

ChildFund Alliance Launches Child-Friendly Accountability Initiative

September 21, 2016

New York, NY, September 21, 2016 — ChildFund Alliance today launched “Toward a Safe World for Children: Child-Friendly Accountability and SDG Target 16.2,” an initiative that will work with and empower children to hold governments and local leaders accountable to their obligations to end all violence against children, as per Social Development Goal (SDG) Target 16.2.



“ChildFund Alliance played a key role in positioning a stand-alone target on violence against children in Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (SDG Target 16.2),” said Meg Gardinier, Secretary General of ChildFund Alliance. “We believe that child-friendly accountability has a key role to play in making SDG Target 16.2 a reality.”

Child-friendly accountability is 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.

“Most children and youth do not have access to child-friendly information about existing protection actors, systems, and laws,” said [Dr. Nicholas Alipui](#), who developed the methodology for ChildFund Alliance’s Child-Friendly Accountability initiative. “Children and youth will be best served if they are able to work with parents, communities, civil society actors, and governments to jointly identify and address protection gaps.”

To ensure that participating children are not put at risk, Child Friendly Accountability will monitor child protection systems such as schools, communities, health systems, and social and judicial services rather than individual incidents of violence. Since the child protection systems is so broad,

the initiative will begin with schools and youth associations and expand over time. Risk mitigation factors will be built into all phases of the program.

Activities include helping children access age-appropriate data and information, mapping child protection services, developing advocacy and media campaigns, social mobilization initiatives, and developing a shared ICT platform.

The initiative was launched today in New York at a side event to the United Nations General Assembly. Representatives of UN Missions and agencies, and nongovernmental agencies were invited to adopt and adapt the methodology for use in their own programs. Other speakers at the event included [Susan Bissell](#), Director of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and [Mina Jaf](#), Founder and Director of Women Refugee Route.

About ChildFund Alliance: ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-focused development organizations working in more than 60 countries around the world. With an annual turnover of over US\$500 million, ChildFund Alliance helps an estimated 15 million children and their families to overcome poverty. www.childfundalliance.org