

RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH AFRICA STRATEGIC PLAN

2011-2015



SPW IS NOW

**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**
THE YOUTH-LED DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

WE ARE RESTLESS

**BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS
OF THE WORLD PERSIST AND
WE WANT TO RESOLVE THEM**

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FOREWORD

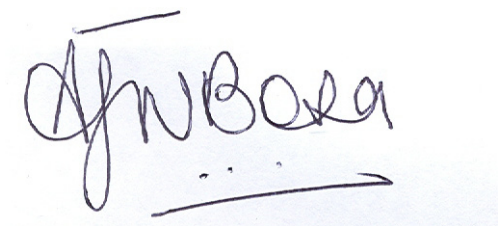
Restless Development is transforming the involvement of young people in South African society. The agency gives young people knowledge, awareness and skills that enable them to generate wealth, stay healthy and participate in the leadership and development of their communities.

Over the next 5 years the organisation will work at both individual and systemic levels. Individual change achieved through direct contact with young people, supported by systemic change achieved through advocating for structural and policy shift, will result in transformative change.

Our mission is to place young people at the forefront of change and development. This is in line with the overarching intention of the Government of South Africa to intensify youth development and ensure expansion and high impact service provision, as expressed in the National Youth Policy. Our goal is to see young people experience transformative change in their livelihoods, health and participation in civic life..

The last ten years of our story is testament to the capabilities of young people in development. We have directly and indirectly reached over 20,000 young people in South Africa and many of these young people have attained individual heights that they would otherwise not have realized.

In the next five years, we aim to strengthen our partnerships with government, civil society, the private sector and the donor community, supporting young people to realise their full potential. .



Alice Barlow Zambodla – PhD
Chairperson
Restless Development South Africa National Board



OUR STORY

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Young people are disproportionately affected by persistent problems of the world and yet are often overlooked as part of the solution.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

Young people can and must be part of the solution. We are the largest, most energetic group of people in the world. When we work together with a common purpose, anything is possible.

WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

To channel the positive energy of young people to bring about real progress that will benefit young people and their communities.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

We support young people to access opportunities for livelihoods and employment, to lead healthy lifestyles and to participate in civic affairs of their communities.

WHO WE ARE

We are the leading youth-led development agency in South Africa, engaging and supporting young people to address the most urgent issues facing the country.

For more than a decade, we have been engaging and supporting young people to address their livelihoods and reproductive health needs. We engage young people in active dialogue with governance institutions and we reach out to young people in rural communities, placing young people at the forefront of change and development.

We have been cited as best practice by UNICEF, UNAIDS and the World Bank for our unique youth-led methodology.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE

WE HAVE BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1997

OVER 25,000 RURAL YOUTH

Reached over last 5 years with life skills, entrepreneurship training and sexual and reproductive health programmes.

OVER 5,000 YOUNG PEOPLE

in the Eastern Cape Province directly engaged in policy and decision making processes that impact their lives.

OVER 550 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Trained and supported over the last five years.

OVER 100,000 CONDOMS

Distributed in the past five years.

WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP

With 2 government departments, 3 civil society organisations, 3 communities and 4 youth forums to leverage reach and impact of our work.



YOUNG SOUTH AFRICA

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FACING YOUNG SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has a young population. Of the 49.9 million people living in South Africa, nearly one third (31%) is under 15 years. The estimated life expectancy is 52 years. According to the Eastern Cape AIDS Council Annual Report 2010, young people aged 21 to 30 account for about 50.3 % of all unemployed people in the country. HIV prevalence among 15 to 30 year olds accounts for approximately 32% of the national HIV prevalence.

The Eastern Cape AIDS Council (ECAC) estimates that about 36.5% of young South Africans aged 22 to 30 do not have appropriate skills that will enable them to be gainfully employed, become entrepreneurs or support their livelihoods. Unemployment and poverty among young people has led to a culture of crime, substance abuse and dependency on social grants.

ECAC also notes that young people aged between 15 and 24 face the highest risk of HIV transmission. About 15% of these are young women. Approximately 26% of South Africa's total population consists of young people living in rural areas. They lack access to information and services to promote their livelihoods, prevent HIV infection and support healthy lifestyles.

