

Module 2: Increasing Our Development Impact



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Learning outcomes:

By the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Understand current youth trends and the unique assets that young people bring to development efforts.
- Articulate how to maximise the opportunity of the Peak Youth'.
- Clearly articulate which youth priorities were identified in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Assess how extending and deepening their work with young people can improve development outcomes
- Identify youth priorities for their programs.

How this will be achieved:

- By providing participants with an overview of the current state of youth, youth context, youth trends and key themes
- By conducting a study of the Sustainable Development Goals through the lens of youth priorities
- By showcasing, through examples, that young people can increase the impact of participants' organisations
- By evidencing young people's impact on sustainable development
- By showcasing how engaging young people can improve sexual & reproductive health outcomes

Read and Reflect:

Why is it important and how do you explain the benefits of engaging young people? Increasing this impact is all about recognizing and understanding the current statistics, trends, and themes around young people in order to engage them appropriately. We will have an opportunity to examine the evidence of the impact young people have on sustainable development.

A new generation is emerging, one that is more active, more connected and more able to lead the change needed than ever before. With 50% of the world's population currently under 30 years of age, and 1.8 billion people between the age of 10-24, it's not just a demographic statistic, it's a historic opportunity. We need to empower young people to lead the change and unleash youth leadership as an agency of change in its own right.





Activity: The State of Youth



M2-H1

OR



M2-H2

Review the activity handouts on the state of youth in South Africa **OR** use the links in the facilitation guide to find data on an alternative country. Consider:

Q. What stands out to you?

Q. What is missing from the fact sheets?

Q. What effect do you think this will have on youth engagement in development?



Peak Youth

- In the past 50 years (1965 -2015), youth population more than doubled (115% or 126% depending on how we define youth).
- In the next 50 years, it will grow only slightly (14-16%).
- After that, it will start to shrink.

Why do we need to engage young people?

The world has more young people now than ever before, and most likely more young people than there ever will be again.

With **50% of the world's population** currently under 30 years of age, and **1.8 billion people** between the age of 10-24, we have the opportunity to engage with the transformative power of young people for a small window of time. We need to empower young people to achieve their potential and **unleash youth leadership as an agency of change**.

At Restless Development call it 'Peak Youth'. **We are in an era of Peak Youth.**

