



How Youths and Adults Can Work Together

AGENDA

- . Facts about youths
- . Module objectives
- . Step by Step strategies
 - #1: Clean up clichés
 - #2: Empathy a key for collaboration
 - #3: Identify the weaknesses and strengths
 - #4: Communication is the bridge
 - #5: Understanding what is leadership
- . Hands-on activity
- . Case studies
- . Conclusion



FACTS ABOUT YOUTHS

- Beginning of 2012, people under 30 represent **50.5%** of the world population.
- Less than **2%** of parliamentarians are under 30 years old.
- 2 out of 3 countries don't consult young people as a part of the process of preparing poverty reduction strategies or national development plans.
- Parallel climate change potentially represents a major threat to the health and socio-economic stability of youth - particularly in developing countries, where **80%** of young people live.

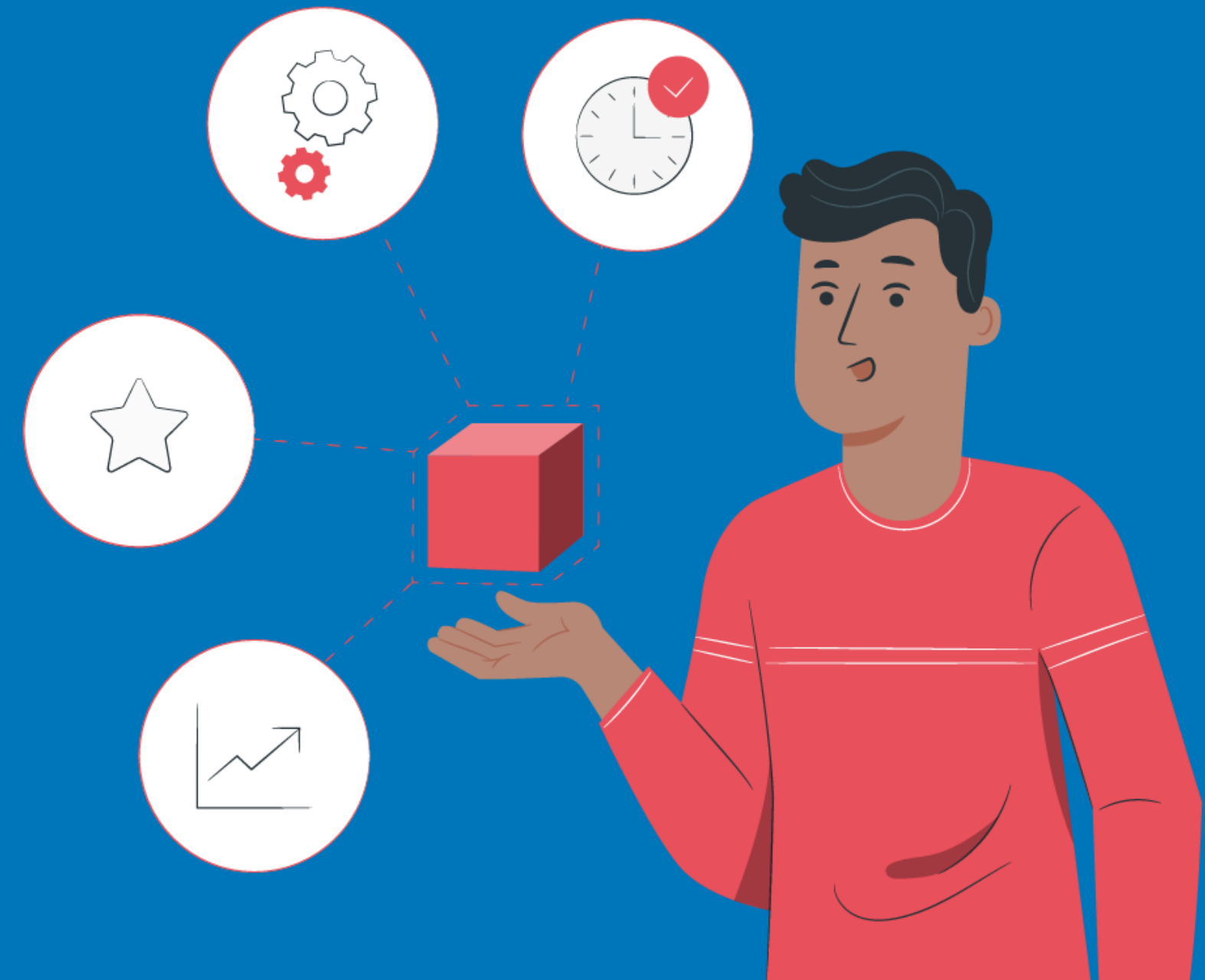
OBJECTIVES

- **Understanding** the young people and younger generations
- Recognise and resist stereotypes about young people
- Understanding the importance of **involving** the youth in the organisation
- Empower and nurture skills in youths
- Promote leadership



