



THE CASE FOR SPACE: A PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN THE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Introduction:

Restless Development, in partnership with [War Child UK](#) and [Youth Business International](#), and with support from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), has commissioned a high profile **research and analysis** on the enabling environment for youth development.

The research and analysis forms part of a larger advocacy project that aims to create structures and conditions to enable the delivery of effective youth-led and youth-targeted development, including by protecting the rights of young people and children, and fostering participation in decision-making processes relating to the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The research will also help to inform and improve practice and programme quality within the three partner agencies.

Youth Policy Labs – the think tank running [youthpolicy.org](#) – have been contracted to lead this piece of research and analysis from January to September 2015.

Rationale underpinning this piece of research and analysis:

The forthcoming SDGs offer a generational opportunity to assert that young people should and can be at the heart of development. Many of the proposed SDGs are directly relevant to the development needs and futures of young people, including goals on employment and decent work, promoting peaceful societies and access to justice, and combating climate change and its impacts. They therefore have the potential to give fresh impetus to the promotion of youth development, if enabling conditions are fostered to support youth participation and action.

However, our analysis and experience is that current conditions are mostly disenabling of young people's participation. Young people continue to face particular conditions of marginalisation and vulnerability. We believe that to address this there is a need to make an evidence-based argument of the added value that will be delivered for development and governance by youth action, rooted in an analysis of what presently works, what current constraints are, and how constraints can be overcome.

In practice:

Youth Policy Labs are implementing an innovative, youth-led methodology. Following the completion of three policy and advocacy briefs (on the topics of youth action, youth livelihoods and child protection), 20 young researchers from across the world will be trained and supported to gather data to inform a final global advocacy report which we hope to launch at the SDG Summit in New York in September 2015.

To find out more:

This piece of work is being coordinated by Restless Development's Global Policy and Practice team, and if you'd like to find out more, please get in touch with Mark Nowotny (markn@restlessdevelopment.org) or Beth Goodey (beth@restlessdevelopment.org).