**M3-T3-H1-Youth Boards & Youth Panels Overview**

**Youth boards**: Youth representatives placed on key governance and decision-making boards. Ensure meaningful engagement at all levels. Embedding young volunteers in your organisations will build a youth hub of young knowledge that can work alongside staff on key youth issues, better connected to the pulse of the youth ecosystem and to the voice of young people globally. This could be a sustainable and effective way for integrating the youth perspective into program design

Young people have been embedded by Restless Development into key ministries in diverse countries such Zambia, Sierra Leone and Nepal. In Nepal, the young people embedded in the Ministry of Youth and Sport played a key role mobilising youth nationwide to coordinate responses in deep rural communities and across Kathmandu valley in the hours following the recent, devastating earthquakes.

**Youth Panels:** Through setting up Youth Panels, development organizations can support motivated young people (referred to individually as ‘Development Advocates’) to as a group take a leadership role in the full program cycle. Key to supporting youth panels is one-to-one support from a dedicated member of Restless Development staff, a training program to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence, and a range of opportunities and platforms to engage in.

Below is an example of the action/2015 Youth Panel. While this is a youth panel set up for advocacy purposes, similar approach can be used to set up youth panels for program delivery.

* Action/2015 Youth Panel

Restless Development created the action/2015 Youth Panel with the objective that these young Development Advocates would demand ambitious action in 2015 from leaders, as well as raising awareness and increasing action amongst young people on the Global Goals and Climate Agreements. In addition, the Youth Panel worked as a youth consulting group for other organisations participating through action/2015 in moments such as the Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa.

Restless Development, with support from partners across the sector, selected 17 young people between the ages of 18 and 25, each with a passion for a specific Global Goal so that the Development Advocates could represent both the youth sector’s regional, ethnic and gender diversity and the range of issues included in the SDG framework.

*Tailored 1:1 proactive and reactive support*

To support high levels of activity by the Youth Panel, Restless Development offered a range of one-to-one and group support utilising various platforms and forums tailored to the diverse needs of the Development Advocates.

● On an individual level, Development Advocates were supported by a Restless Development member of staff online (through Facebook, email and Whatsapp), by phone and in person.

● Fortnightly conference calls were held by Restless Development in order to update and discuss progress of activity plans.

● A private Facebook group was set up and maintained by Restless Development for information and opportunities sharing.

● Weekly update emails were sent by Restless Development to the Youth Panel with updates, information, activity ideas to feedback on and opportunities to take action.

*Trainings and briefings*

To equip Development Advocates with the confidence, skills, knowledge and social capital to drive action/2015 campaign efforts, Restless Development provided a series of tailored youth-led and youth-targeted trainings and briefings for the Youth Panel, namely:

● A full day Development Knowledge training in February 2015 on key development topics, the Global Goals process and public campaigning skills.

● A full day Campaigns training and brainstorm in May 2015 to design a large-scale youth mobilisation event for International Youth Day, which ultimately became a Youth Summit.

● A full day Parliamentary Engagement skills training during the ‘Restless Welcome’ in June 2015 on how to lobby MPs before meeting with their newly elected MPs right after this in meetings set up by Restless Development, briefing MPs on the importance of ambitious Global Goals.

● A full day Advocacy training in August 2015 during which members of DfID’s Youth Task team came to brief the Youth Panel on strategic engagement with DfID as well as enter into conversations with Development Advocates on their ideas for youth-led development.

● One full day and several evening Public Speaking and Presentation trainings to train Development Advocates who had roles on stage during the Youth Summit.

● A full day Climate Change Advocacy training in October 2015 on the science behind anthropogenic climate change, the COP21 process and advocacy skills training.



***Youth Panel taking part in the ‘DfID Conversation’ August 2015***