



Until we are all equal



RIGHT: You helped Hellen in Tanzania do what she never thought she could: enrol in school!
BELOW: Andreína has become a peer leader in Bolivia.

New Chances

The Because I Am a Girl (BIAAG) project

Working to end harmful gender inequalities worldwide and create communities where girls can learn, lead, decide and thrive



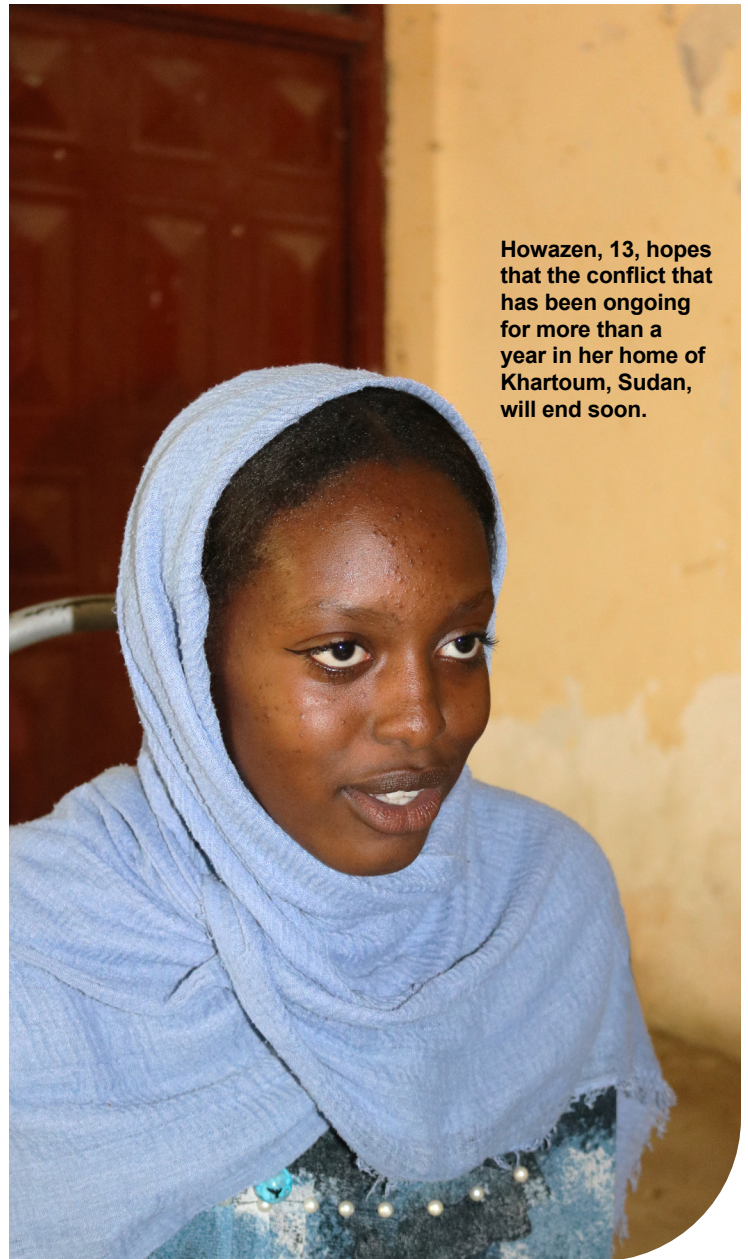
Project Summary

Surges in armed conflict worldwide are setting girls' rights back.

No one is safe in conflict, especially girls and young women. In addition to facing physical threats of gender-based violence, girls also see their futures put at risk as their education and opportunities are cut short. Howazen, 13, was forced to leave her life in Khartoum, Sudan, when violence broke out there a year ago. "I was at a good school. Now, I don't know if I'll ever go again," she says.

When a girl like Howazen leaves school, she often doesn't return. Because she is a girl, she may carry the responsibilities of taking care of siblings, finding water or food, going to work early or getting married. That's inequality. But you're doing something to help stop it.

Your support for Because I Am a Girl is helping one girl at a time exercise her rights. You'll meet two of them, Hellen and Andreína, in this report. Thank you for your commitment and your determined optimism!



Howazen, 13, hopes that the conflict that has been ongoing for more than a year in her home of Khartoum, Sudan, will end soon.

THE FACTS

WHO: Participants: Girls and young women in all their diversity. **Funders:** Plan International Canada, our institutional partners and you.

WHAT: Focusing on girls' rights in all areas of their lives – including education, health, protection from violence, leadership and livelihoods – and addressing their unique needs in emergencies.

WHERE: In 35 countries worldwide

WHEN: Ongoing – until we are all equal!

WHY:

1. End gender inequality.
2. Promote girls' rights.
3. Support girls in thriving.

BY THE NUMBERS

Project Highlights



Debitu, 16, was arranged to be married in western Ethiopia, but she was able to stop the marriage with help from a Plan International project facilitator – funded in part by Because I Am a Girl supporters like you. The project helped prevent 9,000 marriages for girls under the age of 15 in Ethiopia.

2.8 million

girls have been reached through Because I Am a Girl projects.

116,000

girls have learned at schools and through literacy and career training.

390 learning facilities like schools have been built, renovated or equipped.

26,000 people have been engaged to help prevent, respond to and end gender-based violence in their communities.

The book *Somos el Cambio (We Are the Change)* was given to teen girls through a BIAAG-supported project in Peru.

197,000

girls and women have improved access to quality health services.

