The YLD programme aims to reach the following goals:

- Be a voice for young people affected by diabetes worldwide.
- Identify and support the development of Young Leaders in the international diabetes community.
- Empower and educate YLD members to support the mission of YLD and IDF by strengthening IDF Members.
Dear Friends,

The past 12 months have been very important for our Programme. YLD Candidates developed more than 40 national projects in 2018, with our YLD Mentors supporting them every step of the way. With the numbers of people living with diabetes continuing to grow, the work of our network remains as important as ever. I thank all YLD members for the commitment they have shown over the past 12 months. Together you are contributing to the changes that will be needed to flatten the curve.

Unfortunately, 2018 brought sad news. We lost one of our former members to diabetes complications. Mohamed Khalid Al Saadi, from Qatar, joined us as a YLD member in 2013. He became the Representative-Elect for the MENA Region and served as a Regional Representative and a YLD Mentor from 2016-17. We all mourn his passing and share our most heartfelt sympathies with his family.

As Chair of the YLD Programme, it is my duty to emphasize the importance of staying united in our global struggle against diabetes. As the Latin quote says, “Ubi Concordia, ibi Victoria” – Where there is unity, there is victory (Publius Syrus). In 2019, I invite you once more to contribute to our shared goal of helping people who live with diabetes worldwide.

An important challenge for the programme this year will be to improve communication within and among the Regions, so that everyone receives answers to their questions about diabetes and, hopefully, finds the solutions to their problems. Well informed YLDs can then make a difference in their own cities and countries by spreading diabetes awareness and education – especially among other young people.

Thanks to all our present and future young leaders, YLD partners and supporters for their hard work and persistence. I look forward to seeing many of you in Busan!

Message from the YLD Deputy Chair

Dear Friends,

Living with diabetes is a challenge that we must face with fortitude and determination. We must strive constantly to manage our condition successfully and remain in control.

I have lived with diabetes for 29 years and there have been days when I felt like giving up. I understand how young people feel at times. Diabetes can become overwhelming. Any support comes as a breath of fresh air when we are struggling.

IDF continues to help young people living with diabetes through education and awareness, and by fostering networks such as YLD to encourage peer learning and support. 2018 was a year of many challenges, but we were able to overcome them and bring our YLDs closer to continue sharing experiences and the lessons learned in their countries.

We look forward to 2019 with great anticipation. Young people are the future. IDF will continue involving them in our advocacy activities to achieve our objectives and improving the lives of people living with diabetes irrespective of geography and economic circumstance.

IDF, its Members and the Regions will continue supporting YLDs as much as possible to strengthen and improve collaboration within our network to ensure our members become efficient and successful diabetes advocates.
Meet the YLD Committee 2018–2019

Yemurai Machirori, Zimbabwe
Africa Representative

Yemurai has recently completed her Higher National Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management. She has been volunteering at her member association whenever she has free time. In recent years, she has focused on helping children with diabetes and their parents by talking with them. She also writes monthly diabetes articles for one of the biggest newspapers in Zimbabwe. She wants to ensure that proper policies are set up, especially for children with diabetes in schools.

Mallissa Khandai, Guyana
North America and Caribbean Interim Representative

Mallissa is a broadcast monitor and is currently pursuing a degree in Business and Human Resources Management. She has been the secretary of the YLD Guyana since 2016 and was sponsored by PAHO/WHO to represent Guyana at the NAC meeting in Mexico in 2017. She has been actively involved in volunteering in the annual diabetic youth camp in her country, various outreaches, projects and workshops carried out by the Guyana Diabetic Association, the YLD Guyana and the Ministry of Public Health. Her aim is to raise awareness and provide emotional support to youths living with type 1 diabetes.

Dániel Végh, Hungary
Europe Representative

Dániel currently works as a dentist at the Semmelweis University of Budapest in Hungary. He is an active volunteer for the Hungarian Diabetes Association and a passionate advocate for oral health and diabetes. Dániel has shared his expertise at workshops and lectures during national and international conferences such as the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) workshop and the IDF Congress.

