**Engagement with the European Union Delegation in your country**

**Why is it important to meet with the European Union Delegation (EU Delegation)?**

-The EU and its Member States are the largest donors of official development assistance, and the EUD represents both the European Commission and the 28 EU Member states in terms of foreign policy and development cooperation. Development funds are now managed directly by the EUD. The selection of grant proposals is always involves the EU Delegation in question. A closer relationship with the EUD is an opportunity to show the relevance and seriousness of ChildFund programmes, and may lead to greater attention to our grant proposals.

-The EU Delegation has the best information about upcoming calls for proposals (global and in-country) especially from geographic envelopes, which could be useful to plan calls in advance.

-The EU Delegation are expected to consult with civil society on country specific programming documents such as Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programme. These might represent opportunities to put children rights in the EU Delegation agenda and priorities for upcoming calls.

-If there are concerns on the children rights situation in the country and/or the strategy of EU Delegation is not clear in addressing children rights issues, you may draw their attention to these matters.

**Who should the Country Office meet?** Depending of the purpose and question, you might need to contact different people. Visit the website of the EU Delegation to see the contact details[[1]](#footnote-1) and see the annex with examples of a list of staff within the EU Delegation and topics/questions you might address.

**Some opportunities to request a meeting:** Introducing the new strategy country plan, new director, concerns about children rights situation in the country, opportunities to work together.

**Some ideas to prepare a meeting with the EU Delegation:**

-Regularly visit the EU Delegation website to see what is on their agenda at the moment and try to find out from Brussels contacts if any relevant consultations are coming up soon. Follow them in Twitter and Facebook if possible.

-Read the Country Strategic Plan and Multiannual Indicative Plan for the specific country. You can find this information on the EU Delegation website1. There might be an *EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society* finalized or underway in your country – these should be a common strategic framework for the engagement of EU Delegation and Member States with civil society at country level, with a view to improving the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions.

-Prepare an updated brief description of the ChildFund Country Office and its programs, current partnerships, and how it could be a potential partner for the EU Delegation. Bring your promotional material and any relevant specific report you might have.

Take into account that this meeting is just a moment to achieve a stronger relationship with the EU Delegation. Further actions may be undertaken such as organizing visits to projects, inviting to ChildFund Country Office events, etc.

**Remember:** It is best to meet with EU Delegation before calls for proposal are open to NGOs as the information the EUD can give after the call is launched is much more limited. Avoid mentioning in first place that you are interested in funding opportunities. Funding opportunities will be part of the meeting but it is recommended to meet the EU Delegation in a broader context.

**Annex**: Examples of topics and questions you can address to the EUD

1. <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)