ChildFund
Alliance

TOWARD a SAFE WORLD for children

Child-Friendly Accountability in the Context of Target 16.2 of the SDGs

Recommended Methodology

free from violence and exploitation

ChildFund Alliance

ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-focused development organizations working in more than 50 countries to create opportunities for children, their families and communities.

The members of the Alliance are:
Barnfonden (Sweden)
ChildFund Australia
ChildFund Deutschland (Germany)
ChildFund Ireland
ChildFund International (USA)
ChildFund Japan
ChildFund Korea
ChildFund New Zealand
Christian Children's Fund of Canada
Educo (Spain)
Un Enfant par la Main (France)

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Contents

Introduction

Children have an inherent and universal right to a life free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, and to survival and development. Yet today, more than 1 billion children — about half the world's children — experience violence every year.[1]

Governments are responsible for ensuring children's right to protection against violence. All citizens, including children, must be able to hold their governments accountable to their

protection obligations in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child[2] and its three Optional Protocols. In most parts of the world, children do not have regular access to a meaningful accountability mechanism. They have no voice, no platform and no access to recourse, and are not meaningfully engaged in decisions that affect their protection. ChildFund Alliance is committed to providing children and their communities with a safe means to **participate in monitoring the performance of child protection systems and holding governments accountable.**

In September 2015, the United Nations unanimously adopted *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,[3] which frames the global development agenda for the next 15 years. In collaboration with other child-focused agencies and supportive governments, ChildFund Alliance played a key role in positioning a stand-alone target on violence against children in the Agenda, namely to *end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children* (Sustainable Development Goal [SDG] Target 16.2).[4]

ChildFund Alliance has adopted Child-friendly Accountability as a strategic priority[5] for the period 2016-2021 to support children and their communities in monitoring the performance and accountability in child protection systems, toward meeting SDG Target 16.2. ChildFund aims to mobilize like-minded organizations and governments to support the realization of Child-friendly Accountability around the world, particularly contributing to and working in synergy with the ongoing efforts of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children[6] and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.[7]

Child-friendly Accountability ultimately aims to improve the child protection system at the local, regional and national level. It will ensure that children are able to monitor and improve local protection systems by building their knowledge, supporting them in identifying protection gaps and facilitating direct action or advocacy with their communities to address these gaps. The Child-friendly Accountability methodology and information and communications technology (ICT) platform (website/cell phone-based application, hereafter "the app") will connect and scale up community-based action, allowing for regional and national monitoring of child protection and joint action to improve it.

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[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/vacs/
[2] Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx
[3] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
[4] http://indicators.report/targets/16-2/
[5] https://childfundalliance.org/our-work/strategic-priorities/child-friendly-accountability
[6] http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/
[7] http://www.end-violence.org/

Definition

Child-friendly Accountability *is a process by which children are empowered and able to meaningfully participate in making certain that those charged with protecting and fulfilling children's rights do what they are supposed to do in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, and if they do not or cannot, that children and their representatives have some recourse*.[8] It can be understood as both a mechanism and a process through which:

1. duty bearers[9] demonstrate, explain and justify how they have fulfilled their human rights obligations and SDG commitments to children;

2. children and their representatives are able to better understand what duty bearers should be doing and the degree to which they are meeting these obligations; and

3. children and their representatives are able to use this information to identify a recourse action or to help governments better meet their obligations and commitments.[10]

Child-friendly Accountability is, therefore, not only about lifting children's voices; it also requires that children are able to participate in identifying problems and solutions. Child-friendly Accountability demands that children are able to engage in an informed dialogue with decision-makers about issues of concern to them. It is most powerful for children when they can see the tangible results of their actions.

> CHILDREN ARE EMPOWERED AND ABLE TO MEANINGFULLY PARTICIPATE

For protection reasons, Child-friendly Accountability does not focus on monitoring incidents of violence or children's individual experiences with the child protection system. Rather, children and their communities focus exclusively on monitoring the performance and accountability of the child protection system.

ChildFund Alliance's Child-friendly Accountability initiative engages children between the ages of 13 and 17. For this group, the term 'children' is used interchangeably with 'youth,' as all young people in this age range, despite their adolescence, have special need for protection, as specified in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, it should be noted that older youth between 18 and 25 may be interested in participating in activities and should be engaged as appropriate, for example, as mentors or facilitators.

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[8] Modified version of the definition used in UNICEF (March 2015) "Accountability for Children's Rights, With Special Attention to Social Accountability and its Potential to Achieve Results and Equality for Children." https://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/rights/files/Accountability-for-Childrens-Rights-UNICEF.pdf

[9] "Duty bearers are those actors who have a particular obligation or responsibility to respect, promote and realize human rights and abstain from hr violations. The term is most commonly used to refer to State actors, but non-State actors can also be considered duty bearers. Depending on the context, individuals (e.g., parents), local organizations, private companies, aid donors, and international institutions can also be duty bearers." https://www.unicef.org/gender/training/content/resources/Glossary.pdf

[10] See note 8.

Literature Review

The literature around the 2030 *Agenda for Sustainable Development* (also referred to as the post-2015 development agenda) and the SDGs is rich with calls for bottom-up accountability.[11] There is specific focus on monitoring progress towards the SDG Targets through representative and disaggregated data, collected by both local and national actors.[12] There is an attempt to increase accountability, enabling the most vulnerable and marginalized populations to hold governments to their commitments.[13] Children are central to this approach. There have also been widespread calls for effective and sustainable means by which children can hold duty bearers and states accountable to their obligations at local and international levels.[14] The literature recognizes that participation benefits involved children, encourages collective action and improves the effectiveness of programs and development outcomes.[15] The literature also recognizes that participation is at its best when children have access to transparent, disaggregated, timely, child-friendly and relevant public data. In the same manner, inclusive and accountable governance structures are fundamental to meaningful participation of children in the post-2015 agenda.[16]

During the public consultations that informed the development of the post-2015 development agenda, there was significant emphasis on the importance of using digital means to monitor the SDGs because of the widespread and growing use of mobile phones, their ability for *real-time* monitoring and their ability to include a wide audience.[17] Child-friendly Accountability is responding directly to these trends. At present, there are many mechanisms emerging that are focused on increasing bottom-up accountability and child participation. There are also several initiatives aimed at monitoring SDG Target 16.2. However, ChildFund Alliance's Child-friendly Accountability initiative is unique in its attempt to link both bottom-up accountability and child participation to monitoring SDG Target 16.2. It is also unique in that it provides an opportunity for children to monitor States' progress in meeting SDG Target 16.2 through the actions that they put in place to prevent, mitigate and respond to violence (the child protection system), rather than monitoring non-compliance through rates of violence.

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[11] Institute for Development Studies, "9 Global Learning and Demonstration Pilots for Participatory Monitoring and Accountability." http://www.ids.ac.uk/project/participate-participatory-monitoring-and-accountability

[12] Tricia Callender, "Participatory Monitoring and Accountability, Conceptualizations and Implementation, and the Implications for Post-2015: Literature Review" (UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women on behalf of the UN Development Group Co-conveners of the Participatory Monitoring & Accountability Consultation, June 2014).

[13] UNICEF, UN Women and UNDP, "Participatory Monitoring and Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda: E-Discussion Summary Synthesis Report"; O'Shea, S. (2014). "Post-2015: The Power of Voice, Inclusion and Participation." UNICEF Blogs. Retrieved at: http://blogs.unicef.org/2014/04/11/post-2015-the-power-of-voice-inclusion-and-participation/

[14] Child to Child, ChildFund Alliance, Plan, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages International and World Vision, "Child Sensitive Accountability and the Post-2015 Agenda" (August 2015). https://childfundalliance.org/resources/publications/49-reports/1127-child-sensitive-accountability-and-the-post-2015-agenda-pdf

[15] Ibid.

[16] Ibid.

[17] Tricia Callender, "Participatory Monitoring and Accountability: Conceptualizations and Implementation, and the Implications for Post-2015: Literature Review" (UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women on behalf of the UN Development Group Co-conveners of the Participatory Monitoring & Accountability Consultation, June 2014); UNICEF, UN Women and UNDP, "Participatory Monitoring and Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda: E-Discussion Summary Synthesis Report" (2014).

