

Job Description

Advisor, Child Protection in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction

October 2018 Version

Background

Children are among the most vulnerable in an emergency, whether a war or natural disaster. When lives are uprooted, child protection systems are often undermined or damaged. Strengthening child protection systems before, during and after emergencies is one of the most cost-effective ways to build resilience and promote sustainable development.

More than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters, with women, children and people in vulnerable situations disproportionately affected. There is an urgent need to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risks to protect people, their communities and livelihoods. Disaster risk reduction (DRR), to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience at all levels, is a critical strategic challenge as well as an opportunity for international humanitarian and development organizations. Children and youth as agents of change should be given the space, skills and tools to contribute to disaster risk reduction in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula.

ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-focused development organizations working in more than 60 countries. We help more than 14 million children, youth and their families to overcome poverty and the underlying conditions that prevent them from achieving their potential.

ChildFund Alliance played a key role in securing the inclusion of a target on violence against children in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: *End abuse, exploitation trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children* (Sustainable Development Goal [SDG] target 16.2).

In all of our work, ChildFund Alliance seeks to capitalize on the strengths of the children and young people we serve by working with them to influence change.

Our five-year strategic plan, [*Toward a World Safe for Children*](#), aims to:

- strengthen the collective capacities of our members to address protection of the physical, psychological and emotional health of children before, during and after disasters;
- mainstream DRR into regular programming and community development;
- build on successful youth-inclusive DRR models.

Role Outputs & Purpose

The Advisor for Child Protection in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction will strengthen ChildFund Alliance's expertise in and contribution to Child Protection in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Advisor will:

- Provide strategic leadership for Alliance members on major advocacy initiatives related to Child Protection in Emergencies.
- Train and strengthen capacity for field office response utilizing the Child Protection Minimum Standards <http://cpwg.net/minimum-standards/>.
- Coordinate member action on DRR strategy.¹
- Coordinate members' responses to small, large, sudden- and slow-onset disasters in alignment with the **Coordination Mechanism for Alliance Humanitarian Action**. (Available upon request.)
- Provide technical support to members, with a focus on Christian Children's Fund of Canada.²
- Provide leadership on advocacy within Canada.³
- Collaborate with external partners and networks specializing in children in humanitarian issues (displacement, climate change, etc.).

Key Responsibilities

Advocacy

- Actively engage in key networks at the global and regional level to leverage greater government, inter-governmental and donor support for Child Protection in Emergencies⁴ and Disaster Risk Reduction, and to prioritize Child Protection in all humanitarian responses:
 - Provide co-leadership of the Advocacy Working Group of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (ACPHA). Support ChildFund Alliance representation on the ACPHA Steering Committee.
 - Represent ChildFund Alliance on the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts.
 - Represent ChildFund Alliance on Advisory Board for the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, Children in a Changing Climate and other groups as required, such as UNISDR (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction).
 - Advocate for and support the participation of Alliance member agencies in global CPiE and DRR structures and processes as appropriate. Where possible, connect ChildFund Country Offices in humanitarian response to UN humanitarian advocacy in New York.
 - Contribute to Child Fund's external engagement on CPiE and DRR issues as they relate to children and youth: public speaking, media engagement as needed.

Coordination for members

- Provide leadership to an internal ChildFund Alliance Task Force on CPIE and DRR, inclusive of all interested members, as a platform to:
 - Support the process to build members' local CPIE capacity using the Child Protection Minimum Standards.
 - Convene and support members to incorporate meaningful child and youth engagement DRR strategies into members' development processes, and integrated DRR programs based on agreed principles and results framework.
- Share information via the Humanitarian Action Communications Unit (HACU), the centralized mechanism to inform members about current disasters and the response, including information about technical and financial support.⁵

Partnership Collaboration

- In collaboration with the ChildFund Alliance Secretary General, explore strategic partnerships with expert agencies operational in emergency response to enhance the Alliance's emergency response capacity.

Provide support to Alliance strategic priorities ⁶

- Support Alliance strategic priorities on Advocacy and Child-friendly Accountability as appropriate.

Intellectual capital

- Contribute to the Alliance's capacity to become a thought leader in violence prevention and child protection in emergencies.

Qualifications:

- Three to five years' experience in child protection at the field level, with an expertise in emergency response.
- Experience working in a federated or multi-national membership-based structure, engaging and balancing different members' interests and priorities.
- Demonstrated knowledge or experience with DRR.
- Experience advocating at the United Nations and its specialized agencies (UNICEF, OCHA, etc.).
- Strong knowledge of and commitment to international humanitarian law and principles, and children's rights.

- Familiarity with child-focused agencies collaborating toward similar goals.
- Flexibility and willingness to work with a range of members globally.
- Excellence in spoken and written English.
- Legal and personal ability to work in Canada.
- The Advisor for Child Protection in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction will perform all tasks in line with ChildFund Alliance’s Child Safeguarding Policy.

Location

Christian Children’s Fund of Canada
Toronto, Canada

Pre-employment Checks: Any Employment with ChildFund Alliance will be subject to the following checks prior to start date:

- a satisfactory police record check to include a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and/or an International Criminal Record Check (If applicable);
- receipt of satisfactory references;
- proof of eligibility to work in the national location for this role;
- a range of pre-employment checks in conformity with ChildFund Alliance’s child safeguarding policy.

Application procedure

To apply, send a résumé and cover letter to jobs@childfundalliance.org, with the subject line “Advisor, Child Protection in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction.” The position will remain open until the position is filled.

Footnotes

¹ Disaster Risk Reduction strategy:

- Support members in mapping child protection risks and local child protection mechanisms that can be strengthened for use in emergency response.
- Compile a Toolbox on the above, which members can adapt within their existing programs.
- Conduct training on the Toolbox.
- Create a platform for sharing information among members.
- Adapt the Child-friendly Accountability model to engage youth in safe DRR strategies at the community level.
- Promote meaningful youth leadership and engagement in community-level DRR processes.

² Phase One: Conduct Fit for Purpose Assessment

- Assess Emergency DRR and emergency response (ER) policies
- Assess all committee engagements
- Assess ER experience globally
- Assess HR policy
- Child Protection Programming Review
 - Provide recommendations for the above

Phase Two: Implementation

- Provide capacity building for countries of operation
- Establish clear communications

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- Provide technical assistance for fundraising

³ Provide leadership on advocacy within Canada:

- a. Representation/participation in the International Child Protection Network of Canada.
- b. Engage with the Humanitarian Response Network of Canada <http://www.humanitarianresponse.ca/about>
 - i. Lead introduction of CCFC for entry to <https://www.humanitariancoalition.ca>

⁴ Child Protection in Emergencies is defined as the prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children in times of emergencies caused by natural or human-made disasters, conflicts or other crisis. It involves specific activities by child protection actors whether national or community based and or by humanitarian staff and others supporting local capacity.

⁵ The Humanitarian Assistance Communication Unit (HACU) exists to facilitate rapid communication to ChildFund Alliance Members about the nature of a humanitarian crisis, and the proposed response of the Lead Member agency in the affected country. This facilitates fundraising between Members to assist the Lead Member in supporting disaster-affected communities.

⁶ As defined in *Toward a Safe World for Children: Strategic Plan for 2016-2021*.