

Alliance Grants Support Committee (GSC) Report for the period of May 2018 - November 2018

Background: two virtual GSC meetings were held during the reporting period including one in September and another in October 2018. Given the desire to ensure a stronger emphasis on sharing and learning among the GSC, in both cases a single call was held covering the two regions (Asia-Pacific and North America & Europe), whereas previously separate calls had been held in each region. The primary focus of the two GSC meetings during the period included a) the sharing of lessons learned and experiences from cross-Alliance collaboration on EU project development and project implementation; b) an update on the Educo and ECHO partnership; c) review of the content included in the GSC report to the CEO's Forum; and d) updates on key staffing changes within the ChildFund International Business Development and Grants teams.

Key learning from recent experiences of cross-Alliance collaboration on EU grants: to date, the Alliance has experience with two models of cross-Alliance collaboration when the EU restricts eligibility to organisations either based in the EU or local organisations. In Sri Lanka, ChildFund Deutschland partnered with ChildFund International and submitted a proposal treating the Sri Lanka Country Office as an extension of its own operations and with no reference to the role of the Sri Lanka Office. In Indonesia, Barnfonden partnered with ChildFund International and clearly mentioned that it was working in coordination with the ChildFund International Office in Indonesia, however no project costs are being incurred by ChildFund Indonesia.

Key learning identified during the meeting is the need to be clear about eligibility requirements linked to the call for proposals as early as possible; and that if an EU Alliance member is partnering with a non-EU Alliance member on a call for proposals, both Alliance members need to reach agreement on the management structure for project implementation at the Teaming Agreement stage. Other crucial areas that must be discussed and agreed by the members involved in any cross-Alliance collaboration where non-EU members are not eligible as either applicants or co-applicants include:

- Project staff secondment to the EU based Alliance member to demonstrate management control of Project staff, including a need for review of structures and arrangements by legal counsel in country;
- Agreement on how the Alliance members will meet the co-financing requirement;
- In most cases it will be difficult for the Alliance members involved to fully recoup all costs associated with the project regardless of which model of collaboration is used. There therefore needs to be agreement on how the Alliance members will share the burden of any indirect costs as well as any indirect cost recovery allowed under the grant;

- Clear definition, and mutual understanding, of the role of the member that is the “fiduciary agent”;
- The EU based Alliance member needs to ensure that the Alliance member implementing the Project in-country has a good understanding of the EC rules and regulations;
- Clear and timely communications between the Alliance member and the implementing office are critical; and
- Given the additional complexity involved in a cross-Alliance collaboration of this nature, the Alliance members need to allow for additional time in defining each member’s role in the project and drafting the Teaming Agreement and subsequent Grant Funding Agreement if the EC funds the proposal

There was also a brief discussion about the role of Associates on a joint proposal and it was confirmed by the EUO that this is something that requires additional research. Given the pros and cons of each model discussed during the call, it was agreed among the group that the Barnfonden/ChildFund International model used in the Indonesia project is the preferred way forward.

Upcoming priorities: the following activities will be carried out by the GSC over the coming months:

- Review of the Cross-Alliance Multi-Member Protocol to ensure it remains relevant and fit-for-purpose;
- Liaison with APC to determine the viability of a face-to-face GSC meeting in the first half of the 2019 calendar year.