The potential for young South Africans contributing to development is tremendous. Increased youth livelihood skills can drive economic growth. Young people making informed and responsible sexual decisions make for a healthier population. Embracing young people in governance and policy making processes strengthens democracy, decreases the risk of unrest, and will make South Africa a progressive country. (South Africa Annual Policy Report, November 2011).

DEVELOPMENT SUCCESSES TO DATE

South Africa has made significant strides in addressing development challenges. The HIV prevalence rate among 15 to 18 year olds decreased from 12% in 2004, to 13.1% in 2010 (SANAC 2010)., encouraging hopes that the country's broad based and multi-sectoral HIV prevention efforts were beginning to bear fruit.

According to a government 2010 mid term statistics report, South Africa has recently been classified as a middle-income country. It has a sophisticated infrastructure, a well-developed private sector and a stable macro-economy. With adequate macro-economic investment programmes targeted at employment creation, skills development and improved access to health services, there is growing potential for the South African economy to enhance livelihoods and employment opportunities for young people and support their access to information and services that will lead to productive and healthy lives.

The government has intensified efforts and legislated for institutional structures that support the active engagement of young people in key national, provincial and local decision making processes, which makes for increased opportunities for young people to influence policy and practice of governance institutions at all levels. Restless Development in South Africa has harnessed the opportunity to enable voices of young people to be heard in different governance forums through our advocacy and civic participation work supporting youth forums and youth working groups in rural Eastern Cape Province.



LOOKING FORWARD

As democracy is developing more and more, the social and political landscape in South Africa is changing. Young people have enormous potential to play a key role supporting this process.

South Africa has a vibrant economy which promises a good future for young people. If young people's entrepreneurship skills are developed and support is provided for them to become agents of change, their health, employment opportunities and livelihoods will be enhanced. Restless Development in South Africa has established positive working relationships with local and central government, civil society and networks of young people in the Eastern Cape Province, particularly in enabling voices of young people to be heard in policy and decision making processes. In the next five years of our country strategy, our influence and reach will be expanded to new geographical areas, to increase our reach and impact for young people.

WHAT WE WILL DO

OUR VISION IS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ADDRESSING THE MOST URGENT ISSUES FACING SOUTH AFRICA, SUPPORTED FULLY BY THEIR GOVERNMENT, THEIR COMMUNITIES, BUSINESSES AND CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS

OUR MISSION IS TO PLACE YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

TO CREATE LASTING CHANGE WE TARGET

- Individual behaviour change among young people
- Systemic change of the environment – government, civil society, service providers, communities & families – in support of young people.

AS A RESULT WE WILL SEE

young people leading development processes and living healthy, productive lives fully supported by those around them

TO MAKE THIS A REALITY WE HAVE THREE BIG GOALS

01 LIVELIHOODS & EMPLOYMENT

Young people have access to sexual reproductive health information and services and live healthy lifestyles.

02 SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

Young people will make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health that lead to healthy lives.

03 CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Policies, plans and development priorities of governance institutions reflect the needs of young people.

HOW WE WILL DO IT

Our 3 goals are big, as are our ambitions. We recognise that in order to impact on South Africa's young people we need to do more than deliver direct impact at the grassroots level; we must change their environment, sharing our knowledge and skills and working through government and civil society partners to ensure comprehensive impact and reach. We will achieve our goals through five strategic approaches:

