

# **Equity: addressing marginalization and poverty**

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# RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

- Putting young people at the forefront of change
- 10 global hubs across sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and in the UK and USA
- Award-winning, youth-led model, addressing young people's:
  - sexual and reproductive health
  - livelihoods and employment
  - participation in decision-making
- Young people leading development in their communities and up to the global stage



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**Shaping the Global Goals:  
Capturing young people's  
perspectives and priorities**





**Shaping the Global Goals:  
Ensuring young people's voices were heard at the highest  
levels**

- Half of the world's population under 30
- Peak Youth and a generational opportunity: the largest youth population the world has seen
- Ready to play a leading role in implementation, monitoring and accountability for the SDGs



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## Equity: addressing marginalisation and poverty

- *Leave no one behind* in the context of the SDGs
- Capitalising on the data revolution
- Citizen-driven data as a means of understanding the experiences of the most marginalised
- In practice: community-led mobilisation in response to Ebola in Sierra Leone
- Our collective challenge: the need to do things differently

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- Not simply MDGs 2.0
- Social, economic and environmental development for present and future generations
- Appreciate the increasing interconnectedness of our world
- Universal

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***Must leave no one behind:*  
prioritising the most marginalised, first.**



# THE NEED FOR BETTER DATA

- Progress towards MDGs hard to track
- Patchy data
- Time-lags
- Countries facing toughest challenges often had poorest data on the issues they were tackling

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# A DATA REVOLUTION

The rapid increase in new forms of data, and the new, innovative and cheap ways of using it.

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*“Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Such data is key to decision-making.”*

Target 17.18: increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics

*Reference: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

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**BUT...**

***“...too many people, organisations and governments are excluded because of a lack of resources, knowledge, capacity or opportunity”***

*Reference: The Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development ; (IEAG) “A World That Counts: Mobilising The Data Revolution for Sustainable Development”*

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- A man in a red and black striped shirt is speaking into a white megaphone. He is addressing a large group of children sitting on the ground outdoors. The children are wearing blue and red clothing. In the background, there are mountains and a tall pole with colorful flags. The scene is set in a rural, hilly area.
- New people-centred, people-led accountability mechanisms
  - A follow-up and review framework that is *“open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders.”*
  - Social accountability mechanisms from local to global levels
  - Citizen-generated data for monitoring and accountability

**Giving a voice to people traditionally excluded and strengthening government's own monitoring efforts**





**Young people as infomediaries**  
**Generating, curating and disseminating information**  
**Connecting the “data owners” and the “data users”**



# The Big Idea

Building and supporting networks of youth organisations and advocates to develop national monitoring and accountability frameworks, where youth:

- **Support:** Gather and generate data for accountability, distributing it in citizen friendly formats to activists, the media, citizen accountability initiatives and decision makers.
- **Report:** Monitor and review service delivery and commitments to sustainable development, producing reports and citizen friendly resources to raise awareness of pressing issues.
- **Connect:** Convene national stakeholders on areas of concern and off track commitments and develop joint mutual accountability action plans to address challenges.
- **Promote:** Lobby for greater citizen participation in accountability mechanisms through evidence based advocacy.

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# Reaching the most marginalised: in practice

- Restless Development in Sierra Leone since 1995
- Largest volunteer programme for young Sierra Leoneans
- May 2014: Volunteers across all 14 districts – and 1,200 alumni



# Reaching the most marginalised: in practice

- SMAC (Restless Development, Goal, Focus 1000, BBC Media Action and CDC)
- Working directly with communities, through the radio and with religious leaders – social mobilisation from the community up
- Aimed to achieve tangible behaviour change towards safe burials, early treatment and social acceptance of Ebola survivors
- *“a turning point in tackling Ebola in Sierra Leone ... [that] led to huge uptake of positive practices during the Ebola outbreak and has the potential to be used in building health systems after Ebola.”* (Oxfam)





# Reaching the most marginalised: in practice

- Social mobilisation – must not be a soft “add-on”
- Community-led social mobilisation approaches are not easy, but are extremely powerful
- The need to move beyond consultation
- Participants, not “beneficiaries”
- Generic, “cookie cutter” approaches are insufficient





## IN SUMMARY

- Peak Youth & The Data Revolution: a generational opportunity for us to ensure the most marginalised are not left behind
- Must build new, complimentary citizen-led accountability mechanisms
- Action owned and led by communities to achieve transformative, sustainable change

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**“World leaders, look up, because the future generation is raising their voice.”**

**– Malala Yousafzai**

**– THANK YOU –**



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