



# CHILD FRIENDLY ACCOUNTABILITY

Educo's experience in El Salvador



## AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. The CFA initiative
3. Educo's CFA experience in El Salvador
4. Final evaluation of the CFA initiative
5. Perspectives and next steps for Educo
6. Questions and Answers

# The Child Friendly Accountability Initiative

# A little bit of context...

- ChildFund Alliance has played a key role in the inclusion of an SDG specifically focused on violence against children – 16.2 Free from violence campaign.
- The CFA methodology aims to contribute to target 16.2 through child and adolescent-led initiatives to strengthen child protection systems and increase government accountability in this area.
- The theory of change and the CFA methodology are linked to the INSPIRE strategies and should contribute to 6 of them.
- The approach also aims to contribute to the two cross-cutting strategies of INSPIRE: multi-sectoral and coordination actions, as well as monitoring and evaluation.



# What are the goals of CFA?

**Improve knowledge and understanding** of child rights and protection among children, young people, their communities and duty bearers.

**Improve children's capacity to participate meaningfully** by holding decision-makers to account for their obligations to prevent and respond to violence against children.

**Improve the capacity of children and their communities to work with duty bearers to strengthen the child protection system** in their communities and countries.

**Overall objective:** to strengthen children's capacities to hold governments to account and thus contribute to the strengthening of protection systems.

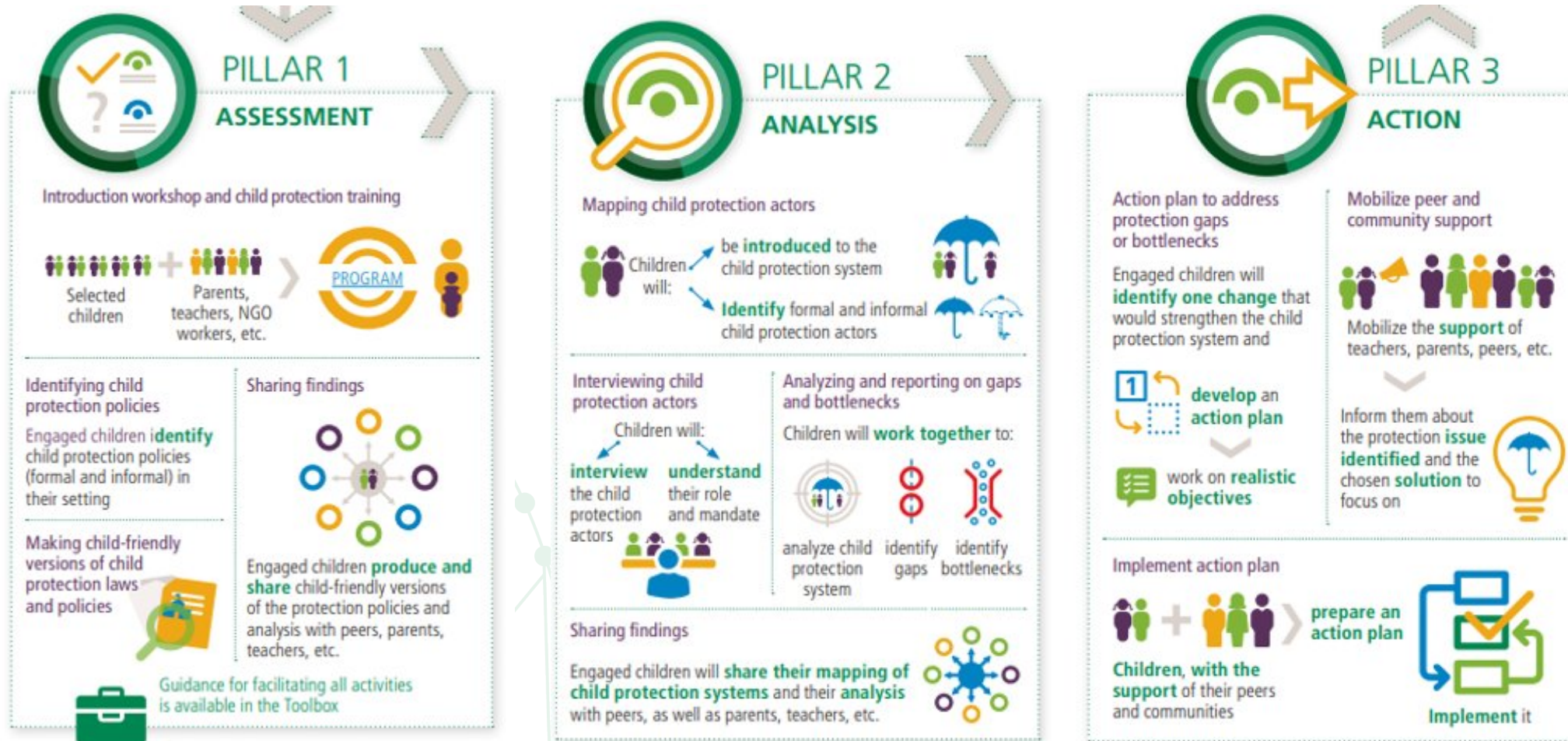
# How does CFA work?