DIRECT DELIVERY

GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP

BUILDING A STRONG YOUTH SECTOR

SHAPING POLICY AND PRACTICE

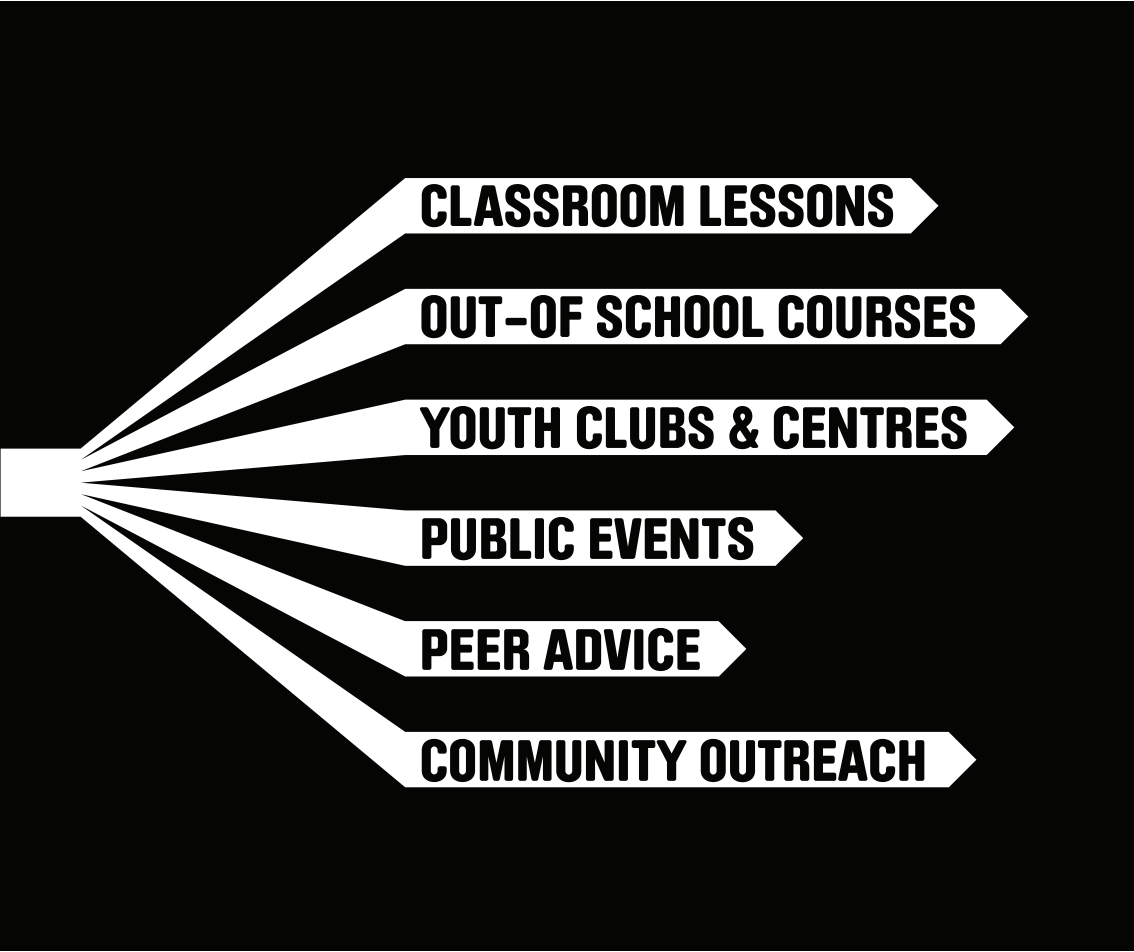
SHARING & LEARNING

Please read on for detail on our approaches.



DIRECT DELIVERY

Working directly with young people is the foundation for everything we do.



We directly deliver programmes to young people (in-school and out-of-school, focused on excluded and marginalised groups), adults (community leaders and service providers) and institutions (government and civil society).

Our Direct Delivery approach is led by our trained young people and staff who deliver programmes to achieve our objectives.

Aligned to government plans and strategies, our Direct Delivery approach informs our approaches to Building a Strong Youth Sector, Shaping Policy and Practice, and Sharing and Learning. The evidence base created through Direct Delivery is critical to informing these approaches and enabling broader reach and impact.

Direct Delivery is a critical element of our work in the Eastern Cape, and supports our goals of Livelihoods and Wealth Creation, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Civic Participation.

