

## Improvement Analysis ChildFund Australia February 2020

### Responsible stewardship for the environment (C5)

The report refers to ChildFund Australia's [Environment Policy](#), which outlines key actions required of country office senior management and programme staff. The policy relates to mitigating negative environmental impacts of ChildFund Australia projects. All project proposals require completion of a set of environmental markers, and if environmental impact is anticipated, further analysis and action is required before the project is approved.

Whilst ChildFund Australia's approach to the environment seems sound when it comes to projects, the Panel would also like to know about efforts to mitigate environmental impacts of regular operations. For example, mechanisms to reduce the use of energy, water, and other resources in offices, recycling schemes, efforts to reduce travel by plane and car, or other initiatives to reduce carbon footprint. Does ChildFund Australia have an environmental policy and/or any targets with regard to daily operations? Good practices to refer to here are [CIVICUS' Environmental Policy](#) and MIO-ECSDE's approach (see their [2017 report](#), pp. 34-35). You may also want to see [Accountable Now's new environmental policy](#).

### Key stakeholders and how they are identified (D1)

ChildFund Australia's various stakeholders are listed - the key group being children, young people, their families and communities. Other stakeholders include partner organisations, other INGOs, networks, and the ChildFund Alliance.

The response lists the methods and tools used to identify stakeholders, including needs and situational analyses, stakeholder mapping, national and regional consultations, workshops, and referrals. Some more detail and examples are requested in the next report to provide a better overview of how this works in practice. How does ChildFund Australia decide which communities to work in, and within those communities, which children/families to engage? Are community leaders, local partner organisations, or others involved in helping identify stakeholders? Does ChildFund Australia focus particularly on children of a particular age group, gender, social group, etc?



### Evidence regarding the root causes of the problems you address (F1)

The response focuses on ChildFund Australia's participatory and inclusive programme design processes as a way of ensuring advocacy work addresses root causes. It also speaks about how ChildFund Australia works in partnership with local communities, CSOs, and governments. This information, including the examples provided, would be more relevant under question F2.

For this question, we would like to understand how the evidence underpinning advocacy work is gathered. This could include contextual analyses, and while the above point on participatory design processes is relevant, we would want to see information and examples about this specifically in relation to advocacy. The reference under F2 to project methodology which allows children to get involved in identifying problems and solutions is a good point to build on.

ChildFund NZ's response to this question ([report here](#), pg. 22) was sound and might be a helpful reference. The [CARE International Advocacy Handbook](#) is also a good reference point which includes illustrative examples.