workshops and other activities.

Y-PEER in Kosovo has not yet developed any activity on young sex workers, drug users, MSM and PLWHA.

Y-PEER Kosovo - Promotional Material		
Product	Description	Indicator
2 Posters for WAD 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stop AIDS, keep the premise - Use condom - VCT Promotion 	200 copies printed distributed
Act Safely! Y-PEER brochure on HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic facts on HIV/AIDS - Promotion of CVM 	6000 copies printed and distributed
Y-PEER ToT Manual	Peer Education ToT curricula	600 copies printed and distributed
Y-PEER Theatre-based Manual	Peer Education Theatre-based curricula	50 copies printed and distributed
Y-PEER Website www.kullerat.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of Y-PEER - Delivering information on S/RH, HIV/AIDS and pregnancy - Communication tool 	20,000 visitors, 2005-2007
Brochure for Y-PEER Kosovo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief summary of Y-PEER mission and work in Kosovo 	500 copies printed distributed
Y-PEER Illustrative Poster on HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HIV/AIDS: Safe and risky behaviors 	500 copies (400 Albanians and 100 in Serbian language)

OBJECTIVE

5

To facilitate integration and application of strategic communications for behavior change into HIV/AIDS prevention programs for young people the following has been implemented.

a. Y-PEER Campaigns on marking World AIDS Day

Since 2005, Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has been actively engaged in marking World AIDS day with different activities aimed at raising awareness of the causes, consequences, and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Every year, they organize street action where they distribute condoms, brochures and other IEC materials, school sessions, cultural events, etc. Every year, they develop innovative ways of marking the day. In past two years they have been engaged in meeting and advocating various institutions.

Through media, Y-PEER in Kosovo has delivered information. Peer educators wisely have used their networks and connections to increase. Since 2005, during World AIDS Day, more than 13,000 people have been reached, 16,000 condoms distributed, and thousands copies of brochures, posters, stickers, t-shirts and other promotional material were distributed. The target of these campaigns was the general population, in particular adolescent and youth, including those from rural areas.

Furthermore, every year since, there has been an increase in the number of involved peer educators and trainers, number of people reached, condom distribution, production and distribution of materials, and promotion tools. In addition, it can be seen that successfully Y-

PEER has involved national and local media in supporting and covering the network's activities. Without doubt, the number of beneficiaries who gained information through particular media covering the events and action of the Network is much higher.

Y-PEER Network in Kosovo Campaigns – World AIDS Day			
	2005	2006	2007
List of activities	a) Radio programs b) Street Action c) Conference d) School sessions	a) Urban Traffic Campaign b) School sessions c) Street Action d) Street Quiz e) Speech at final event with President of Kosovo	a) Photo Exhibition b) Street Action c) School Sessions d) Theatre Performances e) Party
Number of Youth Peer Educators involved	70	200	270
Number of people reached	3,000	4,000	6,000
Number of condoms distributed	5,000	4,000	7,000
Materials, promos and tools distributed	a) Radio spot b) Brochures	a) Poster b) Brochure c) Jackets d) TV special program e) Leaflets	a) Brochures b) T-shirts c) Badges/pins d) Leaflets
Media Coverage	a) Radio Urban FM b) RTK	a) RTV 21 special coverage (1 Mill viewers) b) RTK, R-Kosova c) Radio Blue Sky	a) KTV b) TV Tema c) TV Prizren d) Local and national Radio stations
Donor	UNFPA	UNFPA	USAID and UNFPA

OBJECTIVE

6

To promote participation of young people and representatives of populations at risk in planning, design, and implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention activities, National Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has implemented the following.

a. Y-PEER and youth participation

Young people in Kosovo, in general are not included seriously and continually in decision-making processes. For many years, Y-PEER in Kosovo has had low engagement and limited access in decision-making processes in designing and implementing youth HIV/AIDS prevention activity programs. UNFPA was the only organization to have involved peer educators in their programs. None of the governmental institutions who are responsible for youth health and wellbeing have offered the opportunity to represent youth voices. Y-PEER in Kosovo has not been engaged in the process of drafting and consolidating Kosovo Youth Action Plan.

During September 2007, UNFPA office in Kosovo has given the opportunity to one of the Y-PEER Focal Points to join their team and contribute to youth and gender programs. This engagement of a Y-PEER member to the managerial family of UNFPA, speaks about the seriousness and the commitment that the country office has for strengthening and supporting Y-PEER Network and youth programs in general. Mr. Visoka considers this fellowship at UNFPA as a very important step where he is in the right position to articulate youth needs and concerns, and be able to promote Y-PEER among UN agencies, governmental sectors and other international and local organizations. Mr. Visoka will continue also next year to work and advise UNFPA youth aspects programs in Kosovo. This new approach of UNFPA to involve young people will certainly increase the youth participatory aspect of the activities and also will enable to impact more on future planning and implementation.

