



Until we are all equal

Plan International Worldwide Annual Review 2023

July 2022 - June 2023



Girl in a migrant shelter in Mexico, reading a book about child protection, provided by Plan International as part of the Protected Passage project © Plan International

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Youth Reference Group member
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Amplify the message



Greetings,

I'm Hiqmat, I live in Ghana. I first encountered Plan International through their work around girls' rights and activism. That spark ignited my journey of self-advocacy and community-driven action, a journey I am proud to continue.

Joining Plan's Global Youth Reference Group (YRG)* was a deliberate step towards contributing to an organisation committed to creating a more equitable world for girls, young women, and youth. My mission was clear: to amplify Plan's message and make it resonate with young people.

In my role as a YRG member, I engaged in the Youth Governance Work Stream. We explored the essence of youth-centredness and what it entails. I co-created and participated in Around The World, a global internal meeting. I listened attentively to Plan's goals and strategy and I believe the goal of being a youth-centred organisation is achievable. Plan International is already a supportive community for young people.

I feel proud to have fulfilled my mission to tell more young people about Plan and its work. I want to continue communicating to make Plan more visible and attractive. I intend to continue influencing policy changes at national and international levels. The situation for girls and young people in my home nation, Ghana, remains a concern. To truly uplift the next generation, we must focus on education, skill development, and economic

empowerment. We need to address entrenched gender norms and cultural barriers. I am committed to tackling these issues through community advocacy, employing a variety of creative media, including drama, poetry and songs.

From a career perspective, my passion lies in international development, focusing on girls' and women's rights. This path aligns with my aspiration to make a significant impact on society. Globally and in Ghana, my vision is to experience a world where every individual, regardless of gender, has access to education, respect, protection and opportunities. This holistic approach to development can bring about lasting transformation.

With the work I'm doing, the work that Plan is doing and the contributions of individuals, there is hope for girls and for humanity. I see a future where girls are breaking barriers, learning, dreaming, leading, inspiring and creating positive change. The future is exciting and I'm ready for it.

Thank you for your support and for joining me on this inspiring journey.

With hope and dedication,

Hiqmat Sungdeme Saani

Youth Reference Group member

* The Youth Reference Group is a permanent platform for meaningful youth engagement, decision-making, co-creation and consultation between young people and Plan International staff and partners.

We're listening and supporting

In 2022, Plan International launched a bold, refreshed global strategy: **All Girls Standing Strong Creating Global Change**. From now until 2027, we will work to create a world where all girls know and exercise their rights and live the life they choose. To support girls and young women as they learn, lead, decide and thrive, we will continue to strengthen networks of supporters, communities, partners and donors. We will be agents of global change, working to break down the barriers and discrimination facing girls and young women.

Focus on girls' rights

Plan International's determination to champion equality and justice for girls and young women means we prioritise girls' rights through our programmes across Africa, the Middle-East, the Americas and Asia-Pacific, and how we influence key decision makers. In 2023, our support has helped more than 22 million girls and young people to improve their lives.

We are listening to girls and youth when they tell us what matters to them, what they want to do about it and how we can support them. We have strengthened data gathering on our programmes and influencing work, to produce high quality, credible evidence of the impact we are making. An example of this is the 2022 State of the World's Girls report *Equal Power Now: Girls, Young Women and Political Participation*, on how girls are transforming their own lives as active citizens in their countries and communities.

For International Day of the Girl 2022, we organised more than 250 events worldwide, where girls took over presidencies, parliaments, ministries, embassies, United

Nations agencies and more, to raise the profile of issues important to them. This was a profound demonstration of the power of young people's engagement in creating change and highlighted the importance of investing in youth leadership for advancing gender equality.

Youth-led work and influence

We are working with young people like Hiqmat to ensure our focus is where it belongs.

A group of young people from all around the world came together to form the Global Youth Reference Group. This group is driving internal changes in Plan International's governance, leadership and management levels, forging a path for us to become a youth-centred organisation.