Aziza Bokhari, Saudi Arabia
Middle-East and North Africa Representative-elect

Aziza is a third-year medical student who strives to contribute to improving the health of citizens in her country. Through participating in various volunteering activities, she tries to educate the general population and help those in need of guidance.

Lulwa Al-Qaoud, Kuwait
Middle-East and North Africa Representative

Lulwa is an industrial engineer from Kuwait. Determined to live life to the fullest, she has not allowed diabetes to stand in her way. She is working on making the community aware that diabetes is manageable, and is not in any way an obstacle. Today she strives to help people with type 1 diabetes to overcome the challenges they face while balancing their day-to-day lives with diabetes. Over time, she hopes to change people’s perceptions of diabetes.

Kagiso Molosiwa, Botswana
Africa Representative-elect

Kagiso is a second-year diploma student in Health Education and Promotion in Botswana. Since 2010, he has been actively cooperating with the Diabetes Association of Botswana and has become one of its eight Executive Committee Members. He focuses on providing education on diabetes through participating in interviews and making educational clips on various media channels.

Uros Bogdanovic, Serbia
Europe Representative-elect

Uros is a second-year law student at the University of Belgrade. He has been an active member of the Diabetes Association of Serbia since 2014. He has participated in various camps and has also acted as a speaker at various events. He was elected Board Member of the Diabetes Association of Serbia in 2017.
Ronaldo Wieselberg, Brazil
South and Central America Representative

Ronaldo is a medical student from Brazil. Realising that many education programmes and health policies did not achieve their full potential due to lack of data, he has decided to focus on diabetes and related non-communicable disease epidemiology, leading detection campaigns and gathering information to develop successful policies. In his national association, he is also a camp counsellor during the yearly diabetes camp and an administrative counsellor focusing on advocacy.

Apoorva Gomber, India
South-East Asia Representative

Apoorva is a medical doctor in India, currently undertaking a post-graduate degree. She regularly runs educational camps to facilitate access to diabetes education and she fights for affordable insulin.

Shuk Yi Yu, Hong Kong
Western Pacific Representative

Shuk Yi is currently an undergraduate student in literary studies and law in Hong Kong. She has been collaborating with the Youth Diabetes Action to help families and children living with diabetes. She strives to ensure that diabetes is not solely perceived as an illness to be cursed but also as a blessing.

Diana Novelo, Mexico
North America and Caribbean Representative-elect

Diana is a dietitian and diabetes educator from Mexico. She received her diabetes educator license from the Mexican Diabetes Federation. She has volunteered in the Diabetes Association of the Southeast of Mexico since 2013. Diana uses her medical and technical knowledge to educate people and improve life conditions for people living with diabetes in Mexico.

Lucas Xavier de Oliveira, Brazil
South and Central America Representative-elect

Lucas is currently studying nursing. He has been volunteering for several years with his Member Association, founded a diabetes nursing league at his university and launched a blog for friends and relatives of people living with diabetes, which was very successful. He wishes to continue representing Brazil and to foster change in the world.

Kush Patel, India
South-East Asia Representative-elect

Kush is an ophthalmologist in India. He has been actively volunteering in many camps and participating in various projects offering care at subsidised rates to ensure access to care for all. His main aim is to raise awareness, increase early detection of diabetes and help with the rehabilitation of people living with diabetes.

Youngji Kim, South Korea
Western Pacific Representative-elect

Youngji studied business during her college years and is currently working as Medical Education Coordinator at Medtronic Korea Diabetes. There she is in charge of ensuring adequate information and training for people with diabetes. Working and living with diabetes truly amplifies her sense of duty and makes her job rewarding and fun.
The YLD network

As of December 2018 the YLD network comprised 59 YLD members from 47 countries: 42 YLD Candidates, who joined the Programme in 2017 and 17 YLD Mentors, who joined the YLD Programme in 2015 or before.

