Equity: addressing marginalization and poverty

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- Zambia
• 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:
  o sexual and reproductive health
  o livelihoods and employment
  o participation in decision-making

• Young people leading development in their communities and up to the global stage
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
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
• Not simply MDGs 2.0
• Social, economic and environmental development for present and future generations
• Appreciate the increasing interconnectedness of our world
• Universal
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
A DATA REVOLUTION

The rapid increase in new forms of data, and the new, innovative and cheap ways of using it.
“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
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”
• 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.
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 acceptable 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
• 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
“World leaders, look up, because the future generation is raising their voice.”
– Malala Yousafzai

– THANK YOU –