



Until we are all equal

You've helped build 48 classrooms where girls in Uganda can learn and grow.



On International Day of the Girl, you helped these girls become minister and vice minister for women in Paraguay for a day.



No Holding Her Back

The Because I Am a Girl (BIAAG) project

You're investing in a world where every girl can go to school and decide her own future.

PROJECT STRATEGY

Putting Girls First

The world is failing girls, but you don't. Girls are up against a lot – deadly violence, deliberate exclusion, droughts, and a decrease in solidarity – but they're not backing down. You stand with girls, ensuring they can keep learning, climbing, and contributing to their communities. You invest in every part of their world, helping improve schools, clinics, and job opportunities. Your support reaches everyone in their lives, making allies among boys, parents, and community leaders. As girls grow, entire communities grow with them: It's our formula for equality for girls and progress for all.

Your generosity to our Because I Am a Girl program fuels girl-centered initiatives across 79 projects in 34 countries. Together, we are tackling the core beliefs and behaviours that marginalize girls, whether by influencing a family's decision to send their daughter to school or a government's laws on child marriage.

The changes your support have made possible are real and tangible. Girls in Benin and Cameroon have lobbied their local governments to institute 100 changes in communities, including installing electricity so girls can feel safe and study after dark as well as building bathrooms in school so girls don't miss class when they have their periods. In Myanmar, 4,551 girls and young women have been trained in entrepreneurship and employment skills such as budgeting and business planning to expand their future job opportunities. For girls like Thinzar (see page 7), these changes are opening doors and showing girls that there's no limit to what they can achieve. Thank you for believing and investing in girls.

You supported
education, health,
protection, and
opportunities to earn
and lead for
3.8 million girls
last year. Thank you.



Moe attends accounting and management trainings in Myanmar that you help fund.

Plan leadership training emphasizes public speaking as an essential advocacy skill so girls can inspire audiences.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

100 Ways to Change Lives

From its start, the Plan for Girls project in Benin and Cameroon put girls at the centre as its leaders and decision makers, shaping the project to reflect their experiences. With support from Because I Am a Girl donors, thousands of girls rallied their communities around the biggest issues affecting their lives, such as child marriage and health care. For H  l  ne, who served on the project's advisory committee in Benin, the experience changed her world view. "It taught me that women can work, fight, and achieve anything men can," she says.

That belief has helped girls convince their local governments **to act on more than 100 recommendations** that advance



girls' rights, including building separate bathrooms in schools so girls are more likely to attend class even when they have their periods and installing electricity in communities so nighttime doesn't stop girls from studying.

After the project's seven years of building girls' leadership and promoting equality, the changes are real and profound.

► In project communities in Benin, the percentage of girls who were married before age 18 **decreased from 15% to 4%.**

► In project communities in Cameroon, access to health care for girls and young women **increased from 6% to 31%.**



"I am now more independent," says Su, 20, who shares her story in our mini-documentary *Su's Breakthrough*. Scan here to watch.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

She's Got What It Takes

You never forget your first job, especially if it's a business you built yourself and it helps you afford what you need and want. That's the case for 474 young people in Myanmar who launched ventures in tailoring, tea, tech, and more last year. Having the choice and skills to earn an income is vital to young women's self-sufficiency anywhere, but particularly so in Myanmar, where political instability and climate disasters have increased basic shelter and food costs by 60% while major industries like tourism shrink, taking countless jobs with them.

By supporting Because I Am a Girl, you are investing in resilience, resourcefulness, and future-readiness for girls in Myanmar, as well as raising awareness of girls' health and equality. You've helped:

- **4,551 girls and young women** complete employment and entrepreneurial training.
- **531 entrepreneurs** invest C\$58,500 in seed capital for start-ups.
- **200 young mothers** access subsidized child care so they can train and work.

Thank you for your support

Equality for girls is the heart of our work and the route to progress for all. Your support of Because I Am a Girl keeps that work going to help build a better world – one in which every girl is in school, every young woman is able to earn and decide her future, no girls are married as children, and no girls are victimized or marginalized. Thank you for your dedication to our shared dream.



“

I always dreamed of helping girls in my community. Now I raise awareness about family planning and stopping violence.”

—Gertruda, 20, who was trained as a community health worker in Tanzania

ABOVE: Gertruda visits families at their homes, which helps alleviate pressure on the only clinic in the area.

BY THE NUMBERS

2025 BIAAG Highlights

6,359 girls joined Champions of Change clubs, where they build their confidence, leadership, and knowledge of their rights.