Supporting the Realization of INSPIRE

INSPIRE: *Seven strategies for ending violence against children*[18] identifies a group of strategies that have shown success in reducing violence against children. INSPIRE was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO)[19] in 2016 to support communities and governments in realizing SDG Target 16.2. INSPIRE is WHO's main contribution to the newly established Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children

- Implementation and enforcement of laws
- Norms and values
- Safe environments
- Parent and caregiver support
- Income and economic strengthening
- Response and support services
- Education and life skills
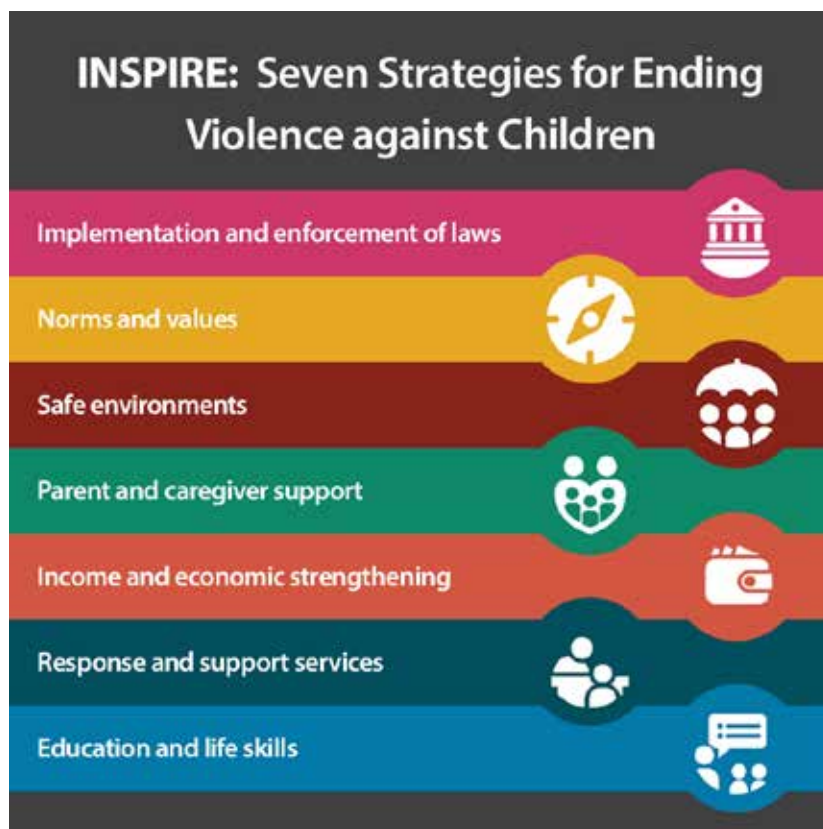
The Child-friendly Accountability methodology provides children and their communities with a means of monitoring and contributing to six of the seven strategies (all except income and economic strengthening) included in the INSPIRE package:

- **Implementation and enforcement of laws:** The Child-friendly Accountability initiative will enable children and their communities to understand and monitor the implementation of laws related to child protection.

- **Norms and values:** Child-friendly Accountability will contribute to challenging restrictive and harmful gender and social norms through public information campaigns and

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18   http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/
19   With contributions from the CDC, End Violence Against Children, The Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, PEPFAR, Together for Girls, UNICEF, UNODC, USAID, PAHO and the World Bank.

awareness-raising focus group discussions with community members, as well as advocacy and direct action programs undertaken in collaboration with participating adults, youth and their communities.

- **Safe environments:** The initiative seeks to strengthen the child protection environment by building knowledge while identifying and addressing gaps in both the formal and informal protection systems.

- **Parent and caregiver support:** Child-friendly Accountability includes training and awareness-raising activities for and with parents, community members and actors in the child protection system. It aims to build knowledge and understanding, coordination and enhanced communication and accountability among children and their caregivers/child protection actors.

- **Response and support services:** Child-friendly Accountability allows children to understand and identify response and support services and provides them with a structured means by which they can monitor these systems and work with their communities to address protection gaps, where they exist.

- **Education and life skills:** During Phase 1, Child-friendly Accountability includes a focus on ensuring schools are safe. It enables children to understand laws and mechanisms that are in place to ensure their safety at school, to monitor these mechanisms and laws to see if they are implemented, and to work with their parents and communities to address protection gaps. Additionally, children will improve their knowledge about forms of violence and ways to protect themselves against them, including how to access existing child protection systems.

The seventh INSPIRE strategy, which is not included in the Child-friendly Accountability initiative, is:

- **Income and economic strengthening.**

Additionally, Child-friendly Accountability will contribute to the two cross-cutting activities included in the INSPIRE strategy, namely:

- **Multi-sectoral actions and coordination:** Child-friendly Accountability focuses on encouraging and strengthening coordination and collaboration among youth, communities, local and national authorities, civil society organizations and others. Child-friendly Accountability works to build knowledge in all sectors of society and to facilitate a safe space for dialogue and joint action to address gaps in the protection system. Additionally, Child-friendly Accountability is a framework under which numerous actors can contribute through their existing activities to a central information, monitoring and accountability mechanism.

- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Child-friendly Accountability is designed to allow children and their communities to monitor progress in the realization of SDG Target 16.2 by monitoring performance and accountability in the protection system.

ChildFund Alliance's Approach to Child-friendly Accountability and Key Characteristics

The Child-friendly Accountability methodology is grounded in ChildFund's unique expertise, field experience and best practice in child protection and child participation, with the following key characteristics:

1. **A collaborative approach to working with children:** Child-friendly Accountability is implemented in partnership with children to allow them to act within a safe and meaningful framework, supported by adults.

2. **Building on the capacities of local communities, community-based organizations and government authorities:** It builds the knowledge and capacity of key local actors through action-training[20] and accompaniment.[21]

3. **Participatory approaches:** Child-friendly Accountability mobilizes children, with their parents and community leaders, to work together at the local level to understand, monitor and engage in activities aimed at improving performance and accountability in the formal and informal child protection system.

4. **Child rights-based approach:** Child-friendly Accountability contributes to the full realization of children's rights to protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. It is particularly focused on developing the capacity of duty bearers to meet their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the rights, as well as the capacity, of rights holders to claim their rights and fulfill their responsibilities. Child rights principles guide all aspects of the design and implementation of Child-friendly Accountability, particularly child protection and participation, non-discrimination, the best interest of the child, survival and development.

5. **Replicability and scaling up:** Child-friendly Accountability is replicable across countries, communities and levels of society and should be tailored to each context. Building on community-based actions, it encourages coordination across communities and actors to allow for scaled-up impact over time.

> CHILD-FRIENDLY ACCOUNTABILITY IS IMPLEMENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDREN

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[20] The term 'action-training' is used throughout this methodology. It refers to an approach to training in which participants are presented with new information, encouraged to discuss, debate and describe the information in their own words, and supported in directly applying the information to their work during the training session.

[21] The term 'accompaniment' is used to describe sustained assistance and support throughout the implementation of activities. This means that support will not be limited to the workshop setting, but will continue in a concrete way during the day-to-day implementation of project activities.

Rationale

Child-friendly Accountability will contribute to enabling children, in collaboration with their communities, to hold governments and local leaders accountable to their obligation to end violence against children through the development of robust and accountable child protection systems.

Child-friendly Accountability is founded on the hypothesis that supporting children to build knowledge and understanding, challenge negative social norms, monitor, advocate and work with duty bearers to strengthen performance and accountability in child protection systems will contribute to reducing violence against children, as measured by SDG Target 16.2.

Child-friendly Accountability will contribute to strengthening child protection and preventing violence through three pathways of change.

1. Child-friendly Accountability will **help duty bearers strengthen formal and informal child protection systems** by providing children and their communities with the means to understand the child protection system, monitor protection gaps and collaboratively work with duty bearers to address these gaps. As per the Convention on the Rights of the Child[22] and the Committee on the Rights of the Child[23] the Child-friendly Accountability methodology assumes that a strong child protection system is an essential component of States' positive obligation to realize, protect and fulfill a child's right to be free from violence.