OUR WORK IN ACTION

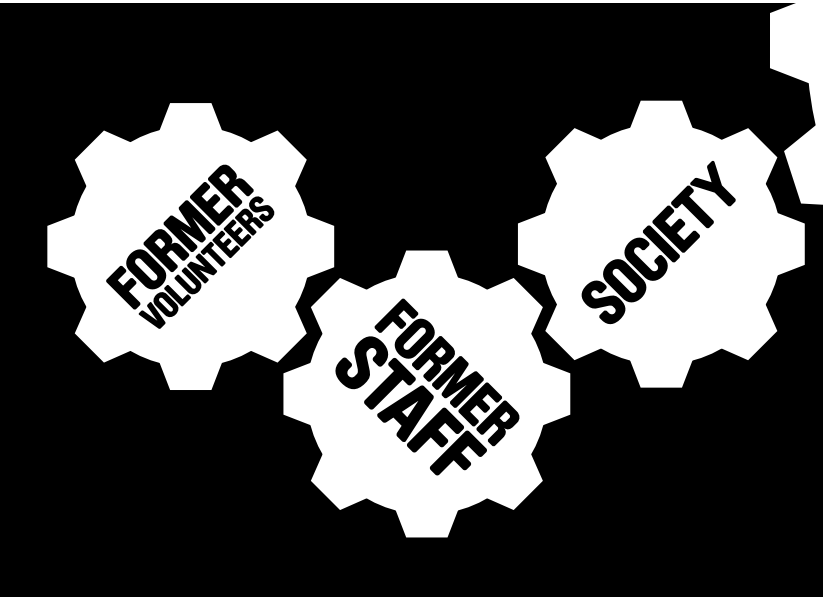


WE WILL

- Recruit, train and support over 2,000 full-time Volunteer Peer Educators to lead community development through 8 –12 month placements.
- Support the national roll-out of 20 youth development centres by the National Youth Development Agency.
- Give over 20,000 young people access to sexual and reproductive health, information and services
- Address gender inequalities and the links between socio-economic status, HIV and Gender Based Violence in over 200 interactive sessions.
- Lead over 2000 sessions to improve life skills, career guidance, pre-professional skills training, career path development, business skills and income-generating skills of young people.
- Support 800 young people to access business mentoring and support services, including micro-finance.
- Support over 500 young people to access learning and work opportunities.
- Establish 10 Youth Working Groups in local Municipalities and District Municipalities.
- Train 200 Youth Working Group Members in life skills, gender, human rights, civic education and advocacy.
- Our work will increase young people's access to skills development, work opportunities and income, decrease risky sexual behaviour among young people, decrease unwanted pregnancy, HIV infection rates, HIV-related stigma and discrimination and gender-based violence in the communities where we work, and increase youth participation in decision-making and democratic processes.

GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP

Long-term, systemic change requires better leadership.



Supporting young people to develop and grow in their leadership and professional skill development is core to our strategy. Through our work in this area, we will recruit, train and support young people with full time professional opportunities that will enable young people to flourish in their professional careers. Leadership training, professional development support and strengthening our alumni network will be a major focus.

OUR WORK IN ACTION



WE WILL

- Establish and launch Restless Development South Africa Alumni Network (over 550 former volunteer peer educators to date), creating a resource of professionals, students and development workers dedicated to the mission of the organisation.
- Facilitate the growth of our youth alumni network by supporting capacity building and networking activities of the alumni. At least 20 alumni networks will be established.

BUILDING A STRONG YOUTH SECTOR

There are three billion young people in the world.
We can't possibly reach them all on our own. Nor should we.



We will work in partnership with youth-led and youth-focused organisations. Our collective knowledge, resources, energy, and tried and tested methods in engaging with young people will facilitate growth of a youth-led development sector. We aim to expand our partners' capacity to help us achieve our mission. .

OUR WORK IN ACTION



WE WILL

- Train and support 30 youth-led and youth-focused civil society organisations.
- Support 4 government and non-government organisations (trusts and foundations, national development agencies, and bi-lateral aid agencies) to successfully engage and make provision for young people in their strategies, plans and budgets across the three goal areas of our strategy.

SHAPING POLICY AND PRACTICE

We know we can help an individual change behaviour in a positive way. But if we want progress, that change has to last in the long-run and impact everyone.



Influencing systemic change is critical to advance the youth development agenda and increase the responsible engagement of young people in decision-making at all levels. Through our approach of Shaping Policy and Practice we will work with strategic partners, both government and non-government, to help work more effectively with and for young people. We will work with local and central government as well as civil society and young people's networks through youth working groups to influence systemic change.

