

ChildFund Alliance Environmental Sustainability Standards Adopted by the CEO Forum, 10 November 2020

Standard 1: Education and Advocacy

Member is a global voice with and for vulnerable children on the threat of environmental degradation and climate change to child rights and violence against children, in both development and humanitarian settings.

Criteria:

- 1.1 Member educates the public and authorities about the risks posed to children due to environmental degradation and climate change, highlighting how these are root causes of violence against children. The member rallies support on the need for environmental protection and climate action and the promotion of child rights and child protection.
- 1.2 Member advocates to governments to deliver financial resources and political action to ensure children's vulnerability to environmental degradation and climate change is prioritized. Further, their rights to survival, development, protection and participation, as promised under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are upheld. Member also asks for the explicit measurement of child-focused indicators in environmental and/or climate reporting.
- 1.3 Member helps elevate child and youth participation for advocacy at local, national and international levels at environmental and/or climate change related forums.

Evidence:

- 1.1 Media and public engagement activities demonstrate informative messaging about the environment, climate change, child rights, child protection and child participation.
- 1.2 Reporting on advocacy events highlight a child-focused rationale for environmental protection and/or climate action.
- 1.3 Examples of how children and youth have been empowered with the skills, knowledge and confidence to claim their rights.
- 1.4 Examples of opportunities facilitated for children and youth to participate in decision-making forums where their voice contributes to decisions made.

Standard 2: Programs

In the communities where they work and operate programs, Member's programs demonstrate a commitment to strengthen community resilience, and to protect the natural environment and enhance its ability to support life for future generations.

Criteria:

- 2.1 Environmental planning is incorporated into ChildFund's country and community-level development plans. This includes identification of risks, opportunities and the impact of proposed initiatives on the environment.
- 2.2 Programming demonstrates an anticipatory approach to climate change through a child-focused lens (an anticipatory approach means acting ahead of the impact that could reasonably be expected, so that communities are prepared and chances of it escalating to a humanitarian crisis are reduced).
- 2.3 All projects include an environmental assessment; are assessed to ensure environmental considerations are appropriately accounted for and prevention of any environmental impact is prioritized over mitigation.
- 2.4 Participants actively take responsibility, make decisions and are empowered to raise their voice on issues concerning the management of their environment.

Evidence:

- 2.1 Project management tools are being used to ensure the identification of risks, opportunities (for environmental protection or improvement or to reduce climate change), and the impact of the project on the environment are part of standard procedure.
- 2.2 Communities have child-focused disaster risk reduction plans.
- 2.3 Community-level consultation is documented and there is training demonstrating that community members, including children, are engaged in activities aimed at creating systematic improvements concerning the environment.

Standard 3: Internal operations

Member has in place processes to minimize the environmental impacts of their internal operations.

Criteria:

- 3.1 Internal operations measure and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3.2 Internal operations minimize environmental impact and waste generation.
- 3.3 Environmental criteria are included in purchasing policies.

Evidence:

- 3.1 Evidence is provided that a greenhouse gas emission measurement system is in place and procedures are followed to minimize and/or mitigate carbon emissions.
- 3.2 Evidence is provided if an environmental performance improvement plan is in place, especially regarding waste generation minimization.

Standard 4: Learning

Member has an environmental policy that describes its commitment to protecting the natural environment and enhancing its ability to support life for future generations, which is reviewed regularly in consideration of areas for improvement as guided by independent assessors.

Criteria:

- 4.1 ChildFund Alliance members and country offices have an environmental policy that aligns with the intent of these standards.
- 4.2 Member commits to regularly reviewing its policies and procedures for environmental sustainability and actively pursues continuous improvement.

Evidence:

- 4.1 Provision of environmental policies implemented in the organization's head office, the partner's in-country program office and field offices. Examples are given to demonstrate how procedures have led to alternatives or additional actions.
- 4.2 Details provided on staff training on the environmental policy and in the effect of environmental degradation and climate change on child rights.
- 4.3 Responses to independent assessors (such as Accountable Now) demonstrate how member is learning and improving their environmental sustainability performance.