35,739 people learned how to help prevent and respond to violence against women and girls – including child marriage – in their communities.

258,657 girls and women living through crisis received emergency cash to buy essentials.

253,017

girls and young women got better learning opportunities in and out of school, including literacy and job-skills training.

1.1 million

girls and women accessed improved health services, such as nutrition information and malaria screening.

21,302 girls and young women took part in savings groups and microfinancing to build their incomes and businesses.



This teen girl envisions her future at a workshop for Venezuelan migrants in Colombia.

A STORY OF CHANGE

A Born Leader

Aïssatou stood before senators in Cameroon to demand birth certificates for children in her community.

Aïssatou stood in a classroom in her community in Cameroon in front of a group of village leaders that included chiefs, the manager of a health centre, and the deputy mayor. “I worried about making mistakes in front of all those authority figures,” Aïssatou, 22, recalls. Still, she was there with a purpose.

The Plan for Girls project, supported through Because I Am a Girl, had helped Aïssatou and 176 other girls assess their local public services, such as schools and health centres. Aïssatou was there to share the issues they found – including the fact that many children in Cameroon didn’t have birth certificates.

A birth certificate is critical to work, vote, and travel – and in Cameroon, to take school exams. “Students have to stop their studies when the schools find out that they don’t have a birth certificate,” says Aïssatou. According to the World Bank, in 2024, 1.7 million children in Cameroon (about 29% of all students) didn’t have one, putting a barrier between them and their education. Many families miss the 90-day window when certificates are free, because they live far from registration offices or aren’t aware of the rules. After that, the process involves a

court order and the cost goes up to the equivalent of C\$12, an expense that is out of reach for many in rural Cameroon. It took Aïssatou multiple trips to the hospital, the town hall, and a courthouse nearly 90 kilometres away to get hers.

Aïssatou presented a plan to tackle this problem and brought it to life. She held awareness sessions at schools, prenatal clinics, and health centres. She helped families navigate the registration process and secure their documentation. Her advocacy efforts even took her to Yaoundé, the capital city, where she successfully called on senators to fund 12,050 birth certificates for children who had been forced to leave school.

“Before, I never thought I could speak to an authority figure,” Aïssatou says. “But now I know I’m capable.”

12,050 children in Cameroon were able to obtain birth certificates so they can move on to secondary school, thanks to Aïssatou’s advocacy.



“

I wanted to fight for my community and contribute my ideas.”

—Aïssatou (above), a 22-year-old rights activist



A STORY OF CHANGE

Coding Change

The Thanaka project helped Thinzar open the doors to her own computer centre – and create a place for more girls in tech.

Twenty-one-year-old Thinzar is proof that a student can become the teacher – and business owner. She went from attending computer classes to instructing the courses, and now she runs her own training centre.

Not long ago, Thinzar's future looked uncertain. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflict in her region of Myanmar had drained household incomes and shuttered businesses. For youth like her, job prospects after graduation had nearly disappeared. "I wanted to grow, to be independent," Thinzar says. But her options were limited.

That's why she leaped at the chance to participate in Plan's Thanaka project, supported through Because I Am a Girl, and become one of 6,348 youth who received training to kick-start their careers or launch small businesses. She also picked up practical skills like how to speak with confidence, manage money, and plan for the future. She realized that she could challenge gender norms and find a place for herself and other women in a field traditionally dominated by men. Most importantly, she discovered a sense of purpose and a passion for teaching computers to other young people.

Inspired by her progress, the owner

of a local computer training centre hired her as a tutor and eventually offered her the opportunity to franchise a centre of her own. Last year, Thinzar opened her own KMD Computer Training Institute branch, where she's helping young women break into the tech sector.

"Before, I would avoid speaking up," says Thinzar. "Now, even after speaking for more than seven hours [while teaching], I don't feel tired. ... This journey has shown me my inner strength."

“

I want my institute to be a place where everyone, regardless of gender, has equal opportunities to learn and grow.”

—Thinzar, 21, tech trainer and new business owner



In just five months, Thinzar trained more than 60 students at her computer training institute.



Scan to watch Neema stand against a child-marriage ritual in Tanzania in our mini-documentary *Choosing Freedom*.

Thank you!

What you've read here are a few of the stories belonging to the 3.8 million girls whose lives you touched last year. That level of support is powerful and drives meaningful and lasting progress. With your help, capable girls like Aïssatou and Thinzar can lead change in their communities and thrive on their own terms. We're deeply grateful for your continued commitment to advancing girls' rights.



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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