As the negative effects of climate change on girls, children and youth are becoming increasingly clear, Plan International brought young people to COP27 in Egypt. These young people held governments accountable for effective action on the climate, and we collaborated with the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition to develop a report examining the impact of unchecked damages on girls and other vulnerable groups. The report presented an urgent call-to-action with key recommendations to decision-makers. We continue to influence policy on core girls' rights issues in forums such as the UN and with governments.

Humanitarian scale-up

In 2023, we carried out 88 disaster responses ranging from local to large-scale national and regional emergencies, reaching 22.4 million children and adults,



Gunvor Kronman
Chair



Stephen Omollo
CEO

including 5.2 million girls. The largest global food crisis in modern history has seen the continuation of our Red Level Alert initially declared in June 2022. This is Plan International's highest level of humanitarian response, supported by all parts of our global organisation. The Red Level Alert led to expanded funding, information sharing, expertise and aid to the frontlines, and improved communication and influence, to increase understanding of the situation's gravity. These activities helped to strengthen and broaden our impact, including in hard-to-reach areas experiencing conflict, such as Tigray province, Ethiopia.

Plan International has prioritised eight countries for the most essential response efforts in the hunger crisis: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Somalia and South Sudan. Our key interventions include food distribution, cash and voucher assistance, school meals, malnutrition screening, child protection and education in emergencies. These efforts are critical not only in reducing hunger but in countering other harmful effects such as child marriages and girls dropping out of school.

As Plan International looks to the future, we know from experience that when girls thrive in a more equal world, we are all stronger for it. With our partners, and with local communities, we will break down the barriers and discrimination faced by girls, and help them gain power over their own lives.

Together, we won't stop until we are all equal.

Our strategy

All girls standing strong creating global change



Plan International strives for a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls.

Our strategy for 2023 to 2027 is to work towards and support **All Girls Standing Strong Creating Global Change.**

We aim to improve the lives of 200 million girls in the next five years. We'll do that by focusing our work where it will have the greatest **IMPACT**. We will encourage girls to be involved politically, to **ACTIVATE** their demands for social justice and gender equality. By amplifying young voices, we will help to make the message **LOUDER**. And we will attract partners, donors and sponsors by emphasising the **URGENCY**, the need for their **COLLABORATION** and **SUPPORT**.

Working together we will create:

