

Annex XXI: Accreditation assessment of applicant 096 (APL096)

I. Introduction

1. Applicant 096 (APL096), Save the Children Australia (SCA), is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Australia that operates internationally through its network. With its vision of ensuring a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, and development, the applicant tackles various issues that affect children, including access to health and education, saving lives in a disaster, mitigating and adapting to climate change and protecting children from harm. The applicant manages various programmes related to climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, education, health and nutrition, and urban and humanitarian areas, among others. It integrates knowledge of climate change impacts into its programmes, which helps children and their communities to better prepare for future disasters and the effects of climate change and helps to safeguard the outcomes of the programmes.

2. The applicant submitted its application for accreditation to the Secretariat via the online accreditation system on 30 May 2017. Accreditation fees were received from the applicant on 17 October 2017, thereby launching the Stage I institutional assessment and completeness check. Stage I was completed on 21 December 2018 and the applicant was progressed to the Stage II (Step 1) accreditation review, which has been concluded with the publication of this assessment. The applicant has applied to be accredited for the following parameters under the GCF fit-for-purpose approach:

- (a) **Access modality:** international access;
- (b) **Track:** normal track;
- (c) **Maximum size of an individual project or activity within a programme:** small;¹
- (d) **Fiduciary functions:**²
 - (i) Basic fiduciary standards; and
 - (ii) Specialized fiduciary standard for project management; and
- (e) **Maximum environmental and social risk category:** minimal to no risk (category C).³

II. Stage I institutional assessment and completeness check

3. The applicant applied and was assessed by the Secretariat during Stage I under the normal track accreditation process.

2.1 Legal status, registration, permits and licences

4. The applicant provided documents on its establishment and licences to operate, where relevant, as a part of the application. The applicant was registered under the Australian

¹ As per annex I to decision B.08/02 (annex I to document GCF/B.08/45), “small” is defined as “maximum total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by the Fund of above US\$ 10 million and up to and including US\$ 50 million for an individual project or an activity within a programme”.

² Decision B.07/02.

³ As per annex I to decision B.07/02, category C is defined as “Activities with minimal or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts” and intermediation 3 is defined as “When an intermediary’s existing or proposed portfolio includes financial exposure to activities that predominantly have minimal or negligible adverse environmental and/or social impacts”.

Securities and Investments Commission on 29 November 2004 (Company No. 008-610-035) and provided documents to demonstrate its legal status.

2.2 Institutional presence and relevant networks

5. The applicant, a global NGO, has work that spans across 125 countries around the world in Africa, the Middle East, Pacific Islands, South Central Asia and South-East Asia. It has worked with local communities, various levels of government, international NGOs, advocacy groups, academia, private sector entities and the media.

6. In order to advance the mission and objectives of GCF, the applicant intends to develop community-based adaptation projects in developing countries. In order to ensure that the potential projects address national needs and priorities, the applicant intends to undertake initial analyses of national climate change policies and strategies and understand how the national needs intersect with the areas of expertise in SCA programming. The applicant also intends to actively engage with national designated authorities from the start of the project design phase to ensure that the funding proposals would support national priorities and local needs on climate change.

7. In addition, the applicant intends to build on its existing global experience to develop innovative approaches to the climate change adaptation challenges facing poor and vulnerable children and their communities. The applicant aims to place children at the core of disaster risk reduction and resilience building, which would allow children's needs and capacities to be considered in the way people prepare for, react to and recover from disasters and adapt to longer-term changes.

8. To generate the potential for a paradigm shift in risk reduction and resilience building actions, the applicant also intends to scale up community-based adaptation approaches by partnering with governments, local communities and private sector entities.

2.3 Track record

9. The applicant's climate change work focuses on disaster risk reduction and building the resilience of children and their communities to the adverse impacts of climate change. For example, the applicant worked with its partners to improve the way communities, schools and governments plan for climate change impacts and integrate these plans into policies. The applicant also focuses on the education sector to safeguard investments in the sector, on ensuring safe construction projects that could be resistant to natural disasters and on raising public awareness through campaigns to help children and families to prepare for disasters.