2. Child-friendly Accountability will **contribute to social change** by supporting the transformation of negative social norms, customs and practices that permit violence against children. This transformation is driven by knowledge building, community mobilization and the development of a collaborative space for dialogue and action between children, communities and duty bearers. It is assumed that these contribute to lowering tolerance levels and acceptance of violence against children, creating conditions that support a culture of non-violence.[24]

3. Child-friendly Accountability will **provide children and their communities with a means by which they can hold duty bearers accountable to their obligations** under international law and the SDGs. It will ensure that children and their communities have knowledge about what duty bearers are supposed to do to protect children and a means by which to monitor if this is what is happening on the ground. It will mobilize children and communities to communicate protection gaps to duty bearers and to advocate for change. The underlying assumption is that duty bearers are more likely to meet their obligations if citizens are actively engaged in monitoring and holding them accountable.
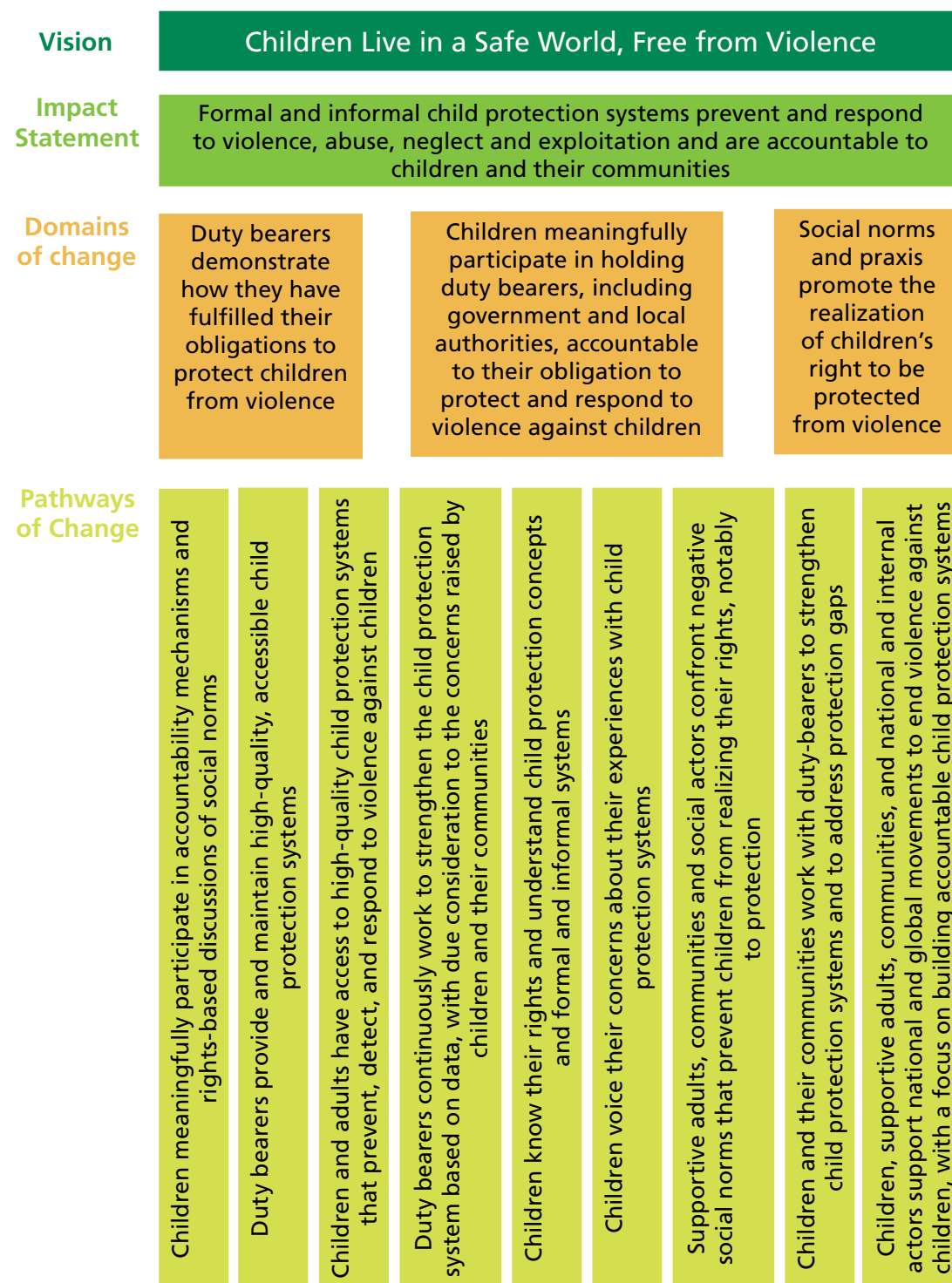
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[22] Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19(b).

[23] Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment 18 (para 10-13) and General Comment 13 (para 5, 45 - 58).

[24] A 'culture of non-violence' is used in the context of the SDGs, including Target 16.2, which aims to support the development of a global culture of peace, nonviolence, global citizenship and human rights.

The Child-friendly Accountability Theory of Change

Vision

Children Live in a Safe World, Free from Violence

Impact Statement

Formal and informal child protection systems prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and are accountable to children and their communities

Domains of change

Duty bearers demonstrate how they have fulfilled their obligations to protect children from violence	Children meaningfully participate in holding duty bearers, including government and local authorities, accountable to their obligation to protect and respond to violence against children	Social norms and praxis promote the realization of children's right to be protected from violence

Pathways of Change

- Children meaningfully participate in accountability mechanisms and rights-based discussions of social norms
- Duty bearers provide and maintain high-quality, accessible child protection systems
- Children and adults have access to high-quality child protection systems that prevent, detect, and respond to violence against children
- Duty bearers continuously work to strengthen the child protection system based on data, with due consideration to the concerns raised by children and their communities
- Children know their rights and understand child protection concepts and formal and informal systems
- Children voice their concerns about their experiences with child protection systems
- Supportive adults, communities and social actors confront negative social norms that prevent children from realizing their rights, notably to protection
- Children and their communities work with duty-bearers to strengthen child protection systems and to address protection gaps
- Children, supportive adults, communities, and national and internal actors support national and global movements to end violence against children, with a focus on building accountable child protection systems

It should be noted that Child-friendly Accountability will contribute to the pathways of change shown above (particularly the second and the third), but must be paired and implemented in conjunction with other efforts.

Method and Design

Child-friendly Accountability will monitor performance and accountability in child protection systems. It will not monitor incidents of violence or individual experiences with the protection system. Child-friendly accountability will monitor the performance and accountability of both formal and informal actors and mechanisms at all levels of society (local to national) and the degree to which the systems are being used and are meeting the protection needs of children and their communities.

Acknowledging that a functional child protection system cuts across several sectors, such as education, health, justice and security, a phased approach is recommended. Child-friendly Accountability will not be able to monitor and report on all aspects of the child protection system during field-level application, particularly in its early phase. During the first phase, therefore, the focus has been narrowed to two entry points, namely (1) schools and the education system and (2) part of the protection system applicable to out-of-school children in communities (the setting should be selected by the team on the ground with the children). In both cases, Child-friendly Accountability will monitor how the child protection system functions within a specific context (e.g., the child protection system within schools), as well as how a given setting or mechanism relates to the child protection system globally (e.g., the role of the school in the wider child protection system).

It is expected that Child-friendly Accountability will be expanded to other entry points over time, allowing children to monitor child protection systems in the community, including religious institutions, healthcare systems, the work place, in judicial proceedings, for detained children and children in alternative care. The Child-friendly Accountability methodology can be implemented in humanitarian contexts, although not during an acute emergency, if it is judged that there is minimal risk to engaged children and there are local partners on the ground capable of supporting participating children.

The Child-friendly Accountability methodology should be understood as a framework, under which multiple actors, activities and programs can contribute to reaching common objectives over a period of 15 years. The methodology also uses a modular approach that will allow Child-friendly Accountability to expand geographically, with respect to the number of communities engaged and with regard to the number and scale of activities as the number of children, partner organizations, resources and capacity grow.