OUR WORK IN ACTION

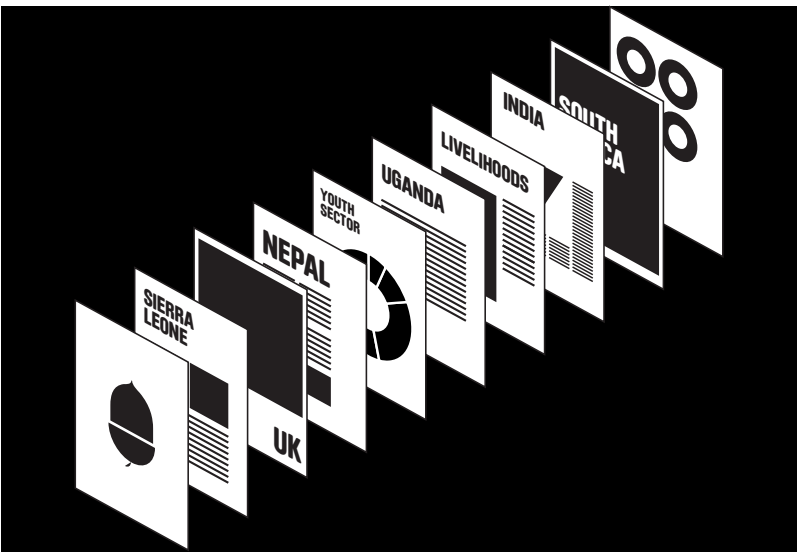


WE WILL

- Conduct 70 meetings and workshops with 5 District AIDS Councils and 3 Provincial AIDS Councils to advocate for and support youth involvement in their implementation plans
- Facilitate effective youth participation and leadership in the South African National AIDS Council and 2 other National AIDS Authorities in the South Africa Development Community Region.
- Conduct 144 meetings and workshops with 8 local municipalities to support effective youth participation in the review and development of Integrated Development Plans, Local Economic Development Plans, strategies, and budgets.
- Facilitate and support effective participation of 3,000 young people in review and development of District and Provincial development plans, budgets, and Strategic Planning Unit Strategies in partnership with 2 district municipalities and 4 provincial government structures.

SHARING AND LEARNING

We are always on the ground, applying new thinking, different tactics and experiencing first-hand how effective youth-led development models are and how we need to improve them.



Through the years, we have developed expertise in youth-led development and we continue to learn from our work and that of others. We will document and share best practice with all our partners at national, district and provincial levels. We will ensure that key learning from our work is reflected in all our new initiatives..

OUR WORK IN ACTION



WE WILL

- Conduct 2 girl-led research initiatives into Gender Based Violence and the linkages with a) HIV & AIDS and b) socio-economic empowerment in one district and disseminate findings.
- Develop a good practice model, guidelines with 4 case studies for youth participation and leadership in District, Provincial and National AIDS Councils.
- Develop 200 accredited training modules for youth-targeted Sexual Reproductive Health, civic participation, and livelihoods.
- Develop and document good-practice, value-for-money model for youth centres, with 4 detailed case studies

WHERE WE WORK



QUMBU ●

EASTERN CAPE

LIBODE ●

EAST LONDON

NGQUSHWA ●

HOW WE FIT INTO THE BIG PICTURE

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Our goals will contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With 2015 drawing nearer, South Africa has made great strides in contributing to some of the MDGs, but a lot still remains to be done. Restless Development in South Africa will facilitate increased participation of young people in policy making and governance processes that directly impact on young people's health and livelihoods.

We will work in collaboration with partners at different levels to accelerate progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

01 ERADICATE EXTREME HUNGER AND POVERTY

Our livelihoods programmes will address household food and income security for young people and their families and we will expand our efforts in addressing employment creation, employability and entrepreneurship skills for young people to realise this goal. We will engage governance institutions to allocate resources in order to enhance young people's access to productive resources and sustainable livelihoods opportunities locally and nationally.

06 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER DISEASES

Our programmes will empower 20 000 young people with knowledge and skills to protect themselves against HIV infection. We will promote gender equality and work to empower young women to access livelihoods opportunities and information on HIV/AIDS across all our programme approaches.

08 DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to work with development partners at local, provincial, national, regional and international levels to leverage the reach, relevance and impact of our work with young people. Our programmes will develop and strengthen partnerships with private sector, bilateral, multi-lateral, civil society partners at local, regional and international levels. We will seek active engagement at all levels in order to share our unique youth-led model as well as learn from the experiences of our partners.





HUNGRY FOR MORE

We know that young people can and must lead development. If you have interest in the work we delivering with young people, we want to hear from you. We need people and partners to work with us across all areas of our agency, whether on the ground, helping out with technical and financial support, or simply by supporting our work in any way possible.

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N.B. Restless Development South Africa continues to operate under its registered name Students Partnership Worldwide (Trust registration number IT1870/98 – NPO registration number 014-770). It will continue to do so until the new name is registered with the official body.