- CFA focuses on monitoring the effectiveness and accountability of child protection systems.
- It is not about monitoring individual cases of violence.
- The main direct participants are adolescents between 13 and 17 years old.
- The methodology is designed to be applied with both in-school and out-of-school children.
- The systems assessed so far include schools and education systems and the part of the protection system applicable to out-of-school children in communities.



# Summary of the CFA methodology

The CFA methodology is based around 3 pillars:



# Summary of the CFA methodology

## Preparatory activities

**1** CONDUCT CONTEXT ASSESSMENT



**2** SELECT PROJECT SETTING AND LOCAL PARTNER



**3** UNDERTAKE RISK ASSESSMENT



**4** CONNECT WITH KEY ADULT STAKEHOLDERS



**5** IDENTIFY REFERRAL NETWORK



**6** IDENTIFY PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



**8** SELECT CHILD PARTICIPANTS



**7** SIGN UP TO THE CFACC WEB-BASED PLATFORM



**9** ESTABLISH INTERNAL FEEDBACK & COMPLAINTS MECHANISM



**10** RECONFIRM CHILD SAFEGUARDING MEASURES






# Child protection: essential elements



- A **Child Protection Protocol** and **Child Participation Protocol**, as well as a basic **child protection training** are essential.
- A **referral system** must be put in place before implementation starts, with formal or informal child protection actors as available in the context (real risk that children will report violence through the system or seek assistance).
- A **psychosocial support system** should be available to engaged children (who may experience psychological stress, even secondary trauma in extreme cases, as a result of learning about and engaging with child protection issues).
- Participating children must have regular **access to information, feedback and support**, and an internal accountability mechanism.

# When and where has the CFA initiative been implemented?

 Pilot in 4 countries March-September 2017: Mexico, Paraguay, Vietnam, India.


 2018: Grant from Oak Foundation to implement in 10 countries.

03

04


Roll-out since 2018: El Salvador (Educo), Burkina Faso, India, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, South Korea- Seoul, Tanzania, Uganda. 

01

 2016: creation of CFA methodology

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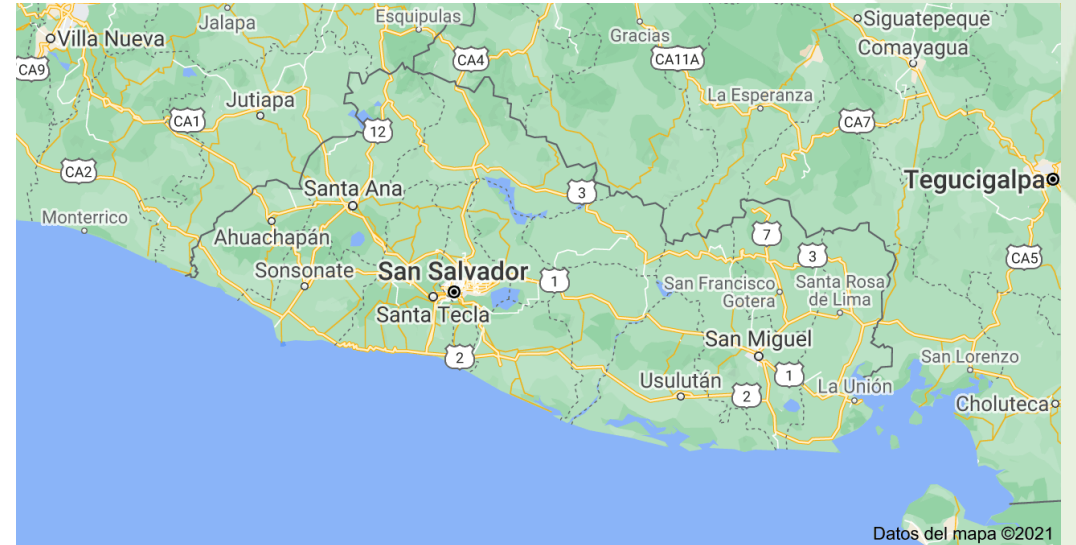
 Roll-out since end of 2017: Mexico, Paraguay, India, Philippines, Uganda.



