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Wednesday, 11 May 2021

Dear Accountable Now Secretariat

Re: Response to the Independent Review Panel Feedback

ChildFund Australia would like to thank Accountable Now and the Independent Review Panel for their time and feedback on our Accountability Report 2019-20. We value the constructive and insightful feedback provided and will continue to use this as an opportunity for internal reflection and continued strengthening of our accountability framework.

We appreciate your positive comments on our strong work to make sure M&E is a driver for continuous learning and improvement, the continued focus on ensuring gender equality and inclusion of people with disabilities in our programs, our approach to feedback, and consent for our beneficiaries. We welcome the opportunity for our “Where does My Story Go” approach to be shared with our fellow Accountable Now members and look forward to working with Accountable Now to facilitate this.

We look forward to addressing the Panel’s comments and feedback in our next report in greater detail. Regarding the areas for improvement highlighted by the Independent Panel, some brief comments on our ongoing actions are included below.

Progress and challenges over the reporting period: in June 2020, a final report on progress against the ChildFund Australia 2015-2020 Strategic plan was presented to the ChildFund Australia Board (attached). Whilst acknowledging some of the data was incomplete, the findings in this report have informed the current Strategic Directions (June 2020 to December 2021). New KPI targets have been set for the Strategic Directions which are reported against quarterly, half-yearly and annually as relevant and inform progress and effectiveness reports. ChildFund Australia will share the results from this reporting in our next Accountable Now report.

Sustainability of your work: ChildFund Australia welcomes the opportunity to share details of actual sustainability in our programs and projects in addition to “how” sustainability is achieved. The FY19-20 Program Effectiveness Report (attached) presents impact and outcomes of programs and projects strengthening the Formal Systems that are vital to children’s wellbeing. This report seeks to demonstrate how ChildFund Australia’s programs have increased the quality, accessibility, or responsiveness of formal systems to the communities they serve, through our work in Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction, Education and Health. The report draws on project data from various year-end reports, end-of-project reports; case studies; and finding and learnings from the mid-term reviews, internal project reviews and external evaluations. Reflections of ChildFund Australia Technical Advisors also informed the sectoral learning included in this report. Also included is an analysis of sample project examples focusing on working with and through formal systems alongside local NGOs and CSOs.

Responsible stewardship for the environment: as noted in our report, ChildFund Australia largely focussed on assessment and analysis in the last reporting period, with the aim to determine priorities, identify a baseline and promote a common understanding which included a Green Audit. The findings of the Green Audit have now been published and shared across the organisation with commitments made by ChildFund Australia to: carbon offsetting; reducing CO2 emissions; and increasing awareness around positive environmental practices that can be adapted in our day-to-day work. The ChildFund Australia Green Team will be responsible for leading and overseeing the implementation of recommendations and commitments and ChildFund Australia looks forward to reporting on the outcomes and impacts of our efforts in responsible stewardship for the environment in the next report.



I look forward to providing a more substantial update on progress in our next Accountability report and to our continued partnership with Accountable Now.
Regards,



Margaret Sheehan

Chief Executive Officer
ChildFund Australia