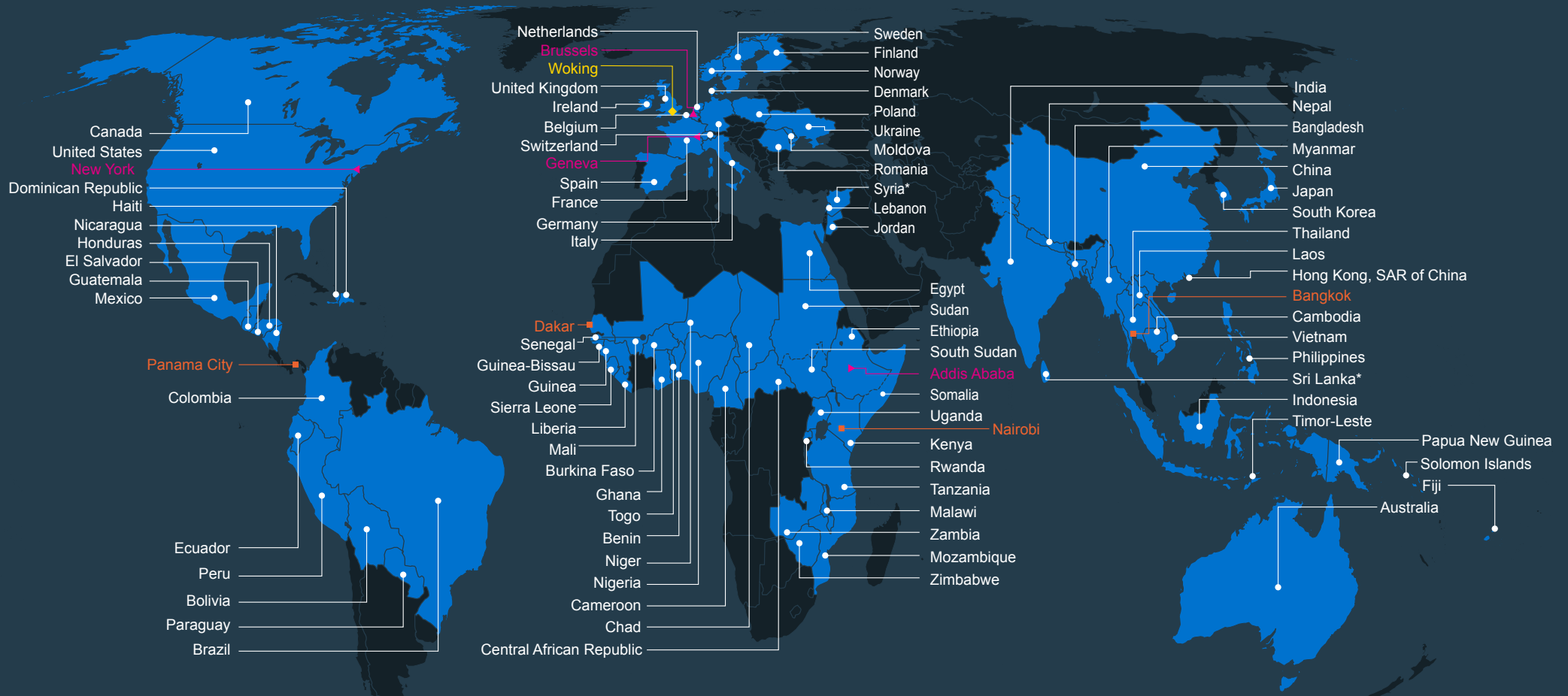
- A world where all girls know and exercise their rights to living the life they choose
- A network of supporters, communities, staff, partners, and donors, supporting girls and young women to stand strong as they learn, lead, decide, and thrive
- Global change through breaking down the barriers and discrimination girls and young women currently face every minute

The priorities that will help realise our ambition are:

- Focus on girls' rights, especially adolescent girls and young women
- Scale-up humanitarian impact
- Be locally-led and globally connected
- Centre on youth
- Impact evidence
- Strengthen and optimise sponsorship
- Become an effective, responsive organisation
- Grow quality income

We aim to improve the lives of 200 million girls in the next five years. When girls thrive in a more equal world, we are all stronger for it.

We work in over 80 countries^o



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Plan International.

^o As of June 2023

* Working through partners

- Countries where we work
- ◆ Global hub
- ▶ Advocacy offices
- Regional offices

Results

We reached
41.6m children* including
22.2m girls**

67.3k communities
benefitted from our work

We worked with
42k partners


1m sponsors and
1.1m sponsored
children

463k community members
and volunteers, and
47.3k staff in partner organisations
and institutions were **trained in
child protection**

1.1m community members were
trained in gender equality

Income
€1.1bn

Expenditure
€1.1bn



We advocate for the rights of girls and young women at global, national and local levels.

In 2023, our offices reported

308 influencing successes

at all levels, contributing to:

Girls participating to a #GirlsTakeover event for International Day of the Girls © Plan International

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changes or developments in laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines

HIGHLIGHTS

GIRLS' LEADERSHIP: In Timor-Leste, Plan International worked closely with local partners and advocates to pass the 'Child and Youth at Risk Protection Law,' a significant accomplishment.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS: In the UK, Plan International supported a Bill to criminalise public sexual harassment, expected to become law by the end of 2023.

CLIMATE CHANGE: In El Salvador, a communication strategy for natural disaster emergencies was developed collaboratively by the Directorate-General of Civil Protection and the Directorate of the Hazards and Natural Resources Observatory.

57

changes in attitudes and agendas of key decision-makers around girls' rights

HIGHLIGHTS

GIRLS IN CRISIS: In Ethiopia, Plan International influenced the government to declare a drought emergency in Borana, highlighting the humanitarian crisis's severity and Plan International's emergency responses through effective communication.