OVERVIEW - STEP BY STEP

1. Clean up clichés
2. Empathy, a key for collaboration
3. Identify the weaknesses and strengths
4. Communication is a bridge
5. Understanding what is leadership



STEP #1: CLEAN UP THE CLICHÉS

Youths:

Hurried → Initiative
Short term → Creative
Lack of skills → Learning

Adults:

Slow → Strategy
Routine → Experience
Ignoring → Teaching

Both sides: “They don't understand, They don't know” → New knowledge

STEP #2: EMPATHY, A KEY FOR COLLABORATION

- What goals do you want to **achieve** in your deaf community (or other minority communities)?
- How do you **imagine** what youths want to achieve?
- Can you **list** the 'imaginary' points that you and youths have in common and what are the possible differences?

Both sides: “They don't understand, They don't know” → **New knowledge**

STEP #3: IDENTIFY THE WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS

- As soon as you have listed the strengths and weaknesses of your organisation, can you suggest how young people can help and how you can **support** them?

An example:

- Weakness: We lack skills in social media.
Solution: We believe that young people can teach us and help us familiarise with it
- Notice that the strengths and weaknesses of your organisation can be transformed into a support system for each other

STEP #4: COMMUNICATION IS A BRIDGE

- Discuss the organisational plans with youths and community members
- Gather **feedback** from the community members and youths
- Work with youths to establish **boundaries** and clear guidelines, such as constitution articles, terms of references or similar
- Practice good communication skills and offer **support**:
 - Listen, understand and respect
 - Have a right attitude and be a good role model
 - Communication skill: Sandwich technique



STEP #5: UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS LEADERSHIP

Discussion questions:

1. What is leadership?
2. Why is it important for youths to be involved?
3. How can you encourage youths to develop leadership skills?

QUESTION #1

What is leadership?

Brainstorm the different forms and styles of leadership.

For example: Leading from behind, creative leadership



QUESTION #2

Why is it important for youths to be involved?

Possible examples:

- Sharing knowledge and skills
- Passing on the work to the future generations

QUESTION #3

How can you encourage youths to develop leadership skills?

Possible examples:

- Participating during General Assembly or board meetings
- Developing good relationships as role models / mentors
- Empowering young people with opportunities

COMMUNICATION: A HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

- Pair up for this activity
- Get two sets of identical materials
- Get a visual barrier

THE GOAL:

Your partner should build the material that is identical to yours!



CASE STUDY - PHILIPPINES



Philippine Federation of the Deaf (PFD) was established in 1997. Philippine Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (PFDYS) was established in 2007.

PFD always ensures that there are two youth representatives present in all board meetings. If PFD receives any enquiries that are relevant to youth, they pass it onto PFDYS for action.

One example of how they work together is when they run their General Assemblies, they ensure that it is at the same time but in separate rooms and they arrange a joint dinner for all new board members for both PFD and PFDYS to meet.

PFDYS includes PFD in their events, for example - PFD will present at PFDYS youth camps. The benefit of this relationship is that knowledge and information are shared on a range of topics including advocacy, legal issues and community information.

A priority for both PFD and PFDYS is to work together on any community or advocacy work related to politics or education. Working together means they can support each other.

When PFDYS have any issues or need additional support, for example - financial advice or any other topic - they usually approach PFD.

BUTTERFLY



“We are children, we are young,
but we are not yet your age, it is
up to you to encourage us.”

CONCLUSION

The United Nations emphasise that “the imagination, ideals and energy of young people are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which they live” and that we need to “increase the representation of young people” for a better world and future.

It's never **too late** or **too early** to consider the different ways you can involve the youths in your organisation!

