

Child-friendly Accountability Coordinator Speaks at Paraguay Seminar on Child Participation



From 11 to 15 November, ChildFund Alliance’s Child-friendly Accountability Coordinator, Faith Nimineh, attended the second International Seminar on Children’s Participation and Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 and visited ChildFund’s Paraguay country office. Faith was one of several international guest speakers at the event, hosted by Children Believe (formerly Christian Children’s Fund of Canada), SOS Children’s Villages, and Plan International, in collaboration with the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence of Paraguay and the National Network of Childhood and Adolescence. Other ChildFund speakers included Jorge Méndez Rheineck and María Isabel López, both of Children Believe.

A major objective of the conference was to share local, national and international initiatives to eradicate violence against children. Nimineh delivered a presentation on the experience of implementing the "Child-friendly Accountability" methodology internationally, focusing on methods employed by ChildFund Alliance members to integrate the methodology within existing programs that target children and youth in communities and school settings. She highlighted the role of young people as part of a global network of youth who participated in the UN High Level Political Forum in July and called on world leaders to listen to children and do more to prevent violence.

More than 250 participants attended the seminar in Paraguay, including young people from Paraguay’s Child-friendly Accountability project. At its conclusion, organizers signed a declaration to unify efforts to accelerate implementation of SDG 16.2. The declaration specifically highlighted the interest and willingness of governments, civil society, children and young people to promote the fulfillment of SDG 16.2 and related goals at the national, regional and global levels.

Joining ChildFund Alliance in supporting the event were the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, the International Institute of Children and Adolescents (IIN) of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Global partnership to End Violence against Children, the Latin America and the Caribbean chapter of the World Movement for Children (MMI-LAC), and the Latin America and Caribbean regional offices of SOS Children’s Villages and Plan International.



During her visit, Faith also facilitated a training session for staff members of Children Believe focused on reinforcing the use of the Child-Friendly Accountability Initiative's core materials and web-based platform. She also joined María Isabel López, Country Director of Children Believe, on a field visit to the Paraguayan community of Remansito, where the Child-friendly Accountability project is being implemented.

The group saw first-hand the work young people in the community are undertaking, including efforts to map community resources, identify gaps in child protection, document commitments by duty-bearers, and present their findings to officials for redress. The young people shared that they are using the knowledge and skills gained from their involvement with the initiative to bring about change and support younger children in their community.