

ChildFund[®]

Alliance



Secretary General

Candidate Pack 2026

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Tamar Manuelyan Atinc

Chair, ChildFund Alliance Board of Directors

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Secretary General of ChildFund Alliance. At a time of profound global change, the need to champion and protect children's rights has never been more urgent. Across the world, children and young people are facing converging challenges—from conflict and climate change to inequality and shrinking civic space. Yet, they also bring resilience, insight, and leadership that inspire our work every day.

ChildFund Alliance is a unique global network of 10 development and humanitarian organizations working together across more than 60 countries to improve the lives of nearly 36 million children and their families. Our shared vision is simple but ambitious: a world in which all children enjoy their rights and achieve their full potential.

As Chair, I am proud of the strength of our Alliance—rooted in collaboration, mutual accountability, and a deep commitment to working with children and communities to create lasting change.

Our new Strategic Plan: [**Championing Child Rights in a Changing World**](#) sets a clear direction for the years ahead, focusing our collective efforts on ending violence against children, strengthening child-sensitive humanitarian action, and advancing child rights in the face of climate change.

The Secretary General plays a pivotal role in leading this ambition—bringing together our diverse membership, strengthening our global voice, and ensuring we deliver meaningful impact for children. This is both a leadership and a partnership role: one that requires vision, diplomacy, and the ability to inspire collective action across cultures, geographies, and institutions.

We are looking for a leader who shares our commitment to child rights, believes in the power of collaboration, and is ready to guide the Alliance through an increasingly complex global landscape with clarity, courage, and purpose.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to lead ChildFund Alliance at such a critical moment.

Warm regards,

Tamar Manuelyan Atinc

About The ChildFund Alliance

ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 10 child-focused development and humanitarian organizations, supporting 36 million children and their families across 66 countries, with a global remit of over \$630 million.

Members work together to end violence and exploitation against children; deliver child-sensitive humanitarian action in fragile and crisis-affected contexts; address the impacts of climate change; and uphold and amplify the voices of children and youth.

Children are growing up in unprecedented uncertainty. The new 2030 ChildFund Alliance Strategy acknowledges the scale and speed of global disruption and positions the Alliance to respond with agility and long-term vision, preparing the organization for its next decade.

The Alliance partners with children, families, and communities to drive meaningful change, placing children's participation and leadership at the center of their work. Drawing on more than 80 years of collective experience, they harness their shared expertise, innovation, and resources to create a strong platform for impact — fostering safer, more resilient communities where children can thrive, and families can build brighter, more secure futures.

About the Secretariat

The ChildFund Alliance Secretariat, presently based in New York with an office in **Brussels** to engage the European Union, is led by a small team of dedicated professionals. The Secretariat's core mandate is to advance the Alliance's work through advocacy, representation, strategic communications, knowledge exchange, innovation, and resource mobilization. The Secretariat fosters collaboration among members and cultivates partnerships with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, strengthening the Alliance's collective growth and expanding the global influence of members who work alongside millions of children worldwide.

The Alliance maintains and is growing its strong relationships with key child rights stakeholders, including the United Nations, the EU, philanthropists, corporates, and governments.



Photo Credit: Members of the ChildFund Alliance



About This Role

The Secretary General is the executive leader of the ChildFund Alliance Secretariat and the Alliance's foremost global advocate for child rights and well-being. Reporting to the Chair of the Board, the Secretary General provides strategic vision, operational leadership, and high-level representation across advocacy, policy influence, resource mobilization, partnership development, and global positioning.

The role serves as the primary convener of the 10-member CEOs through the Members Council and ensures effective execution of the Alliance's Strategic Plan, Championing Child Rights in a Changing World.

This position requires a leader with exceptional diplomacy, child rights expertise, and the ability to navigate complex global networks while strengthening cohesion across ten independent child-focused NGOs during rapidly evolving humanitarian and development contexts.

The ideal candidate excels at navigating diverse perspectives, building consensus, and aligning people around shared goals.

Required Experience & Education

■ Bachelor's degree required (advanced degree preferred) in international development, public policy, human rights, or a related field.

■ At least 10 years of senior leadership experience in child protection, education, Early Childhood Development, youth development, humanitarian action, or related sectors.

■ Experience managing geographically dispersed teams and overseeing budgets.

■ Significant experience working in program countries or humanitarian/development settings.

■ Ability and willingness to travel internationally.

■ Professional fluency in English required; professional proficiency in French or Spanish strongly preferred.



Photo Credit: Members of the ChildFund Alliance

Role Description

Primary Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership and Vision:

- Translate the Alliance's Strategic Plan into shared priorities across 10 independent member organizations.
- Anticipate global trends and guide the Alliance's position on humanitarian action, climate-related child rights issues, and child protection.
- Drive innovation and adaptive strategies across the Alliance, fostering creative responses to emerging challenges and accelerating the Alliance's ability to evolve in a rapidly changing sector.
- Lead the Alliance through evolving funding landscapes and shifting centers of influence.
- Provide quality supervision to the ChildFund Alliance employees currently based in New York and Brussels; promote a culture of collaboration, innovation, and shared accountability across members and the Secretariat team.

