



## Meet the Next Gen RH CoP

**Name:** Alex Omari

**Position/Organization:** East Africa Knowledge Management Officer, Knowledge SUCCESS, Amref Health Africa

**Next Gen RH Position:** Co-Chair

**What expertise does Alex bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Alex is the technical family planning/reproductive health officer at Amref Health Africa's Institute of Capacity Development. Alex has over nine years of experience in adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health (AYSRH) program design, implementation, research, and family planning policy support. He is currently a technical working group (TWG) member of the FP/RH TWG at the Ministry of Health in Kenya. He is also an elected fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH) and a former Kenya country coordinator for the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFF).

**Name:** Pooja Kapahi

**Position/Organization:** Digital Communications and Campaigns, UNI Global Asia & Pacific

**Next Gen RH Position:** Co-Chair

**What expertise does Pooja bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Pooja is a passionate youth activist working to amplify the voices of young people in India. In her role as senior program officer for USAID's Momentum Country and Global Leadership program, she handles the youth portfolio of the project in India. Previously, as the communications and advocacy consultant with International Growth Centre, Jhpiego India, and South Asian Workers Gender Platform, she was involved in providing technical support for youth-centric, youth-led advocacy programs; and creating youth-centric videos, case studies, graphics, training materials, and campaigns.

In her previous work with Restless Development as a youth power global leader and Women Deliver young leader (2018) she has coordinated sustainable development goals (SDG) campaigns and pushed for youth policy and meaningful youth participation at the national and international levels. In 2017, she coordinated the Speak campaign by CIVICUS "No Means No, Consent Matters," which brought awareness towards gender-based violence and early and forced child marriages. In recognition of her work in these areas, she was selected as a 2018–2019 young leader for Women Deliver. She was also selected to speak at the Youth Zone session titled "Young Leaders Speak: Harnessing Creativity to Move the Needle for Girls and



Women” during the Women Deliver Conference in June 2019 in Canada and as a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2018 global goalkeeper.

As a powerful advocate for strengthening youth participation in national and international decision-making forums, she has attended the 2019 National Conclave on SDGs in India, 2018 Partners Forum (PMNCH), Commonwealth Youth Forum in 2018, the Commission on the Status of Women in 2018 (CSW62), and the High-Level Political Forum in 2017 as a youth advocate.

**Name:** Brittany Goetsch

**Position/Organization:** Program Officer, Knowledge SUCCESS, Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs

**Next Gen RH Position:** Community of Practice (CoP) Coordinator

**What expertise does Brittany bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Brittany Goetsch is a program officer at the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs. She supports field programs, content creation, and knowledge management partnership activities. Her experience includes developing educational curricula, training health and education professionals, designing strategic health plans, and managing large-scale community outreach events.

**Name:** Arafat Kabugo

**Position/Organization:** Program Manager, Naguru Youth Health Network

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Arafat bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Equipped with a record of success in developing and implementing innovative youth and community programs that support sustainable development, Arafat has led innovative projects such as the i-Report, Centres4Her, MAYE Plus project, and CHANA project. Arafat has held youth representative positions in the Uganda Country Coordinating Mechanism for Global Fund and the reproductive, maternal newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH+N) civil society organization platform.

Currently, he serves as chair for the Adolescent Health Forum of the Uganda RMNCAH+N CSO Platform and the Anglophone chair of the Global GFF Youth Platform.

**Name:** Blessed Chetachi Peter-Akinloye

**Position/Organization:** Founder/Executive Director, Blessed Health Spring Initiative

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member



**What expertise does Blessed bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Blessed is a public health practitioner with about eight years of experience working in this field. Much of her work is centered around advocacy for climate change and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). As a licensed environmental health officer with the Environmental Health Officers Registration Council of Nigeria and a member of the Climate and Sustainable Development Network Nigeria (CsDevNet), Blessed is dedicated to promoting equity-based responses to climate change and sustainable development across Africa.

As an advocate for SRH, Blessed is a member of Women and Health Together for the Future (WHTF), an organization focusing on gender equality and women's health through three focal areas of work: sexual and reproductive health, maternal and newborn health, and violence against women and children. She is also a member of the Society for Adolescents and Young People's Health In Nigeria (SAYPHIN) and the Queen's Commonwealth Trust (QCT) Network. In recognition of her work, she was awarded a Global Public Health Ambassador for This is Public Health (TIPH) with the Association of Schools and Programs for Public Health (ASPPH) U.S.

