

Children and Youth in Post-2015 Accountability and Governance Task Team

WHY?

The development of the post-2015 development framework is a big opportunity to influence the decisions and actions of world leaders, donors and governments for a generation.

Children and Youth must be central to the process of developing the framework and in the implementation, monitoring and governance of the goals. The new framework must create an enabling environment that empowers children and young people to exercise their agency for change and allows them to hold their leaders to account on their commitments. This is crucial to the success of the new framework.

THE ISSUE

In global post-2015 consultations and discussions, governance has been consistently identified by young people as a top priority: specifically, fair representation, active citizenship, accountability and strengthening local and rural governments. This is also linked to the question of the role of children and youth following 2015, once the design and content of the goals are confirmed: *How can children and young people hold leaders to account on the new framework?*

Despite accountability and governance being consistently identified as a priority issue, the children and youth constituency has yet to develop a detailed proposal on what this must look like in the new post 2015 development framework in the form of suggested targets and indicators – specifically at a national level. There is a risk that governance and the role of children & youth will fall off the agenda - it is time to take action!

THE PROPOSAL

The process of consulting children and youth on the **content of the new goals** is progressive. However, it is crucial that we also build on the momentum created by this and focus thinking **beyond just the process of the developing the new framework**.

Plan and Restless Development are therefore proposing the establishment of a “Children and Youth Accountability and Governance Task Team” who focus on this critical area, acting both as champions at an **international level** and supporting children and youth around the world to engage at the **national level**, engaging **during the negotiations and afterwards in the implementation** of the Post-2015 framework.

THE OBJECTIVES

Overall objective: To support children and youth to embed recommendations on their role in accountability and governance into the new development framework - thereby ensuring the role of children and youth in holding leaders to account on delivering the new development framework at the national level.

This will be done through the following steps:

1. Young people develop **recommended targets and indicators** on national level accountability mechanisms to be embedded in the post-2015 development framework.
2. The task team supports other children, youth and youth led organisations globally to **participate in the post 2015 process** and **influences the international and national level discussions** to

ensure that children and youth are prioritised as a key group within any governance / accountability goals, targets and indicators.

3. **From 2015 onwards**, the global network continues to bring together youth organisations involved in governance & accountability at the national level, **sharing learning** amongst them and with the wider sector, and **supporting children and youth** to meaningfully exercise their agency and to **hold their leaders to account in the implementation** of the finalised Post-2015 framework.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH & GOVERNANCE

The policy recommendations will be developed in a participatory process with young people, based on evidence gathered in the form of a literature review and primary research. A first draft will be prepared by the task team of youth representatives, supported by technical experts, at a workshop organised by Plan and Restless Development during the World Conference on Youth in Sri Lanka in May 2014. Feedback and inputs will be gathered afterwards with the wider youth constituency through different networks such as the Major Group of Children and Youth and the Beyond2015 Children and Youth Working Group. Further, we will seek to work with non-youth networks focused on governance and accountability where useful.

THE TASK TEAM

Restless Development and Plan will convene the Task team for the first 12 months, but the model of cooperation will be determined in discussion with the young people and youth organisations that want to be involved. Different partnership models are possible, and lessons can be learned from other coalition models. It is important that the work of the task team is flexible, open and transparent so youth organisations working in different contexts can join and learn from peer organisations. An initial discussion on the model will take place during the workshop to be held in Sri Lanka following the World Conference on Youth. Being part of the task team is currently on a voluntary basis and the task team, with support from Plan and Restless Development, will be collectively fundraising to cover its costs.

PROJECT PHASE

The below timeline shows the process of the project. The first steps are already being taken, coordinated by Plan and Restless Development.



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