10. In addition, the applicant has experience working in a consortium with pre-defined project partners to reach scale and to deliver transformative change with communities for adapting to climate change impacts. The applicant's track record in financing sustainable development and climate change-related projects to date includes the following:

- (a) USD 47.8 million (in grants) for the 'Western Program of Integrated Food Security and Food Action' project in Guatemala;
- (b) USD 29.85 million (in grants) for the project Livelihoods, Agriculture and Health Interventions in Action in the Niger;
- (c) USD 26.68 million (in grants) for the project Children of Uruzgan in Afghanistan; and
- (d) USD 1.83 million (in grants) for the Sayaboury Integrated Hazard Mitigation Project in the People's Democratic Republic of Laos.

2.4 Potential support for direct access entities

11. While recognizing direct access entities as the future for the majority of climate finance flows, the applicant intends to play a complementary role as an international NGO to help to ensure that climate finance reaches the most vulnerable people in developing countries. The applicant, if accredited, intends to closely collaborate with national designated authorities to identify partners at the national level, within the scope of SCA expertise and projects, that may be candidates for accreditation as direct access entities. Thereafter, the applicant would work with these entities through GCF-funded projects/programmes to build the required capacities, including financial management, technical knowledge, social and environmental safeguards, gender equality, and child protection.

12. Furthermore, the applicant intends to work with subnational governments, civil society and project partners to build capacity to develop and implement adaptation projects that meet community needs while ensuring that project partners' fiduciary, environmental and social (E&S) standards meet SCA standards and those of GCF. In doing so, SCA aims to ensure that subnational partners are well placed to channel future climate finance to local communities to address their adaptation needs.

III. Stage II accreditation review assessment

13. The applicant applied under the normal track accreditation process. Its application has been assessed by the Accreditation Panel (AP) during Stage II (Step 1) against the standards of GCF.

14. As part of this assessment, the AP consulted the applicant's website and third-party websites to complement the information provided in the application.

3.1 Fiduciary standards

3.1.1 Section 4.1: Basic fiduciary standards: key administrative and financial capacities

15. SCA has a non-executive Board consisting of six to 14 directors elected by members. Directors receive appropriate expenses but no remuneration. Members serve a three-year term and can be re-elected for up to a maximum of nine years of service. The Board meets at least six times per year and has three subcommittees: the Audit (Board Audit Committee (BAC)), Human Resources (Board Human Resources Committee (BHRC)) and Programs and Risk (Board Programs and Risk Committee (BPRC)). SCA has provided two organizational charts, one describing the management structure and the other describing the separate subcommittee structure, which outlines the oversight of the Board and its three subcommittees as well as the Executive Committee, which reports to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

16. SCA does not have a stand-alone ethics committee, but strong ethics are very much part of its culture. Ethics are addressed by various codes and practices and each one has an oversight mechanism which ultimately escalates to one of the three Board subcommittees and if necessary to the Board. For example, the code of conduct is governed by BHRC; programmes practice and risk management, including child safeguarding, are governed by BPRC; and financial integrity and compliance is governed by BAC.

17. SCA does not have a separate finance committee. However, issues that would normally be addressed by a finance committee are the responsibility of BAC. BAC is also responsible for internal audit. BAC is independent from management, with up to five independent non-executive members, at least three of whom are Board members with the rest being either Board members or qualified external persons. SCA employees are not permitted to be BAC members.

18. BPRC assists the Board on risk management, programme work, and policy and advocacy work. BHRC assists the Board with nominations and appointments, performance and succession of directors, CEOs and other executives as well as setting human resources strategy and policy.