CHILD EARLY FORCED MARRIAGE AND UNIONS: In Nepal, several news articles highlighted Plan International's Girls initiative in Jumla and Kalikot districts of Karnali province. The articles showcased how adolescent girls, involved in Champions of Change, were actively working to combat harmful practices in their local communities.

37

commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services

HIGHLIGHTS

GIRLS' LEADERSHIP: In Uganda, Plan implemented a youth parliament approach to enhance youth engagement in government planning, focusing on addressing youth-related issues.

VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS: Plan International Belgium was selected as the executive partner by the Government of Flanders to initiate Safer Cities programmes aimed at addressing gender-based violence in public spaces.

Impact



Children learning and playing in a school supported by Plan International, Cambodia © Plan International / 606 Digital

Emergency and humanitarian response

Protecting and upholding the rights of children, particularly girls, before, during and after emergencies.



"Our gardening means we can supply the canteen with vegetables for our meals. I'm happy to work in the garden because it helps me learn new things. If I don't eat well, it's hard to keep up in class."

Balkissa, 12, student and gardener

© Plan International / Isso Emmanuel Bationo

Seeds of Change: School Gardening Clubs in Burkina Faso

Conflict in Burkina Faso has forced families to relocate, resulting in risks to food security. Burkinabé children like Balkissa are sowing seeds of hope, tending vegetable gardens at school for a source of food, learning, optimism and friendship.

In 2023, the world experienced urgent extremes, with global conflict, economic uncertainty, severe climate events and a resulting unprecedented need for humanitarian support. In times of crisis and insecurity, it is girls who are most vulnerable.

Global impact

- 22.4m children and adults reached by our disaster work, including **5.2m girls**
- **88 disaster responses** were carried out globally, ranging from localised responses to large-scale national and regional emergencies.
- **18 cash and voucher assistance programmes** across 16 countries
- **29 food security programmes** across 25 countries
- We spent **127.6 million euros** in humanitarian response

Early childhood development

All young children grow up well cared for and equally valued.

Interactivity and gaming make learning fun

At two schools in Ethiopia, young children with learning difficulties learned with Augmented Reality and 3D visualisation teaching tools and techniques. The objective was to ensure the children achieved developmental milestones to support their early learning and set them up for long term success. Devices, including tablets, software programmes, learning apps, and enhanced broadband supported the fun, customised, self-paced and effective way to learn.



© Plan International

Global impact

- A better start in life for **7.1m girls** with programmes reaching 29m children and adults
- We spent **116.8 million euros** in early childhood development programmes
- **72%** of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls

"I am enjoying learning with smartphones so much and I particularly like coloring alphabets... I want to be a physician when I grow up and I will treat everyone."

Tsion, 4 years old

Protection from violence

Children and young people, particularly girls, grow up free from violence, fear or discrimination.



A haven for thousands of migrant and refugee girls and young women

Empowerment, Local Leadership and Accountability (ELLA) is a collaboration of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The programme focuses on migrant and refugee adolescent girls and young women from Venezuela, strengthening their agency to exercise their protection rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. ELLA works with participants, their families and communities, local institutions and civil society organisations and has served as an advocate and information source for more than 20,000 adolescent girls and young women.

Global impact

- Gender-sensitive child protection for **3.8m girls**, reaching a total of 13.8m children and adults
- Plan International carried out **43 child protection in emergencies programmes** across 28 countries
- We spent **147.1 million euros** in child protection programmes
- **76%** of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls

Progress on advocacy on violence against girls

- **44** changes or developments in laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights
- **12** commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services

Inclusive, quality education

Children, particularly girls, have the education they need to succeed in life.



Transformation through education

When 16-year-old Poria had an opportunity to attend boarding school in Kenya, her Maasai father supported the idea. In Kenya, many girls miss out on education due to discrimination or harmful practices, such as child marriage. Now a peer counsellor, Poria says, "I have met other young women [at school] who are like sisters to me . . . When we return to our villages, they will know we have been transformed. There is a kind of poverty around the village that I want to transform. I believe I can do it through education."