Recently, Y-PEER was initiated together with several other NGOs to participate in discussing and outlining a national HIV/AIDS plan for 2008-2013. Certainly, peer educators supported including more youth as principle factors in HIV/AIDS prevention strategies.

OBSTACLES AND LEARNED LESSONS

Having in mind the financial difficulties Y-PEER Network in Kosovo has, and the later engagement compared with countries in the region, we can conclude that there are satisfactory results and achievements. Continuously the network has conducted trainings, regional and local workshops, public campaigns, media appearance and many other interactive and participatory actions. Since 2005, more than 10,000 adolescents and youth are directly involved, reached and educated. Currently, the network has 50 active trainers, and another 700 active peer educators. All these events are documented, which indeed made analysis and collection of these data and figures much easier. Y-PEER programs have strongly supported capacity development of youth and youth groups in peer education, local activism, as well as youth participation at the international, regional and country levels.

Training methodology used by Y-PEER Network in Kosovo functions quite well, there should be partial improvements in reaching and involving more rural areas youth population, especially young girls. National KAP surveys show that youth in Kosovo know about HIV/AIDS – in a good number of cases they know how to practice safe sex and to be careful with risky and uncontrolled behaviors. Peer educators gained have increased experience and improved their skills in life-long decision-making, social activism culture, and communicating positive messages to their peers and belonging communities. Later on, most of the peer educators are excellent models in theirs studies, NGO, and respective communities. Interactive and innovative promotion materials and the methods that peer educators used to reach other youngsters are also a strong component and approach of peer-to-peer education.

Meanwhile, a concerning issue is the lack of serious commitment of institutions in involving and institutionalizing Y-PEER as a network of trainers and youth peer educators. Ministry of Youth should pay more attention to peer-to-peer education and integrate it in their long-term policy and immediate programs. Limited sources of funds, limits the effective and

multi-dimensional functioning of the Network, especially reaching vulnerable people. Within the Network, more should be done in creating a sustainable system of recruiting and retaining peer educators. Furthermore, monitoring and evaluation processes should be improved. Future recruited youngsters should be members of any local NGO or strong consolidated group which will insure qualitative development of activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Kosovo Institution – MCYS, MoH, and MEST

- Integrate peer education within youth programs, and in particular increase collaboration and exchange with Y-PEER in developing and promoting health education.
- Integrate education within the school system.
- Supporting Y-PEER Network by providing funds should be one of the most helpful forms of strengthen and maintain a strong youth network

For Y-PEER Network in Kosovo

- Y-PEER standards should be implemented and adopted.
- Trainings and workshops with peer educators should continue focusing more on reaching vulnerable population and rural areas of Kosovo.
- A supervision system should be developed which will continuously ensure the quality of peer education programs. Trainings on performance improvement and assessment of quality of the youth peer education programs should be conducted immediately.
- Regular meetings, workshops or social events like summer camps, exchanges or excursions should be organized for peer educators in order to keep them motivated and strengthen the communication in between them.
- Increased promotion of the peer education system within youth national NGO community, and to civil society in general.
- Development of national Y-PEER strategy which will facilitate and guide future programmatic and managerial aspects of the Network.
- National and international communication should be increased in order to exchange information and strengthen relations with other networks in the region.
- Network should increase efforts and show more commitment in engagement in youth-related policy and decision-making levels.

- Ways of improving communication in between the local NGO, community center and trainers should be explored. Regular and more frequent meetings of coordinators, trainers and peer educators would assist with this.
- Ways of officially introducing Y -PEER to other NGOs and encouraging them to use international peer education standards should be explored. For example, annual NGO meetings could be organized to share experience and information about peer education activities in the Kosovo. These kinds of meetings are usually good places and opportunities to introduce Y -PEER Network and tools.
- National Y-PEER mailing list could be expanded by involving representatives from other NGOs involved in youth health education activities. This would provide continuous information sharing between different organizations and promote collaboration between them.
- New recruitment and retaining strategies should be initiated and implemented, in order to maintain the level of peer educators and their qualitative performance.
- Network should be more extended and have at least one group of trainers and peer educators in each municipality. More attention should be given to inclusion of youth from Serbian, Bosnian, RAE and other ethnic background communities in Kosovo.

For UNFPA

- Develop national Y-PEER strategy which will facilitate and guide future programmatic and managerial aspect of the Network.
- UNFPA should continue supporting financially Network and providing technical and professional consultation.

For KOPF

- Y-PEER council should have a broader independence using its funds channeled through KOPF. It is crucial that funds given to Y-PEER to be spend entirely for programmatic aspect only.
- Y-PEER should have more office space, especially in the occasions of meeting of other events. Special area for hosting peer educators that come to work and use office facilities would motivate and increase the effectiveness of peer educators in particular, and program aspect in general.
- Managerial trainings for peer educators local coordinators and other interested peer educators should be organized.