# Educo's experience with CFA in El Salvador

# Pilot in Educo El Salvador 2018-2020

- Integration of the approach in two existing projects, 25 participants aged between 13 and 17:
  - School (student government) in **San Simón**. Selected framework of analysis: the school's internal regulations.
  - Adolescents and Youth House in **Santa Clara**. Selected analytical framework: Municipal policy for the promotion of children's rights.
- Staff: two field officers with experience in youth mobilisation processes; 1 technical governance advisor; 4 facilitators, employees of the municipalities involved.



# Activities carried out

**Preliminary actions:** Socialisation of the methodology to the technical team; analysis of potential areas of implementation; socialisation of the methodology with stakeholders...

**Pillar 1 (Assessment):** Meetings with stakeholders; training and awareness-raising process; risk mapping for children and adolescents; definition of regulations; mapping of actors...

**Pillar 2 (Analysis):** Interviews with stakeholders; identification of gaps; bottleneck approach; feedback with stakeholders; child-friendly version of policy proposal...

**Pillar 3 (Action):** Construction of action plan; promotion of child-friendly policy; socialisation of new internal regulations to school management; advocacy for institutional accompaniment in the creation of the policy...



Training, analysis and construction of alternatives led by the adolescents and young people participating in the CFA project.

Adolescents and young people participating in the CFA project exercise their participation rights in local and national intersectoral spaces, with the presence of obligation and responsibility holders.





Doctor from the  
Community Health  
Unit

Interviews conducted  
by adolescent and  
youth participants  
with duty bearers.



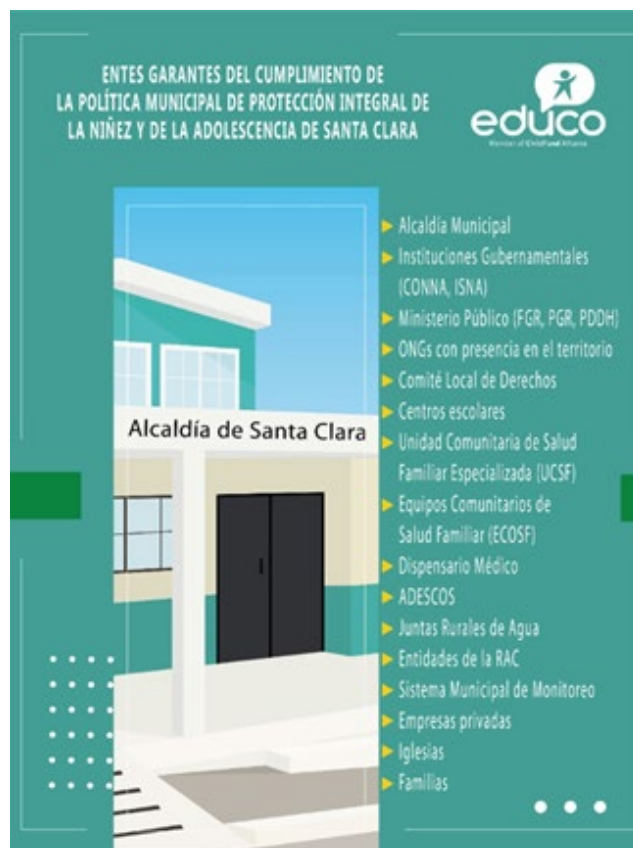
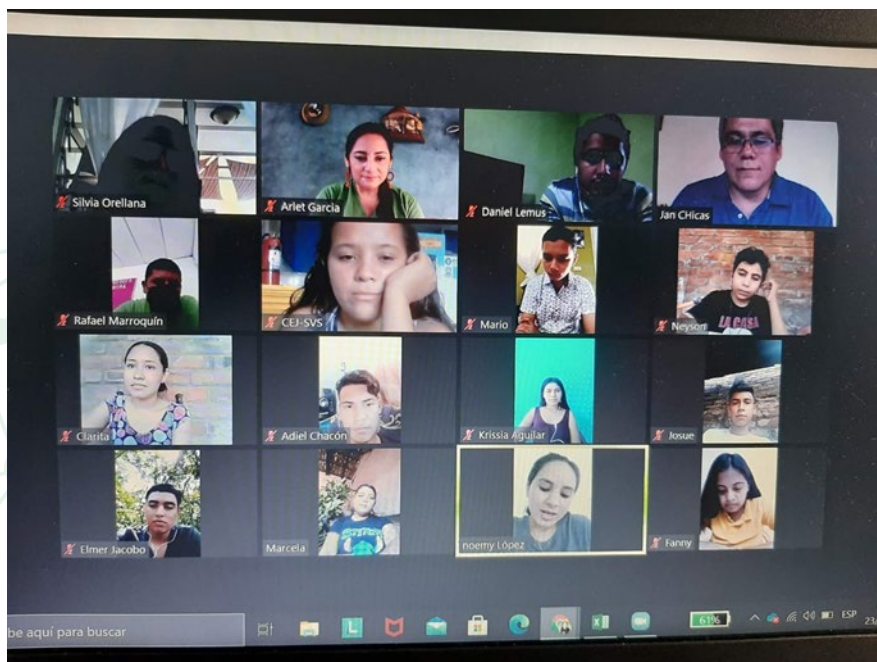
Deputy Inspector  
of the National  
Civil Police