19. SCA has a rigorous process for setting objectives and preparing short- and long-term strategic plans. The yearly cycle starts with a bottom-up exercise with staff and management preparing plans and objectives that are presented to the executive management and eventually to the Board. Following a process of intensive internal planning and consultations with a set timetable, operational plans and key performance indicators (KPIs) are set for the coming year together with annual budgets. Progress against objectives is monitored continuously throughout the cycle at board, executive management and staff level through dashboards and departmental reporting. Information on SCA activities is provided to:

- (a) The Board and subcommittees;
- (b) Members at SCA annual general meetings;
- (c) Supporters and the general public through the SCA Annual Report;
- (d) Employees at quarterly all-staff meetings; and
- (e) Donors who have funded specific programmes.

20. SCA has provided its 2016–2018 Strategic Plan and its Global Strategy: “Ambition for Children 2030”, and the 2017 executive KPIs together with the 2016 budget and 2017 budget pack that is prepared following the budget discussion at the Board. The alignment of objectives with the mission of SCA is part of the process of intensive internal planning and consultation between departments, executive management and the Board.

21. Following the objective setting process, management produce a comprehensive set of KPIs with qualitative and quantitative metrics that are disseminated to staff across the organization. The bar is set quite high and progress against objectives is actively and regularly monitored and recorded. One of the objectives for 2017 was to achieve GCF accreditation. A specified budget is earmarked for funding internal capacity-building projects that support strategic priorities and for funding a project management office to provide oversight of the project portfolio. SCA has a policy of setting “stretch targets” to encourage strong efforts in meeting the organization’s aims. The December 2018 dashboard shows how targets are adjusted from one year to the next when it is recognized that some targets were set unrealistically high in previous years. Detailed reporting on SCA activities and programmes is made available to all employees and to the general public through the SCA Annual Report.

22. Financial statements are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. SCA has provided a copy of its policy on accounting policies and audited financial statements, including a satisfactory auditor’s opinion for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. SCA uses a financial reporting system called Agresso Business World. The system is enabled by the SCA integrated systems platform and allows the Board to review bimonthly financial reports. Senior management also receives rolling forecasts and cash flows together with monthly departmental financial dashboards. The cost centres and departments receive monthly profit and Loss and expenditure reports, weekly fundraising performance and attrition reports and daily cash appeal reports. Examples of dashboards, forecasts, departmental Profit and Loss, expenses and fundraising reports have been provided.

23. The SCA Internal Audit Charter has been provided. It explains the purpose, authority and responsibilities of the SCA internal audit function in accordance with the Institute of Internal Auditors mandatory definition of internal audit, code of ethics and international standards. The function is led by the Head of Risk and Audit and the terms of reference for this

position have been provided. Reporting is direct to BAC. The SCA internal audit is assessed as part of internal assurance within the risk support team, which reports annually to the Board. Satisfactory internal audit plans have been provided as part of the overall Risk Management Plan for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Status reports for internal audit recommendations over the last three years have also been provided.

24. The external auditor provides a report to BAC on its findings concerning financial management and systems during the process of performing the annual audit. A report to BAC of June 2019 detailing progress in addressing issues identified by the external auditor has been provided. SCA has a well-defined control framework with roles and responsibilities clearly defined and robust risk management policies appropriate to its business. SCA uses the Agresso Financial Management System application for intranet accessed management accounting systems for income and expenditure reporting and this drives financial and management control and reporting. The external auditors provide BAC with an annual report that comments on SCA internal controls.

25. SCA has a comprehensive procurement policy that is consistent with recognized international best practice. Complementing the policy is the procurement policy guidelines document, which was updated in 2018 to strengthen certain areas of procurement, including oversight of the procurement of executing entities when required by specific funders and donors such as GCF. In most cases the executing entities for SCA projects are Save the Children International country offices, which follow Save the Children International and local procurement policies equivalent to those of SCA. Where outside executing entities are engaged, they are required to comply with SCA procurement policies. SCA has also provided documents and an explanation of how procurement disputes and complaints are managed and escalated when necessary.

26. The AP finds that the applicant's policies, procedures and capacity, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF basic fiduciary standards on key administrative and financial capacities.