**Name:** Danish Tariq

**Position/Organization:** Governing Board Member for the Youth Advocacy Network, Pakistan;  
FP2030 Youth Focal Point

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Danish bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** For the last nine years, Danish Tariq has been working as a youth advocate, focusing on meaningful and inclusive youth participation, informed decision-making, and policy advocacy. In addition to his current positions with the Youth Advocacy Network and Family Planning 2030 (FP2030), he is the coordination secretary at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Youth Platform and a program officer at Chanan Development Association, and a fellow at the Population Reference Bureau.

He has experience drafting policy frameworks and recommendation propositions at the national and regional levels. At the 45th United Nations Human Rights Council, Danish delivered a joint civil society organization (CSO) statement addressing discrimination against the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of young people and adolescents. Danish also developed the Youth Call to Action at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in 2019–2021, and the CSOs shadow report of Pakistan's review of the human rights records to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In addition to this, he also worked for the Universal Periodic Review. He carries several



internationally recognized certifications in health, family planning, advocacy, and social entrepreneurship.

**Name:** Dr. Kughong Reuben Chia

**Position/Organization:** Program Director, Organisation for Health in Sustainable Development

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Dr. Kughong bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Kughong Reuben Chia is a medical doctor with over six years of experience working in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and maternal newborn child and adolescent health (MNCH). With expertise in advocacy and community development, he provides health services and counseling to vulnerable youths in his community, with a focus on survivors of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV). He is a skilled researcher, a highly motivated youth advocate, passionate about Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and an expert in gender studies. As the program director of the Organisation for Health in Sustainable Development, he is responsible for supervising and leading the implementation of projects and empowering youths to become global advocates. Within this role, Dr. Kughong champions adolescent sexual and reproductive health care and gender equity in access to health care. Reuben has worked with several international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and his work on gender equality paved the way to his becoming a member of the 2021 class of Global Leadership Challenge. Previously, he led the formation of a UHC Alliance in Cameroon where he was secretary general for one year.

**Name:** Dr. Rediet Negussie

**Position/Organization:** Project Intern—Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Family Planning Integrated Youth Activities, Amref Health Africa

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Dr. Rediet bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Dr. Rediet has a proven track record of working with local and international NGOs in the areas of adolescent and youth health and research. She is certified in quality management systems development and implementation, project management, project monitoring and evaluation, occupational health and safety management, and international financial reporting systems. Previously, she worked as a brand ambassador for MRC-ET genetic testing, introducing genetic testing in Ethiopia for different referral hospitals in Addis Ababa. She is also a member of Amref Youth Council, and she loves participating in different volunteer activities. She has excellent leadership, management, and strategic planning skills. She is passionate about youth empowerment, sustainable development, and lasting health.



**Name:** Elijah Nsonge

**Position/Organization:** Program Officer for Migration, Save the Children

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Elijah bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Elijah has over five years of experience in promoting sexual and reproductive health as a vehicle for driving gender transformation and human rights among young people in Zambia and at a regional level. He has over 15 years of experience in development and humanitarian projects. With a strong background in building alliances with key stakeholders, Elijah has driven lasting change in social and cultural norms that hinder achieving health outcomes for target populations. He has been involved in the development of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) training modules tailored to the needs of communities in Zambia. He has been involved in surveys intended to strengthen the capacity of service providers to meet the needs of young people. He has also been a part of the branding and design of information, education, and communications materials for CSE.

Apart from being a focal point person for the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) project for Save the Children Zambia, he is a trainer/facilitator in child safeguarding and SRHR.

**Name:** Innocent Grant

**Position/Organization:** Program Director, Young and Alive Initiative, Tanzania

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Innocent bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Innocent Grant is a gender specialist with a background in clinical medicine and a self-motivated youth leader who is passionate about educating adolescents and young adults about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). He also has special expertise in policy advocacy, social and behavioral change communication (SBCC), and human rights activism.

Innocent also has a special focus on digital media for reproductive health promotion, with a proven experience in designing and implementing a contraceptive conversations project. The project leverages social media to respond to specific contraceptive questions for people in Tanzania.

**Name:** John Kumwenda

**Position/Organization:** Executive Director, Buthu Walero

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does John bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** John Kumwenda reflects a varied personality through his ambition, generosity, and thoughtfulness. Intending to become a



professional youth empowerment advocate and a development consultant, he has delved into organizing and participating in youth-based programs across the globe. John has a strong background in facilitation, project management, data management, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy. During his endeavors, John has participated in the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), CorpsAfrica, and the International Students Festival in Trondheim. Through these programs, he obtained certificates in youth and development, human-centered design, community development, monitoring and evaluation, and district health information systems.