Municipal Mayor





Children, adolescents and young people participate in the creation of the child-friendly version of the Santa Clara's Municipal policy for the promotion of children's rights, and infographics.

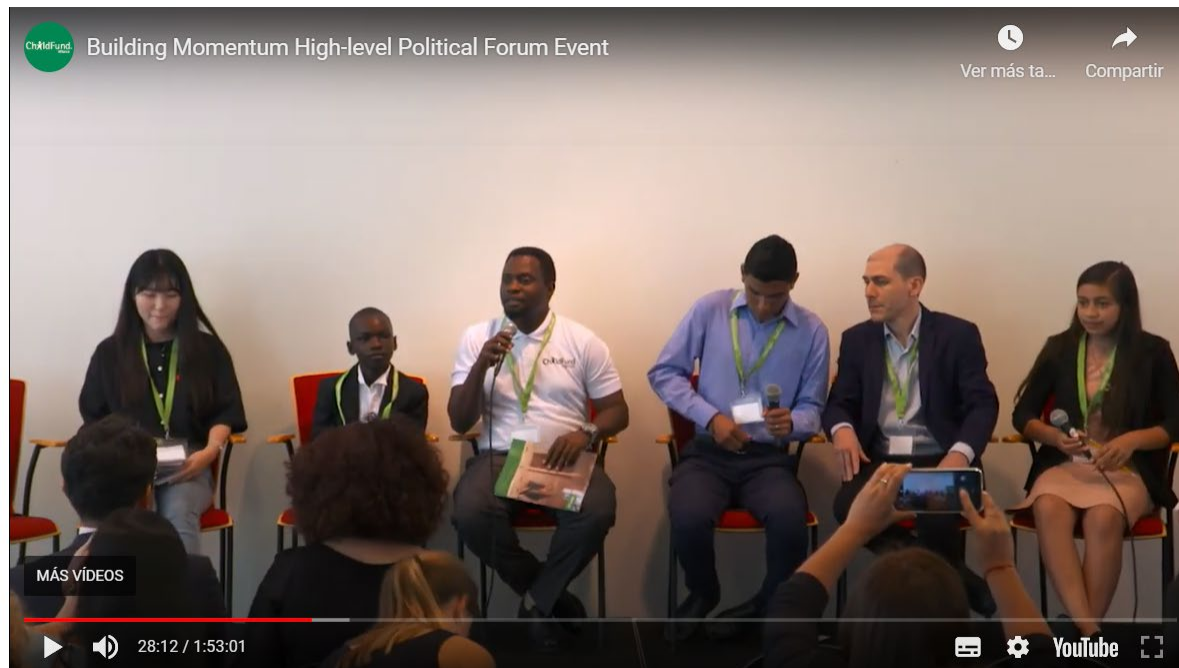


## El árbol de Clarita y Vicente



This process was carried out through online consultations and virtual meetings between the consultants and CFA children and adolescents.

One of the participants, Ana María, from El Salvador took part in the [High-Level Political Forum event](#) in New York in July 2019, highlighting issues of violence against children in her country and talking about her participation in the CFA initiative.



# Achievements

## Participation

Participants' knowledge of rights has been enhanced and they are more sensitive to the problems of everyday life

Participation of young people in the municipal organisational structure in order to propose and influence

## Organisation

There is a grounded action plan, based on the prioritisation of gaps and context analysis

## Advocacy

Duty-bearers recognise the importance of participation rights in processes aimed at children and adolescents

Primary duty bearers are willing to accompany the actions promoted

## Awareness-raising

The reality of children and adolescents in rural areas are more visible at national and international level

Secondary duty bearers have a basic knowledge of rights issues

## Sustainability

Participants have become a reference on children's rights issues

The staff of the *Casas de Encuentro Juvenil* project accompanies the CFA processes

# Lessons Learned

**Pre-assessment of the context,**  
inc. school dynamics and student  
responsibilities.

Need to have **suitable physical  
space** for the protection,  
concentration and development of  
the activities.

