

## REPORT TO CEO FORUM – JUNE 2020

The Advocacy Task Force (ATF) continues to strengthen Alliance advocacy capacity and expand the global and regional reach of its advocacy efforts:

### ▪ **Updated Governance**

- ✓ In January, the ATF elects a new co-chair (Macarena Cespedes, from EDUCO) to lead the Task Force with Co-Chair Erin Kennedy (International).
- ✓ The election process resulted in the ATF amending its Terms of Reference (ToRs) to include provisions for officially selecting Task Force co-chairs and enforcing term limits that require one of the two co-chairs to rotate out each year.

### ▪ **Regional Advocacy Initiatives**

- ✓ The ATF adopted ToR terms for organizing regional advocacy working groups in Asia, Latin America and Africa, to start.
- ✓ The ToRs permit regional groups to designate up to two regional ChildFund advocacy representatives, who act as regional focal points for the Alliance.
- ✓ The Task Force designed and distributed a special spreadsheet application allowing country-level ChildFund staff to record regional advocacy contacts, regional coalition partners and up-coming advocacy opportunities in their region. The collected data will map Alliance advocacy efforts at the regional level.

### ▪ **Advocacy Briefs**

- ✓ With the Secretariat, the Task Force oversaw the development of Alliance Advocacy Briefs, which are collective position statements with explicit policy asks.
- ✓ In March, the ATF approved content for the first brief on *Ending Violence Against Children*, which will be available to members this Summer.
- ✓ The Task Force intends to issue a second brief on *Violence Prevention* by the end of the year, then two-to-three briefs each year thereafter.

### ▪ **Research Report: Child Agency as a Method of Violence Prevention**

- ✓ The Task Force is developing a robust research report exploring if engaging children in activities that spur agency (like the Child-Friendly Accountability Initiative) impacts whether they participate in violent activities later in their lives?
- ✓ The research methodology will be designed and implemented by two graduate students from Columbia University's prestigious Mailman School of Public Health.
- ✓ The Secretariat will use the results to develop a draft for the ATF's review in mid-September, anticipating an October date for releasing the final report.
- ✓ The report is intended to support the Joining Forces policy brief on Children's Agency & Right to be Heard, which is being developed with ChildFund Alliance as the lead agency and is scheduled to be released on 20 November at a Universal Children's Day virtual global youth forum.



▪ **ATF Engagement and Call Frequency**

- ✓ With new advocacy challenges in FY21, the Task Force is increasing the frequency of its calls to twice a month
- ✓ Member engagement has also increased. For example, almost all the members of the ATF were involved in development of the new ChildFund Alliance strategic plan.
- ✓ Beyond coordinating common advocacy activities, the ATF is a great opportunity for learning and sharing best practices.
- ✓ FY21 will be a challenging and exciting year for Alliance advocacy. While it is currently under review with the CEO's, the umbrella advocacy initiative under the FY21 Plan will expand the Task Force's role and responsibilities as the Alliance moves through its strategic planning process.