3.1.2 Section 4.2: Basic fiduciary standards: transparency and accountability

27. Given the nature of the business of SCA as a charity focused on the well-being of children worldwide, strong ethical standards are an integral part of the culture of the organization. The approach to ethics is documented in the Code of Conduct and the Safeguarding Code and Policies, all of which are applicable to all SCA staff. The Child Safeguarding Policy Guidelines state that all SCA permanent, maximum-term and casual staff, trustees and Board members, volunteers, other personnel including interns, work experience/placement students, visitors to programmes and individual contractors and consultants must sign the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct and agree to comply with the principles and standards it contains. Staff receive a task prior to starting work that requires them to read all essential SCA policies, including the Code of Conduct and the Safeguarding Code to acknowledge that they have read and agree to the essential policies through the system – this is referred to as the Red Carpet Notification. SCA human resources staff track and report on the completion of this task through this online Red Carpet application.

28. SCA has provided a copy of its Conflict of Interest Policy, to which all employees must adhere. Cases are escalated to the CEO and to the Board as necessary. Directors' (Board members') interests are dealt with in the SCA constitution. Directors are also subject to the requirement of the Australian Corporations Act 2001, which requires disclosure of any and all interests. Such declarations must be recorded by the Company Secretary in the minutes of Board meetings. SCA also has a Gifts and Benefits Workplace Policy, which defines its rules on receipt of gifts and benefits by employees in their professional capacity. SCA has provided examples of two potential conflict of interest cases.

29. SCA has provided its Anti-Corruption Policy, which supports its zero tolerance of bribery, corruption and fraud, whether direct or indirect, by anyone working with or on behalf of SCA in whatever capacity. As a major charity, SCA has worked with funds and donations from a wide range of sources, from major corporations, multilateral development banks (such as the World Bank) and governments to individuals making small donations. SCA has provided its Whistle-blower Policy and policy guidelines. Disclosures and complaints can be made anonymously via an external secure online service. In the first instance, disclosures are handled by the SCA Legal Counsel and Head of Risk Support, who have been nominated to ensure adherence to the obligations within the Protected Disclosure Policy and Guidelines. Cases may then be escalated to the CEO and SCA Board if necessary. Verbal reports can also be made via the supporter care number provided on the website.

30. The SCA investigation system is based on the Investigations Guide, which defines the process of initiating and conducting investigation, as well as the corresponding authorities. Investigations are escalated to different levels of SCA depending on the severity of the possible malpractice. The independence of the Investigating Officer is safeguarded by making sure that there are no conflicts of interest. The applicant's fraud investigation guidelines reflect the methodology used in the Australian Government Investigation Standard. The Investigations Guide references a number of templates used in documenting investigations. The status of investigations of severe violations is reported to BAC and BHRC. SCA has provided a summary of investigations of suspected breaches of the code of ethics and possible malpractices during the last four years and confirmed that there had been no violations in the last three years severe enough to warrant escalation to BHRC.

31. SCA has provided its Anti-money-laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing Policy for itself and for Save the Children International investigations. As SCA is a charity and not a financial institution, there is no "know-your-customer" policy per se. However, SCA has provided its Donation Partnership Policy and guidance documents, which explain how potential donors are analysed prior to their donations being accepted. Two examples of assessments of potential donors have been provided. SCA has provided an explanation of how its electronic fund transfers are monitored and traced. SCA uses the National Australia Bank as its banking service provider. Monitoring of payments by the National Australia Bank is done through the SCA online banking portal, which generates payment audit reports upon demand. Two monthly payment audit logs generated by the National Australia Bank for July and November 2018 have been provided.

32. The AP finds that the applicant's policies, procedures and capacity, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF basic fiduciary standards on transparency and accountability, as well as the GCF Policy on the Protection of Whistleblowers and Witnesses,⁴ Policy on Prohibited Practices⁵ and Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy.⁶

3.1.3 Section 5.1: Specialized fiduciary standard for project management

33. The SCA Program Implementation Manual and annexes detail the approach to project cycle management, how opportunities arise, design and planning, implementation and evaluation, and close out. SCA has provided examples of three projects undertaken during the past three years: the first on enhancing the resilience of communities to disasters and climate change in the Philippines; the second on an integrated child centred climate change adaptation project in Bangladesh; and the third on Afghan returnees for reintegration into Afghanistan. Within each of these project documents, SCA highlights the work of the project and how the

⁴ Decision B.BM 2018/21 and annex I thereto.