APPENDIXES

Appendix 1: Reviewed Literature

Advocates for Youth, *Advocating for Adolescent Reproductive Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*, 2004

CARE International, *Final Evaluation: Support to Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health through Education and Information in Kosovo*, 2006

KOPF, *Promotion of Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in Kosovo: Quarterly Reports*, 2006-2007

KOSMA, *Youth targeted STI, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Promotion of Healthy Behavior Peer Education Project in Kosovo*, 2005

KOSMA, *Narrative Reports*, June 2004- May 2005

PSI, *Final Reports in Peer Education*, 2001-2003.

UNDP Kosovo: *KHDR 2006 – A New Generation for a New Kosovo*, 2006.

UNFPA, *Terms of Reference; Y-PEER National Network Report*, Nov 2007.

UNFPA, *Young People in Kosovo: their situations, needs and the prospects for youth policy development*, 2007.

UNFPA Kosovo, *Draft Document, Y-PEER Development Strategy 2008-2010*, Dec 2007.

UNFPA Kosovo, *Travel Costs for Y-PEER Focal Points*, 2005-2007.

UNFPA Kosovo, *Kosovo, Country Profile with a focus on Y-PEER Network*, 2007

Y-PEER, *Assessing the Quality of Youth Peer Education Programs*, 2006

Y-PEER, *Performance Improvement: A resource for Youth Peer education Managers*, 2006

Y-PEER, *Training of Trainers Manual*, 2005

Y-PEER, *Standards for Peer Education Programmes*, 2005

Y-PEER, *Theater-Based Techniques for Youth Peer Education: A training manual*, 2005

Y-PEER, Dr. Selen Örs, *Participatory Assessment of Y-PEER National Network Bosnia & Herzegovina*, Nov 2005.

Y-PEER Kosovo, *Promotion Materials, World AIDS Day 2006 and 2007*.

Y-PEER Kosovo, *Narrative and Financial Reports*, 2005-2007.

Appendix 2: Terms of Reference

1. Review existing UNFPA's and other agencies key material (including reports, travel reports, press articles, publications and other deliverables, etc) about Y-PEER national networks;
2. Collect information on number of people trained in the country through Y-PEER methodology, as well as provide an estimated number of young people reached through different events (including but not limited to presentations, formal trainings, workshops, summer schools, public campaigns, etc);
3. Take a stock of all educational tools, promotional and educational material developed during the course of Y-PEER interventions;
4. Analyze extent to which Y-PEER is integrated into comprehensive programming for young people, particularly looking at the functional linkages with youth friendly services, policy/advocacy, communication, condom programming, VCT, etc;
5. Map current level of support for youth programming in general and Y-PEER in particular;
6. Analyze CO expenditure for the Y-PEER related activities, including regular in-country resources, GFATM (if applicable), regional resources and other donors;
7. Draft comprehensive consolidated report outlining results of the Y-PEER National Network, recommendations on strategic directions regarding future organization, potential for coordination, identification of training needs, overview of agency and donor support and potential for linking with other programs;
8. Prepare all other relevant material and information for upcoming visit of SDR evaluators. Collected info should facilitate better understanding of network activities in the country.

Appendix 3: Y-PEER in Kosovo - Member Organizations and Youth Initiatives

Nr	Name of Organization	Place	Mission and Activities
1	Youth Services of Ferizaj	Ferizaj	Youth Peer Education, EU Integration, advocacy, and research
2	Youth Energy	Podujevo	Youth health education, integration, promotion, advocacy and research
3	NGO Fisniket	Prizren	Youth development
4	Red Cross of Kosova	Lipjan	Youth and volunteerism
5	Youth Center in Suhareka	Suhareke	Youth health education, cultural, sports, and development services
6	Youth Assembly in Kacanik	Kacanik	Youth local representation body
7	Youth Center ARTI	Fushe Kosove	Youth education, health, psycho-social, sports, and development
8	Youth Council of Secondary School in Decan	Decan	Youth Education and development
9	Youth Center in Shtime	Shtime	Youth education, health, psycho-social, sports, and development
10	Youth Vioce	NovoBerde	Youth, media, and education
11	Youth Center in Gjilan	Gjilani	Youth health education, cultural, sports, and development
12	Youth Center in Viti	Viti	Youth health education, cultural, sports, and development
13	School-based Youth Initiative	Istogu	Peer Education
14	School-based Youth Initiative	Klina	Peer Education
15	School-based Youth Initiative	Drenas	Peer Education
16	School-based Youth Initiative	Kamenica	Peer Education
17	School-based Youth Initiative	Prishtina	Peer Education
18	School-based Youth Initiative	Mitrovica	Peer Education
19	School-based Youth Initiative	Peje	Peer Education
20	School-based Youth Initiative	Malisheva	Peer Education
21	School-based Youth Initiative	Skenderaj	Peer Education
22	School-based Youth Initiative	Obilic	Peer Education

Appendix 4: Proposed structure of National Y-PEER Network in Kosovo