Understanding the Phased and Modular Approach

Phased Approach

Violence against children occurs in multiple settings. An ideal child protection system should work to prevent, detect and respond to violence across these settings. As such, child protection systems are multifaceted and cross-sectoral. Child-friendly Accountability adopts a phased approach to allow children and their communities to understand, monitor and strengthen the child protection system in different settings. This includes both context-specific child protection mechanisms (e.g., child protection systems directly relating to school violence), as well as how particular institutions and setting contribute to the wider child protection system, such as the school's role in monitoring, detecting and responding to violence that has occurred outside the school.

During the first phase, two entry points have been selected — children in school and out-of-school children. At a later stage, Child-friendly Accountability should be expanded to other settings.

- **Phase 1 — Children in school:** With the facilitation of adult participants, children in school look at child protection in the school and the role of the school in the child protection system more broadly. They will identify policies and mechanisms that work to prevent, detect and respond to violence in their schools and across the national education system and work with their communities to monitor and strengthen these systems.

- **Phase 1 — Out-of-school children:** With the help of adult participants, engaged out-of-school children identify a specific setting in which they would like to monitor the child protection system. This could be, for example, in the work place, on the street, in vocational programs, in an orphanage or other institutions. Having identified the setting, they will work under the guidance of adult participants to identify existing policies and mechanisms in the child protection system that exist in this setting (e.g., laws and policies, mechanisms and actors, addressed to the protection of working children). Working with their community, they will monitor and strengthen relevant aspects of the child protection system.

- **Later phases:** Child-friendly Accountability can be expanded to other settings and entry points of the child protection system. For example, children and their communities can expand Child-friendly Accountability to monitor the child protection system as it responds to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in the home, in the community, in religious institutions, in the work place, in the healthcare system, in judicial proceedings, in detention, in alternative care, etc. Phase by phase, engaged children and their communities will develop a holistic understanding and monitoring mechanism that will cover the breadth of the child protection system.

Modular Approach

The modular approach relates specifically to the roll-out of activities, namely the development of child-friendly information, the mapping of child protection actors, monitoring, advocacy, etc. The Child-friendly Accountability methodology is built to capitalize on existing programs and capacities of ChildFund and its partners. As such, the immediate implementation of all activities in the Child-friendly Accountability methodology may not be possible for all actors. The modular approach allows implementing actors to focus on specific activities as resources and capacities are available and to move forward with implementation at their own pace, starting with a core set of activities.

The types of violence experienced by children are different in each country, as are the child protection systems. It is essential that a context assessment is conducted prior to launching Child-friendly Accountability activities. Activities should be tailored to the local context.

To ensure a minimum level of standardization and in the interest of sustainability, the Child-friendly Accountability methodology is accompanied by a Toolbox that will include a standard set of action-training materials to support participating children and adults in implementation. The Toolbox also includes an app that will enable the centralization of out-puts, ensure that children have access to the information generated by others and facilitate reporting, dialogue, social mobilization and advocacy.

Gender Sensitivity

In many situations, girls and boys are subjected to and experience violence, abuse, ex-ploitation and neglect differently. Girls and boys often engage with and access formal and informal child protection mechanisms differently. Social and cultural norms and cultural expectations around gender, as well as violence, determine a child's ability to access and interact with child protection services. Child-friendly Accountability activities will promote girls' and boys' understanding of sociocultural gender roles and constructions, and seek to reconstruct these roles to shift unequal power imbalances for the improvement of child protection systems.

It is essential that gender be a primary consideration across the three pillars of Child-friendly Accountability in terms of (1) *content* — as it pertains to awareness-raising information, training materials, etc., and (2) *form* — related to the disaggregation of data, design of the monitoring and reporting mechanism (including the app, the design and implementation of advocacy and direct action programs, etc.). Data should be disaggregated not only by gen-der, but also by age, socioeconomic background, ethnicity (if relevant), etc.

Three Pillars of Child-friendly Accountability

Three pillars are recommended for field-level application of the Child-friendly Accountability methodology: (1) **Assessment,** focused on knowledge building and fostering understanding; (2) **Analysis and Accountability,** centered on mapping and analyzing the performance of the protection system; and (3) **Action** for social mobilization, advocacy and corrective action on gaps and bottlenecks identified by the children. A fourth pillar on capacity building is mainstreamed across the three pillars. These pillars are conceived to foster social change and accountability at the local level through to national-level monitoring and accountability.

The activities described under each pillar build on each other. Children and their communities are in a continual process of **Assessment, Analysis and Action (the three pillars of the Triple A approach).** The activities described under each pillar (below) build on each other. They are a dynamic process of building knowledge about child rights and protection; identifying the gaps in child protection; and working with duty bearers to improve the system. Reporting and accountability are continuously built from this process. Once agreed actions have been taken, children and their communities return to the analysis phase and continue the cycle.

> CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE IN A CONTINUAL PROCESS OF ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND ACTION

It is envisaged that Child-friendly Accountability will be implemented as part of interventions where ChildFund members and partners have ongoing activities. In each community, two groups of children between the ages of 13 and 17 are engaged, one group of in-school children and one group of out-of-school children. Each group should consist of no more than 25 children and should focus on protection in the education setting and another setting selected by out-of-school children, respectively. Parents and teachers, community members and authorities are consulted and are involved in all activities, collaborating with the children to strengthen local protection systems. In each community, local partners are selected to support field implementation. Local partners receive training and ongoing technical support from ChildFund, thus building their long-term capacity to support and work for child protection in their communities.

Pillar 1: Assessment — Knowledge building and fostering understanding

Change starts with knowledge and understanding. In many cases, children and their communities are unaware of their rights and of existing formal and informal child protection actors and mechanisms. For children and their communities to meaningfully participate in monitoring and improving the performance and accountability of child protection systems they need to understand child rights and responsibilities, violence against children and child protection; the laws and policies related to child protection and violence against children; and who is responsible for protecting children — both formal and informal child protection

actors and mechanisms.

Toward fostering a culture of non-violence and to prevent violence against children, activities under this pillar should be accompanied by an ongoing **public information campaign** led by ChildFund and its partners, with attention to the unique impact and experience of violence on girls and boys. The public information campaign will be grounded in child rights and responsibilities and should aim to change individual behavior, as well as challenge structural violence. The public information campaign will challenge negative social norms that permit and encourage violence against children and target the social and economic conditions that give rise to violence against children. To the extent possible, ChildFund and its partners encourage **mainstreaming child rights education** into school and community programs.

In parallel to the public information campaign, top priority will be given to the **selection and training of children in child rights, violence prevention and child protection.** The recommended training approach will directly involve children and their communities in action-training workshops that deepen their understanding of child rights, violence prevention and child protection. The children will participate in **identifying and making available in a child-friendly format laws and policies related to child protection and violence against children.** These will be uploaded to the Child-friendly Accountability app, ensuring that a wide range of children, as well as other stakeholders, have access to these resources. They will undertake **preliminary evaluation of the protection laws, policies and capacity** at the community, local, provincial and national levels.

An **introductory workshop on Child-friendly Accountability will be organized for parents, teachers, parent-teacher associations (PTAs), community leaders and other key actors, as well as other children** in the community not directly engaged in the project. The children will brief them on the results of their work, and they will be invited to participate in key activities and knowledge building, including the development of child-friendly information materials.

Pillar 2: Analysis and Accountability — Monitoring performance and accountability in the child protection system

Child-friendly Accountability is grounded in the belief that children are best placed to know if child protection systems are available, accessible and meeting their needs. Activities under this pillar enable the children to **identify and map existing child protection actors,** mandates and structure of accountability at the local, community, provincial and national levels. The children and their communities will be engaged in identifying and mapping the child protection system, identifying key actors, mandates, mechanisms and how they function. This information will be uploaded to the app.

Children and their communities will also **report on protection gaps and bottlenecks.** The children will (1) analyze strategies, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities vis-à-vis relevant laws and mandates in the protection system; (2) discuss their findings and the protection gaps with PTAs, local authorities, community leaders and other children through focus group discussions; (3) hold workshops with interested children not engaged in the project to share findings and gaps; and (4) upload their reports and findings online via the app.

The children will not report individual incidents of violence through the reporting system. For protection reasons, engaged children will not collect and report on their own or other children's experience. **They will only be responsible for reporting on gaps and bottlenecks that they identify in the child protection system.**

Reporting will be centralized on the app. Children will be able to report through SMS and possibly other social media, such as Twitter, Facebook or WhatsApp. The app allows for the aggregation of reporting and the monitoring of trends.