© Plan International / Armstrong Too

Global impact

- **4.3m girls** with better access to education
- Inclusive, quality education reached **10.5m children and adults**
- Plan International carried out **33 education in emergencies programmes** across 25 countries
- We spent **144.5 million euros** in inclusive, quality education programmes
- **74%** of our projects have gender equality at the heart

Progress on advocacy on education

- **46** changes or developments in laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights
- **17** commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services

Skills and decent work

Marginalised young people, especially young women, gain knowledge and skills, access opportunities and engage actively in decent work of their choosing.



Energetic women

It's a win-win-win! Women entrepreneurs are supporting fellow women entrepreneurs while promoting renewable energy. In Senegal, Mali and Niger, women are trained as Energy Advice Agents through the project: Social and Economic Development of Women Through Renewable Energies in the Sahel (DEFERS). The women learn how to install and utilise renewable energies for maximum benefit, then they advise other women entrepreneurs and communities. Through DEFERS, women entrepreneurs are helping small businesses owned by women, generating income and savings opportunities, and influencing in the energy sector, conventionally a male domain.

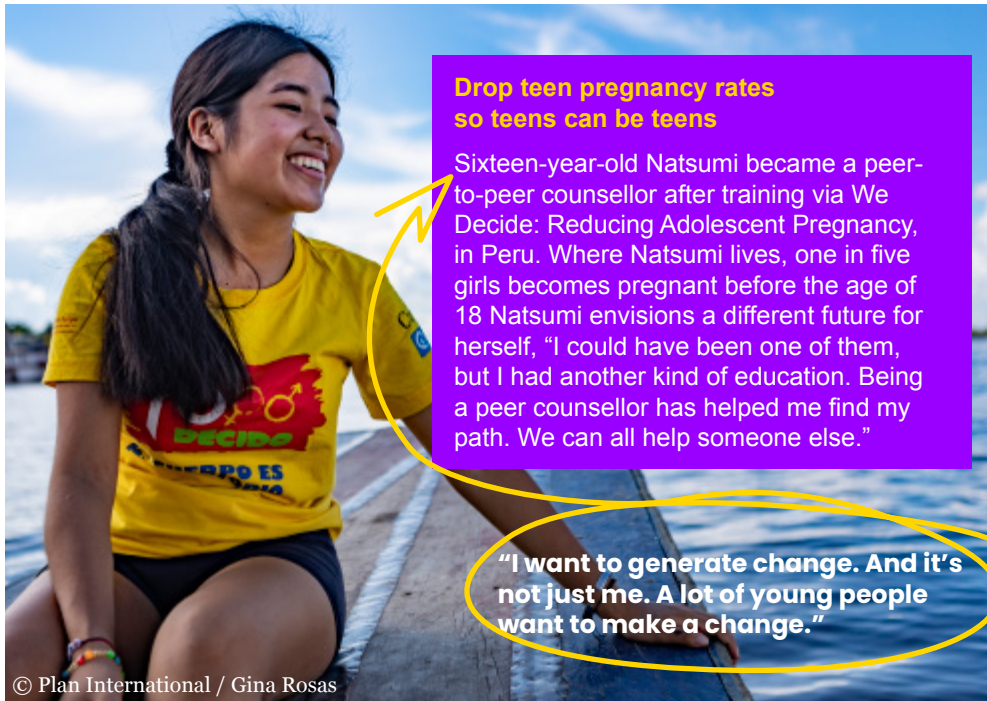
© Plan International

Global impact

- **600k girls** with improved skills and work opportunities
- Skills and opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship reached **3.9m children and adults**
- We spent **74.5 million euros** in skills and decent work programmes
- **75%** of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Girls and young women have control over their lives and bodies.