15,000

women have joined savings groups or accessed microfinancing to support their livelihoods.

84,000

girls and women in humanitarian crises have accessed life-saving services, including emergency protection, case management, education, sanitation and health.



A STORY OF CHANGE

A Dowry Delayed

Hellen, 14, is starting school late, but she is getting the chance, with your help.

“I used to watch my brothers go to school every morning,” says 14-year-old Hellen, who lives in a community in northwest Tanzania. “I wanted to go too.”

Instead, she had to do chores and work in her family’s field. Hellen’s family held traditional views, believing that educating girls was unnecessary and a misuse of finances. “My mom was preparing me for marriage and taking care of the family,” Hellen says.

Only 27% of girls in Tanzania complete their schooling. “Girls’ education was seen as less important than the dowry they could bring to their families,” says Mr. Mayasi, an education officer in Hellen’s area.

But the Keeping Adolescent Girls in School (KAGIS) project – funded by the Government of Canada and Because I Am a Girl supporters like you – has sparked a shift in people’s minds. The project held

community meetings that Hellen’s parents attended, raising their awareness about the value of girls’ education.

“I never thought my parents would change their minds about marrying me,” says Hellen. But her parents chose a new path, and Hellen became the first girl in her family to attend school.

She enrolled in a specialized learning program for girls who had never attended formal classes. She also was given a bicycle for the commute, along with a uniform and school supplies. Supporters like you have helped 1,400 girls like Hellen (ages 9–15) in her area of Tanzania in this way.

“I dreamed about this moment for years, but I never thought it would be possible,” says Hellen. After 14 years, she’s where she’s supposed to be and can dream of the future she chooses. She says she wants to become a teacher.



Our efforts are making a real difference. We still have a long way to go, but with continued advocacy and support, we can create a brighter future for all girls.”

– Mr. Mayasi, the education officer who helped Hellen enrol in school



LEFT: Your contributions have helped change attitudes about the value of girls’ education, which helped Hellen, 14, enrol in school for the first time. TOP: Hellen with the bike she received to help her travel to and from school.

SPOTLIGHT

Teen Talk That Matters

In the region of Chuquisaca, Bolivia, many young people migrate to cities to find work, often leaving before they've completed school and learned about their rights. This can limit their job options and expose them to risks. In 2022, teen girls made up the majority of the sexually transmitted infections (STIs) reported in the region. "If they migrate, we want them to know about contraception and STIs so they aren't in jeopardy," says Mariela, a Plan Bolivia staff member.

Andreína, 12, is going places, but she's not migrating. Instead, she's staying in Chuquisaca to help tackle the challenges her fellow youth face.

"The girls listen," says Andreína, proudly describing the talks she runs for youth about sexual education and their rights. Although she's often the youngest person in the room, she takes the lead in urging teenagers and parents to respect girls' rights.

"Andreína is an example of resilience," says Mariela. "She overcame the death of her brother and being separated from her mother and is now teaching other children how to face their challenges."

Andreína's skills blossomed when she joined a Champions of Change program and became one of 70 trained peer leaders. The program helps teens build their self-esteem and leadership skills and gain knowledge on children's rights, gender equality and protection from violence. The 760 adolescents who have completed the program have gone on to talk with

6,500 other youths about their health rights and to lobby the local government for policy changes.



"More than anything, I want girls to know their rights so they can defend themselves," says Andreína.



These girls are Champions of Change participants in a Because I Am a Girl-supported project in Myanmar.

DID YOU KNOW?

► The number one killer of teen girls is complications from early pregnancy and childbirth. Supporting girls to stay in school is one of the most effective ways of stopping these early pregnancies and unnecessary deaths.

► About 122 million girls are out of school. This limits their opportunities for the

future: Women who complete secondary education earn twice as much as women who did not attend secondary.

► Nearly one in six girls and women live in a conflict zone, where parents no longer have a stable source of income or food and children no longer have classrooms or health services to access.

Thank you for your support.

Thank you for helping girls around the globe make positive changes in their lives, homes, schools and communities. The world needs your generosity and determination to create a more just society, until we are all equal.



Click or scan the QR code to learn how you can support girls until we are all equal.

WHAT'S NEW AT PLAN

Our Shared Dream

We see the world as it is and the world as it could be. No matter how complex the challenges, a better future is possible.

It takes **determination**.

It takes **optimism**.

It takes **vision**.

Our “moon shot” vision is equality for girls everywhere. Improving the lives of girls improves the lives of everyone in the family and the community. That understanding, which we know you share, is at the heart of our fundraising campaign, Until We Are All Equal. When you support this campaign, you’re trusting us to identify the greatest threats to equality, especially for girls, and respond to them as they arise.

Just going to school every day is impossible for many girls, with one in six living in a conflict zone. That’s why, right now, about 120 million girls are missing out on an education. What’s more, many girls – 12 million every year – are forced into early marriage, placing them at a heightened risk of dying from complications of early pregnancy or childbirth.

There are 500 million girls alive on our planet today, each filled with promise and potential and with their whole futures ahead of them. How do you transform the world? Start by investing in girls.



About Plan International Canada

Plan International Canada is a member of a global organization dedicated to advancing children’s rights and equality for girls. Plan International has been building powerful partnerships with and for children for over 85 years and is now active in more than 80 countries. We stand with children, especially girls, wherever they are oppressed, exploited, left behind or not equally valued. We’re determined optimists, and we will continue to persevere until we are all equal.

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