Consider **hiring a specific  
technician** for the project.

Plan a strategy to **raise awareness  
among mothers, fathers and  
caregivers.**

Contemplate the  
**generational  
handover.**

Involve primary duty bearers  
**from the outset.**

06

05

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01

# Factors that helped and hindered the implementation of the initiative



Interest and participation of adolescents and young people in the educational complex, as well as support and availability of teaching staff.



Educo's credibility at the territorial level.



The departmental level of the Ministry of Education has demonstrated a willingness to accompany, ratify and replicate the CFA experience.



Technical capacity installed in the Foundation, existing protocols for the organisational protection of children and adolescents.



Inadequate space for meetings within the school complex.



Limited time to work on the modules of the methodology due to participants' multiple responsibilities, and in order not to affect the fulfilment of the right to education.



The lack of a specific budget for piloting led to bureaucratic processes for its use.

## What do participants say?

We want to change the way of thinking of adults and those in charge of institutions so that they take our opinions into account.

#OpinionAdolescent

I am now a young woman who knows about my rights, but also, I want the community and institutions to accompany me to protect us and to denounce any violation.

#OpinionAdolescent

The CFA has come to empower our students and to teach us that their opinion also counts.

#OpinionDeputyDirector

The capacity for analysis, the ease of expression and the great work they have done as teenagers is admirable.

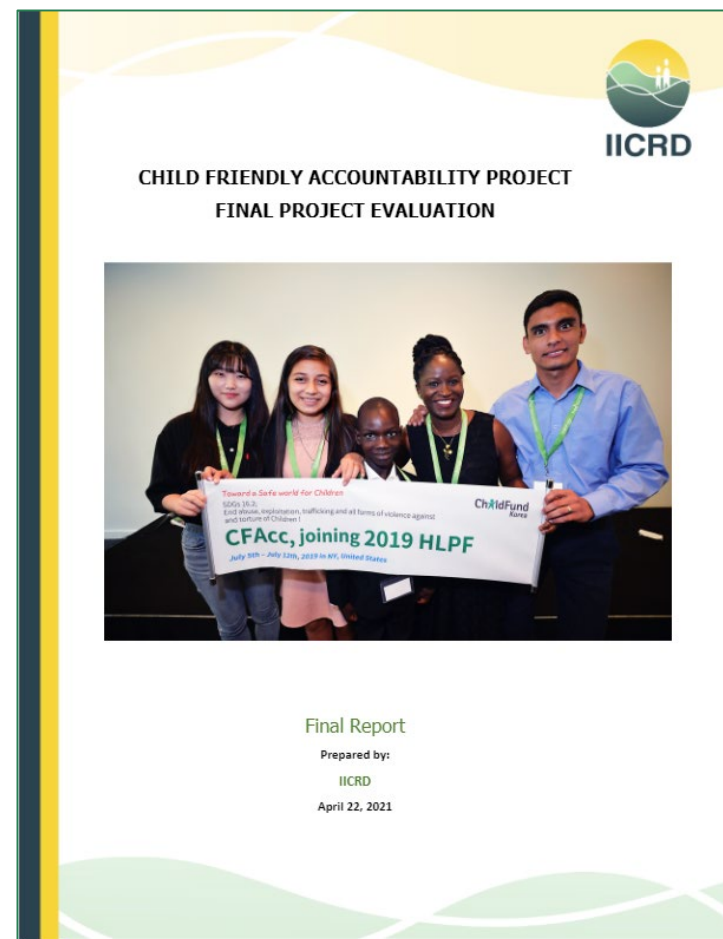
#OpinionMinistryofHealth



# Final evaluation CFA initiative

# Process and scope

- Final evaluation of the project conducted in the first quarter of 2021, by external evaluators.
- The final evaluation report of the CFA focuses on the documented results of the project at global, national and local level.
- Scope: 10 implementing countries: Burkina Faso, El Salvador, India, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, South Korea, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- More detailed quantitative and qualitative data has been collected for the report from the CFA case studies in India, Paraguay and Uganda.
- The team applied a contextualised, child-centred MEL approach, using tools designed to be highly participatory, engaging and child rights-based.

