

## ChildFund Alliance Advocacy Task Force

### Notes from Call #11

January 29, 2018

7:00am-8:30am EST

#### Participants:

##### Advocacy Task Force Members

Name	Title	Organization
Macarena Céspedes	Advocacy and Institutional Relations	EDUCO
Martina Hibell	Program Director	Barnfonden
Shona Jennings	Programmes Director	ChildFund New Zealand
Erin Kennedy	Director, Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships	ChildFund International
Catherine Lalonde	Director, EU Office	Secretariat
Sungho Lee	Manager, Global Advocacy and Partnerships	ChildFund Korea
Jorge Mendez	Country Director	CCFC Paraguay
Stephanie Perlson	Program Coordinator	ChildFund International
Diana Quick	Communications and Digital Strategist	Secretariat
Katherine Ronberg	Advocacy and Policy Advisor	Secretariat
Sarah Stevenson	Representative to the United Nations	Secretariat

##### Additional Participants:

Name	Title	Organization
Nick Alipui	Child-Friendly Accountability Consultant	
Meg Gardinier	Secretary General	ChildFund Alliance
Elodia Giménez	Global Communication Manager	Educo
Jinyi Park	Advocacy Adviser	ChildFund Korea
Anette Sandstrom		Barnfonden
Margaret Sheehan	Communications Manager	ChildFund Australia
Phil Tanner	Director, Programs & Strategic Initiatives	CCFC

##### Update on in-person meeting of the Advocacy Task Force

Meg shared that she has sent an email to the CEOs regarding an in-person meeting of the Advocacy Task Force to take place in Hanoi, Vietnam on April 7 and 8 immediately preceding the APC and CMC meetings. The Secretariat will follow-up regarding participation.

##### Brief update on Child-friendly Accountability

Meg gave a brief update on the child-friendly accountability initiative.

Child-friendly accountability is defined as “the ability to make certain that those charged with protecting and fulfilling children’s rights actually do what they are supposed to do, and if they do not or cannot, that children

and their representatives have some recourse.” Pilots have been completed in India, Mexico, Paraguay and Vietnam. Consultant Nick Alipui has prepared an Evaluation Report on the pilots.

Planned roll-out January-April

- El Salvador (EDUCO)
- India (ChildFund International)
- Mexico (ChildFund International)
- Paraguay (CCFC)
- Philippines (ChildFund International)
- Sri Lanka (ChildFund International)
- Uganda (ChildFund International)
- Vietnam (ChildFund Australia)

Planned roll-out April-June

- Burkina Faso (CCFC)
- Ghana (CCFC)
- Nicaragua (CCFC)

There are a number of child-friendly accountability resources available on the Member’s Only section of the Alliance website:

- Methodology (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- Field Manual (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- Toolbox ([in English](#))
- Activity planning (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))

A web-based knowledge management platform for child-friendly accountability is currently being developed. An Impact Report will be prepared for the May 2018 meeting of the CEO Forum.

### **Overview of Advocacy in the Child-friendly Accountability Cycle**

Nick Alipui spoke about the role of child-friendly accountability in shaping ChildFund Alliance’s advocacy work moving forward. He reviewed entry points for advocacy and discussed the link between project level activities and the global advocacy agenda.

Child-friendly Accountability is designed to allow children and their communities to monitor child protection systems at the local level and to work together to address gaps and bottlenecks.

The Child-friendly Accountability cycle is divided into three pillars:

- **Assessment:** building children’s understanding of child protection in their setting,
- **Analysis:** supporting children to identify gaps and bottlenecks in the child protection system
- **Action:** facilitating their identification of a change that they would like to realize and their action to do so. Action can take three forms:
  1. *direct action*- doing something that directly addresses a protection gap
  2. *reporting*- drafting a report for a decision-making body on the local, national or international level
  3. *advocacy*- undertaking an advocacy campaign at the local, regional or national level.

There are **four forms of advocacy** incorporated into the child-friendly accountability cycle.

1. **Public information campaign:** In the first pillar of the cycle, ChildFund and partners will conduct a public information campaign targeting adult decision-makers in an effort to build a child-friendly environment for the project and to address underlying causes of violence against children.
2. **Child-led monitoring:** In the second pillar of the cycle, children will monitor the child protection system, and identify gaps and bottlenecks. This information, over time, can provide the Advocacy Task Force with a basis on which it can report on the findings of children to processes such as the HLPF. Common themes emerging from the monitoring efforts in different locations can be identified and documented as supplemental reporting to the HLPF.
3. **Child-led advocacy:** In the third pillar of the cycle, children may choose to conduct an advocacy campaign, write a report or take direct action. In most cases, this will be at the local level.
4. **Child-led reporting:** In the third pillar of the cycle, children may choose to draft a report on a particular protection gap that they have identified. In most cases, this will address local issues.

