

Monday, 30 May 2022

Dear Accountable Now Secretariat

Re: Response to the Independent Review Panel Feedback

On behalf of ChildFund Australia, I would like to thank Accountable Now and the Independent Review Panel for the time you've committed to providing thoughtful, considered and practical feedback on our Accountability Report 2020-2021.

We are encouraged by your comments and appreciate the insights of the Independent Panel. A number of the points raised by the Panel have likewise been identified internally as areas that require an ongoing focus, in other areas the Panel have provided fresh insights which will serve to strengthen our work.

Inclusivity, human rights, women's rights and gender equality: The Panel has encouraged ChildFund Australia to build more evidence of gender equality in our change model, including more thinking of what a gender transformative approach entails. ChildFund Australia embraces this feedback and our Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2025 is a practical example of our commitment to progress towards becoming a GEDSI-responsive development organisation. The Plan commits ChildFund to piloting or expanding gender and disability transformative programming across all of our sectors with defined targets and KPIs and ongoing commitments to human resourcing to provide technical support to this work. We look forward to the opportunity to report our progress in implementing this work.

Responsible stewardship for the environment: As the Panel are aware, ChildFund Australia made a number of commitments following the Green Audit, completed in 2020, including a pledge to track our carbon footprint periodically. Whilst we have made some initial progress in this area we recognise the need for greater ambition to ensure ethical and responsible stewardship of the environment. ChildFund Australia's welcomes the Panels comments and will ensure these issues are discussed and prioritised for action.

Main likes/disliked from stakeholders and organisation's response: We appreciate the Panel inviting ChildFund Australia to include more critical feedback about the organisation from the people and communities with whom we work. Integrity is an organisational value, and we will ensure our next Interim Report includes critical feedback from our key stakeholders, including the children and communities with whom we work. ChildFund Australia also welcomes the conversation with respect to compliance requirements of partner organisations. Whilst the current working contexts in Myanmar and Afghanistan has allowed for some donor engagement in this regard, we will explore opportunities to collaborate with partners to identify solutions and lobby within the sector for systemic change.

I look forward to providing a more substantial update on progress in our Interim Report and to our continued partnership with Accountable Now. We also look forward to connecting with other Accountable Now members to benefit from their experience and expertise.

Regards,



Margaret Sheehan

Chief Executive Officer, ChildFund Australia