The regional breakdown of YLD members is as follows:

- AFR: 9
- EUR: 15
- MENA: 5
- NAC: 3
- SEA: 4
- SACA: 16
- WP: 7
Educating the young advocates of tomorrow

Every two years, on the occasion of the IDF Congress, IDF organises a YLD Training Summit to provide face-to-face education on a variety of topics from epidemiology and advocacy, to effective project planning.

The next YLD Training Summit will take place during the IDF Busan Congress, for which preparations are already underway.

Continuous education

In an effort to support YLD members’ continuous education, IDF has been developing a series of webinars, focused on key diabetes-related topics. Webinars covering general education topics are open to the entire IDF network, including the Blue Circle Voices and the IDF Members. Other webinars are focused on the YLD Programme, and are only available to YLD members.

The slides and recording of the webinars are available on the YLD webpage. Below is the list of webinars that were organised in 2018. Educational webinars are marked in pink and YLD-specific webinars in orange:

- YLD Q1 reporting (February 23)
- Diabetes Leadership camps (March 9)
- IDF on social media (March 16)
- YLD Regional Action Plans (April 27)
- Becoming a diabetes advocate in the run-up to the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs (April 30)
- Diabetes and Ramadan (May 8)
- Advocacy: tactics and messaging – by YLD partner, Novo Nordisk, and PATH (May 11)
- YLD Q2 project reporting (June 8)
- IDF School of Diabetes (June 27)
- How to approach policymakers (July 30)
- How to develop a successful diabetes project (August 13)
- The figure of diabetes educator around the world (October 12)
- The process of making a medicine – by YLD partner, Lilly (December 12)
- CVD and diabetes (December 13)
YLD Programme

2018 activities
Advocating globally for people with diabetes

Supporting IDF advocacy campaigns

IDF has been involving its young advocates in advocacy activities since the inception of the YLD Programme.

During 2018, the main IDF advocacy campaign revolved around the UN High Level Meeting (HLM) on NCDs, which took place on September 27, 2018, in New York. The HLM 2018 was the most important political meeting on diabetes and other NCDs since 2014.

As part of our HLM year-long campaign, IDF developed many advocacy resources to inform the development of national advocacy campaigns in support of the IDF global call to action – including an advocacy toolkit, a template letter for policymakers, and a call to action leaflet.

These documents were distributed to the YLD members, who were encouraged to use them in national advocacy initiatives in collaboration with the IDF Members.

YLD members were particularly active on the #HLM selfie campaign that IDF launched to promote the priorities of people living with diabetes on social media.
Raising the voice of young people with diabetes

YLD presence at key international meetings

On the occasion of the 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva, IDF organised the multi-stakeholder panel discussion “Nutrition Education and IDF Action to Tackle Obesity and Prevent Diabetes” on May 22. YLD Mentor, Paula Chinchilla (Costa Rica), participated in this event as a panellist. She provided her perspective as a young person living with diabetes and as a nutritionist.

Earlier in 2018, on March 14, YLD Candidate Deric Formbuh (Cameroon) was invited to provide his perspective as a patient at the East African Diabetes Study Group Congress in Kigali (Rwanda).

In 2018, IDF also secured registrations to EASD (Berlin, 1-5 October) for six YLD members, who had the opportunity to attend many sessions of the scientific programme and networking with worldwide diabetes experts.

IDF remains committed to continue featuring the voice of young people with diabetes during key international meetings!
Promoting YLD national activities

YLD newsletter

The YLD newsletter, which is published every two months in English, compiles information on the initiatives that the YLD members develop in their respective countries, as well as news from IDF and joint activities between the YLD members and IDF.

The first YLD newsletter was published in October 2017. In 2018, IDF published four issues in January, March, May and October.

The YLD newsletter is available for download on the YLD webpage.
YLD diabetes projects

2018-2019
YLD diabetes projects 2018-2019

All the YLD Candidates for the 2018-2019 term must develop a diabetes-focused project that responds to the needs of people with diabetes in their communities, with the guidance and support of the IDF Member that nominates them.

