**The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**

## 2020 Annual Meeting:
The Future of Child Protection and Infectious Disease Outbreaks
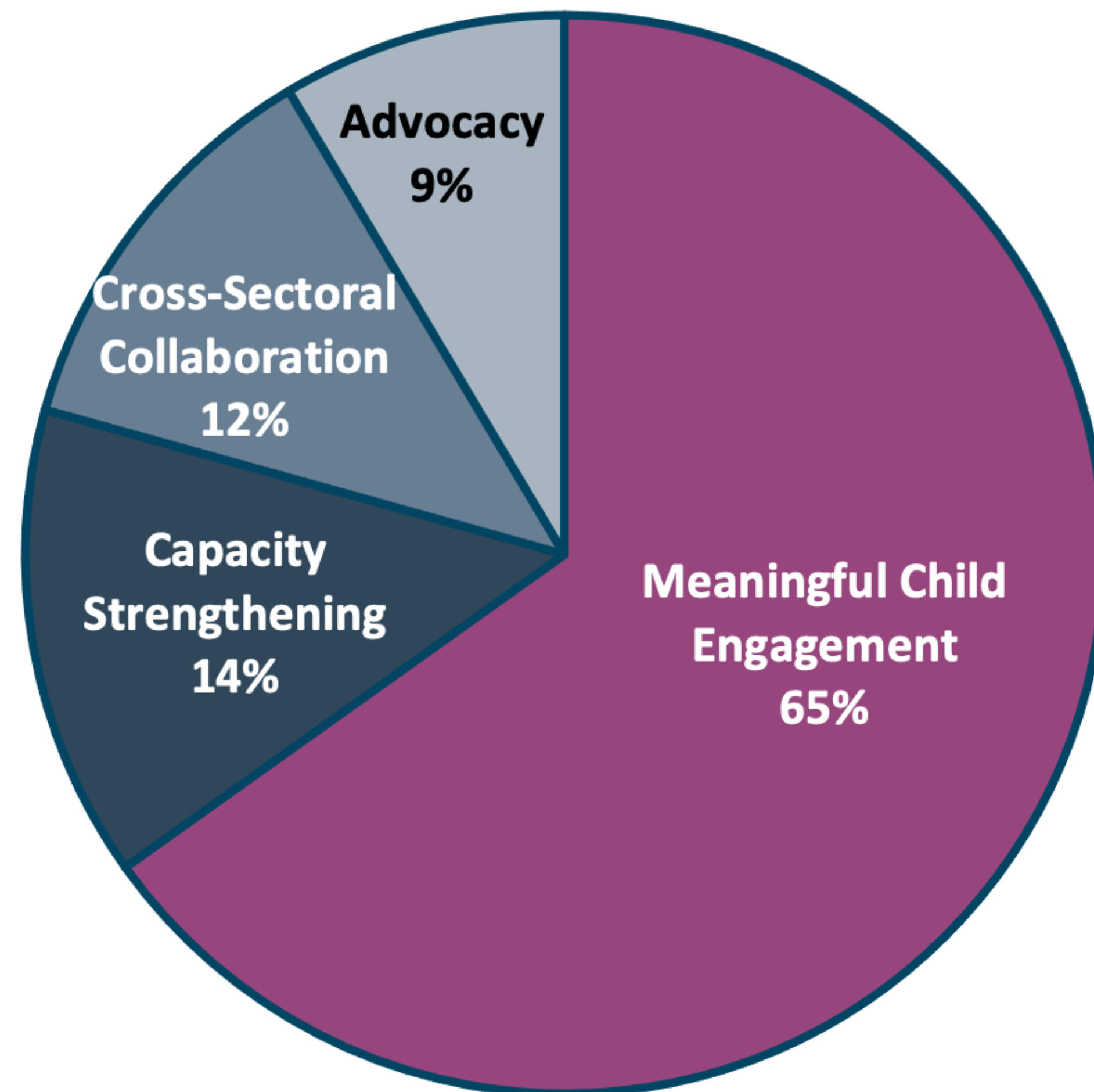
**REPORT SUMMARY**

THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

# OVERVIEW

The following is a snapshot of participants' responses from the Infectious Disease Outbreak (IDOs) sessions at The Alliance's Annual meeting. Overwhelmingly, participants identified the centrality of children, accountability to children and communities, and six critical actions steps as the way forward. These recommendations - and relevant case studies - are summarized on the subsequent slides.
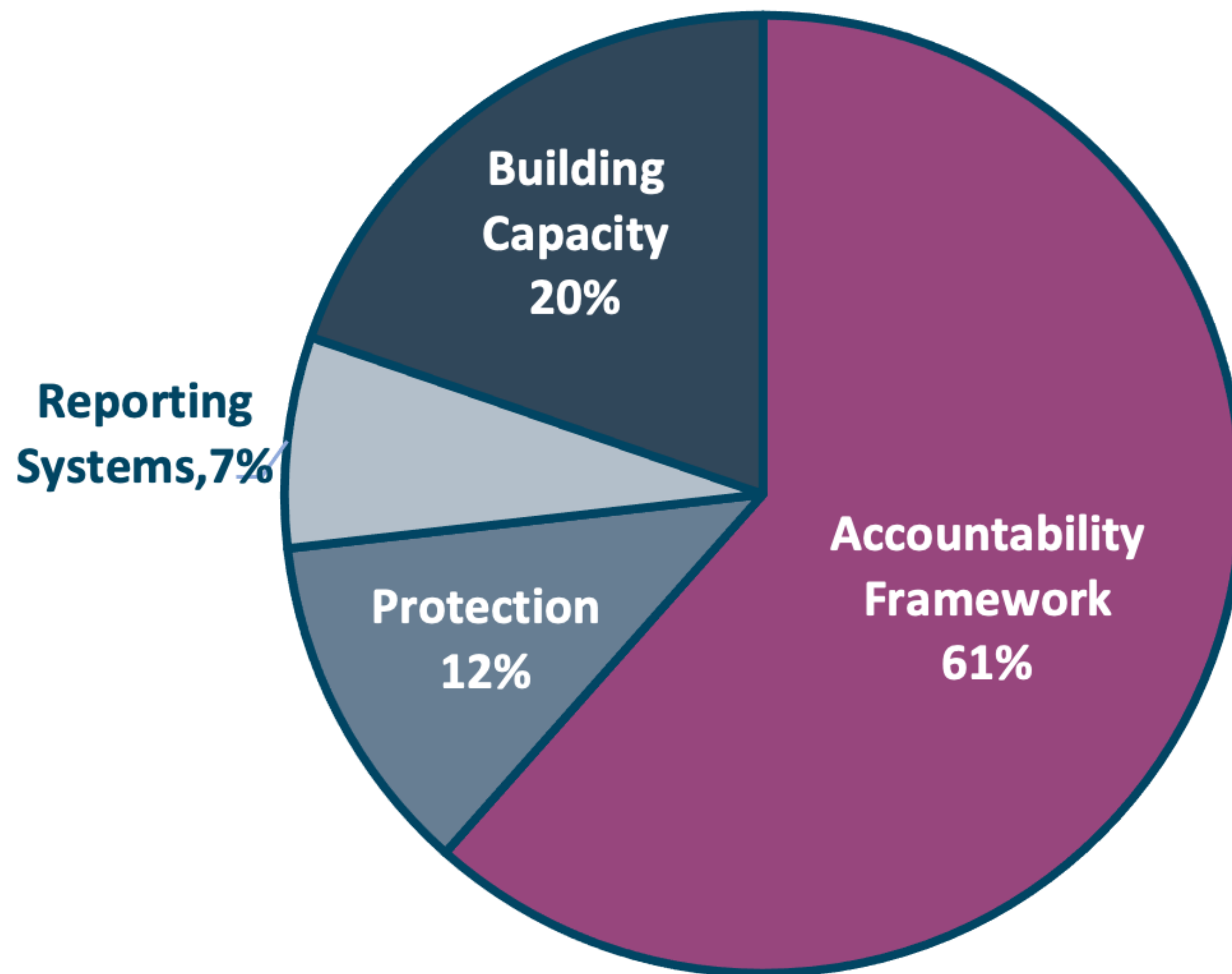
# HOW DO WE PUT CHILDREN AT THE CENTRE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE DURING INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS?



Pie chart:
- Meaningful Child Engagement 65%
- Capacity Strengthening 14%
- Cross-Sectoral Collaboration 12%
- Advocacy 9%