⁵ Decision B.22/19 and annex XIV thereto.

⁶ Decision B.18/10 and annex XIV thereto.

applicant complied with its institutional guidelines for project identification, preparation and appraisal.

34. The Program Implementation Manual provides an overview of how project cycle management is undertaken, including risk management. When an award is implemented the project is governed by a Risk Management Plan. The Risk Management Plan is managed by the Save the Children International implementing office and consists of a summary of net risk levels across the programming year and an issues tracker to ensure appropriate follow-up and lessons to be learned. The issues tracker is prepared for each project and is updated in conjunction with the Risk Management Plan. The Program Implementation Manual explains how KPIs and project baselines are set as well as the process of monitoring and evaluation. The three projects mentioned in paragraph 33 above demonstrate the capacity of SCA to examine and incorporate technical, financial, economic and legal aspects as well as environmental, social and climate change considerations, into their assessments.

35. The project quality review is incorporated into the initial project assessment as well as into the process of preparation of the evaluation reports. An assessment tool is used by staff for this purpose. SCA has provided two quality review reports – a sustainable education reform gains project in the Philippines and a consortium for community-based education and a learning project in Afghanistan. Also provided is a visit report on a quality monitoring trip to Cambodia, with associated recommendations and proposed follow-up actions. The Cambodian four-year project (2017–2021), entitled “Protecting Children Through System Strengthening and Evidence – PraCTiSE”, is linked to a previous project implemented in 2013–2017 that focused on positive parenting in Cambodia. SCA has explained and demonstrated how project results are made publicly available dependent on the specific agreement of project donors. Examples have been provided of two reports published for projects supported by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – one in the Uruzgan province of Afghanistan and the other in Pakistan.

36. A monitoring and evaluation plan must be developed at the project proposal phase. SCA has provided its evaluation handbook, which details the evaluation procedures. The independent monitoring focuses on project quality improvement, risk management and compliance. This independent monitoring of the project is executed through quarterly calls, field visits and project reviews. A diagnostic tool is also used to assess the maturity of monitoring, evaluation and lessons learned. Analyses of budget versus actual project finances are made regularly with reasons for variances and possible actions to rectify discrepancies. Monitoring and evaluation reports are published on the SCA website.

37. The AP finds that the applicant’s policies, procedures and capacity, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF specialized fiduciary standard on project management.

3.1.4 Section 5.2: Specialized fiduciary standard for grant award and/or funding allocation mechanisms

38. The applicant did not apply for this standard at this time.

3.1.5 Section 5.3: Specialized fiduciary standard for on-lending and/or blending for loans, equity and/or guarantees

39. The applicant did not apply for this standard at this time.

3.2 Environmental and social safeguards standards

3.2.1 Section 6.1: Environmental and social policy

40. Although not required for category C projects, the applicant submitted its Environmental Sustainability Policy and associated Environmental Sustainability Implementation Plan 2016–2018. The policy, approved by the Board of the applicant and disseminated within the organization, provides the applicant’s sustainability aims: to reduce its organizational carbon footprint, reduce the environmental impacts of development projects, build evidence from their programming to provide support for action, and to influence their stakeholders and partners.

41. It should be noted that the applicant explicitly adopts International Finance Corporation Performance Standards (PS) 1-8 as its standards in its Program Environmental Management System (PEMS). PEMS, approved and implemented by the management of the applicant, implements the applicant’s Environmental Sustainability Policy and provides the procedures it follows to meet policy objectives.

42. The AP finds that the applicant’s E&S Policy and related documents, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF Environmental and Social Policy⁷ and interim environmental and social safeguards (ESS) standards for maximum E&S risk category C projects/programmes with respect to PS 1-8.