The protection of participating children is particularly critical in this pillar. All engaged actors need a sound understanding of the ethical standards of research with children. Communities, as well as local and national child protection actors, will be fully informed about the project before these activities begin. Child protection actors must understand that mapping child protection mechanisms and actors will contribute to their ongoing efforts to protect children and thus see the benefit in participating in and supporting these activities.

Protection of engaged children also depends on ensuring anonymity of reporting and data protection on the app. The reporting mechanism is structured to reduce the risk of erroneous reporting, including the reporting of individual incidents of violence or personal experiences in the child protection system. Children in need of child protection and special care will be assisted by adult participants to identify child protection actors in the referral network through the app. The reporting mechanisms has been designed with attention to the unique needs of girls and boys.

Focus group discussions with parents, relevant community members, PTAs and government or child protection authorities will be organized to share findings and discuss action. A follow-up workshop will be organized for interested children not engaged in the project on findings and planned improvements.

Pillar 3: Action — Advocacy, social mobilization and direct action

Under this pillar, the children and their communities will **identify concrete ways to improve the child protection system in their communities and work with duty bearers to bring about change** for the better. It is not sufficient to merely listen to children. They must be allowed to see positive change resulting from their participation. Experience shows that children frequently disengage from projects if they are not able to see tangible results.

For this reason, engaged children and their communities, with the support of ChildFund and its partners, will:

- **Identify required change:** Children will identify actions that could rapidly improve performance and accountability in the protection system.
- **Publish findings:** Children will draft and publish regular reports summarizing children's analysis and findings about the protection system, improvements and ongoing bottlenecks and weaknesses.
- **Advocate:**[25] Children will be supported to use the data and information captured on the app to influence local, national, regional and global policymakers to advance the rights of children.
- **Mobilize and act:** Children will work with their communities and duty bearers to identify concrete actions that can be taken to rapidly improve child protection at the community and/or national level, as well as mobilize their communities either to take direct action to improve child protection or to advocate for specific changes, including through media, such as the radio, comic strips, social media or videos.

Parents, teachers, community leaders and other key actors, as well as children in the community that are not directly engaged in the project, will be regularly provided with the results of the advocacy and direct action. If appropriate and safe for engaged children, these sessions should be co-led by children and run as focus group discussions to allow debate, engagement and community participation.

Key child protection officials and authorities must be contacted and should be supportive of activities undertaken by the children before they publish their findings and work towards concrete solutions. Adult participants, including ChildFund and partners, will provide guidance to the participating children to ensure that their chosen advocacy issue and approach do not put them at undue risk and that they follow basic child protection principles regarding media.

ChildFund Alliance, in coordination with international partners, will play a key role in supporting children in publishing reports and direct action at the local level, coordinating with children from other communities, and connecting with broader advocacy goals focused on shaping the discourse and policy regarding child protection systems and violence against children. This could include supporting children to report and participate in regional and

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[25] Advocacy, in the context of Child-friendly Accountability, is defined as action taken to influence the policies and actions of governments, international institutions and the private sector, in order to achieve positive changes in children's lives.

international monitoring forums, such as the High-Level Political Forum,[26] the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the UN Committee against Torture, the Universal Periodic Review process, and to regional human rights bodies (e.g., the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Arab Human Rights Committee, the European Committee of Social Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights). If the targeted State has not ratified the Optional Protocols to the CRC, this should be a priority advocacy issue.

The app will aggregate information in a child-friendly manner, allowing input to national-level monitoring and reporting for communities and governments to be held accountable to the global agenda. Child-friendly Accountability and the app are designed to expand according to: (1) the protection settings addressed, enabling phased implementation, starting in schools and settings external to schools for out-of-school children and later expanding to other entry points, such as hospitals, the judicial system, alternative care institutions, etc.; (2) the number of communities and scale of intervention at the national level expanding during the next 10-15 years; and (3) the number of countries implementing Child-friendly Accountability — initially 5–10 pilot countries — expanding to 20 in the first two years and to all countries where ChildFund has a sustained presence over the coming 10 years. It is also likely that the Child-friendly Accountability and its app will be used and adapted by other child-focused agencies to other sectors and targets of the SDGs.

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[26] The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is a UN platform that was established to monitor and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf

Activity Scale-up: Provincial and National Action

The overall focus of scaling up is first and foremost to aggregate relevant child-friendly information, protection mapping, reporting and action undertaken at the community level. Data is collected at the community level through Pillars 1, 2 and 3. The app allows for the community data collection and action to be aggregated for provincial and/or national monitoring, over time. Other outputs consist of (1) formulating, drafting and publishing reports on the findings of the children and (2) organizing provincial and national-level awareness raising, accountability and action forums.

Capacity Building

Capacity building is a horizontal activity, which supports all persons engaged in Child-friendly Accountability. An action-training approach is adopted to support implementation and to provide a minimum of standardization across implementing partners, geographic regions, etc. Action trainings are designed to accompany participants from knowledge-building to action. Action-training manuals will be available in the Toolbox for the following actors:

- **Provincial government authorities and government child protection actors:** A module will be included in the Toolbox to facilitate training of governmental actors on strategies to end violence against children, on child rights and child protection, focusing on their roles and responsibilities as per international and national law. This will help to prepare them to work with children and their communities in the context of Child-friendly Accountability.

- **Community-based organizations (CBOs) and/or relevant local government child protection authorities:** In each participating community, ChildFund identifies and works through a local CBO and/or the relevant local government child protection authorities. These partners will need careful support and capacity building throughout the project. Action-training materials in the Toolbox are used to build partner capacity and ensure that they are carefully implementing program activities.

- **Participating children:** Children are supported with action training throughout the field-level application of the Child-friendly Accountability methodology. Action training is facilitated by implementing CBOs or ChildFund staff.

- **Parents/teachers/community leaders:** Engaged children, with the support of ChildFund and partners, mobilize parents, teachers and community leaders in Child-friendly Accountability activities. Action-training materials will be available in the Toolbox to support children in preparing for and working with their communities. As appropriate, parents, teachers, community leaders and other key staff are regularly informed about the progress of activities. These knowledge-building sessions should be structured as focus group discussions to encourage participation and engagement from relevant adults.

Minimum Standards and Prerequisites

Prior to beginning the Child-friendly Accountability activities described above, the following prerequisite conditions and minimum standards[27] must be in place. Required preparatory activities are available in Annex 1 (page 30):

1. **Support from local and national child protection actors** — **both formal and informal:** If there is a critical lack of support from the local and/or national authorities, it is not appropriate to implement Child-friendly Accountability at that time or in that context.

2. **The referral system is in place:**[28] There should be a clear mechanism by which children, with the facilitation of adult participants, can contact child protection service providers in their area (such as a child helpline, community-based child protection network and/or the national child protection system, if it is functional).[29] The referral network needs to be gender sensitive, with specific consideration of the unique protection needs of girls and boys. This could be a formal state-centric referral system, if in existence and functional, or a community-based child protection network of formal and informal actors, depending on the context and in accordance with the best interest of the child principle. Although children will be trained to identify and understand serious distress in their peers and should understand how the referral system works, participating children will not be responsible for or engaged in referral (putting children in touch with service providers). Referral should be the sole responsibility of the participating institutions.

3. **The app is ready for operations:** The Child-friendly Accountability app should be established in-country and ready for application. ChildFund will develop the primary app. It should be adapted as needed to each country. The platform will be run by each ChildFund country office. However, it will be hosted and technically supported by an external service provider.

4. **CBOs, schools, PTAs and local authorities are selected:** The capacity and interest of local CBOs, schools and authorities should be assessed and a local implementing partner in each community selected to support activity implementation and operations (evaluation criteria and tools will be available in the Toolbox). Schools could be selected as the local implementing partner (evaluation criteria will be available in the Toolbox); how-

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[27] The following list of conditions must be met before child-friendly accountability activities can begin. In all cases, these conditions require preparation and action from ChildFund. If these conditions cannot be met, child-friendly accountability activities should be suspended temporarily.