GLOBAL YOUTH POPULATION 2050



Source: UN, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*



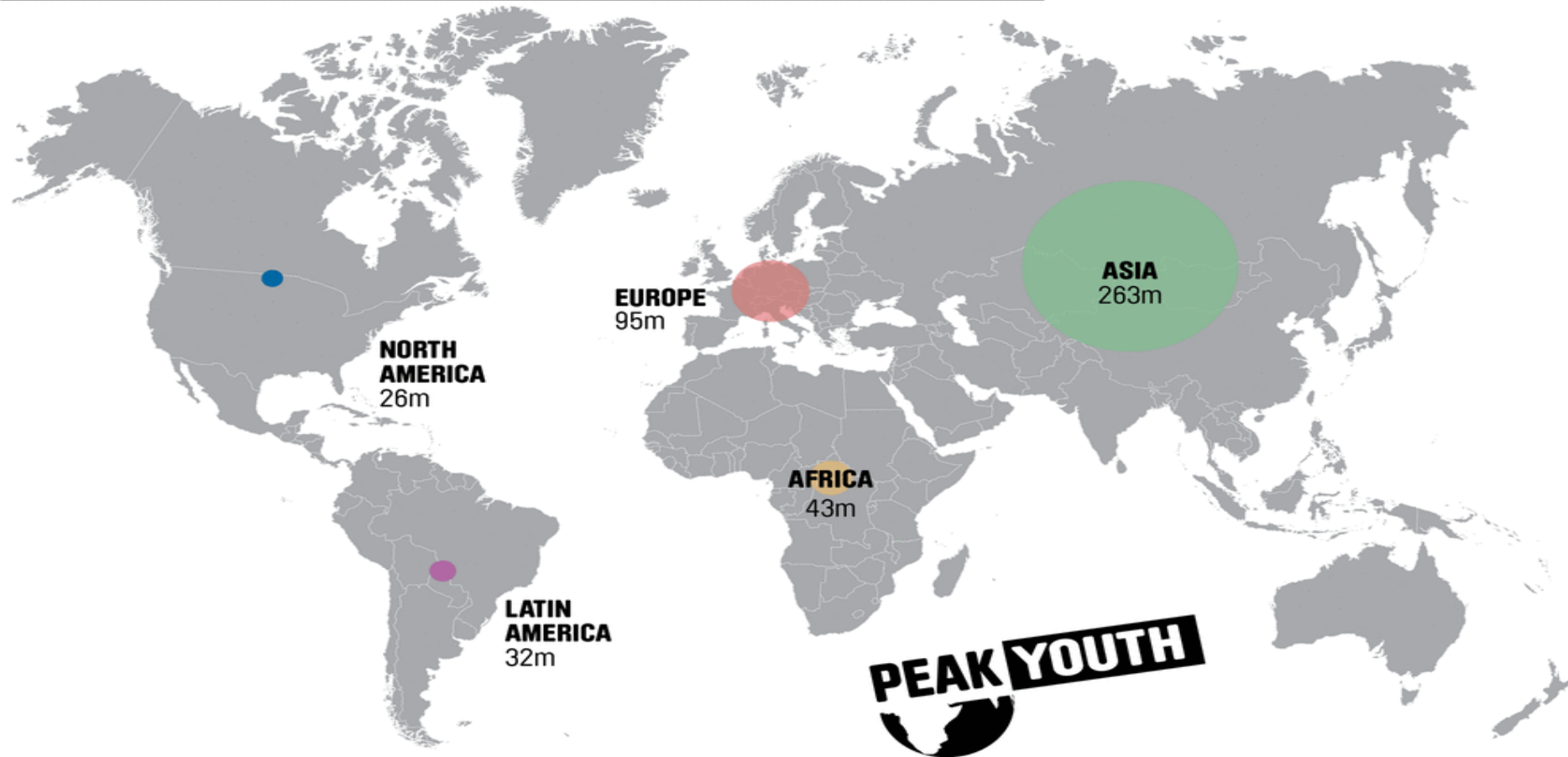
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GLOBAL YOUTH POPULATION 1950

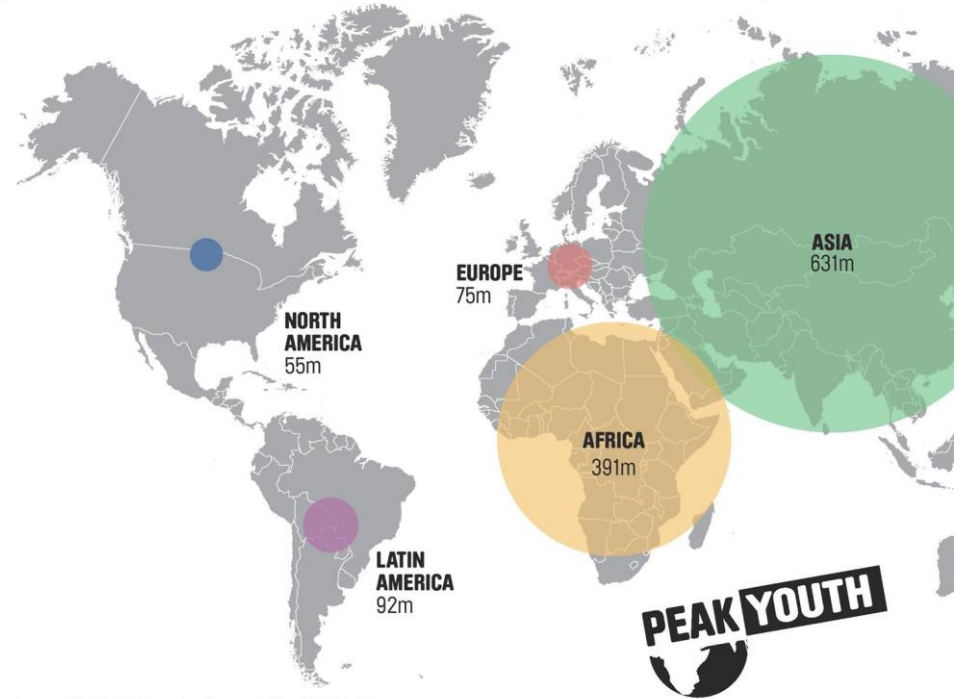


Source: UN, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*

Peak Youth: Africa

Of the 1.8 billion young people, nine out of ten of these young people live in developing countries. Of the six remaining countries where the average age of the population is still getting younger, five of them are in Africa.