3.2.2 Section 6.2: Identification of risks and impacts

43. PEMS provides a procedure for the identification and assessment of E&S risks and impacts. Because it did not originally include an E&S risk categorization framework, a risk screen against PS 1-8 of the GCF interim ESS standards has recently been added to the PEMS risk identification and assessment procedure.

44. In accordance with its PEMS, the applicant conducts risk identification during the preliminary project assessment. This allows it to make the appropriate decisions on how to monitor and mitigate the ESS impacts of projects.

45. The applicant provided examples of its track record in identifying and managing E&S risk mitigation measures and other actions identified as part of the E&S risk assessment process. These include community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation projects in Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Somalia and the Philippines that focused on the resilience of children, families and communities. Country offices, supported by Save the Children Australia, were responsible for implementing these measures in the above-mentioned projects.

46. The AP finds that the applicant’s system of identification of E&S risks and impacts, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF Environmental and Social Policy and interim ESS standards for maximum E&S risk category C projects/programmes.

3.2.3 Section 6.3: Management programme

47. PEMS has a fully developed system to monitor and manage the identified E&S risks. Based on the outcome of the environmental risk categorization, an appropriate level of assessment and mitigation is undertaken as follows using an ESS management tool:

- (a) If a project is categorized as low risk, no further action is taken except risk monitoring during implementation;
- (b) If a project is categorized as medium or high risk, the environmental risks are assessed by a Technical Adviser, and an environmental management plan is developed to avoid risks and to reduce, manage, monitor and report on unavoidable risks; and

⁷ Decision B.19/06 and annex X thereto.

(c) If, following the mitigation measures, it is considered that a project is still likely to have a significant impact on the environment, it is referred to the Australian Government's Minister for the Environment for an appropriate decision on what is to be done.

48. The information the applicant submitted on its community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation project in Somaliland illustrates how it has managed ESS impacts and how its project team ensured local positive environmental outcomes given the environmental fragility of the project sites.

49. The AP finds that the applicant's management programme, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meets the GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards and interim ESS standards for maximum E&S risk category C projects/programmes.

3.2.4 Section 6.5: Monitoring and review

50. The PEMS implementation manual holds country offices responsible for undertaking regular project monitoring throughout the life of a project to ensure that it is on track, and to make adjustments where necessary. The applicant's project staff also provide ongoing remote support to country offices as well as conducting in-country site visits, as required. Project reporting takes into consideration the overarching policies and guidelines that inform the applicant's approach to programming (e.g. child rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, disability inclusion, child participation, child protection, resilience building).

51. The applicant provided monitoring reports on projects in Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Somalia, and the Philippines (e.g. the same projects mentioned in paragraph 33 above).

52. The AP finds that the applicant's system of monitoring and review, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meets the GCF Environmental and Social Policy and interim ESS standards for maximum E&S risk category C projects/programmes.

3.2.5 Section 6.6: External communications; consultations, information disclosure, and grievance redress mechanism at the institutional level

53. The applicant has a well-developed complaints and feedback mechanism, which is based on principles adopted by its management such as being responsive, professional, engaged, accessible and respectful of privacy. The weblink to the mechanism complaints are received, registered and handled. There is also the facility to resort to the Supporter Care Manager, who supervises the Supporter Care Team, which handles complaints, if the response is unsatisfactory.

54. The applicant's grievance redress mechanism, for which the Supporter Care Unit is responsible, allows for the involvement of independent entities, in particular the Fundraising Institute of Australia (for funding issues) and the Australian Council for International Development (for other issues) if the complainant is not satisfied with the response of the applicant's Supporter Care Team.

55. The applicant provided a register of enquiries dating back two years, including E&S complaints, responses and current status. It also provided the text of the relevant contractual stipulations that require executing entities to establish project-level grievance mechanisms.

56. The AP finds that the applicant's system of external communications, consultations, information disclosure and grievance redress mechanism, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meets the GCF Environmental and Social Policy and interim ESS standards for maximum E&S risk category C projects/programmes.