### **Child-friendly accountability: Opportunities for advocacy**

Nick outlined four opportunities for the Advocacy Task Force to work in synergy with the child-friendly accountability projects:

1. **Support child-led advocacy:** The Advocacy Task force can support child-led advocacy initiatives at the local, national or regional levels. Once the children have decided on their course of action (pillar 3), the Advocacy Task Force can offer support and complement their actions with additional resources or advocacy initiatives. *This should be done carefully to ensure that adult actions do not overshadow or overpower child-led initiatives.*
2. **Case Studies:** Anecdotal evidence or case studies from specific communities or projects can be used to support national or international advocacy. *This should ideally be done with consent of the participating children.*
3. **National monitoring:** Once aggregation of the children's monitoring of local child protection systems is possible. Over time, as the project expands this resource could allow the Task Force to monitor progress and supplement thematic reporting at the national level. This information could be used for national-level advocacy or international advocacy, including to the High Level Political Forum.
4. **Facilitating child participation or using child-friendly accountability information in national or international advocacy:** The Advocacy Task Force can support children across projects to work together on a regional or national level to prepare reports on SDG 16.2 to international reporting mechanisms (through the submission of Voluntary National Reporting/Alternative Reports), such as the High Level Political Forum or the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

### **Questions and Discussion**

#### **How can we put child-friendly accountability within the framework of the VNR process?**

The VNR mechanism requires that our teams in country engage with the process of preparing the reports at the national level. This will require finding out what are the plans and activities in the respective countries, who is convening the discussion and what is the mechanism through which people can contribute. ChildFund members should be around the table at the consultations and be prepared with a brief on child-friendly accountability and talking points.

At the global level it's possible to prepare reports on themes that are emerging from the different child-friendly accountability projects. The reports would amplify the findings by children and would require engagement at the country level.

### **Reflections on the 2018 VNR in Spain**

Spain will report in the VNR process in 2018 but there is not time to implement any of these activities in time. It would be great to use this approach also in headquarter countries as it is good for advocacy work at national and global levels. Educo has worked with other child-focused NGOs in Spain to prepare a CRC shadow report. For the 2018 VNR process Educo and other child-focused NGOs are preparing a shadow report.

### **Reflections on the 2018 VNR in Canada**

In Canada, the process for the VNR is underway. They are pushing on the qualitative side rather than the quantitative side. There will likely be inputs from the youth network in Canada that is an initiative of Trudeau. As an international NGO, CCFC doesn't have much influence at the national level.

### **Reflections on the 2018 VNR in Australia**

There is a consultation meeting in March that ChildFund will attend. The government is interested in work taking place overseas.

### **Reflections on the child-friendly accountability experience in Paraguay**

Paraguay will also report in the VNR process in 2018 and CCFC will see how to link child-friendly accountability to the process. The discussion has highlighted two ways to approach the link between child-friendly accountability and advocacy: 1) advocacy led by children themselves is an integral part of the methodology 2) child-friendly accountability is an opportunity/resource for advocacy. ChildFund can use the experience with child-friendly accountability as a resource for advocacy for the Alliance and its members, to establish the foundation of any policy, strategy or program.

Lessons learned from the pilot in Paraguay:

- Support from the Head Office and the Alliance Secretariat are critical
- It is key to have a strong local partner. In Paraguay, work is done through a local alliance of NGOs.
- Child-friendly accountability can build on existing organizations' work within ongoing programs and processes.
- This should be a long-term effort lasting at least a year and the process itself should be an objective of the program.
- Child-friendly accountability is a strong opportunity for grant-seeking purposes.

### **Reflections on the child-friendly accountability experience in Vietnam**

In Vietnam, the pilots offer a snapshot of what some children said in one place at one time. It is not representative of the whole country context. There are some sensitivities in some places about children collecting information and reporting on the government.

Nick reinforced the importance of being careful not to extrapolate from one site. With multiple project sites in one country, it should be possible to aggregate findings and map out themes. Instead of jumping directly into national-level advocacy efforts, offices could first organize a validation workshop and present the findings/common themes to gauge reactions from stakeholders before going into advocacy planning.

## **Reflections from ChildFund International**

ChildFund International has been working with country offices to look at integrating child-friendly accountability into advocacy plans at the national level so it is an entry point to their broader advocacy agenda.

## **Reflections from ChildFund Korea**

There is a possibility for national and regional SDG reporting led by children if the government is not reporting. At the subregional level, there is interest in establishing a mechanism for this.

## **Reflections from ChildFund New Zealand**

ChildFund New Zealand has a meeting with World Vision next week to discuss what can be done together in New Zealand, a country with a shocking reputation for violence against children.

## **Reflections from Barnfonden**

For Barnfonden, the biggest question is what to ask the Swedish government to do and how we use child-friendly accountability in advocating for it. Examples of how headquarter and non-implementing countries plan to use child-friendly accountability for advocacy would be most welcome.

## **Possibilities for a report on some of the themes and actions emerging from child-friendly accountability**

We can use the outputs and outcomes of child-friendly accountability to combine with other advocacy themes that are already in the pipeline. They can be presented as stand-alone themes or combined with other topics to sharpen and strengthen messages.

Members expressed support for exploring how we could use themes from child-friendly accountability to shape a global report to be used for advocacy.

## **The importance of being accountable to children and young people participating in the project**

As child-friendly accountability is a product/service provided to children, ultimately the benefits need to be translated to children. A lot of advocacy is indirectly helping children but more directly helping Alliance members. How do we ensure participants see the results?

Child-friendly accountability provides an evidence base. It can be used to create strong narratives to carry the voices of children to decision-makers. We need to make sure the benefits and feedback find their way back to the field.

## **Recommendations for topics to raise with the APC/CMC:**

- For CMC: How funds are gained for work within Alliance countries. We fundraise for our international work. Perhaps something for this group to discuss with CMC?
- For APC: How do we take the lessons into our programming?

## **Next steps for Advocacy and child-friendly accountability**

- Establish a smaller group of Advocacy Task Force and child-friendly accountability implementing countries to explore this further
- Outreach to implementing countries on the topic