

## Accountable Now session for ChildFund Alliance Program Committee members

Accountable Now's Executive Director Rocio Moreno and Programme Manager Ezgi Akarsu will talk about the [12 Accountability Commitments](#) and dynamic accountability, the [annual accountability reporting mechanism](#), and other opportunities Accountable Now members enjoy. Building on discussions with the CEOs earlier in the day, they will explore together with you how each ChildFund member can best use the reporting mechanism. There will be plenty of time to ask questions you may have about putting together the report, or any other aspect of membership. Below is some key information that will be covered in the session.

### Dynamic Accountability

Dynamic Accountability is a systemic approach to CSO accountability that goes beyond transparency and static, traditional forms of accountability. It is grounded in processes of **meaningful engagement with all stakeholders** that are inclusive, participatory and continuously practiced.

Dynamic Accountability is about **creating a transformational relationship between a CSO and its stakeholders**. It implies the need to make a whole organisation's way of working adaptive to these stakeholders' needs. This includes redressing unequal power dynamics and building mutual partnerships with all stakeholders.

This is necessary to truly achieve systemic change in the form of a power shift within and outside the organisation, towards the people a CSO works for and with. Relationship-building enables different stakeholders to be part of this power-shift agenda. In this way **the people we work for and with become the recognised drivers of the CSO work that affects their own lives**.

### What do we mean by "all stakeholders"?

CSOs usually have multiple people and institutions that affect and are affected by its work. These include:

- ▶ Primary constituents – "beneficiaries", "affected populations", "people we work with/for"
- ▶ Partner organisations
- ▶ Staff
- ▶ Donors
- ▶ Decision-makers/governments



Engaging all of these stakeholder groups is central to Dynamic Accountability. Partner organisations are key in fostering local connections, building on existing capacities, and working well in the local context. If an organisation neglects its accountability to its own staff, those staff members are unlikely to see the value in meaningfully engaging with the people they work for and with. Donors, governments, and other authorities are key in allowing CSOs to operate – an open, trusting and cooperative relationship is therefore key for them to see the value in the CSO's work, and makes it more likely they will be supportive during challenging times.

That said, we still see the **people that CSOs work with and for as the key stakeholder group**. They should be driving the CSO's strategy and outputs. In situations where there might not be enough time or resources to engage all stakeholders thoroughly, when there may be conflicting opinions, or when it comes to programmatic work, this is the stakeholder group that CSOs should always ensure they listen to.

#### Key tenets in a nutshell:

- ▶ Meaningful stakeholder engagement
- ▶ Inclusive, participatory and responsive
- ▶ Let people's voices drive our decision-making
- ▶ Continuous dialogue with stakeholders and improvements based on feedback; closing the feedback loop
- ▶ Wide range of stakeholders – internal as well as external – but “primary constituents” are key
- ▶ Agile and adaptive programming
- ▶ Reduce power imbalances and build mutual partnerships

If you would like to read more about Dynamic Accountability, we have put together a comprehensive *draft* [concept note](#) (please do not share further at this stage). We're happy to receive your feedback!

## Annual Reporting Mechanism

Accountable Now members report annually against a set of questions based on the 12 Accountability Commitments. We aim to have a timely, user-friendly reporting process which drives conversations, learning, and improvement around accountability in the organisation.

You will find [on our website](#) information and documents detailing our **reporting framework and questions**. We also have a [guidance document](#) outlining our minimum expectations, exemplary practice, and some examples from members to help with the compilation of reports.

To reduce the reporting burden, we are **flexible with the format of reports**. Some members use the report to communicate more broadly about their work and present the information in more of a storytelling style, or address questions in a different order. If the information we are asking for exists elsewhere (other reports, online) we are



happy for you to provide links. As long as there is a clear annex pointing us to the relevant information for each question, we are happy!

### What are we looking for?

- ▶ **Evidence of implementation:** whilst policies and descriptions of processes are important, we want to see examples of how these actually work in practice
- ▶ **Learning and improvement:** the report identifies areas of relative strengths and weaknesses in the organisation, is open about challenges, talks about learnings, and explains plans for improvement in future
- ▶ **Institutional and systematic commitment** to dynamic accountability: we want to see that top leadership is supportive of and drives accountability, and that people from across the organisation (not just monitoring and evaluation leads) are involved in discussions and processes.

### Reporting timeline

Members are required to submit **annual accountability reports** to Accountable Now. Reports should be **submitted six months after the end of the financial year** the report covers. When the Independent Review Panel has gained sufficient confidence in a member's accountability performance, they can be moved to **biennial reporting** (i.e. every two years). This means that members have to submit a full detailed report every two years and an interim report covering significant organisational changes and progress on areas for improvement as identified by the Panel every other year.