Currently, John is working as a data officer in the strategic information department with the Christian Health Association of Malawi in partnership with FHI 360. His works include data management and analysis and event-tracking tool development for the EMPOWER HIV/FP program—an award-winning project in Malawi. John holds a diploma in Gender and Development and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Malawi.

**Name:** Koni Wendy Bakka

**Position/Organization:** Co-Founder, Beulah Future Leaders Foundations

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Koni bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Koni Wendy Bakka is a social activist with a passion for equality and fairness. In addition to co-founding the Beulah Future Leaders Foundation, Koni is a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) social media advocate and a Margaret Ekpo Youth fellow.

A feminist with years of community service and experience working with various international, national, and local non-profit organizations, she aspires to be an agent of change in her community and the world at large.

**Name:** Margaret Bolaji-Adegbola

**Position/Organization:** Executive Director/Founder, Stand With A Girl Initiative

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Margaret bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Margaret Bolaji-Adegbola is an International Development Professional with 10 years of working experience in research, project implementation, and management, with a particular interest in adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (AYSRH).

She is the founder and executive director of Stand With A Girl (SWAG) Initiative, a youth-led organization that promotes girls' empowerment, education, and gender equality through



advocacy against harmful cultural practices and gender norms, low level of education, and poor sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services. Margaret also recently worked as a youth program advisor with the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs FP Portfolio in Nigeria, where she led the design of integrated, innovative, and intentional youth and adolescent-focused sexual and reproductive health interventions.

Through working with the Population and Reproductive Health Initiative in northern Nigeria, serving as the inaugural youth representative of the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) Reference Group, and sitting on WHO's External Advisory Group for the Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) guideline, she continues to shine a light on the unique SRH needs of young people and adolescents.

**Name:** Justin Chee Ngong

**Position/Organization:** Co-Founder and Programmes Lead, Youth 2 Youth Cameroon

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Justin bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Justin Chee Ngong is a humanitarian diplomat with over six years of working experience in the health and development sectors, with special attention to HIV/AIDS clinical care management. Adolescent and youth health care has been the center of his work for the past five years. He is co-founder and programs lead of the thriving youth-led organization Youth 2 Youth, which advocates for improved adolescent health and wellness in fragile humanitarian settings.

Justin is the National Youth Focal Person for Family Planning 2030 (FP2030), a member of We Trust Youth Network, the 2017 KECTIL Fellow West and Central Africa Regional Coordinator, a Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians/Advocacy Comprehension Abortion Care Project (SOGOC/ACAC) network member, and an UNLEASH Plus 2021 alumni and a Ph.D. fellow at the University of Bamenda-Cameroon. He has a strong passion for health and education policy development in Africa.

**Name:** Nur Mohammad Ferdous Chowdury

**Position/Organization:** Adolescent and Youth Coordinator, Pathfinder International

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Nur bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Nur Mohammad Ferdous Chowdury has over a decade of experience working across sectors including adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health (AYSRH), gender, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), humanitarian response, and youth development.



He has worked with several different populations, implementing key tools in participatory research, facilitating and developing training on information education and communication (IEC), gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). In addition to these accomplishments, Nur also designs, implements, and evaluates programs at local levels across Bangladesh and at the national level. As the adolescent and youth coordinator at Pathfinder International, he works to enhance community awareness of, engagement with, and demand for services to improve SRHR for Rohingya women and girls by establishing partnerships and programs with the government and local organizations that integrate AYSRH, GBV, CSE, and menstrual hygiene management.

**Name:** Saustine Geoffrey Lusanzu

**Position/Organization:** Youth Sounding Board Member, Swiss Development Cooperation Tanzania

**Next Gen RH Position:** Advisory Committee Member

**What expertise does Saustine bring to the Next Gen RH CoP?** Saustine Lusanzu is a youth advocate, climate activist, the former Tanzania country coordinator for the UN Climate Conference of Youth '16 (COY16), and the country representative for the African Youth for Development Commission (AYDEC-AFRICA). Furthermore, he is a member of the United Nations Major group of Children and Youth (UNMGCY), the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), the children and youth constituency at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (YOUNGO), the Commonwealth Youth Climate Network (CYCN), the National Youth Network Engagement (NYEN), and an alumnus of Restless Development Tanzania.

He currently volunteers as a Youth Sounding Board Member to the Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania under Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and represents Tanzanian youth voices on several social, political, and cultural issues that many of them face their entire lives. These include state institutions, gender-based violence prevention, leadership and civic engagement, and livelihood improvement. Saustine is also working with UNICEF Tanzania as a team leader on programs geared toward ending violence against women and children, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and malnutrition. He is passionate about changing communities by amplifying the voices of members, leaders, stakeholders, and development partners.