3.2.6 Section 6.4: Organizational capacity and competency

57. The applicant has a well-developed organizational structure to implement its E&S mandates. Responsible offices include: Head of Specialized Technical Services, Head of Process & Project Quality and the Climate Change Team comprising the Climate Change Manager and Climate Change Adviser working closely with the E&S Compliance Expert to provide the necessary technical support and approval for the completion of the PEMS assessment.
58. The Partnership and Business Development Managers or the in-country Programme Managers play lead roles in the field on implementing projects, including the applicant's PEMS. According to the applicant, which provided their curricula vitae, these staff have detailed knowledge of the PS 1-8 and know which individuals in the organization have specific expertise in the PS 1-8 area within Save the Children Australia, the wider Save the Children organization and externally should specific technical support be needed on issues that the above-mentioned team have deemed in need of referral.
59. The AP has reviewed the curricula vitae of selected staff responsible for E&S matters and finds them satisfactory. The quality of the work of these staff is illustrated by the project documents submitted by the applicant on its community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation projects in Viet Nam, Bangladesh and the Philippines.
60. The AP finds that the applicant's organizational capacity and competency, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF Environmental and Social Policy and interim ESS standards for maximum E&S risk category C projects/programmes.

3.3 Gender

61. The applicant's Gender Policy complies with the GCF Gender Policy and follows best practice in this area. It is embedded in three related documents: "Gender programming policy", "Policy guidelines – gender program" and "Principles for gender equality". The first document provides a framework outlining the applicant's approach to gender equality across all programme development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. This policy is complemented by the other two above-mentioned documents.
62. In addition to these three documents, the applicant provided its Gender Equality Program Guidance and Toolkit and Gender Equality Market Tool as evidence for its procedures and practices that support its Gender Policy.
63. At the policy level, the applicant makes an explicit link between gender and climate change and integrates this approach into its programming.
64. Finally, the applicant provided three examples of climate change projects that have benefited both boys and girls, and that highlight the provision of grants to both men and women. These are the projects in the Philippines, Viet Nam and Bangladesh mentioned in paragraphs 33, 45 and 51 above.
65. The AP has reviewed the curricula vitae of selected staff of the applicant, including its Gender Adviser, responsible for Gender Policy matters and finds them satisfactory.
66. The AP finds that the applicant's Gender Policy, procedures and capacities, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF Gender Policy.

IV. Conclusions and recommendation

4.1 Conclusions

67. Following its assessment, the AP concludes the following in relation to the application:

- (a) The applicant fully meets the requirements of the GCF basic fiduciary standards, the GCF Policy on the Protection of Whistleblowers and Witnesses, the GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices, the GCF Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the specialized fiduciary standard for project management;
- (b) The applicant meets the requirements of the GCF Environmental and Social Policy and the interim ESS standards in relation to the minimal to no E&S risk (category C); and
- (c) The applicant has demonstrated that it has competencies, policies and procedures in order to implement its Gender Policy, which is found to be consistent with the GCF Gender Policy, and has demonstrated that it has experience with gender consideration in the context of climate change.

4.2 Recommendation on accreditation

68. The AP recommends, for consideration by the Board, applicant APL096 for accreditation as follows:

- (a) **Accreditation type:**
 - (i) **Maximum size of an individual project or activity within a programme:** small (including micro⁸);
 - (ii) **Fiduciary functions:**
 1. Basic fiduciary standards; and
 2. Specialized fiduciary standard for project management; and
 - (iii) **Maximum environmental and social risk category:** minimal to no risk (category C);
- (b) **Conditions:**

None.

69. The applicant has been informed of the recommendation for accreditation, including the accreditation type and conditions, as identified in paragraph 68 above, and agrees to the recommendation.

⁸ As per annex I to decision B.08/02 (annex I to document GCF/B.08/45), “micro” is defined as “maximum total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by the Fund, of up to and including US\$ 10 million for an individual project or an activity within a programme”.