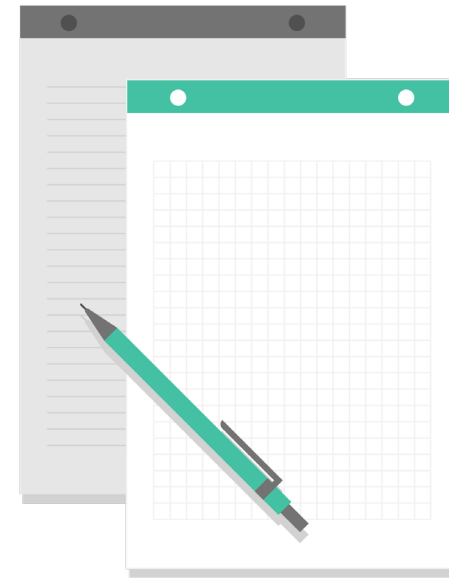




# Main conclusions and recommendations

## Main conclusions based on the evaluation of the project in all countries:

- Child-friendly Accountability Methodology received widespread support from children and community members, including families and local duty bearers.
- The CFA Methodology led to broader empowerment beyond the defined scope of the program.
- In some instances, there has been significant change at the national level (e.g., changed policies) as well as significant achievement at the global level (e.g., high impact resulting from child delegates presenting at high-level SDG panels and during the HLPF 2019).
- During the pandemic, ChildFund Alliance members were able to adapt the project in locally contextualized and innovative ways that continued to help children engage in self-protection activities, in a safe, socially distanced and creative manner.



# Main conclusions and recommendations

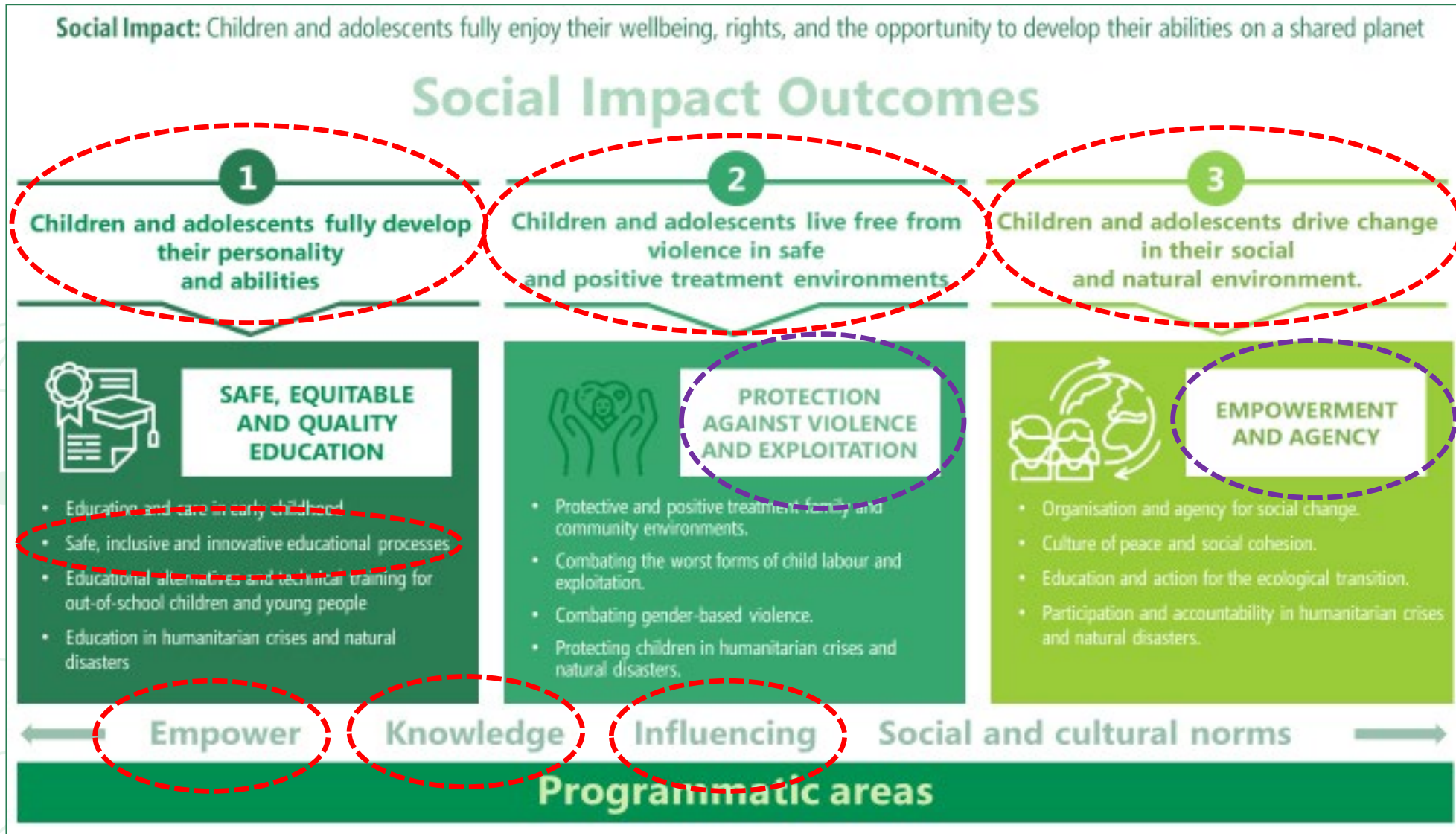
## Recommendations:

