

Our Values Champions

Mellisa Perekwa

Programme Quality Manager Restless Development Zimbabwe



“We are unique, we walk the talk. We practice meaningful youth engagement, we let young people lead our work and we know where to support them or work on their behalf.”

Her Restless Story

Mellisa joined Restless Development in August 2015 as Research Monitoring & Evaluation Manager. She then became the Programmes Quality Manager in 2016, the post she currently holds. Mellisa was recognised as a values champion by her peers for being supportive, passion and energy for youth-led development and always looking to improve our work.

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

“Our four values are intertwined, you can't do without the other, but I will choose the **Hands**. The way we work and achieve good results with young leaders, changemakers, governments, CSOs and other stakeholders is a testimony to our belief that we can't achieve all alone. We value working together with all the key players who are concerned to bring positive change in young people's lives.”



How do you keep our Values alive day to day?

“For me working with young people is more than just a calling, it's a passion. It requires belief in their potential and hope for a brighter future. I actively promote participation and leadership of young people providing space for innovation that makes our team/organisation thrive. I make a daily effort to go beyond the expected professional standards and ensure that as a team we strive to achieve results without fail. I profoundly appreciate that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts and thus do my best to contribute to the success of the team internally as well as reaching out to partners without whom we cannot function smoothly.”

What's your favourite part of Restless Development...in your job or beyond?

“My colleagues both at hub and global level and the young people I work with have helped me grow both professionally and personally. A day never passes without learning something new as they challenge me, inspire and support me always through our day today interactions. I'm so happy to be part of the Restless Development family!”

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

“Let's continue to keep alive our belief of unleashing the power of young people...together we will go a long way in changing many lives in the world.”



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