

TO: ChildFund Alliance CEO Forum

FROM: APC, represented by co-chairs Naomi Rutenberg (ChildFund International) and Shona Jennings (Barnfonden)

DATE: For CEO Forum, June 2021

SUBJECT: Annual Report FY21 and Work Plan FY22

Activities, Achievements and Lessons FY21: Despite many competing priorities this year including extensive work on the Program Choices Working Group and Covid-19 Response Plan, APC members delivered four webinars, produced a learning paper from one of these webinars (child labour), surveyed use of the Gender position paper, held four meetings including 2 x half day reflection meetings, and wrote a Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability position paper.

We have had valued engagement with ATF, CPiHA and CMC this year. We initiated a joint meeting in August and hope that the Secretariat will continue to coordinate these joint discussions.

Covid-19 has been challenging for everyone in the Alliance. Key lessons we take from this year, based on our webinars, include:

- Our work demonstrates strong alignment with the socio-ecological model (touching on child, family, community, local leadership, national governments, global community).
- Covid-19 responses have included a wide range of initiatives, from the increased use of cash transfers, to household supplies distribution (sometimes involving youth), the use of radio and online methods for learning, to awareness campaigns and child protection systems strengthening.
- Country offices and local partners have really risen to the challenge of operating remotely, with many trainings and workshops being delivered online.
- Members have been quick to recognize additional protection risks for children and pivoted to ensure robust child protection messaging and programming was integrated into the Covid-19 response.

At times during the year, the APC struggled with alignment with the CEO expectations. We would like to recommend that for any major body of work to be undertaken at the request of the CEOs, a terms of reference is written to ensure we all share the same understanding of the purpose and expected content of this work.

Comments concerning upcoming workplan, FY22:

The work plan for FY22 will be very dependent on the EVAC campaign recommendations. As a priority, the APC commit to supporting this roll-out and to learning all we can on this topic, and to ensuring Online Safety is well-implemented across the ChildFund Alliance. We would like to develop a position paper on this subject (as with Gender and CC Adaptation and Environment). We would also like to make it a key focus for our learning.

Webinars have involved many people, including country office staff (around 60-70 people per session). It has been a good way of previewing what is happening around the Alliance, but we cannot measure how this has led to improved programming. People value sharing as well as listening, so our intention for FY22 is to establish a meeting structure that allows for this.

As a way of learning and connecting around the EVAC campaign – and on other topics which Alliance members feel pertinent – we recommend holding APC meetings every month. Two APC members will be assigned to each meeting. They will use this time to present, ask questions, stimulate discussion or facilitate any other activity they feel will add value to our learning in the Alliance. Online Safety will be the recommended topic, but the members assigned to each session can choose either that topic, or another. These sessions will provide a space where members can recognise and discuss programming alignments and explore practice. We imagine some of the outputs generated from these discussions might, for instance, cascade certain lessons, tools or practice to the broader constituency of the Alliance, including country offices. A ToR will be written to guide these sessions and ensure they are documented. We would like to track how they lead to tangible actions.

We recognise that the *Gender Equality and Climate Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability Position Papers* need further support. Recommendations for Gender improvements were canvassed in Sept/Oct last year and included in the report prepared for the CEOs November meeting. It was recommended (by the CEOs and APC) that subject matter interest groups form to improve practice across the Alliance. This would be a community of practice/interest group for any Alliance, country office or local partner member to join and contribute to. It would not be a sub-group of the APC. However, any Alliance-wide programming propositions could be channelled through the APC and taken higher, as necessary. A ToR has been drafted and will be submitted to the next APC meeting (Barnfonden has led this ToR development and is willing to provide a staff member to drive forward the gender interest group. A similar environmental interest group could also be formed). The Secretariat would provide space on the internal web platform and help coordinate meetings.

Finally, we recommend that communication products requested of and/or produced by the APC receive the support of communication expertise and guidance from the Secretariat (as with the child labour paper) and that adequate budget is assigned to publication design. This will facilitate alignment of committee products with the messaging and tone of other Secretariat communication products. The workplan process is a good opportunity to ensure that APC ambitions are aligned with Secretariat resources for effective outputs.