Individual projects

YLD Candidates undertake specific projects, in conjunction with their national Members.

These projects cover a range of initiatives from diabetes education through to peer support activities, advocacy, sport and awareness-raising projects.

The following pages provide an overview of the YLD individual projects, with two projects highlighted per region. You can learn more about all the YLD projects on the YLD webpage.

41 national projects from YLD Candidates
3 advocacy projects
14 education projects
14 awareness projects
1 sports project
4 peer activities
5 diabetes camps

YLD Prize Programme

The YLD Prize Programme is an initiative launched in early 2018 to incentivise the development of interesting and ambitious YLD projects.

IDF will reward the three YLD Candidates who develop the best projects. The Prize will include the funding of their participation in the YLD Leadership Training Summit in Busan (December 2019).

Regional Action Plans

The YLD members also collaborate on the development of a Regional Action Plan that addresses a particular need in their region. Candidates and Mentors collaborate in the development and implementation of these plans, which are coordinated by the Regional Representatives and Representatives-elect. The following pages provide an overview of the seven YLD Regional Action plans.
YLD projects in Africa

Raising awareness to fight diabetes
By Parfait Maniratunga, Burundi

The project aims to reduce diabetes-related morbidity and mortality through awareness and advocacy campaigns among policymakers, health leaders and the media. Parfait and his association are organising diabetes screening campaigns for the general population in three cities in Burundi (Gitga, Rumonge and Nyabihanga). Click here for more information about Parfait’s project.

Diabetes education and youth empowerment
By Formbuh Deric Nkimbeng, Cameroon

The project aims at setting up a youth diabetes association (the youth arm of the Cameroon Diabetes Association) to support other students and children with diabetes in schools, in their homes and inside their communities. In parallel, radio programmes will take place every week to reach a broader public. Click here for more information about Formbuh’s project.

YLD AFR Action Plan 2018-2019

In Africa, many people receive incorrect information about diabetes and think of it as a disease that only affects older people and the wealthy. People with diabetes experience stigma. Diabetes education in the region is often non-existent, while access to (affordable) care and medicines is a real issue for many people.

Africa’s YLD Regional Action Plan focuses on improving diabetes education, raising awareness of diabetes, and reducing stigma and discrimination. Activities undertaken to achieve these goals include setting-up diabetes camps, screening programmes, educational talks, physical activity events as well as awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns focused on improving general knowledge and making governments understand the crucial need of providing access to care and medicines to people living with diabetes.

Click here for regular updates of the YLD AFR Action Plan 2018-2019
YLD projects in Europe

GOOD Movement
By Dimitri Kaperdanakis, Greece

The GOOD Movement is a series of web and on the ground activities aiming to strengthen the Greek national diabetes community and send out some important messages about what the condition really is. During 2018, Dimitri has launched a website and a Facebook page, has carried out two surveys and developed a cooking workshop. Click here for more information about the GOOD movement.

Supporting 1 another
By Rachel Portelli, Malta

Rachel is implementing the “Supporting 1 Another” project across the Maltese Islands to raise awareness about the mental aspect of living with diabetes. The project consists of an online platform which will offer support to people living with type 1 diabetes and their families and where they can share their stories. Click here for more information about Rachel’s project.

15 members
9 candidates projects:
3 on awareness
4 peer activities
1 diabetes camp
1 sport activity

Read more about the other YLD EUR Candidates’ projects:
Klara Pickova, Czech Republic
Maartje Roskams, Belgium
Pedro Pires, Portugal
Rebecca Barlow-Noone, UK
Stephanie Haack, Germany
Uros Bogdanovic, Serbia
Weronika Kowalska, Poland

YLD EUR Action Plan 2018-2019

YLD EUR’s project, “The year of change - #RoadtoWDD18”, has been developed in collaboration with YOURAH (IDF Europe’s Youth Advocate Group).