Drop teen pregnancy rates so teens can be teens

Sixteen-year-old Natsumi became a peer-to-peer counsellor after training via We Decide: Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy, in Peru. Where Natsumi lives, one in five girls becomes pregnant before the age of 18. Natsumi envisions a different future for herself, "I could have been one of them, but I had another kind of education. Being a peer counsellor has helped me find my path. We can all help someone else."

"I want to generate change. And it's not just me. A lot of young people want to make a change."

© Plan International / Gina Rosas

Global impact

- Improving sexual and reproductive health for **4.4m girls**
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights reached **30m children and adults**
- Plan International carried out **12 health – including sexual and reproductive health and rights – in emergencies programmes** across 12 countries
- We spent **109.2 million euros** in sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes
- **78%** of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls

Progress on advocacy on SRHR

- **34** changes or development in laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights
- **12** commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services

Young people driving change

Girls, boys and young people shape decisions that affect their lives by leading change within their own communities and influencing decisions at higher levels.



© Plan International

Girls are political champions

YouthHUB is a coalition of youth-led organisations offering young activists and leaders – especially girls and young women – space for interaction and innovation. YouthHUB is driven and championed by young people who best understand the challenges faced by girls. The coalition's objective is to encourage political literacy in girls, to stir them into collective action for systemic social and political change.

Global impact

- **1.1m girls** supported to be active citizens
- Girls, boys and youth as drivers of change reached **4.5m children and adults**
- We spent **56 million euros in programmes related to young people driving changes**
- **81%** of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls

Progress on advocacy on girls' leadership

- **33** changes or development in laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights
- **8** commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services

"I feel proud to contribute to this great wave of progress and empowerment among young girls in Nepal."

- Neha, 21, YouthHUB participant

ACTIVATE

Here we are: girls' voices for political participation

Girls from Peru captured images representing their views on the challenges girls face when trying to engage in politics. Their hopes for a more equal future where all girls and women can meaningfully engage in their country's politics, are expressed here in their own words.



"This photo is calling out public institutions who say they care about their communities, but only do so from an adult-centric point of view. This is my frustration portrayed because they make decisions about our future... We are not consulted. We are muffled cries of unheard demands."

Vanesa, 17, Lima



"Girls have the right to political participation where our diversity and our capacity to analyse the problems we face every day in our society is valued. We reflect strength, resilience, and above all, leadership."

Damaris, 15, Cusco



"This photo represents how a mould is imposed on girls . . . and the bewilderment I feel about the limited formal spaces for political participation."

Jhussahara, 17, Lima



"The women of Chumbivilcas, many of them are humble and shy. They have gone through various problems, but they always try to overcome adversity. Within each one of them, there is motivation, strength, courage and bravery to take on decision-making positions."

Nilsa, 16, Cusco

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Our presence at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a major international policy forum, signified pivotal influencing moments for Plan International. We work to influence at all levels and our global policy advocacy is informed by deep-rooted work with communities all over the world.

POLICY WIN

The Commission on the Status of Women concluded with a big policy win: a paragraph in the outcome document, co-written with youth advocates and focused on adolescents impacted by technology-assisted gender-based violence.

This represents the first time in CSW history a paragraph was devoted to adolescents, with language largely influenced by Plan's policy recommendations.

International Day of the Girl

#GirlsTakeover

Banchigize, is a 23-year-old woman and a member of Plan International Ethiopia's youth advisory panel.

For International Day of the Girl 2022, Banchigize skilfully advocated for the rights of girls and people with disabilities when she was selected to take over the role of Finnish Ambassador to Ethiopia as part of our #GirlsTakeover initiative.



"I appreciate the opportunity to speak up for the voiceless at the national level. How slowly I move doesn't matter as long as I keep moving."