GLOBAL YOUTH POPULATION 2050



Source: UN, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*



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Activity: What is the case for young people's impact on sustainable development?



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Read and Reflect:

Impact of youth engagement in development.

1. Strengthens young people's ability to meet their own needs and **creates sustainable livelihoods**.
2. **Prevents and reduces vulnerabilities** to economic, political and socially unstable environments
3. Promotes **ownership and sustainability of development interventions** in their communities.
4. Helps gain **entry into target communities** and build up trust and social capital.
5. **Develops active citizens** who can play a key role today in improving overall development gains nationally and globally.
6. **Ensures positive youth transition**. The competencies that make a good leader are the same for a young person's successful transition to adulthood.





Read and Reflect:

Impact of youth engagement in development.

7. Become **positive role models** to other youth and **effective influencers** on the community as a whole. At the community level, engaged youth are more likely to make informed, positive decisions and avoid risky behavior and acting as role models to their peers.
8. Brings unique perspectives, experience and ideas to development issues and activities. Young people are a valuable resource and problem solvers.
9. Upholds **young people's rights to participate** in decisions that affect them.
10. **Improves policy and program outcomes** through new solutions, improved access, additional energy and ownership by communities.

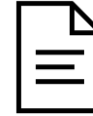


Activity: Case Study



M2-CS1

OR



M2-CS2

AND



M2-H3

After reading your chosen case study, consider:

Q. How were young people involved and engaged?

Q. How do you think this strengthened the outcomes?

Q. What concerns and questions would you have about the kind of engagement in this case study?



Activity: What are youth priorities?



Key to both getting to know the current youth demographic and ensuring that young people are motivated to engage in development and have an impact is understanding what current youth priorities are.

M2-H4

Using the M2-H3 handout, guess what 16-30 year olds said was important to them during the UN's My World Survey. Order the priorities of young people in order of importance according to them

When you're done, visit <http://data.myworld2015.org> to check how well you did.



Read and Reflect:

Youth priorities in the Sustainable Development Goals

Key issues highlighted during [Restless Development's Big Conversation](#):

- Access to education and skills-based learning
- Access to services(water, sanitation, healthcare, transport)
- Responsive governments
- Inequality and discrimination
- Employment

The UN facilitated its [My World Survey](#) for the same purpose. 7 million of the 9 million respondents were young people. They prioritized:

1. Education
2. Healthcare
3. Jobs
4. Honest and responsive governments
5. Peace

During [consultations in 12 countries](#) with young people to inform the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals, they identified the following priorities:

- Effective, responsive and accountable governments
- Sustainable development
- Right to access quality services
- Social inclusion
- Non-discrimination
- Meaningful youth participation, empowerment and accountability



MY WORLD. THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL SURVEY FOR A BETTER WORLD.

Activity: Visit

<http://data.myworld2015.org> and play around with the data. How does it change from each country? How does it change when you select a different age group? Gender?

Example: Malawi

- 4,486 people participated (3,642 under the age of 30)
- 16-30 year olds prioritised:
 1. A good education
 2. Better healthcare
 3. Better job opportunities
 4. Affordable and nutritious food

Example: Lesotho

- 19,124 people participated (17,967 under the age of 30)
- 16-30 year olds prioritised:
 1. Better job opportunities
 2. A good education
 3. Better healthcare
 4. Better transport and roads





How to identify youth priorities?

Youth-led needs assessment:

What is it? Young people identifying needs and priorities to inform program design.

The goal of a needs assessment is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the context and issues you are going to be working on. By making this youth-led, it empowers our beneficiaries and other stakeholders to lead the development process.

Example tool: Community scorecard.

Example tool: Youth Parliaments.

We'll take a closer look at these tools in Module 5.



Activity: Youth priorities in your work.

Q. Based on what you have learned during this module, how could you strengthen the involvement of your target young people in identifying youth priorities and needs at the program design phase?