YOUTH MEET UN HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON POST MDGs

On 1st November, 23 young people from across the globe met in London to join the UN High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development agenda which was hosted by UK Prime Minister, David Cameron. The youth representatives came with the shared objective to communicate a fundamental message to high-level decision makers: that young people, as the largest demographic bar none, will be the difference between the success and failure of any global commitments made.

The youth representatives led a session that was both engaging and substantive. A Vision of 2030 as seen by young people was offered, followed by focused insights into innovative youth-led development initiatives already being implemented to address poverty.

As a result it emerged that measures must be taken to ensure a youth presence in all further meetings; Liberia, Indonesia, and beyond. Furthermore, amongst other things, youth should be placed at the centre of designing and implementing youth-targeted initiatives.

YOUTH CONSULTATIONS FOR A POST–2015 FRAMEWORK

Half of the world is under 25. This generation grew up under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework. In 2015, these will come to an end and over the next three years the international community will be reflecting on the successes and failures of this global framework and debating what comes next.

Therefore Restless Development, with input from partners in 12 countries and with support from the UK government youth working group, have launched a toolkit for post 2015 youth consultations – to ensure young people are part of the conversation and solution. Overall, the toolkit aims to open up the ‘development agenda’ conversation and hopes to ensure that the results generated will go towards influencing a post–2015 agenda that is meaningful for young people. The toolkit outlines a methodology allowing any organisation to contribute directly to this particular youth consultation project.

If you would like to run a youth consultation contact Katy on katy@restlessdevelopment.org.

2012 IBRAHIM FORUM

On Sunday 11th November 2012, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation hosted the 2012 Ibrahim Forum in Dakar, Senegal, focusing on how to allow and empower Africa’s youth to gain economic autonomy, to acquire social and political responsibility and to share ownership of their continent’s future.

Restless Development brought the voices of African youth to the Forum. We took a diverse Youth Delegation of 25 young people from across the continent to participate, and harnessed ideas from African youth via Facebook and the online livestream to ensure that their perspectives and realities inform these discussions taking place at the continent’s highest level.

To take the discussions further, our responsibility, as participants of the Forum and broader civil society – is to share and communicate the key learnings of the Forum and the accompanying research (can be downloaded from moibrahimfoundation.org). We also need to identify new solutions to the unemployment challenge; forge meaningful new partnerships across generations; to mobilise the resources and skills that we share; and transform all of this into action.

The Foundation supports good governance and great leadership in Africa and publishes the Ibrahim Index of African Governance on an annual basis.

“It’s time to really listen to the young people, instead of telling them what to do.”

Mo Ibrahim
CIVIC PARTICIPATION

RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT’S MISSION
IS TO PLACE YOUNG PEOPLE AT
THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE AND
DEVELOPMENT

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

TIKAMBE - LET’S TALK

In Zambia, we ran the 6 month long radio show, TIKAMBE, on Radio Phoenix to raise awareness of the national youth policy and its priorities in a country where most people listen to radio as their primary means of receiving information.

The National Policy and Strategy documents (on National Financial Education Strategy, Re-Entry Policy and Anti-Gender Based Violence Act 2011) were selected on the basis of their significance and relevance to young people in the education, health and youth (livelihoods) sectors, as well as being topical subjects for the media. Subsequently, on the back of discussions held on the TIKAMBE radio shows, three Position Papers have been formed and placed as full page adverts in the leading national newspapers over November and December, leading to further calls and feedback from Zambian citizens. Importantly, each position paper is launched in alliance with the Zambia National Education Coalition of which Restless Development is a lead partner.

In January 2013, Restless Development Zambia will embark on another 6 month long series of TIKAMBE Radio Shows ensuring that radio listener and Facebook groups are feeding into each show.

Concurrently, Restless Development and UNFPA has formed a new Cartoon Policy Toolkit “Know Your Policy” on how young people can get engaged in local government decision making processes.

YOUTHPOLICY.ORG

This thematic youth and development site, funded by the Open Society Foundation, looks at youth-led development broadly. It brings together evidence, good practice, toolkits and evaluations from youth-led programmes from different organisations, and features articles, blog posts, creative media, case studies and research pieces written by young people active in the development sector.

You can also follow news from youthpolicy.org on Twitter, just search for @YouthPolicy_Dev

YOUTH MANIFESTO

For the first time ever, this published research shares the views, hopes and fears of young people across Sierra Leone with regards to the now past presidential, parliamentary, and local council elections.

Young people’s priorities

When asked what is the number one issue facing young people in Sierra Leone today, almost two thirds (63%) of respondents cited employment and just under a quarter (23%) replied lack of educational opportunities.

The next most important issue identified after these were sexual and reproductive health (3%) and the threat of violence or crime (2%).

Respondents said that the issues that the new government should prioritise first is the creation of jobs (48%) followed by the establishment of industry (22%), agriculture and food security (14%) and education (11%).

