

## Module 3: Action-Training Introducing Child-friendly Accountability

Child-friendly Accountability Pillar: 1 - Assessment

Objective of the workshop: To introduce youth and adults to Child-friendly Accountability.

### Where does this module fit in the CFA methodology?

This activity is an essential introduction for engaged youth and adult stakeholders. It should be the first Child-friendly Accountability workshop with targeted youth and adults.

### What are you trying to achieve?

This workshop will introduce youth and adults to Child-friendly Accountability. Youth and adults should participate in this workshop before they are asked to give their informed consent for participation. Additionally, this workshop can be used with adult stakeholders towards building their engagement and support for the project.

### How are you going to achieve this?

Using the information in this module, several workshops should be held in the target community, including with youth who are interested in participating, with their parents, and with other adult stakeholders (e.g. teachers, school administration, government child protection actors, community leaders, etc.). These workshops should not only introduce participants to the Child-friendly Accountability project but convince them of the importance of the project and make them want to participate. The workshop should be dynamic, fun (particularly with youth) and attention-grabbing. Adult and youth participants should be encouraged to think through why this project is needed and how it could benefit their community.

## Ideas for Facilitating the Workshop

The activities and tools presented below are suggestions. The workshop material should be adapted to the local context and the participants. Most importantly, workshop activities should be adapted to the age and potential role of the participants.

**Duration of the Workshop:** 2 hours (maximum)

### A. Suggested Workshop Activities

**Introduction:** Begin with a brief introduction to the workshop, explaining that this workshop will introduce participants to core concepts in Child-friendly Accountability and project activities. Additionally, explain that the interactive approach used during this workshop reflects the approach that will be used in later workshops. Remember that this is an introduction. Activities are intended to stimulate thought and interest but are not intended as a comprehensive training in violence or protection.

### Activity 1: What is violence against children?

Objective: Participants are able to identify violence against children in their context (*knowledge-building objective*).

Duration: 10 minutes

Materials: Flipchart paper and markers

Description: Draw a stick figure of a child on flipchart paper with 5 circles around the child. Starting at the center, label each ring with the following terms - family, community, institution (e.g. school, etc.), national and international.



Ask participants to identify forms of violence that children experience at each level, encouraging participants to identify both direct forms of violence as well as structures or social norms that perpetuate violence.

### Activity 2: What is child protection and who is responsible for protecting children?

Objective: Participants are able to identify child protection duty-bearers in their context (*knowledge-building objective*).

Duration: 10 minutes

Materials: Markers and flipchart paper completed during Activity 1

Description: Using the flipchart paper completed during Activity 1, ask participants to identify who should be protecting children at each level. Focus on the 'ideal' situation (what is supposed to happen), rather than what actually happens. Make sure that by the end of the activity, participants understand who are the legal and moral 'duty-bearers' for child protection. Introduce the Sustainable Development Goals and Target 16.2 and the CRC.

### Activity 3: What is accountability?

Objective: Participants are able to define 'accountability' in their context (*knowledge-building objective*).

Duration: 10 minutes

Materials: Markers and flipchart paper completed during Activity 1 and 2

Description: Ask participants to define 'accountability'. Provide them with the CFA definition of accountability (available in the Information Sheet). Using the flipchart from Activity 2, ask them what accountability would look like at each level.

#### Activity 4: Why is it important that children can hold adults accountable?

Objective: Participants are able to describe the importance of Child-friendly Accountability in their context (*learning objective*).

Duration: 10 minutes

Materials: No material required

Description: As a group, brainstorm why it is important for children to be able to hold adults accountable to their protection obligations in their context/community.

#### Activity 5: What does Child-friendly Accountability look like in practice?

Objective: Participants are able to describe the Child-friendly Accountability methodology (*learning objective*).

Duration: 30 minutes

Materials: Printout of the Infographic of Child-friendly Accountability (refer to Section B).

Description: Ask participants to work in small groups for 5 minutes to think through what kind of activities might be in a Child-friendly Accountability project (i.e. if you were developing a Child-friendly Project, what kind of activities would you include?). Drawing on the participants' responses, explain that Child-friendly Accountability will help youth:

- Assess** what child protection is and who should be protecting them;
- Analyze** if those laws and systems are working;
- Act**, identifying and working with adults to find solutions to improve protection.