- Continue to expand CFA to meet growing community and national demand for the program which has generally been very successful.
- Consider expanding CFA from schools as a base within communities, to wider community outreach for most vulnerable children who do not attend school.
- CFA program activities, working through the entry point of violence reduction (SDG 16.2), can be expanded to address a broader range of SDG goals such as health and well-being, education, climate change.
- Integrate aspects of CFA programming into ChildFund's community-based child protection programming.



# Perspectives and next steps for Educo

# Programme fit



# On-going integration in Mali

JOFA Project: *Protecting children from violence during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond (Joining Forces EVaC project in 5 countries in Africa)*



- **ToT by ChildFund Alliance** mid-March 2021
- **Part of the toolbox used** from April 2021 onwards **in training sessions with children clubs** at village level (40 clubs, between 10 and 20 members each), with a first positive feedback.
- **Implementation of the full methodology (3 pillars) from June 2021 onwards with groups of children in school and out-of-school aged between 10 and 17, at regional and national level:**
  - Ségou: 14 members from the Regional Parliament, the Association for the promotion of children and youth communicators (APJEC) and the Youth Action Movement;
  - Mopti: 15 members from the Regional Parliament, the Association of working children and youth, and the Framework for the promotion and exchange on Stability;
  - Bamako: 20 members from the National Youth Advisory Group, the National parliament, and the APJEC.
- The 3 groups have chosen specific CP issues (child labour and child marriage). They designed themselves the process, until the end of pillar 2.
- 23 young workers (11 girls and 22 boys), active members of the Framework for the promotion and exchange on Stability organized a sharing session with authorities and women's association leaders (36 people) on peace challenges.
- Specificities / local adaptation: will work based on children clubs' work and ideas; All JF members will be involved in supporting the groups.

# Next steps

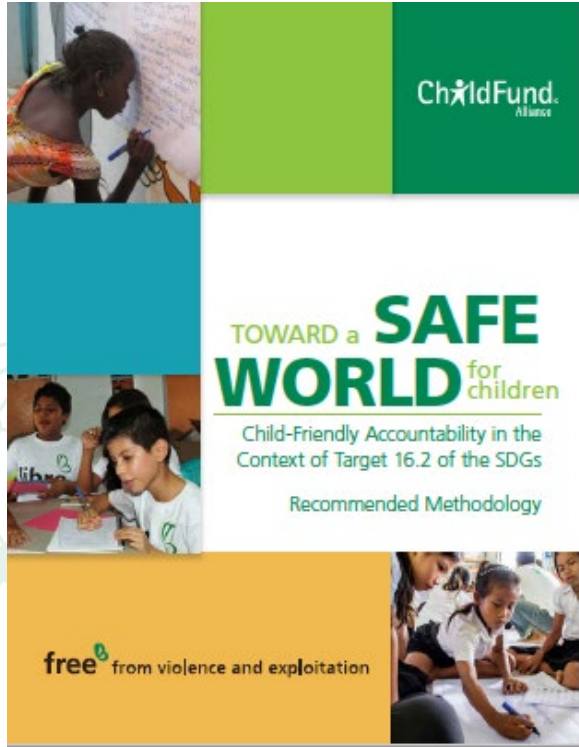
## El Salvador

- Promotion of child friendly version of local child rights policy and new school regulations in San Simón.
- Exchanges between teenagers in El Salvador and Paraguay, and maybe other countries.
- Generational change: bring in new children to join the process, with the older children giving them all the training.
- Considering implementing methodology in other areas.

## Spain

- Possibility of incorporating the CFA methodology into the Child Protection and Safeguarding Programme in Spain.

