Aiming High: Accountability Scorecard

These principles of meaningful youth engagement have been developed by and for young people from living with and most affected by HIV involved in the Link Up programme policy advocacy. We would like to understand more about:

- how youth advocates interpret these principles,
- how well they are being implemented in the project, and
- what lessons there are to share with other stakeholders.

Process

- Give each of the principles a score based on your experience during the Link UP project.
- Explain your score with examples of good practice, gaps, challenges and/or how things could be done better

Scores:

- 5 = principle is consistently and fully implemented
- 4 = principle is implemented most of the time but there are still gaps
- 3 = the principle is beginning to be implemented, but not consistently, and there are challenges
- 2 = few examples of this principle being implemented, but most work happens without it
- 1 = No examples of this principle being achieved

Principle of meaningful youth engagement	Score	Examples / explanation for score
1. Agree together to roles, responsibilities and expectations		
among youth and other		
partners/stakeholders. For		
example, describe clear roles and		
responsibilities for young people		
and partners in a written agreement for working together.		
2. Support young people's		
leadership by giving them		
decision-making roles in all		
stages of the project. For		
example, set up a youth advisory		
group for the project with a clear		
structure for influencing the project's direction. Keep spaces for		
young people on planning and		
decision-making groups or advisory		
boards.		
Regularly ask young people		
whether their views and ideas		
are being heard, and how		

meaningful participation of		
young people can be improved.		
Establish a clear method of		
addressing and responding to		
feedback. For example, agree		
expectations with your youth		
advisory group have regular		
meetings with them to evaluate how		
those expectations are being met.		
Follow up on improvements to be		
made.		
4. Identify opportunities and		
support young people to		
advocate for their issues and		
safely share their experience and		
knowledge as experts. For		
example, connect young people		
with key population networks.		
Mentor young people to speak at		
advocacy events. Hire young		
people as staff (peer educators,		
peer counselors, service providers,		
programme staff, etc.). This could		
also include speaking with		
guardians, spouses, teachers to		
help facilitate young people's		
participation.		
5. Build skills and knowledge of		
young people – including		
through mentorship – so they		
can confidently and effectively		
take part in both decision-		
making and implementation. For		
example, support young people to		
participate in training and capacity-		
building opportunities related to		
project management, fundraising,		
political advocacy, and other		
relevant areas		
6. Use language that is		
understandable, respectful, and		
accessible to everyone (this		
includes providing translation		
support). For example, avoid		
overly technical language and		
jargon, and make sure translation is		
included in meeting budgets.		
7. Give young people enough		
support and resources (financial		
and other) in a timely manner; do		
not expect them to volunteer		
their time. For example, pay young		
people for their participation, in		
recognition of their skills, expertise		
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and time. Make sure transport or other costs are covered.	
8. Value and respect the perspectives and views of young people. For example, make sure young people in all of their diversity are involved, and if necessary create or provide 'safe spaces' for young people from different groups (young women, men who have sex with men, sex workers, etc.) to discuss together before sharing with the wider group.	
9. Support consultation and feedback between young people and the communities they represent. For example, provide enough time, space and money for meetings with community members before and after major events	
10. Trust young people to take responsibility and be accountable for programme delivery. For example, partner or sub-grant to youth-led organisations to come up with and run their own projects	