This tip sheet provides practical suggestions for RewirEd session organisers on how to partner with young people and support their participation in your sessions. This is not an exhaustive checklist but rather aims to give you actionable ideas for ensuring young people can meaningfully contribute to your sessions before, during and in the follow up.
It takes time to meaningfully partner with young people, so start planning now for how young people can engage with your RewirEd session! If you plan to support young people to attend a session in person, this will also require significant lead in time to coordinate visas, flights and Covid-19 vaccinations or testing.

Include young people and/or youth organisations on your session planning team to influence the session design to be more relevant and to maximize opportunities for youth participation. If you need support to identify young partners, reach out to Restless Development (find our contact information at the end of this tip sheet).

Avoid tokenism when engaging young people by really recognising their technical expertise and experiences, and making sure they have time to speak up in planning meetings, make decisions and feedback safely.

Consider engaging young people whose voices are often not heard in global forums - this could be a life changing opportunity to provide a platform for their ideas to be shared and provide new, powerful perspectives on education!

Really think about representation - genders, ages, abilities, languages, ethnicities and backgrounds - and consider working with more marginalised youth. When selecting young people, if you partner with youth organisations and networks, that can help to ensure a more inclusive and fairer selection process of who engages in the opportunity.

Agree a focal point in your organisation to work more closely with the young people in your planning team, to support their participation and ensure regular communication and coordination. This person should also be responsible for helping to prepare youth speakers.
• Young people can bring technical insights and powerful ideas, and it is important to recognise their expertise and explore compensation for their contributions. A stipend should, where possible, be offered to young people who give their time to plan a session or who will be participating in the session itself; consider budgeting fairly for the time young people spend in your planning team but also budget for speakers.

• Adequately budgeting for and ensuring translation of communication materials in advance, and providing live translation during the session, will really extend your reach and engagement with young people globally. Please visit the RewirEd FAQ document for more information regarding translations during the Summit. The latest guidance is that translation will be provided in Spanish, French, and Arabic.

• Consider reimbursing data costs for young people to join your session, as for those who do not have access to regular wifi this is often a really important incentive that enables them to participate in a virtual event. This will ultimately ensure your event is more inclusive & all young people have the opportunity to take part, and not just those who can afford to cover the cost. Simple platforms like WeTransfer can be used to quickly make these transfers.

• Provide support and offer training for young people’s preparation as speakers, panellists or facilitators. Ensure young people who will be participating have clear information about the time, purpose, and session format. Try to arrange at least one pre-meeting with your youth speakers to help them prepare and practice with you.

• Encourage the young people you are partnering with to seek insights and engagement from those in their networks to help ensure this learning and experience goes out to a wider group of young people beyond those working directly with you on the session. This can be done through a commitment to skillsharing, social media assets or polls to gather young people’s ideas.
DURING YOUR SESSION

- Avoid zoom fatigue and encourage young people to attend your session by building in interactive and participatory elements, by using user-friendly platforms to hear what young people think about an issue or ask them to vote on an opening question.

- Create a safe space for discussion where young people feel confident to speak up. This can be done by starting the session with a welcoming screen, which includes information on whether the session will be recorded, states clearly that discrimination or offensive behaviour will not be tolerated, and really encourages active participation. Inviting participants to introduce themselves in the online chat feature can encourage participation, as well as announcing there is a technical lead available to support anyone having access or tech challenges.

- Often young people will join sessions from their cell phones or might have poor internet connection, so it is important to consider recording your session so it can be shared with participants to watch back afterwards – and be sure to capture any key discussion points in a short written session summary output doc for their reference. If you do record, make sure participants know at the start of the session as for some young people they might want to protect their anonymity to avoid persecution.
AFTER YOUR SESSION

- Always organise a short debrief with youth speakers and young people who were part of your session planning team, to find out what they think went well or what could have been improved – this could also be an opportunity for you to share your constructive feedback on their contributions and what you learnt! This debrief will help to strengthen your future work with young people.

- Consider other opportunities to support and share the perspectives of youth speakers from your session, for example could they write a blog or do an OpEd that your organisation could publish and share.

- Stay in touch and explore future opportunities to work together – consider this session as kick starting a longer and more strategic partnership with young people or supporting youth organisations!

LOOKING FOR MORE SUPPORT?

For more information, here is a great resource from UNICEF to help you plan events with young people:

- Tip Sheets for Adults, Adolescents and Youth on Adolescent and Youth Participation in Different Settings, UNICEF (2021)

Restless Development is available to support you plan for youth participation in your session, just reach out to Alice Mukashyaka – alicem@restlessdevelopment.org