Provide participants with the Infographic (handout) and walk them carefully through each of the activities, taking time to answer questions.

#### Activity 6: What would your participation look like?

Objective: Participants understand what their participation in Child-friendly Accountability project would entail (*realization objective*).

Duration: 20 minutes

Materials: Printout of the Consent Form (refer to Section B)

Description: Describe to participants how they could participate in Child-friendly Accountability and what activities they would be involved in. Make sure to take time to answer questions. As a group, ask and address any concerns.

#### Activity 7: Brainstorming how CFA could help your community.

Objective: Participants begin to think about how Child-friendly Accountability could benefit their community (*realization objective*).

Duration: 20 minutes

Materials: No materials required

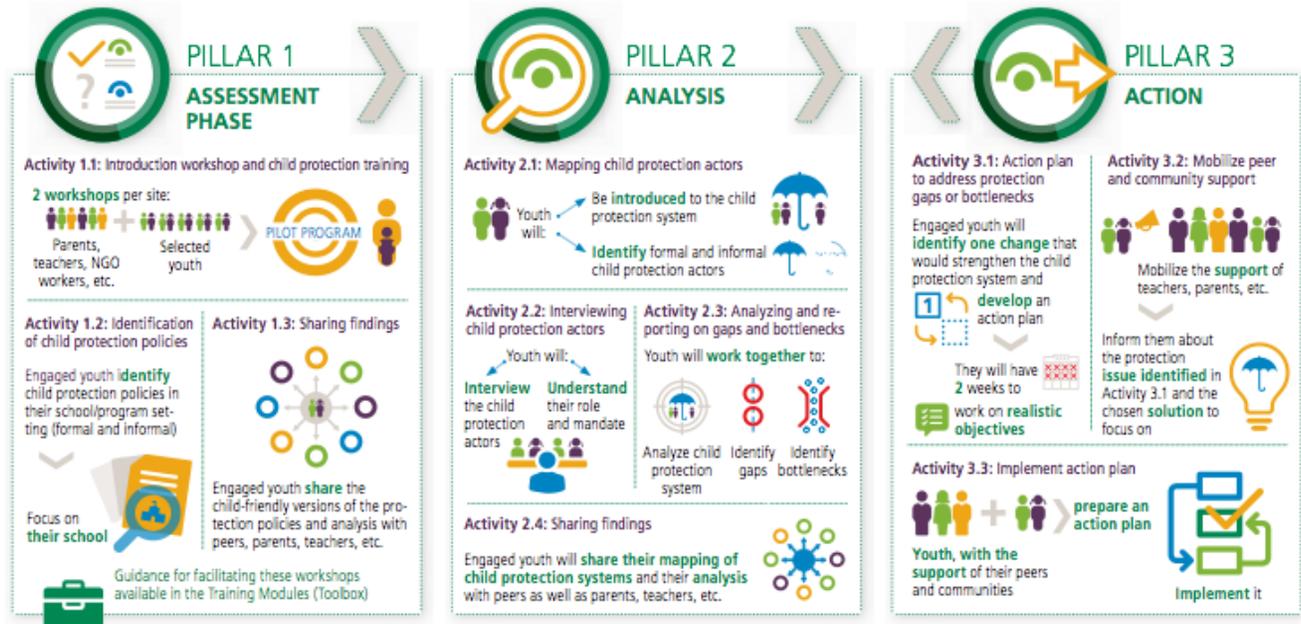
Description: In small groups, ask the participants to brainstorm how Child-friendly Accountability might benefit their community. Ask each small group to present their thoughts to the plenary.

## Suggested Workshop Tools

Three tools are available in this section:

1. Infographic of Child-friendly Accountability for adults and for youth (*forthcoming*)
2. Consent Form for youth and parents

### Child-friendly Accountability (adult handout) [Sample]



### Consent Form

*The consent form should be accompanied by an Information Sheet about the project and roles. If the participant cannot read or write, the Information Sheet and the Consent form should be read to them.*

#### **PART A TO BE COMPLETED BY THE YOUNG PERSON**

I agree to take part in the Child-friendly Accountability project.

I have read and understood the accompanying information leaflet. I know what the project is about and the part I will be involved in. I know that I do not have to participate in all activities and that I can decide not to continue at any time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

#### **PART B TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN**

I have read and understood the accompanying letter and information leaflet and give permission for the child (named above) to be included.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Information Sheet: What you need to know...

