

ChildFund Alliance: GSC update re Donors and COVID-19 responses

| Country/Donor | Response in Relation to Grant Funded Activities |
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| Barnfonden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum Syd (backdonor is Sida) are being very flexible and understanding that COVID-19 is affecting projects and have proactively reached out with information that provides some leverage: they are allowing for extension of projects, carry-overs, reporting deadlines being delayed and any kind of adjustment to the project that can be tweaked or readjusted for measures combating COVID-19. However there is no possibility to change activities to humanitarian support. Two windows of Forum Syd application this year and the next window is in September - the call is open as planned and will consider proposals that are designed differently to focus on COVID activities. • Radiohjälpen will release a call specifically for COVID response in the coming days |
| ChildFund Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFAT are proving very flexible with the primary NGO funding mechanism, allowing and fast-tracking COVID-19 pivot activities, agreeing an increase in carry-over from 10% to 40% for next FY, reducing match-funding requirements from 20% to 10% for FY19-20 and FY20-21 and increasing administration allocations from 10% to 20% in FY19-20 and FY20-21. • Other funding opportunities (including Australian Sports Partnership Program) have been ‘temporarily’ suspended (submissions went in at the end of February); • Significant advocacy and leadership by ACFID (NGO peak body) to try and secure additional funding for COVID-19 response activities. Priority for DFAT is the Pacific and opening up a ‘corridor’ to allow goods and equipment in. |
| ChildFund Deutschland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bengo/BMZ informed us that it is possible to incorporate Corona measures into our current running projects. Deviations of up to 30% in the financing plan are possible without approval. If the cost of the measures exceeds 30%, we can also send an amendment request or are allowed to increase the total grant amount. • The original aim and purpose as well as target group (limitation of scope!) of the projects should in any case continue to be ensured. Approved Corona measures: Provision of soaps, sanitizers and long-lasting food. No cash for food to families! Wash, Handwashing facilities, information/training of Corona mitigation measures at community level. • So far no specific “Corona Budget line” established by the Government. |
| ChildFund International | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAID are hungry for information and there are a number of encouraging developments from an international perspective. USAID have set up an agency taskforce to ensure internal coordination and i) seeing most donors prioritising programming through existing programs and allowing cost extensions or modifications; ii) have ability to waive requirements at an advanced level; iii) allowing to revise timelines. • Currently haven’t seen any revisions to programs that are shifting focus to COVID but rather taking into account delays and difficulties in implementing. Expecting more investment in coming weeks in readiness and response i.e. not prevention but prevention of re-emergence and helping countries manage when it peaks. Suggests focus will be in South Sudan, Syria and Yemen where there are already complex emergencies i.e. ‘prevent development backsliding’ and addressing secondary effects this way. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best outcome is hold ground already made with development – an important tone coming from donors. • There has been some internal chaos at USAID as the agency has had to adapt to telework and own staff safety and needs and government politics. Pleased that there is some coordination and investment but politically this can't get too public as will appear as a diversion of resources e.g. shipping PPEs overseas won't fly well at any level. • New calls (forecasted) likely to be delayed but an actual freeze unlikely. |
| ChildFund Ireland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ChildFund Ireland are not currently in receipt of Irish Aid funding. The deadline for submission of the next round of funding is September 2020 and there has been no communication from Irish Aid on changes to this. Irish Aid have moved the submission date for final evaluations of the current funding stream which is due for submission this month. |
| ChildFund Korea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are encouraging development of KOICA funding for COVID-19 response. KCOC(NGO coordination body) is closely working with KOICA on funding framework. It is expected to get clarity in 3 weeks. ChildFund Korea will update when having any development. • For development projects, KOICA is gathering the needs of NGOs if there is any need of shifting project activities to respond to COVID-19. They are expected to release a guideline sooner. • ChildFund Korea developed and circulated a COVID-19 overall strategy and program framework. CF Korea will focus on 16 countries for immediate actions and further can expand the list of countries when securing institutional funding such as KOICA. Public appeal is about to release with a small-scale. |
| ChildFund NZ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFAT focused on the Pacific and the Pacific doesn't have many cases so response has been to shut down borders. MFAT supportive of pivot activities to COVID response and the money being issued is mostly government to government. • For development projects MFAT are trying to be as flexible as possible including offering no cost extension, match-funding freezes, looking at pausing activities, offering to pay for salaries to the end of May even if activities are paused. • Under a new Negotiated Partnerships funding scheme, ChildFund NZ have seven new projects due to start 1 July but unclear whether will be able to start on the due date. |
| Children Believe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Affairs is being very flexible including, extending end of fiscal year deadline by two months, being flexible with reporting requirements and repurposing existing money to respond to COVID e.g. testing kits, PPEs. • In terms of new money Global Affairs have announced \$154m to WHO, UNCHR and ICRC and will be giving more money through UN and other international bodies with a particular focus on food security and preventing spread in refugee camps and where people are unable to isolate. • New calls with civil society in Canada are not anticipated as people unable to spend current spends. Children Believe have two applications to 'Right to Health' currently under consideration – have been reviewed and supposed to go for internal signatures but uncertain whether Global Affairs will freeze at this point in time. • Priorities for Canada – no planned change in geographic priorities, but focus on refugees, IDPs, gender equality fund. Thematic rather than geographic priorities are more clear. |