You can download the manifesto here: http://www.restlessdevelopment.org/file/youth-manifesto-final-email-pdf
SPOTLIGHT ON CAREERS

More than half of Tanzania’s economy depends on agriculture, despite it remaining unpredictable. In the 60 years since independence, rain-fed farming has produced poor harvest, making farmers vulnerable to droughts and floods. In Mbeya region, a tendency of relying on rainy season (masika) to conduct agriculture activities prevailed until recently.

Restless Development, through young Volunteer Development Professionals, mobilised their peers to take initiatives to reduce unemployment in their area. They formed groups and organised and conducted a seminar on livelihoods and employment. This resulted in group members contributing 2000 Tanzanian Shillings (£0.77; $1.26) each month for group savings. One group is now officially recognised at the village offices. Their long term ambition is to be formally registered as a community based group, in Momba district, so as to be able to work with other entrepreneurship groups from nearby villages and share their projects and learning. Following from sales of the vegetables they harvested, the group has been able to increase the finances that they expect to use in buying more plots for their garden. This short–term success has impressed many young people who have increasingly requested to join the group.

Initiatives taken by young volunteers to mobilize and train these groups proves that young people can make wonders without depending on the government. It is our commitment as the agency to bring impact with young people and support their efforts to increase their own income and help their families.

“Now we sell our vegetables and get money which we use to improve our groups fund and cover our families.

We would like to thank Restless Development for bringing changes to our lives.”

Bernard Siame, Youth Entrepreneurship Group member

DEPENDENCY ON RAIN-FED FARMING IN TANZANIA

LAUNCHING AN INNOVATIVE MENTORING SCHEME

Restless Development in the UK launched an alumni mentoring scheme. The scheme partners former volunteers with experienced professional alumni in a 6 month coaching relationship. Mel Punton and Stuart Matheson are such an example. Mel has just finished her Masters in Poverty and Development after some work experience in fundraising. Stuart is a Civil Servant who has lots of experience volunteering and has worked within the UK Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs before moving to work at the Scottish Office, who’s role is to represent Scotland’s interest’s to the UK government. Mel and Stuart had monthly Skype and phone coaching sessions as part of the mentoring scheme. As a result, Mel was accepted onto the Department for International Development’s graduate scheme, and was able to receive advice from Stuart during the application process.

INDIA CAREER FAIRS

In Orissa, one of the poorest Indian states, we organised a career fair which was attended by 316 young people. The aim of the fair was to raise awareness about various education opportunities as well as career options. As a direct result of the fair, students expressed that they were feeling more confident about their transition toward long-term employment and that they have more clarity to make an informed career choice.

We also held a job fair in Tamil Nadu, southern India. We partnered with a major employer who conducted 38 interviews with young people from the region. As a direct result, 17 people were selected for positions in the company.
LET’S BE LEADERS!

GIRLS, LET’S BE LEADERS!

Restless Development in partnership with UNICEF and the Tanzania AIDS Commission launched a ground breaking pilot initiative aimed at unleashing adolescent girls’ agency in Tanzania.

WHY NOW? Adolescent girls make up 75% of HIV positive youth in Tanzania and two thirds of unemployed youth

- 30% of young women believe a husband or partner is justified to beat her if she denies him sex
- 44% of adolescent girls are mothers or pregnant by the age of 19
- 28% of girls experience sexual violence during childhood

- Only 37% of girls progress to secondary school compared to 45% of boys, and are more likely to drop out

The ‘Mabinti Tushike Hatamu!’ project will test, evaluate and share strategies for reducing the vulnerability of adolescent out-of-school females aged 10–19 to HIV and AIDS, pregnancy and violence. It will directly support over 7000 out of school adolescent girls from the regions of Iringa, Mbeya and Dar Es Salaam over the next two years. We will focus on four core themes which include:

- Addressing societal and cultural norms
- Strengthening economic resilience
- Improving access to core basic services
- Strengthening systems for safety and protection

WHY STOP NOW?

WORLD AIDS DAY 2012

1st December marks World AIDS Day each year. Huge progress has been made since HIV was first identified over 30 years ago. With 8 million people now accessing HIV treatment compared to just 400,000 in 2003, we’re asking – Why Stop Now?

All over the UK young people galvanised support in their communities, organising flashmobs, film screenings, workshops and stunts to make sure the Government sit up and listen this World AIDS Day.

We’ve come too far to turn back now.

YOU can also ask the UK Government to be global leaders and commit to developing a blueprint to end AIDS;


#WhyStopNow

@StudentStopAIDS

LAST QUARTER IN NUMBERS

IN ZIMBABWE

2255 young people were reached with sexual and reproductive health programmes, information and/or services

IN SIERRA LEONE

1554 lessons on sexual and reproductive health were delivered by our volunteer development professionals

IN NEPAL

357 community sessions on sexual and reproductive health were delivered by our volunteer development professionals