[28] A referral system is an organized process through which it is possible to formally request services for a child or their family from another sector or organization (e.g., case management, cash assistance, health care, psychosocial support, etc.) through an established procedure and/or form. (This definition is based on: Child Protection Working Group (2014) "Interagency Guidelines on Case Management and Child Protection.")

[29] The app could include, for example, an interactive map that allows participating adults and children to identify child protection actors in their area, including information about how to contact them.

ever, they will likely need additional support and training to implement Child-friendly Accountability activities, either directly from ChildFund or from a partner/implementing organization.

5. **Safeguarding of children:** The common Child Protection and Participation Protocol[30] should be signed by all engaged adults in addition to an in-depth child protection training and orientation. The Protocol will be included in the Toolbox. All engaged actors should understand the central importance of respecting children's rights, particularly with regard to ethical standards of research with children.

6. **Psychosocial and/or psychological support staff are available:** Psychological and/or psychosocial support staff (depending on availability and capacity in the local context) to support participating children and engaged children during project implementation should be selected, and engaged children and adults should be provided with basic training in identifying signs of serious distress. Though children should be provided with information and understand the referral system, they will not be responsible for referring cases.

YOUTH WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REFERRING CASES

7. **Participating children are identified:** It is imperative that the children understand the scope of activities, their involvement and potential risks and impact, and have given their informed consent.[31] It should be possible in most settings to mainstream participation through ongoing programs, such as existing school programs, community programs for out-of-school children, etc. However, in some settings, existing systems may not be able to support and maintain an additional program. In this case, Child-friendly Accountability may need to be implemented outside of existing programs.

8. **Engaged children sign the Child Protection Protocol and Code of Conduct (child-friendly version):** A child-friendly version of the Child Protection Protocol and Code of Conduct will be included in the Toolbox.[32] The child-friendly version of the protocol will include provisions related to children's role in safeguarding against violence against children and upholding the rule of law in their communities and countries. Engaged children can encourage their peers to also sign the Protocol and Code of Conduct. Over time, this will help to foster a children's and youth culture of non-violence and child rights.

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[30] A common Protocol should be used by all ChildFund offices and partner organizations. The Protocol will be included in the Toolbox.

[31] Informed consent should be understood as an ongoing process; at each step and for each activity, engaged children should discuss and understand possible implications, etc., and be given the choice to participate or not.

[32] See note 30.

Justifying the Selected Approach

The Child-friendly Accountability methodology was developed based on an extensive internal literature review focused on best practice and lessons learned in the field of child protection, child participation and accountability, as well as the experience of ChildFund. In the design of the Child-friendly Accountability methodology, attention has been given to balancing the proven benefits of meaningful child participation with the protection risks related to monitoring, reporting and advocacy to end violence against children.

Although the benefits of child participation are widely recognized, including in the UN CRC,[33] too often participation is reduced to tokenism or limited to consultation with children in adult forums or processes. This methodology moves beyond a mere consultative approach, attempting to engage children and their communities in a process of change and building accountability. Child-friendly Accountability is built on the following principles:

1. **Reduced risk for engaged children:** To protect engaged children, Child-friendly Accountability does not involve children directly in monitoring individual incidents of violence, as per the indicators of SDG 16.2, or reporting on their individual experiences in the protection system. Participating children are also not placed in the role of data collectors; they are not responsible for documenting and reporting on the experience of other children. Rather, Child-friendly Accountability provides children with the means to monitor the performance of the child protection system and report their findings. Additionally, numerous protection measures are built into the methodology to ensure the protection of engaged children as outlined in the Risk Mitigation section (page 23).

2. **Bottom-up change:** A functional child protection system not only requires adequate and implemented laws and policies, resource allocation and well-trained and coordinated professional child protection staff, it also requires an engaged and protective family and community culture, knowledge building for children and their communities, and access to accountability and recourse mechanisms for individual children in case of need. Child-friendly Accountability works to strengthen child protection from the bottom up, in collaboration with national child protection actors and international partners.

3. **Collaborative relationships and dialogue among children, youth, their communities, civil society actors and duty bearers:** A collaborative approach will increase ownership over local solutions and will help to bring lasting change to both formal and informal protection systems. It will also help to ensure that engaged children are not put at undue risk.

4. **Knowledge is powerful:** As noted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, access to child-friendly information is a prerequisite to meaningful child participation.[34]

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[33] Article 12, Convention on the Rights of the Child.
[34] UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment 12 (2009), paragraph 82.

Children must understand their rights, the child protection system and issues related to violence against children. Without knowledge and understanding, children have a difficult time accessing child protection systems or participating in accountability mechanisms.

5. **Children and adults learn best by doing:** Children and their communities are more likely to understand and use information if they participate in gathering, analyzing and transforming the information into a child-friendly format. They are also more likely to support and work towards change if they are the drivers behind identifying solutions and designing and implementing action plans.

6. **Building a mechanism for accountability requires sustained engagement with children:** To be meaningful, the principle of accountability must saturate all parts of the Child-friendly Accountability methodology, not simply define the final objective. Engaged children are not only involved as data points in monitoring the child protection system, they are also empowered to act as meaningful change agents in their communities. This requires sustained commitment from supporting adults.

7. **Technology offers new and innovative opportunities to engage children and mobilize action:** Technology is rapidly evolving and new means of communication are becoming more accessible to the global masses. An increasing number of children, including children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds in the developing world, have access to mobile phones and are engaging in social media on some level, with increasing sophistication. Child-friendly Accountability recommends harnessing this potential to enhance knowledge sharing and improved coordination at the field level.

Risk Mitigation

Involving children in monitoring and accountability related to child protection is challenging and can potentially put children at risk. The following actions and considerations must be built into Child-friendly Accountability to ensure the protection and well-being of participating children:

1. **Participating children must in no way be put at risk:** If substantial risks are identified at the outset, such as a critical lack of political space for civil society engagement or active resistance from critical governmental agencies, it is not appropriate to implement Child-friendly Accountability in that context. In such situations, continued engagement to reach some level of agreement to proceed is encouraged. The Field Manual will include a module on how to work in these situations.

2. **Children are better able to protect themselves if they are aware of their right to protection:** For this reason, awareness-raising in general, but especially among engaged children, is an essential component of Child-friendly Accountability.

3. **All involved actors should be informed and be sensitive to the potential risks associated with children on the internet:** This includes explicit content, propaganda, extremist content and recruiting, as well as exploitation of children online. All actors should actively work with engaged children to ensure safe internet use.

4. **All actors should be aware of the potential risk of unintentionally increasing the gap between children who do not have access to technology and those who do through program activities:** It is critically important that children, with the support of ChildFund and its partners, undertake an action-research project at the beginning of operations to identify their peers' preferred means of communication and modify the reporting mechanisms and processes accordingly.

5. **All involved actors must be dedicated to ensuring child protection:** All adult participants must agree to a standard Child Protection and Participation Protocol and receive in-depth child protection training, both of which will be included in the Toolbox and should be used without modification by all ChildFund offices and partners engaged in Child-friendly Accountability activities. Engaged children should also be asked to sign the child-friendly version of the Protection Protocol and Code of Conduct (also available in the Toolbox), following an initial introductory training on child rights, violence against children and child protection.

6. **Parents and community members must be meaningfully engaged in project activities:** This can be achieved both by contributing to the realization of specific objectives as well as by developing an enabling environment. Prior to implementing activities, an in-depth analysis of each context should be undertaken to determine possible liability issues and risks, as well as the degree of parental support and involvement. To the extent possible, parents should be involved in early discussions around project implementation and should provide their consent before their children begin active participation.

7. **A referral system must be identified before implementation starts, composed of formal and/or informal child protection actors, as available in the setting:** Although this methodology is focused on monitoring the performance and accountability in child protection systems rather than individual incidents of violence, there is a real likelihood that children will report violence through the system or seek assistance. It is, therefore, imperative that Child-friendly Accountability includes a referral system, composed of existing front-line responders[35] who can help children in need or at risk, and put in place appropriate measures to assure confidentiality should violence be reported. Engaged children will not be engaged in referral activities. Only adult participants will be expected to refer cases through the referral system.

