

## Our Values Champions

### Francis Arinaitwe

Alumni, Mastercard Foundation

Youth Think Tank



*Francis, right, interviewing a respondent in Mayuge District, Uganda (photo courtesy of 2015 – 2016 Youth Think Tank Report: Insights into Youth Economic Opportunities in East Africa”*

**“My favourite part of Restless Development is the fact that I am given a chance to lead and exercise my. This is what built my passion and confidence to take up a leadership role in my community.”**

#### His Restless Story

Francis first joined Restless Development in 2015 as a Volunteer Peer Educator on a HIV prevention programme. Since then he has been a Youth Advocate on the My Voice My Rights campaign which aimed to empower young people to demand better sexual reproductive health rights as well as holding duty bearers to account and volunteered as a Youth Researcher on the Mastercard Foundation Youth Think Tank programme in East Africa on a youth-led research project aimed at elevating the voices of young people. He is currently studying towards a diploma in Social Development and has established his own youth organisation called Sustainable Nation Uganda.

#### Which of our Values speaks to you the most and why?

“All the above values speak highly to me - as a young person who values the fact that transforming my community and demanding for a just and sustainable world lies in my hands, I need to be innovative, creative and brave to initiate programs, approaches and also build my confidence to realise my vision. Working together calls for partnership, teamwork through which we share experiences and skills to achieve our objectives. Thus all of the values need to work together to achieve the change that is needed.”



#### What do you think makes Restless Development so special?

“The trust that Restless Development places in young people makes it special. This is because it gives them the chance to lead and implement activities as well as having their voices heard. Young people are at the centre of Restless Development’s activities which builds young people’s confidence and abilities to lead change work towards a just and sustainable world. Above all, our values and commitment to work makes us special.”

#### My example of our Values in action is...

“In the Youth Think Tank programme, this is a program which was entirely youth led, where every research process right from the conceptualization of questions to dissemination, under this very programme young people were working as partners and as a team with our coordinators and managers to make sure we were producing a quality research piece by using all of our skills and passion. For me this is our values in action.”

#### If you could say one thing to your colleagues across Restless Development, what would it be?

“Let us stick to what makes us special and those are our values.”



Listen to what else Francis has to say about our Values [here](#).

As part of ongoing celebration of our values, a values champion will be profiled every month. Champions were nominated by their peers and selected based on their commitment to the Values and ideals of Restless Development. To learn more about our values, visit [www.restlessdevelopment.org/our-values](http://www.restlessdevelopment.org/our-values)