The plan focuses on promoting healthy lifestyles through sporting activities, which the EUR YLD members are implementing in their respective countries. The group has also developed the “eUrMove Challenge” between October and November 2018, encouraging people on social media to engage in sports.

Click here for regular updates of the YLD EUR Action Plan 2018-2019
Diabetes Youth Club
By Aziza Bokhari, Saudi Arabia
Aziza aims to create a club for teenagers living with diabetes to strengthen the bond between its members. The project will kick-off with an event open to people with and without diabetes, after which some participants will be invited to join the Youth Club. Aziza will complement this with education sessions for teachers and students in schools. Click here for more information about Aziza’s Youth Club.

Self-management education project of diabetes
By Ahmed Sassi, Libya
Ahmed has developed a programme consisting of five educational lectures, that aim to teach people with diabetes how to best live with this non-communicable disease. The lectures have been revised and approved by Professor Suliman Abursweel and Dr Ibtisam Hadeed. Click here for more information about Ahmed's project.

YLD MENA Action Plan 2018-2019
MENA’s Action Plan aims at strengthening the bonds between various youths living with diabetes to be able to raise a strong, united and unique voice in diabetes advocacy in the region.

The plan’s main activity is the T1D regional youth programme: Beta Adventures. This programme will gather young people aged 16/21 living with type 1 diabetes and empower them to go on an adventure, during which they will receive educational talks and enjoy all kinds of activities.

The first adventure is scheduled to take place in February 2019 and is a four-day camping trip in Saudi Arabia.

Click here for regular updates of the YLD MENA Action Plan 2018-2019
YLD projects in North America and Caribbean

Registry of people living with T1D in the State of Yucatan
By Diana Novelo, Mexico

This project's main goal is to conduct a census of all people living with type 1 diabetes in Yucatan, in collaboration with Mexican diabetes associations and with the support of doctors. The project will generate national statistical data that aims to influence public policies. Click here for more information about Diana's project.

Diabetes camp for newly diagnosed
By Shiva Chackan, Trinidad and Tobago

The project's principal aim is to create a peer network amongst newly-diagnosed people with type 1 diabetes, as well as to increase their knowledge of diabetes in an entertaining environment. As part of it, Shiva has also created DIA-CARE, a network of diabetes-educated babysitters who have previous experience in diabetes camps. Click here for more information about Shiva's activities.

Read more about the other YLD NAC Candidate's project:
Salome dos Santos, Guyana

YLD NAC Action Plan 2018-2019

The key challenge affecting the North America and Caribbean region is diabetes prevention and management. Diabetes education is very uneven from country to country, and so are accessibility and affordability of treatment and testing material. As a result, not all people with diabetes are able to maintain optimal blood sugar levels, thereby being at risk of potentially-fatal complications.

The NAC region's Young Leaders are currently drafting their Regional Action Plan to best address the needs of the region.

YLD projects in South and Central America

16 members
11 candidates projects:
1 on advocacy
2 on awareness
8 on education

To school with my friend with diabetes
By Lucas San Pedro, Argentina

The project focuses on bringing leaders of his association to schools and teaching children with diabetes and their classmates what diabetes is and how to deal with it. The campaign involves the children with diabetes themselves, who are encouraged to explain what their condition is. Healthy breakfasts are also organised to teach the students the importance of eating healthily and counting carbs. Click here for more information about Lucas’ project.

Sweeten my life, not my body
By Rocio Rodriguez Sanchez, Cuba

The project consists of monthly meetings designed to educate young people living with diabetes and their relatives in living healthy lifestyles, improve their diabetes management, self-esteem and quality of life and reduce the incidence of complications. The project includes workshops, conferences and group exchanges. Rocio wants to broaden its reach by holding meetings throughout Cuba. Click here for more information about Rocio’s activities.