8. **Psychological or psychosocial support must be available to participating children:** Psychological or psychosocial support (depending on available local capacity and available resources) should be provided by local actors and partners, if local capacity is available; otherwise, ChildFund should provide the support. Psychosocial support in the form of youth life skills training or leadership development activities is envisioned. All adults directly engaged in the project should be trained to identify signs of serious distress, immediate response and links to practical support and information. Where children are showing signs of trauma or fear, they should be referred to appropriate service providers for help.

9. **Local decision-makers, child protection services and actors, as well as the government, must be engaged in the project from the beginning:** Every effort should be made to ensure that child protection actors and decision-makers consider the project a benefit to their ongoing efforts to protect children. Where negative social and cultural norms openly encourage violence against children, it will be necessary to discuss these issues with the community before beginning Child-friendly Accountability operations. This will help to protect participating children from an aggressive response.

10. **Participating children must have regular access to information, feedback and support through an internal accountability mechanism.** A standard accountability mechanism and guidelines will be included in the Toolbox and should be used by all ChildFund programs and partners, in all countries.

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[35] Ideally, these will be government child protection actors, but if they do not exist or are weak, this could include non-state child protection actors as well, such as NGOs, CBOs, etc.

Partnership and Scale-up

The Child-friendly Accountability methodology is designed to complement the larger efforts of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and other joint actions focused on achieving Target 16.2. Child-friendly Accountability activities should complement and facilitate data-sharing, coordination and interconnectivity between existing child protection monitoring mechanisms, including those specifically focused on monitoring the SDGs. Over time, ChildFund should engage local and international partners to contribute to the implementation of Child-friendly Accountability, thereby increasing its scale and impact. Ultimately, scale-up and successful national and global monitoring will require close collaboration among multiple partners.

As Child-friendly Accountability expands within a country and partner organizations are brought on board, coordination among actors will become critically important. It is, therefore, recommended that over time, a coordination body that brings together other child-focused agencies be established at the national or provincial level to ensure synergy between programs and avoid duplication.

It is important that a standard approach be used across engaged partners, particularly regarding child protection standards and outputs. The Child-friendly Accountability app and Toolbox will play a central role in this regard, as they will provide all actors with a standard set of training materials and with a central platform on which all information and outputs will be collected. At the national level, the use of the app will help to ensure that partner organizations can contribute data that is collected through their existing programs. Additionally, the data collected on the app should be of use to other monitoring mechanisms, allowing greater understanding of the bottlenecks and gaps in child protection.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Based on the Global Results Framework (see page 28), a Global Monitoring Framework, including tools for qualitative monitoring, will be developed and included in the Field Manual. This Framework will include standard indicators that allow for cumulative monitoring across partners and countries of implementation. The app will automatically monitor participation and visits to the platform, reports submitted, child-friendly information and mapping data uploaded, advocacy materials uploaded, engagement in the chat room and referrals.

Prior to implementation, the ChildFund team will undertake a 'context analysis' in each community of engagement. This assessment will not only inform the implementation of Child-friendly Accountability, it will also act as a baseline evaluation. The assessment will be repeated at the end of each program year to catalogue progress. Results of the annual evaluation will be uploaded to the app and discussed with engaged children and their communities. This process of reflection will allow ChildFund, implementing partners, children and their communities to assess the impact of their activities and to agree to modifications for the coming year.

GLOBAL RESULTS FRAMEWORK		
Objectives	**Results**	**Outputs**
Goal:	Empower children to hold governments and local leaders accountable to their obligations to end all violence against children, as per SDG Target 16.2.	
Objective 1 (Assessment): To improve knowledge and understanding among children, youth, their communities and duty bearers about child rights and child protection, challenging negative social norms and praxis.	Result 1: Children, youth, their communities and duty bearers have a deeper understanding of child rights, child protection and negative social norms and praxis that contribute to violence against children.	1.1 Children have been trained in violence against children and child protection.
		1.2 Community and duty bearers have been trained on violence against children and child protection.
		1.3 Public awareness campaign is held challenging negative social norms and praxis.
	Result 2: Children and supporting adults have access to and produce child-friendly information about actions, policies and laws put in place by duty bearers towards building an available, accessible and quality child protection system focused on prevention, detection, reporting, response and rehabilitation.	2.1 Child-friendly information (laws, policies, news related to violence against children and child protection) has been produced and is available through the ICT platform/app.
		2.2 Community, duty bearers and children not directly engaged in Child-friendly Accountability have been introduced to the material and discussed it in a focus group discussion (FGD).
Objective 2 (Analysis and Accountability): To enable children to meaningfully participate in holding duty bearers accountable to their obligation to prevent and respond to violence against children.	Result 3: Children and supporting adults collaboratively map formal and informal child protection actors, mechanisms and services.	3.1 A map of child protection actors (local, regional, and national), including their contact details, location and mandate is available through the ICT platform.
		3.2 Community, duty bearers and children not directly engaged in Child-friendly Accountability have been introduced to the material and discussed it in an FGD.
	Result 4: Children, supporting adults, communities and national and international actors collect and disseminate evidence on children's concerns and experiences of child protection systems, in the context of SDG 16.2.	4.1 Children report on bottlenecks and gaps in the child protection system.
		4.2 Children have access to the reports of other children and trending data through the app.
		4.3 At-risk children are referred to services providers.
	Result 5: Children engage with peers and supporting adults to build and interpret evidence from children's own voices about the child protection systems and to make recommendations for remedial action to address protection gaps.	5.1 Children, their communities and duty bearers discuss protection systems and identify gaps.
		5.2 Children, their communities and duty bearers identify remedial actions to improve child protection systems.
Objective 3 (Action): To enable children and their communities to work with duty bearers to improve the child protection system in their communities and countries.	Result 6: Children are informed of and participate in the process that is led by technical experts to transform their observations and experiences on child protection systems into policy recommendations for national and global policymakers (including reporting to the High-Level Political Forum).	6. Reports are published describing the experience of children in the protection system, identifying gaps and making recommendations for improvements.
	Result 7: Children and their communities work collaboratively with duty bearers to put in place measures that will strengthen child protection at the local level.	7.1 Children and supporting adults mobilize the community and duty bearers around direct action to address protection gaps.
		7.2 Children, their communities and duty bearers take direct action to address child protection gaps.
	Result 8: Children and their communities are supported to develop advocacy campaigns focused on encouraging social change and/or duty bearers to address a protection gap.	8.1 Children and their communities put in place advocacy or media actions addressed to gaps in the child protection system.
		8.2 International and national actors support advocacy/media initiatives.

Significance and Conclusion

Child-friendly Accountability will result in improved child protection and reduced violence against children by empowering children and their communities with knowledge about their rights and the child protection system in their community and nationally. Child-friendly Accountability will support children in monitoring and contributing to improvements in children protection systems. Strengthening child protection systems will reduce violence against children in the context of SDG Target 16.2. Available, accessible and good quality child protection systems are a clear positive obligation of duty bearers in eliminating violence against children and ensuring their survival and development, as described in the UN CRC, its three Optional Protocols and the general comments of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In addition to its value for children and their communities, Child-friendly Accountability will have an added value for other actors in the child protection field. The database of child-friendly information and the careful mapping of local and national, formal and informal child protection actors centralized on the app will be a valuable and much-needed resource for all actors in the child protection field, as this has long been acknowledged as a gap. Child-friendly Accountability will also provide a rich and ongoing database, as well as periodic published reports, of gaps and bottlenecks in the child protection system as identified by children. This information will provide useful insights to all child protection actors, both national and international, allowing them to better target their interventions and investments. Child-friendly Accountability operations will serve as a mobilizing umbrella under which multiple actors can engage and work towards common objectives, within the framework of their ongoing projects.

Child-friendly Accountability can be rolled out and implemented within existing and ongoing ChildFund programs as well as in stand-alone programs. Its modular approach allows it to be implemented as resources and capacities become available, and adapted to the local context. These unique aspects help to ensure the financial viability of Child-friendly Accountability, as well as its sustainability.