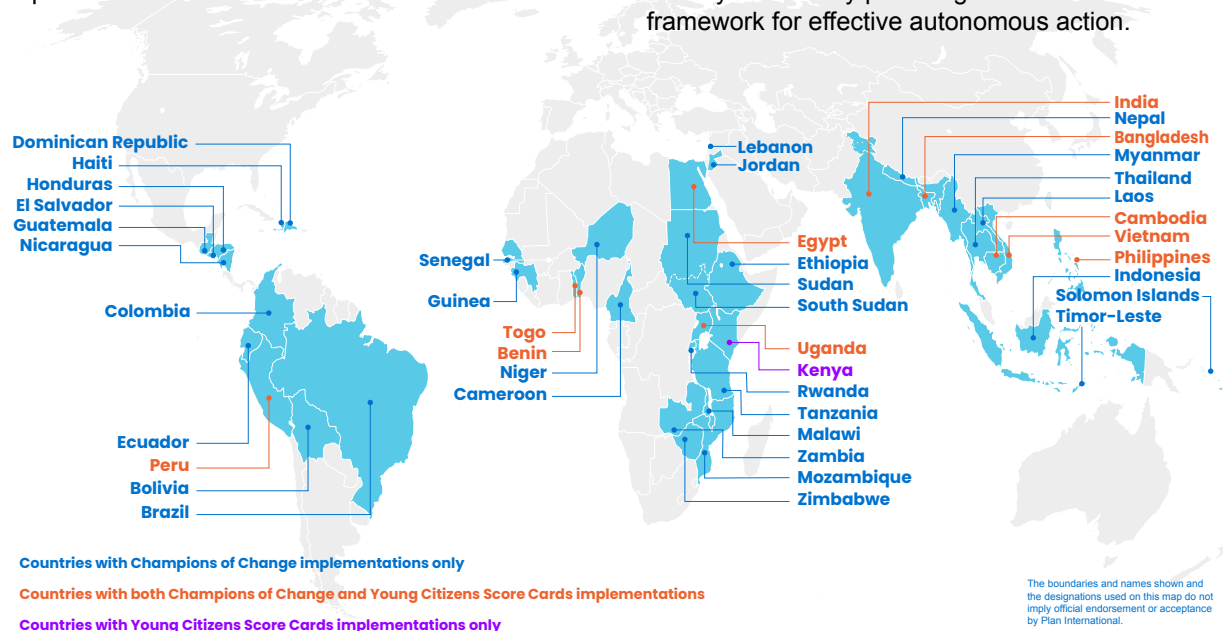
Banchigize

Young Citizen Score Cards

This programme is a social accountability tool that equips children, youth and community members to track how government services perform, identify improvements, and advocate for government and communities to take action on diverse issues, from safety in cities to school governance. The Young Citizen Score Cards tool is agile and has been implemented in more than a dozen countries.

Champions of Change

Champions of Change fosters youth-led collective action, connecting youth groups to other civil society organisations to advocate for change in 43 countries. It provides opportunities for group dialogue and safe spaces for adolescents to reflect on gender issues, helping them transform deeply held beliefs and challenge existing power structures. The programme equips young people with the skills to pursue activism as they define it by providing the foundations and framework for effective autonomous action.



Youth manifesto

Working with a group of young advocates, Plan International launched a Global Youth Manifesto and 14 National manifestos calling on decision-makers to address the barriers to girls and young women participating in politics. Supporters took part in the 'Dear Leaders: Write to your Decision-Maker' action, which saw letters addressed to leaders in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Sweden, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Uganda and Zimbabwe on the Youth Manifesto demands.



Find out more about our campaigning and influencing work



Sisters Create: influencing through art

“Every woman should feel free, should feel comfortable, should not be stigmatised, should not be abused,” says Maguette. “As a voice artist, every time I encounter an issue, I talk about it in my songs, because that’s the only way I can condemn it and make it heard.”

Maguette, whose stage name is Maguy, got involved with Sisters Create when it started, and is now forging a career as a solo artist. She uses rap and song to fight for political change and express her views on rape, domestic violence, menstruation, intergenerational conflict and other issues affecting girls.

“There are many problems; we are fighting to get justice, to get equality. We need to start by raising awareness among girls, letting them know that politics is not just a grown-up matter for important people; the decisions made in politics will impact us all,” explains Maguette.