### What is Child-friendly Accountability?

Child-friendly Accountability *is a process by which children are empowered and are able to meaningfully participate in making certain that those charged with protecting and fulfilling children's rights do what they are supposed to do in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, and if they do not or cannot, that children and their representatives have some recourse.*

In 2015, the governments of the world agreed to a series of development goals for the coming 15 years, called the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**. The High Political Forum in the United Nations will monitor how well governments are meeting their commitments. **SDG Target 16.2** aims to eliminate violence against children. Child-friendly Accountability helps youth participate in monitoring if governments are meeting this goal.

For protection reasons, Child-friendly Accountability does not focus on monitoring incidents of violence or children's individual experiences with the child protection system. Rather, children, youth and their communities focus exclusively on monitoring the performance and accountability of the child protection system. Child-friendly Accountability engages children and youth between the ages of 13 and 17.

### What does Child-friendly Accountability look like in practice?

Child-friendly Accountability projects have three 'pillars': (1) Assessment, focused on knowledge-building and fostering understanding; (2) Analysis and Accountability, centered on mapping and analyzing the performance of the protection system; and (3) Action for social mobilization, advocacy and corrective action around gaps and bottlenecks identified by the children and youth. These pillars should be seen as a spiral, repeating themselves continuously.

A central component of the Child-friendly Accountability methodology is the SMS- and web-based Application, "the CFA App". The CFA App is an interactive tool that empowers children and youth to access information and child protection actors, raise awareness about their rights, report on gaps and bottlenecks in the child protection system and work towards improvement and change.

Below is a summary of activities that may be included in Child-friendly Accountability projects:

**Pillar 1** activities aim to build knowledge and understanding regarding child rights and child protection:

- Workshop on child rights and child protection for engaged youth and adults (respectively);
- Engaged children and youth identify, collect, and analyze laws and policies related to child protection in their setting, with the real-time support of action training and facilitation.
- After identifying, collecting and analyzing relevant policies and laws, engaged youth, with the help of supporting adults, should translate these policies into a format that is accessible to other children and youth.
- Supporting adults and engaged youth should organize an event (or several) to introduce other youth and community members to Child-friendly Accountability, child protection, child rights and, specifically, the child-friendly child protection policies. Additionally, youth should be introduced to the CFA App. Engaged youth may choose to hold separate events for adults and youth.

**Pillar 2** activities support youth and their communities in monitoring the performance and accountability of the child protection system:

- Children and youth, with support from facilitating adults, will identify and map key child protection actors in their setting, starting with those closest and, over time, identifying those at the provincial and national levels.
- Once children and youth have identified child protection actors, they should interview them to identify what their mandate is, how they can be contacted, and their role in the wider child protection system. *Youth should upload this mapping information on the CFA App.*
- Engaged youth should analyze the child protection system, identifying gaps and bottlenecks. *Youth should upload their conclusions to the structured reporting mechanism on the CFA App.*
- Engaged youth and adult facilitators should present their findings and analysis of the child protection system to adult stakeholders and their peers.
- Engaged youth should identify actions that would rapidly improve child protection in their communities. Engaged youth should present their proposed problem statement and action plan to adult stakeholders and other youth to solicit their input and support.

**Pillar 3** activities will support youth and their communities in identifying concrete ways to rapidly improve child protection in their communities and to work with duty-bearers to bring about change.

- With the support of facilitating adults, engaged youth can participate in drafting and publishing reports summarizing their findings about the protection system, improvements, ongoing bottlenecks and gaps, and reporting trends on the CFA App. *All reports should be uploaded on the CFA App.*
- Engaged youth could choose to design and launch an advocacy campaign to address a specific protection gap, including through media outlets (i.e. radio, comic strips, social media, videos, etc.). *Advocacy materials, documents, etc. should be uploaded on the CFA App.*
- Engaged youth may choose direct action - meaning that they may choose to work with their community and duty-bearers to directly rectify a protection gap or bottleneck by themselves. *Documentation around the direct action should be uploaded on the CFA App.*
- Engaged youth should regularly update their communities and other youth on their actions and progress.

### **Recommended reading**

- Child-Friendly Accountability Methodology document
- Child-Friendly Accountability Field Manual