

**TO:** ChildFund Alliance CEO Forum  
**FROM:** APC, represented by co-chairs Naomi Rutenberg and Shona Jennings  
**DATE:** For CEO Forum, June 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Climate change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Paper

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**Content of this memo:** This memo provides an overview of the *Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Paper*.

**Request to the CEOs:** Endorsement of the Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Paper for internal usage and external usage.

**Recommendation to the CEOs:** We would like to recommend next-stage research incorporating a more structured survey involving country offices and Alliance members to canvas opportunities to bring EVAC and ECC closer together in programming. This will be conducted in the second half of 2021, before the Online Safety campaign fully kicks in. While the APC can lead this survey, we recommended that we do so with the involvement of the Advocacy Task Force and CPIHA&DRR. The survey will produce an analysis of appetite and programming opportunities for EVAC and CC as 'hand-in-hand' issues. This may also provide information that could be helpful in the development of the ToR for the fact-finding research on EVAC and ECC already proposed by the CEOs in Strategic Plan discussions, which sit under the purview of the Secretariat. It will also build on research already undertaken by Barnfonden [Investigating-climate-change-and-violence-against-children\\_FINAL-1.pdf \(barnfonden.se\)](#) and by a Lund University Masters Student: *An examination of contextual drivers of vulnerabilities that increase violence against children: A paper recording evidence from five ChildFund Alliance members' programmes*.

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**Presentation of Climate/Environment paper:** Please note that when the *Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Paper* was presented to the Secretariat, it was determined that this was not what was expected. Please see our recommendation in the APC report for the need for a clear terms of reference before a body of work of this magnitude is embarked upon in future.

**Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Paper.**

The *Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Paper* was written, based on the *Gender Equality Position Paper*. As with the gender paper, it is at times more aspirational than applied for some members. The paper was developed in consultation with the CPIHA and ATF. It aligns with and supports the Environmental Sustainability standards (see Appendix 1). We expect it to be used in a similar way to the *Gender Equality Position Paper*, see Table 1. The *Gender Equality Position Paper* was originally developed to guide and improve our work across the Alliance (internal purpose) and to serve an accountability function (external purpose); and has been used, particularly by non-implementing organisations who may work with several Alliance members, to demonstrate to donors/accountability forums a shared expectation across the membership.<sup>1</sup> The *Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability paper* carries forward this dual purpose of guidance and accountability.

The APC would like to see the *Gender Equality* and *Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Papers* made better use of within the Alliance. Please see the APC work plan FY22 and our recommendation for the formation of Interest Groups/Communities of Practice to understand how workstream improvements can be taken forward into programming. Note: the APC held a learning and reflection session on the *Gender Equality Position Paper* at our APC meeting, November 2020, and lessons from this meeting have guided the development of ToRs for these Interest Groups/CoPs (these have been prepared and but have not yet been signed off by the APC).

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<sup>1</sup> There is some confusion about this as the paper is stored in the Members Only part of the Alliance website but freely available through a Google search.

**Table 1: APC members' use of Gender Equality Position Paper as recorded in September 2020**

Gender Paper Use	# members using it for this purpose	Gender Paper Use	# members using it for this purpose
Guide in funding applications	4	Program practice	5
Accountability reporting	3	In other ways	3
Policy revisions	4		

**APPENDIX 1: Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Paper alignment with ChildFund Alliance Environmental Sustainability Standards**

Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Paper reference	Alignment with the ChildFund Alliance Environmental Sustainability Policy
<b>POSITION 1:</b> Children and young people have the inalienable right to live in a safe and healthy environment and to be included as vital actors for a sustainable future. This is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which is mainstreamed across the work of all ChildFund Alliance members.	Preface
<b>POSITION 2:</b> We support children and young people to take their ideas and expectations into processes where decisions are made about their future, increasing their knowledge and awareness about climate change and environmental stewardship.	Standard 1
<b>POSITION 3:</b> To uphold the rights of children and youth, we work at all levels of a community to identify disaster risks and address them. We develop appropriate and sustainable mitigation, adaptation and preparedness strategies, thereby building community resilience.	Standard 2
<b>POSITION 4:</b> To ensure children and young people are protected, ChildFund's approaches are underpinned by INSPIRE, a model that promotes holistic strategies for ending violence against children.	Standard 1 Standard 2
<b>POSITION 5:</b> When adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts aren't enough to keep disasters at bay, we support children and youth and their families by providing support, emergency response and recovery assistance, working where possible to build humanitarian-development linkages.	Standard 1 Standard 2
<b>POSITION 6:</b> We acknowledge that every person, organisation and country has a responsibility to reduce their carbon emissions and contribute to the restoration and improvement of the natural environment.	Standard 4
<b>POSITION 7:</b> We urge civil society and governments everywhere to act for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and for governments globally to pledge their support and direct funding towards promoting low emission and climate resilient development, including additional support for low-income countries.	Standard 1