# Available resources

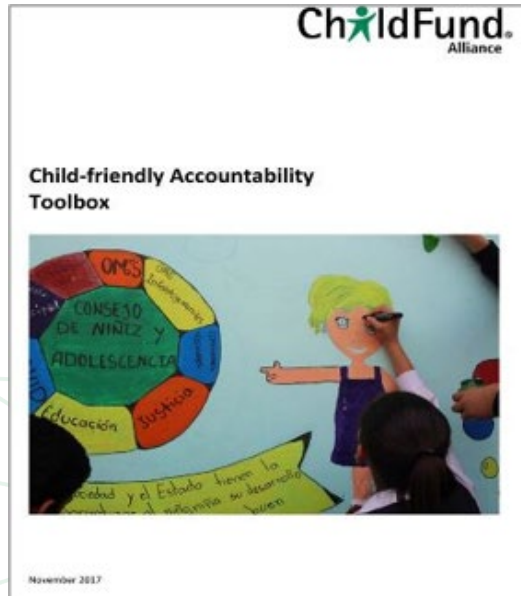


**Methodology:** presents overall focus, goals, theory of change. Describes the different phases of the initiative, the 3 pillars and the MEAL process. *English, French, Spanish*

**Field Manual:** sets out the implementation framework for this approach and provides basic guidance and principles for field staff. *English, Spanish, French, Korean*

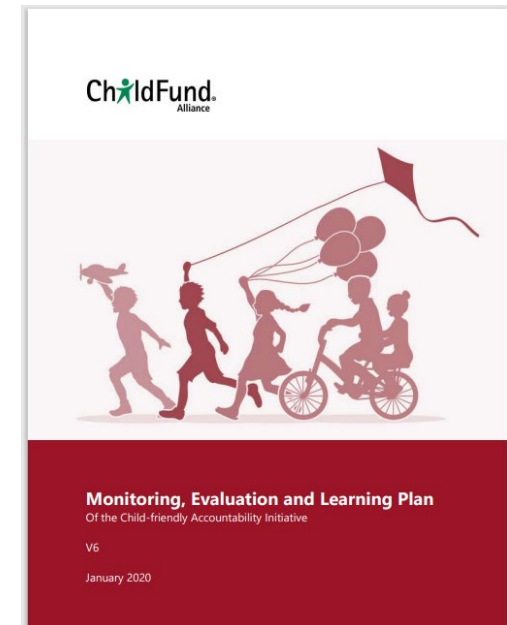


# Available resources



**Toolbox:** gives practical orientations for project staff and CFA workshop facilitators. Includes examples of training modules, contents for workshops and activities, templates, and other practical documentation. *English, Spanish, French, Swahili*

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan:** presents the tools for monitoring the results of activities, evaluating how child protection systems perform and using information for adaptive management purposes. *English, Spanish*



**PLUS**

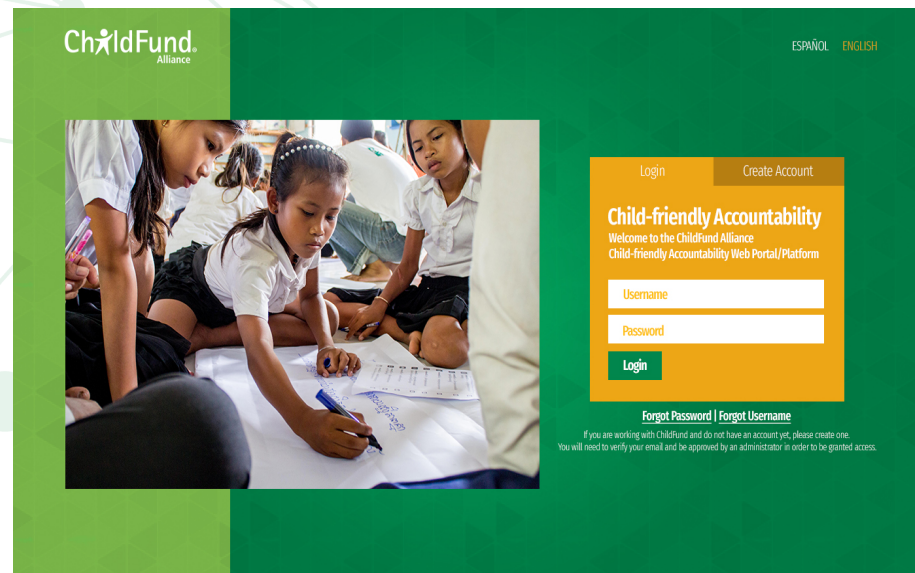
**Brief: Integrating CFAcc into existing programmes**  
*English*



# Available resources

**The videos:** Amplifying Children's Voices on ending Violence against children

<https://childfundalliance.org/resources/media-gallery/471-amplifying-childrens-voices-in-global-discussions-on-ending-violence-against-children-4-52>



**The web-based platform:** contains resources from other countries such as case studies and an interactive online discussion to encourage exchange between staff, children and project managers.



**Any questions?**

# Thank you!

For any questions, please contact:  
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