

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Members of the Independent Review Panel,

Many thanks for your feedback on our 2019 Interim Accountability Report. We are very pleased to see that the panel recognizes our drive to embed a culture of accountability in all aspects of our work and commends several of the initiatives we have been working on. We will continue to strive to strengthen our accountability to all of our stakeholders, particularly the children, families and communities who participate in our projects. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, we feel that building trusting relationships with those we work for and with, based on open, honest dialogue, is now more crucial than ever.

With this in mind, as part of our response to the pandemic, Educo conducted an exploratory study with nearly 4,500 children and adolescents across 10 countries, in which we gathered their perspectives on the current situation to demonstrate the importance of listening to and taking into account children's opinions on all aspects that affect their lives. The survey report, *Schools are shut but learning is on*, which is available in English, French and Spanish on our [website](#), emphasises the importance of establishing appropriate channels so that children's opinions can be taken into account and widely disseminated, whilst recognizing that children are fundamental social change agents, with a unique outlook on life, society and the planet, and a clear vision of what collective wellbeing means and how they can contribute to creating it. These results must help us to improve our programmatic practice and guide our efforts to be more accountable to the children and adolescents we work for and with.

As recommended in your feedback, we have annexed to this response letter our new Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Manual and our [2019 Annual Suggestions, Complaints and Commendations Report](#), as well as our [Strategic Plan Evaluation Report 2015-2019](#), which was also mentioned in our interim accountability report. All three of these documents are available in English, French and Spanish. With regards to your comments on reporting questions J3 and J4, in our next report we will analyse the findings captured in our annual feedback reports and discuss any identifiable trends. We will also include a self-assessment for each of the reporting questions, and we anticipate that this will be a useful tool for tracking progress. As always, we appreciate your comments and suggestions on how to improve our work and have shared and discussed your feedback with the executive committee in order to ensure that it is fully addressed.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you that this month we have welcomed our new Executive Director, Pilar Orense, and new Deputy Executive Director, Guiomar Todó, to the Educo team. Pilar and Guiomar are currently completing the onboarding process and will be fully active in their roles as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

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Yours sincerely,

Jordi Cardona  
Acting Executive Director Educo



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