



May 6, 2025

Recipient: Deputy Minister for the G7 Summit and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister (Sherpa)

Subject: Youth Call for Canadian Leadership on Girls' Education at the 2025 G7 Summit

Dear Ms. Cynthia Termorshuizen,

As members of Plan International Canada's Youth Network we are writing to you in your role as Canada's G7 Sherpa to share youth perspectives on what Canada's leadership can and should look like at the 2025 G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta.

Across Canada, young people are deeply concerned about the growing challenges facing our world—especially the global education crisis.

1. The number of school-aged children in crises worldwide who require support to access quality education has reached 234 million—an increase of 35 million over the past three years (Education Cannot Wait, [State of Education for Crisis-Affected Children and Adolescents: Access and Learning Outcomes – Global Estimates 2025](#), January 2025) (UNICEF, [Girls' education | UNICEF](#), September 2024)
2. Humanitarian funding for education decreased in 2023 to US\$1.12 billion—a 4% drop from the year before. Education requirements in the UN's global humanitarian appeal fell to \$1.7 billion in 2024—a decrease of 26% from the year before. (Global Partnership for Education, [Financing for education in crisis: Where do we stand?](#)), July 2024)
3. According to [UNICEF](#) estimates, around the world, 122 million girls remain out of school, including 34 million of primary school age, and 87 million of secondary school age.

These intersecting crises are not just statistics; they shape our daily realities and our futures. Failing to prioritize education, particularly for girls, not only deepens cycles of poverty and inequality but also results in significant lost economic potential. To ensure truly inclusive solutions, we must recognize and address the intersectional barriers—such as those related to disability, race, displacement, and socio-economic status—that further marginalize girls and young women in crisis contexts. We are calling on the Government of Canada to champion bold, inclusive, and accountable leadership at the G7 that reflects the rights, needs, and voices of young people.

As a global leader and long-standing advocate for gender equality, Canada has a critical role to play in ensuring that youth, particularly girls and young women, are central to G7 priorities.

At this year's G7, we urge you to:

1. **Invest in girls' education.** Every \$1 invested in an additional year of secondary schooling for girls yields a return of approximately \$2.80. Educated women are more likely to invest in their families and communities, creating a multiplier effect that drives sustained economic growth (UNICEF, Girls' Education)
2. **Reaffirm and build upon the Charlevoix commitment** by putting education firmly back at the center of the G7 agenda. Specifically, launching a new global commitment to expand the education system's capacity to prevent violence, build social cohesion, and promote resiliency, recovery, and peace.
3. **Close the education financing gap** and commit to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. The G7 must commit to closing the [US\\$97 billion funding gap](#) in education funding worldwide.

Research consistently shows that supporting women and girls drives peace, stability, and security. Economically, enabling more girls to complete school and enter the workforce increases GDP, strengthens communities, and enhances national security.

The G7 brings together the world's advanced economies to address the most pressing issues facing the world. We believe that investing in education, especially for girls and young women, is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic investment in our shared future.

We urge you to take this call forward in your G7 advocacy and negotiations, ensuring that youth voices and girls' rights are central to Canada's leadership on the global stage.

Sincerely,

Plan International Canada Youth Network