Governance and Organizational Stewardship:

- Serve as a non-voting member of the Members Council and work closely with the Board to ensure effective governance.
- Ensure sound financial management, compliance, responsible stewardship of member dues, and transparent Secretariat operations.
- Support the Board and its committees, including support to the Board Chair in strengthening governance effectiveness and member engagement.
- Support the Board.
- Oversee Secretariat staffing, performance, and organizational culture.





Primary Responsibilities Continued...

Global Advocacy, Diplomacy, and External Representation:

- Act as the Alliance's chief advocate globally, and within the UN system, EU institutions, multilateral agencies, governments, foundations, corporates, and global coalitions.
- Elevate the Alliance's visibility and brand; shape global dialogue on ending violence against children, child-sensitive humanitarian response, and climate resilience.
- Maintain high-impact partnerships, including with UNICEF, Permanent Missions, civil society networks, private sector stakeholders, and philanthropy.
- Lead the Alliance's contributions to Joining Forces for All Children and other global partnerships

Member Collaboration, Facilitation, and Convening:

- Build and manage strong, trust-based relationships with all Alliance Members, serving as the primary connector, facilitator, and steward of effective collaboration across the network.
- Facilitate productive, high-value collaboration across member CEOs, technical leaders, and working groups.
- Co-design and implement Member Council meetings, joint learning initiatives, and collaborative decision-making processes.
- Promote shared standards, knowledge exchange, and joint operational approaches to strengthen Alliance-wide impact.
- Build trust, cohesion, and shared purpose among diverse national organizations.

Resource Mobilization and Partnership Development:

- Drive collective resource mobilization efforts aligned with Alliance priorities and member strengths.
- Secure institutional, philanthropic, and multi-donor opportunities while supporting joint proposals (e.g., EU-funded initiatives).
- Position the Alliance within new global funding arenas and cultivate high-value partnerships across sectors, including corporates.
- Expand the Alliance's influence within emerging donor markets and policy platforms.
- Remain alert and responsive to any safeguarding risks, acquire relevant knowledge and skills to promote strong safeguarding practices, understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, and guide consistently with the Safeguarding Policy.



Required Experience & Education

- **Representation:** Excellent representation, presentation, storytelling, writing, and concise reporting skills.
- **Influence:** Demonstrated ability to lead in complex, multi-stakeholder environments; advanced influencing and networking skills.
- **Teamwork:** the ability to work effectively and collaborate with others; values and respects individual differences.
- **Communication:** demonstrates empathy and tact when communicating with others.
- **Results orientation:** takes proactive steps to achieve organizational goals and quality standards.

- **Decision-making:** uses critical thinking to evaluate problems and opportunities; consults widely to understand different perspectives and acquire intelligence to sharpen priorities that inform decisions.
- **Resilience:** thrives and grows in rapidly changing, complex environments.
- **Digital literacy:** adopts and champions new technology to relevant contexts, stays aware of technological trends; capacity to lead and manage teams and stakeholders across time zones and digital platforms.

Appointment Details

Location

Flexible

Contract Length

3 year term, renewable

Salary & Benefits

National package, commensurate with the seniority of the role and based on location.

ChildFund Alliance Commitment

ChildFund Alliance staff and representatives adhere to the organization's Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and uphold the core safeguarding principles outlined therein including openness, confidentiality, timeliness, partnership, and full compliance with policy and legal standards. The Secretary General will ensure these principles guide all decisions and actions to protect children across the Alliance.

How to Apply

Please send your application via our search partner, Red Sea Executive Search at the following link:

<https://www.redseasearch.com/job/secretary-general-childfund-alliance>

Upload a CV (maximum four pages) and a cover letter (both in English, in MS Word) using the following file names:

- **FirstName_Surname_CV_CF_SG**
- **FirstName_Surname_CL_CF_SG**

Should you require access to information in a different format to facilitate your application please contact Red Sea directly via applications@redseasearch

Recruitment Details

Closing date: 14th June 2026

Red Sea Interviews: w/c 29th June 2026

ChildFund Interviews: w/c 13th July 2026 (TBC)



About

Red Sea Executive Search

We are a global executive search consultancy, seeking extraordinary leaders to transform our world. We recruit leadership into the world's foundations, trusts and charity organizations, and especially for INGOs in Global Development, Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Aid in the Global South.

Our vision is to empower a new generation of global leadership to create a just, diverse and unified society. In a world with increasing challenges, the need for leaders and visionaries to shape our world is greater than ever. Extraordinary people are needed to deliver this and discovering them is the heart of Red Sea Search; our passion is to serve by finding people who bring leadership excellence to organizations, and in doing so hope to help change the global landscape.



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