Because of its innovative approach and the importance of its outcomes — namely child-friendly information, mapping child protection actors and monitoring children's experiences in the protection system — it is likely to receive high visibility. Notably, Child-friendly Accountability has already generated interest at the level of the UN SRSG on Violence against Children as well as among members of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. If implemented as a mobilizing framework, it may act as an umbrella under which numerous international and national actors can contribute to monitoring and advocacy initiatives in context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Annex 1: Preparatory Activities

The following is a list of preparatory activities that should be undertaken before Child-friendly Accountability activities begin. Guidelines for implementing these activities will be included in the Field Manual and Toolbox.

Step 1 - Context analysis focused on cultural norms and praxis that will impact implementation (guidelines in the Field Manual) led by ChildFund, including an analysis of issues related to parental consent and potential liability issues.

Step 2 - Support solicited from local and national child protection actors for Child-friendly Accountability intervention.

Step 3 - Referral network identified at the local level in target communities and psychological and/or psychosocial support staff in place to support Child-friendly Accountability activities.

Step 4 - Potential local partners assessed in each target community (guidelines will be available in the Field Manual).

Step 5 - Local partners selected to support activity implementation (evaluation criteria and tools will be available in the Toolbox).

Step 6 - All engaged adults understand and have signed the Child Protection and Participation Protocol (available in the Toolbox).

Step 7 - Children have been identified and selected to participate in Child-friendly Accountability activities (guidelines available in the Field Manual).

Step 8 - Engaged children have been introduced to Child-friendly Accountability, understand the implications of their participation and have given their informed consent.

Step 9 - Engaged children understand and have signed a child-friendly version of the Child Protection and Participation Protocol (available in the Toolbox).

Step 10 - Engaged children undertake field research in their communities to better understand gender issues and local communication patterns to allow ChildFund to adapt the central app to the local context (guidelines on the field research will be available in the Field Manual).

Step 11 - Light modification of the app, based on child-led action research, to ensure that it is tailored to local context.

Step 12 - Launch of the app in-country.

Annex 2: Description of Pillars and Activities

Pillar 1: Assessment — Knowledge Building → **Pillar 2: Analysis — Monitoring & Data Collection** ⇄ **Pillar 3: Action — Mobilization, Advocacy, Action**

Public awareness campaign led by ChildFund and partners

Pillar 1: Assessment — Knowledge Building

- Training in violence against children (VAC) and child protection (CP)
- Workshop with parents, PTAs, community leaders
- Identify laws and policies (starting with school and community)
- Make information child-friendly — ICT platforms
- Present findings and focus group discussions (FGDs) to parents, PTAs, community leaders
- Present findings and FGDs with peers
- Identify and interview CP actors and mechanisms (starting in schools & community)
- Make information about CP mechanisms and actors child friendly — ICT platforms
- Present the findings and FGDs to parents, PTAs, community leaders
- Present findings and FGDs to peers

Ongoing online reporting on child protection systems operated by ChildFund or partner

Pillar 2: Analysis — Monitoring & Data Collection

- Analyzing gaps in the protection system — ICT platforms
- FGDs with parents, PTAs, community leaders to analyze gaps
- Present findings to peers
- Reporting on findings through ICT platform/app as a group — ICT platforms
- Individual reporting on CP systems — ICT platforms
- Informing peers about how to report on CP systems — ICT platforms

Global and national advocacy supporting community to lead action

Pillar 3: Action — Mobilization, Advocacy, Action

- Identify actions that would rapidly improve CP
- FGDs with parents, PTAs, community leaders to agree on action
- FGDs with parents, PTAs, community leaders to agree on action — ICT platforms

Key

- Ongoing activity led by ChildFund and partners
- Activities with children
- Activities with community
- Activities implemented with youth and community
- Output uploaded to ICT platform/app

Activities above the red line are community based

Community-based actions scaled up to the provincial or national level

ICT platform/app aggregates child-friendly information, protection mapping, reporting, action

Formulate recommendations & publish findings (with youth & communities) — including for SDGs

Provincial and national awareness-raising, accountability and action (with youth & communities)
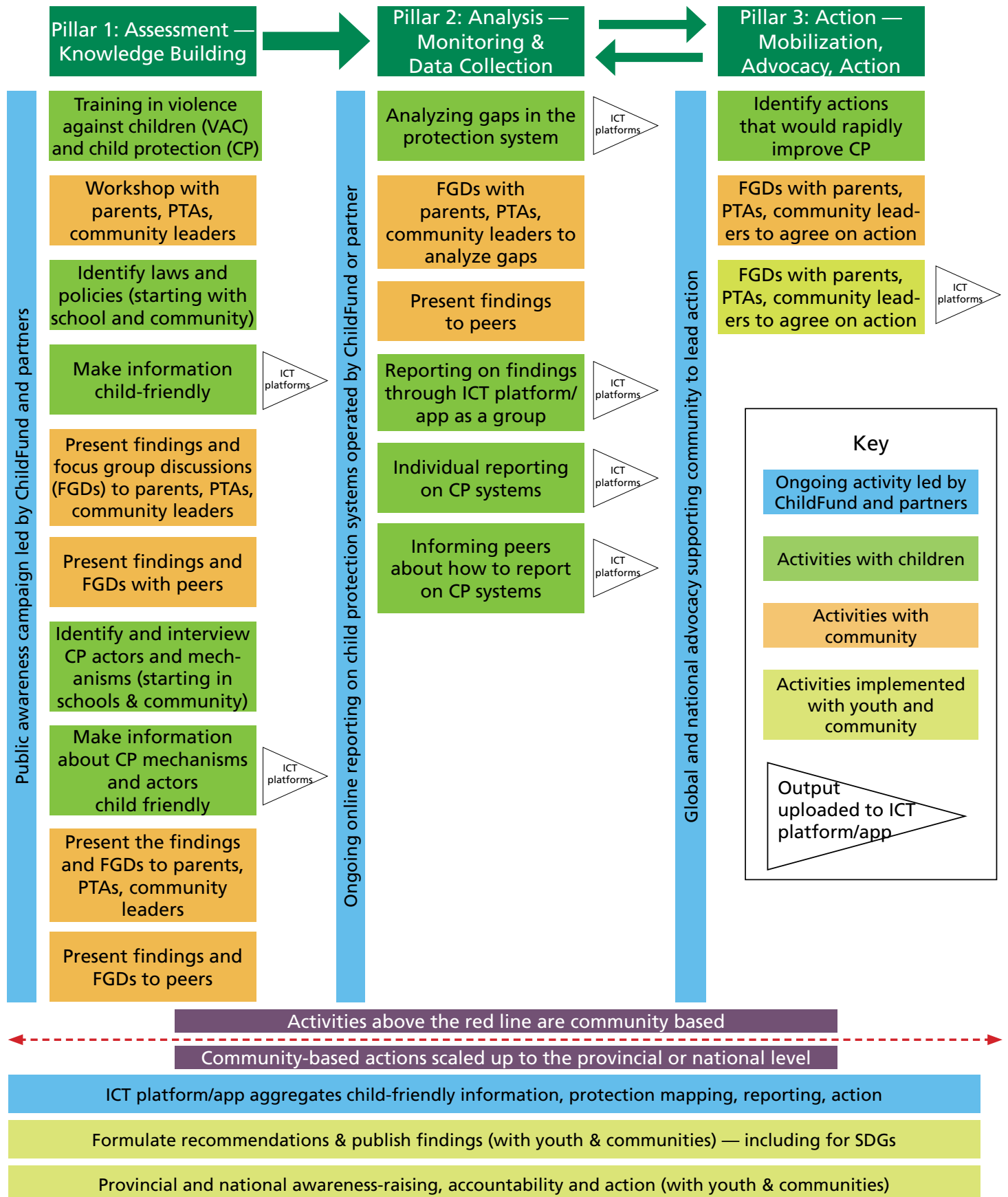
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> Richelle Ann, 10, of the Philippines, thinks that education is important because it will help her take care of her parents.

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> © Martin Nanawa
> A young girl participates in ChildFund's "#WhistleForProtection Campaign" launch in the Philippines, which introduced the use of distress whistles for children, particularly those living with disabilities.

Page 22
> © U.S. Navy
> Children with disabilities play with a cell phone lent by a Naval officer.

Page 26
> ChildFund Vietnam
> Children participating in the Child-friendly Accountability pilot project in Vietnam produced a child-friendly version of a child protection law.

Page 32
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ChildFund

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free from violence and exploitation

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