

# TOWARD a **SAFE** **WORLD** for children

## Child-Friendly Accountability in the Context of Target 16.2 of the SDGs

### Background

Children have an inherent and universal right to a life free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, and to survival and development. Yet today, more than 1 billion children — about half the world's children — experience violence every year. (CDC)

Governments are responsible for ensuring children's right to protection against violence. In most parts of the world, however, children have no voice, no platform, and are not meaningfully engaged in decisions that affect their protection and access to recourse.

In September 2015, the international community adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 16.2

seeks to end violence against children. ChildFund Alliance is launching a Child-friendly Accountability initiative that will contribute to achieving this ambition.

Child-friendly accountability improves child protection and reduces violence against children by providing children and youth and their communities with knowledge about their rights and the child protection system. It enables them to monitor child protection systems, engage in an informed dialogue with decision-makers and work with key stakeholders to realize positive change at the community and national level.

### Goal

The central goal of this Child-friendly Accountability initiative



is to empower children to hold governments and local leaders accountable to their obligations to end all violence against children, as per SDG Target 16.2.

## Activities

The Child-friendly Accountability activities fall under three pillars of work, which build on each other.

### **Pillar One (Assessment): Knowledge building and fostering understanding**

Children and youth will be trained in child rights, violence prevention and child protection. They will identify laws and policies related to child protection and violence against children. They will produce child-friendly versions of these laws and policies, which they will upload to a custom-designed app. They will undertake preliminary evaluation of the protection laws, policies and capacity at the community, local, provincial and national levels.

ChildFund Alliance and its partners will lead public information campaigns about the initiative. Where possible, they will encourage mainstreaming child rights education into

school and community programs.

### **Pillar 2 (Analysis): Monitoring performance and accountability in the child protection system**

Children and youth and their communities will identify and map the child protection system. They will identify key child protection actors, mandates and mechanisms and how they function, and upload this information to the app. Using the app, they will report on protection gaps and bottlenecks. They will discuss their findings and the protection gaps with parent-teacher associations, local authorities, community leaders and other youth through focus group discussions and workshops.

### **Pillar 3 (Action): Advocacy, social mobilization and direct action**

Children, youth and their communities will identify concrete ways to improve the child protection system in their communities. Through advocacy, social mobilization and direct action they will work with duty bearers to bring about change from the community level to the national level.



Parents, teachers, youth, community leaders and other key actors will be regularly provided with the results of the advocacy and direct action.

## Innovation

A central component of the Child-friendly Accountability initiative is the development and hosting of a child-friendly SMS- and web-based application. The app is an interactive tool that empowers children and youth to access resources and child protection actors, raise awareness about their rights, report on gaps and bottlenecks in the child protection system and work towards improvement and change.

The initiative also includes a field manual and a toolbox.

## Beneficiaries and Impact

Child-friendly activities will be implemented as part of interventions where ChildFund Alliance members have ongoing programs.

The initiative adopts a phased approach. During the first phase,

in-school children and out-of-school children ages 13 to 17 will be engaged. Youth between 18 and 25 years may be integrated as appropriate. At a later date, groups in other protection settings will be engaged.

## Keeping Children Safe

ChildFund Alliance has developed a risk mitigation strategy to keep children safe during all activities. Child-friendly Accountability focuses exclusively on monitoring the performance and accountability of the child protection system; it does not monitor incidents of violence or children's individual experiences with the child protection system.

## Partnership and Scale-up

The Child-friendly Accountability initiative is designed to complement the larger efforts of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and other joint actions focused on achieving SDG Target 16.2. Activities should complement and facilitate data-sharing, coordination and interconnectivity between existing child protection monitoring mechanisms, including those specifically focused on monitoring the SDGs.

Over time, ChildFund will engage local and international partners to contribute to the implementation of Child-friendly Accountability, thereby increasing its scale and impact.



## Implementation Plan

The Child-friendly Accountability methodology will be finalized and rolled out as follows:

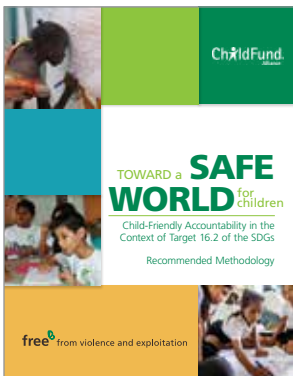
- Draft Field Manual (November 2016 – February 2017)
- Draft Toolbox (December 2016 – April 2017)
- Induction Workshop (February 2017)
- Develop app (February – June 2017)
- Mini-pilot in Mexico and Vietnam (May 2017)
- Training for staff in implementing countries (June 2017)
- Action plans for implementation in participating countries (First quarter 2017)
- Launch Child-friendly Accountability in pilot countries (August 2017)

The following countries will first implement Child-friendly Accountability:

- El Salvador
- India
- Indonesia
- Kiribati
- Mexico
- Papua New Guinea (pending confirmation)
- Paraguay
- Philippines
- South Korea (pending confirmation)
- Sri Lanka
- Uganda
- Vietnam

Ultimately, the initiative will be implemented in all countries where ChildFund Alliance members are active.

As a result of this initiative, formal and informal child protection systems will better prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and will be accountable to children and their communities.



The Child-friendly Accountability methodology is available at <http://cfa.ms/CFAcc-method>

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