*"From the child all the way up to service providers, donors, governments... [w]e need to make sure that we give voice to children, provide most evidence-based guidance, advocate with donors to make sure their funds enables protection of children."**
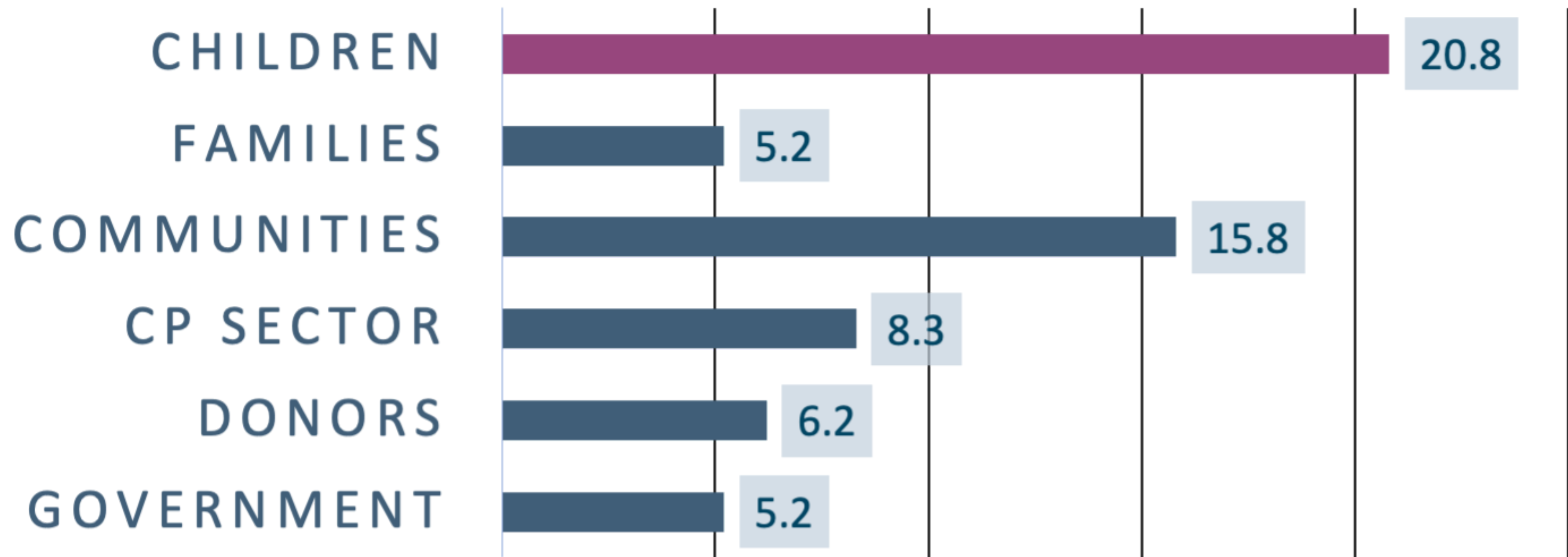
*all quotes are from Annual Meeting participants

# HOW ARE WE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN DURING IDOS?



Pie chart:
- Accountability Framework 61%
- Building Capacity 20%
- Protection 12%
- Reporting Systems, 7%

*We need "[r]obust accountability mechanisms where children and caregivers are able to give feedback about operations/ services being provided during an IDO - feedback mechanisms that are child friendly and easily accessible."*

# ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK:
# WHO SHOULD WE BE ACCOUNTABLE TO?

| Category | Value |
|---|---|
| CHILDREN | 20.8 |
| FAMILIES | 5.2 |
| COMMUNITIES | 15.8 |
| CP SECTOR | 8.3 |
| DONORS | 6.2 |
| GOVERNMENT | 5.2 |

We must *"[c]onfront our own power and privilege* and think about how we *uplift voices of children and communities."*

Annual Meeting participants identified **six critical actions** to operationalize more child-centred and accountable response measures:

# 01. BE GUIDED BY, AND ACCOUNTABLE TO, CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Listen to and learn from children, families, and communities in safe spaces.
- Facilitate consultations and participatory assessments through multiple, inclusive, and age-appropriate channels.
- Know the community support systems.

## CASE STUDY:

**Philippines** – The Power of Joint Advocacy for the Protection of Children in COVID-19 on listening to and engaging children in advocacy efforts. (World Vision)

# 02. LEVERAGE AND BUILD UPON ON ESTABLISHED NETWORKS OF TRUST.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Map to identify local resources.
- Use existing networks - e.g. education or health - to connect with children.
- Before IDOs, built trust and strengthen community relationships.

## CASE STUDY:

India - Strengthening Community-Based Protection Services for Children during COVID-19 (Save the Children)

# 03. USE APPROPRIATE, AVAILABLE AND SAFE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Ensure language used is appropriate and accessible in the local context.
- Develop protocols for safe online engagement and data protection.
- Counter potential stigmatization and discrimination against children and families.

## CASE STUDY:

**Sudan** - Keeping it Simple: Child Protection Awareness Raising Campaign during COVID-19 (Plan International)

# 04. IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC RISKS CHILDREN ARE FACING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OUTBREAK.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Identify local vulnerable children
- Develop IDO data collection tools and modalities.
- Know risks and protective factors through collaboration with children and other sectors.

## CASE STUDY:

**Syria** - Between War and Pandemic: Activating the Agency of Syrian Teens through a Participatory Study of Resources and Needs (Hurras Syrian Child Protection Network)

# 05. PROMOTE AND RESOURCE CHILD WELLBEING AMONGST CHILDREN, CAREGIVERS THEIR COMMUNITIES.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Advocate for financial help for families in need and invest in social protection.
- Facilitate access to services for children and families.
- Ensure MHPSS is considered an essential service.

## CASE STUDY:

**Cambodia** - Adaptation and Provision of Multi-Tiered Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to Children, Parents, Caregivers and Frontline Workers during COVID-19 (UNICEF)

# 06. ADAPT MODALITIES OF ONGOING PROGRAMMES TO REFLECT THE OUTBREAK ENVIRONMENT.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Promote safe remote programming and services.
- Integrate CP into other sectoral programming.
- Train and support staff.

## CASE STUDY:

**Mongolia** – Adapting Child Helpline Services Online to Identify and Support Children at Risk (World Vision)

See the full report for more recommended actions, examples, and additional case studies.

Visit the Alliance's YouTube page to watch (or rewatch) presentations from this year's Annual Meeting.

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