REPORT ON FY21

ACTIVITY	STATUS
Gender Position Paper	Completed. This is on the ChildFund Alliance website. A report to the CEOs was produced in August demonstrating how Alliance members are using this paper.
Environmental sustainability standards	Completed. The APC co-chairs participated in the working group preparing these standards. Feedback was sought from the APC and feedback was submitted in September.
Environment and Climate Change Position Paper	Presented for CEO approval. The APC produced this paper. There was an understanding that it would fulfil the same function as the Gender Position Paper and the paper was written with this approach. There was good collaboration with the CPIHA and ATF.
Programme Choices	Completed. The APC participated in feedback.
Convene a learning platform to deliver webinars relating to Covid-19 and EVAC/child protection. The expectation is for	Four conducted <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July: Sport for Development 2. August: Sexual Exploitation of Children (co-hosted by Advocacy Task Force)

six webinars from July 2020-July 2021	<p>3. January: Child Labour 68 participants</p> <p>4. April: Child protection in Humanitarian Action with a localisation perspective. 67 participants.</p> <p>A fifth webinar is suggested for later in FY21.</p>
Convene four APC meetings, of which three will also be used to reflect on lessons learnt from webinars, opportunities and ways forward, to engage with lessons from learning platforms	Completed. APC meetings were held in August, two half-day meetings were held in November with a strong learning focus, a meeting in April and another in May.
One or two of the Webinars will be developed into a ChildFund Alliance briefing paper which will be published for external dissemination.	One paper written. A paper has been submitted to the Secretariat on lessons from the Child Labour webinar. This is being designed by Children Believe and will be ready by 9th June in time for World Day Against Child Labour.
Joint coordination meeting of all the various Committee and Task Force chairs	New activity: A meeting was held at the APCs request in August 2020 to share work plans and investigate synergies, overlaps and opportunities. There was a desire for increased participation and joint meetings, however this happened only the once.

WORK PLAN FY22:

TOPIC	ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS
EVAC campaign: Online Safety.	Alignment with Secretariat's plan: How do we integrate with that? Develop a Position paper to help guide programming and work across the Alliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Await recommendations from EVAC campaign working group and Secretariat. <p>DATE: ?</p>
Monthly peer learning/discussion APC meetings.	Key focus on learning especially (but not limited to) EVAC campaign (Recognise the need to upskill people on Online safety programming). 2 x members present each meeting. Make these interactive. Have time for questions, discussions and idea contributions. Check opportunities relating to 'Year of...' and any other key events in 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ToR for meeting format •11 x monthly APC learning/discussion meetings. <p>Tracking survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •# and nature of collaborations stemming from sessions. •# and nature of tools/practice improvements stemming from sessions. <p>DATE: July-Nov; Jan-June.</p>
Gender and Climate Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability papers	Topic-specific interest group formation. This is not an APC task per se, but a member-driven initiative which can link through the APC for any higher-level decisions that might require organisational support. The APC chairs would give support to ToR development and establishment to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support for interest group formation and ToR development. •Annual survey on the use of the gender paper. •Annual survey on use of environment paper.

	ensure the groups have clear guidance as to their purpose and expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Formation of two interest groups. •Six-monthly report received from group.
Development of EVAC & Environment/climate change programming	Conduct research early June/July on programming opportunities (see separate paper submitted to CEOs). Support Secretariat-led external research. Members interested in this space are discussing and collaborating independent of the APC/Secretariat. However the topic should remain on the radar of the APC and Secretariat, who should also commence research in this space with the next campaign in mind (as per strategy recommendation). This includes finding opportunities to segue from Online Safety to EVAC/ECC, should it become Program Choice #2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Report: potential programme opportunities relating EVAC and CC. <p>DATE: Report to CEOs by Oct 2021.</p>
SDGs: how we measure our work against the SDGs	This topic was suggested as we are currently not reporting as an Alliance on our contribution to the SDGs. Is this something the Secretariat should facilitate as it cuts across all committees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Summary report produced: How are other NGOs tracking their contribution to the SDGs? What opportunities are there for us? <p>DATE: February 2022.</p>
More coordinated activities with ATF, GSC, CPIHA	As we develop positions and approaches, these two task forces need to be engaged with the APC, while recognising their personnel are typically situated within program teams. Recommend coordination by Secretariat.	
Face to Face in Nov 2022	Two days of sitting together, discussing approaches and improvements, planning, networking is important for our work together, especially as we adopt Online Safety – an approach many of us are thus far not well acquainted with. We also value the connection with the CEOs. It is recommended that when the CEOs meet in Nov 22, the APC also meets together, and with the CEOs. Request CEO approval. Recommend members plan and budget for this in FY22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Face-to-face meeting <p>DATE: November 2022.</p>