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| Educo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educo are contacting their back donors but this is challenging with Spanish donors as have different requirements and different levels of clarity. Some have suspended projects so no costs can be allocated but others are proving more flexible. • Educo are trying to see how they can adjust and perhaps develop new proposals (new one in Mali approved). • Educo are currently preparing an EU concept note submission for the Philippines (deadline has been extended) and for other donors most other calls have been suspended. The EU concept note focused on governance that requires lots of gatherings, trainings etc. so have asked partner in the Philippines to consider alternatives. As is only a concept note at this stage, it is hoped by the time a full proposal required (if approved) the situation will have changed and will be able to implement activities. Need to decide whether to use contingency budget line (don't usually include). |
| UEPLM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UEPLM currently have projects funded by French Cooperation Agency, UNEP and the City of Paris. • French Cooperation Agency, UNEP and the City of Paris are flexible regarding the reorientation of activities, extensions, etc. on current projects due to COVID-19. Their team still totally available. In the coming weeks UEPLM will proceed to modify some activities in the frame of the current projects. • French Cooperation Agency launched a special fund to respond to COVID-19 actions/projects which interest us (Haiti and Madagascar): https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/france-lance-initiative-covid-19-sante-en-commun-pour-soutenir-pays-afrique : The "COVID-19 – Health in Common" Initiative was approved by the AFD Board on 2 April 2020 and constitutes an initial response to the health crisis and its immediate economic and social consequences. This French program is part of a European effort to mount a targeted, partnership-based response to this unprecedented crisis facing developing countries. It complements the work of multilateral and European donors, and prioritizes the African continent. The plan includes the following measures: €150 million in the form of donations + €1 billion in the form of loans to address short-term challenges facing partner countries and development banks. The main beneficiaries of this initiative will be the 19 priority countries for French aid in Africa, the ocean basins (Madagascar, Comoros and Haiti) and the Middle East. The initiative is targeting not only central governments, but also civil society organizations, public development banks, the private sector and French stakeholders in global health. • French Cooperation Agency took decision to postpone the deadline for the concept notes to be presented this year (June 30 to July 31st) to present new projects. UEPLM plans to present two new concept notes to this donor this year. |
| EU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation is very messy and the COVID-19 crisis is exacerbating conflict between internal and external affairs with internal affairs wanting investment within the EU and seeing less of a priority outside of Europe. Internal affairs are proving very responsive and providing massive investment but less clarity from DEVCO and external affairs regarding things such as no cost extensions, waivers for flexibility etc. • Different delegations sending differing messages to grantees (some positive and others less positive). • The EUO is in contact with Concord to try and get clarity (approx. live 12 contracts across the Alliance) so a priority is to provide members with updates and information where possible. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU investment includes 276m to WHO / Africa/ research and innovation (bilateral aid and less relevant for Alliance).• There has been no big funding announcement from ECHO yet but aware humanitarian emergency mechanisms have started operations regarding repatriation and building medical stock.• DEVCO are reflecting how to work with CSO partners but also aware that if there is significant investment in COVID, this puts other SDG work at stake.• Advice to Alliance members is to contact the Delegation and ideally submit a clear plan of action to local Delegation as majority of decisions will be taken at their level.• Delegations have been asked by Brussels to move ahead with planning for the next seven years and are now very busy planning spending, answering questions from grantees and responding to situation themselves.• Calls for proposals – some have been extended by a couple of weeks only and continue to be published with usually longer deadline (but usually 6 weeks to two months). Ending budget cycle so need to spend money before the end of the FY so calls for proposals continuing. |
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