Read more about the other YLD SACA Candidates’ projects:
- Bruno Caratini, Uruguay
- Diana Caro, Colombia
- Fernando Mogster, Chile
- Lucas Xavier de Oliveira, Brazil
- Maria Claudia Berghusen, Peru
- Martin Jose Calero, Ecuador
- Matias Juarez, Argentina
- Natalia Rodriguez, Chile
- Tania Campos, Paraguay

YLD SACA Action Plan 2018-2019

Young Leaders in SACA have identified a key gap in the availability of accurate and comprehensive national diabetes statistics. Inaccurate and/or incomplete data makes for inaccurate management, which translates into poor access to diabetes care, and insufficient treatment and prevention.

YLD members will carry out a survey, to evaluate access to diabetes care and education in the region. Data gathering will start in January 2019.

Click here for regular updates of the YLD SACA Action Plan 2018-2019
YLD projects in South-East Asia

Eye Care in Diabetes
By Kush Patel, India

The project will organise patient-centric diabetes educational awareness activities focusing on eye care, as well as regular follow-ups. Kush will work with his member association (Diabetic Association of India), ophthalmologists and diabetologists to approach the government and request a subsidy for expenditures related to the cost of eye and retinal treatments. Click here for more information about Kush’ project.

4 members

4 candidates projects:
3 on awareness
1 diabetes camp

DIYA Leadership Camps
By Apoorva Gomber, India

Diabetes India Youth in Action (DIYA) is an exclusive type 1 diabetes directed leadership camp which will be the first of its kind in India. It will provide the opportunity for people living with type 1 diabetes to connect with friends who truly understand them, build self-confidence, develop lifelong skills and learn how to manage their diabetes independently. Click here for more information about Apoorva’s activities.

Read more about the other YLD SEA Candidate’s project:

Tazul Munshi, Bangladesh
Mariyam Nafha, Maldives

YLD SEA Action Plan 2018-2019

In the South-East Asia region, the lack of awareness about diabetes together with the high cost and unequal access to treatment are the key challenges that the Young Leaders aim to address through their regional action plan.

YLDs in South-East Asia have thus decided to dedicate their regional plan to raising awareness of diabetes, encouraging healthy lifestyles, improving access to treatment (in particular insulin), and advocating for diabetes care to their governments. Activities undertaken as part of the Regional Action Plan include diabetes camps, healthcare workshops and working closely with IDF Members to reach out to governments and urge them to implement adequate policy measures.

Click here for regular updates of the YLD SEA Action Plan 2018-2019
YLD projects in Western Pacific

Project SEA
By Johanan Co, Philippines

Project SEA stands for Philippines’ Type 1 Support group, Education and Awareness activity. Its objective is to create support groups to encourage people with diabetes to help one another by providing a forum to express their struggles, hopes and needs. The groups will also help people increase their awareness of diabetes, share information and learn from each other. Click here for more information about Johanan’s project.

5 candidates projects:
3 on awareness
2 diabetes camps

7 members

Blue Diamond
By Chanut Mongkolthummakul, Thailand

The Blue Diamond project will mainly focus on raising diabetes awareness. Various events will take place and an online platform will be set up. There will be an online diabetes talk session, which will provide proper education about diabetes. Chanut and his association also plan to expand their initiative into Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. Click here for more information about Chanut’s activities.

Read more about the other YLD WP Candidate’s project:
Jacob Lachmandas, Singapore
Shuk Yi Yu, Hong Kong
Youngji Kim, South Korea

YLD WP Action Plan 2018-2019

YLD members from WP see education as the region’s main challenge. The lack of education, the myths and stereotypes that surround diabetes and the disease’s negative image contribute to discrimination, poor diabetes management and inadequate funding of diabetes treatment and prevention.

To address these challenges, YLD members have decided to launch an online YouTube channel to educate the public about diabetes and dispel the myths that surrounds it. The videos and graphics that will be published online will not require prior knowledge and will be culturally adapted. They will be in the hand-drawing style, a popular video-recording concept which is often used to explain complicated topics in an interactive, simple and accessible way.

Click here for regular updates of the YLD WP Action Plan 2018-2019
IDF would like to thank its sponsors for their invaluable support to the YLD Programme and young people with diabetes around the world.