About the Sisters Create programme

In Dakar, Senegal, young female musicians are using music – specifically hip-hop – to fight for political change. As part of the Sisters Create programme, artists and performers use music, visual art and theatre to campaign for girls’ and women’s rights. The project was created by well-known Senegalese rapper and slammer, Matador.

Girls are co-designing research

At Plan International, we're walking the talk. We aim to involve girls in all aspects of our research. As Isobel Fergus, Research Manager at Plan International, comments on the reasons for directly involving girls to co-create research for reports such as Equal Power Now.

"We've been taking a more participatory approach for the past three to five years. Girls are co-designing the research, leading the data collection and shaping recommendations." It takes more resources: time, people and funds to involve girls this way but it's important.

"We want to break down barriers and adjust power imbalance by involving girls directly from the beginning of the research process. It increases accountability for recommendations when we can say, 'Girls spoke with their peers and reported this is their experience and these are the reasons for the recommendations.'"

By participating, girls also benefit. "If we are asking for a significant amount of their time, it's important to compensate them just like we would data collectors. They are earning as they gain new skills and enhanced respect from their community. They also build self-esteem."

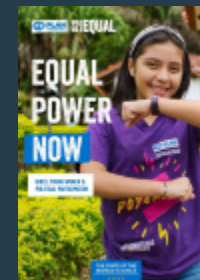
One of the most exciting outcomes Isobel sees is: "Getting involved encourages girls to continue with activism as they gain confidence in themselves. For example in a research project we did a few years ago, girls and young women in Zambia said they were more respected in the community after working on the project. People began to see them as researchers."

"Throughout my involvement in this research, I have had the privilege of collecting data from a diverse group of young girls, capturing their experiences, aspirations, and challenges. Witnessing the resilience, determination, and passion of these girls has been a truly transformative experience for me."

Selamawit, 24, co-researcher from Ethiopia.

Hear girls' voices

State of the World's Girls 2022: Equal Power Now



Hear from 29,000 girls and young women aged 15-24 from 29 countries as they navigate the political landscape.



Real Choices, Real Lives: Research Series



Plan International is following the lives of 118 girls living in nine countries, across three continents, from their birth in 2006, until they turn 18 in 2024.



Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Research Series



The Adolescent Girls in Crisis is a series of research reports capturing the voices and experiences of adolescent girls in protracted crises.



URGENCY

Ukraine youth: focused on the future



“Despite our age we have a lot of things to say that are really important to hear.”

12-year-old boy living in occupied Mariupol

Young people have the right to shape their own future, even in conflict settings. This is why Plan International facilitated focus groups with more than 200 young people affected by the war in Ukraine. The groups were convened to provide informal opportunities for youth to influence their own futures.

Participants volunteered to share their priorities and views, with key messages for decision-makers within Ukraine and internationally. Here are some of the youth participants' views, in their own words:

PEACE AND SECURITY

‘Please make sure that my family and I do not die before the war is over.’

14-year-old girl from Mariupol

CONDITIONS FOR SAFE RETURN

‘I will return home only when I am sure that I will not hear explosions on the street.’

14-year-old girl, internally displaced from Mariupol

MENTAL HEALTH

‘The war has forced young people to grow up really quickly and we now struggle with low morale.’

14-year-old girl, internally displaced from Mariupol

Recommendations were made following the participants' testimonies so youth both formally and informally are given the chance to influence their own future and to be connected to all reconstruction and recovery initiatives at all levels.

GENDER EQUALITY

‘The war is increasing militarised masculinities and the stereotypes of men being strong, the defenders of Ukraine and protectors of its people.’

19-year-old woman, internally displaced, now in Cherkassy

EDUCATION

‘I would start with education reforms and I would start right now. In the next 10-15 years, we will be in dire need of specialists.’

Internally displaced girl, now in Lviv.



Girls eating lunch provided by Plan International's school feeding programme, part of our emergency response to the hunger crisis, Kenya
© Plan International / Adriane Ohanesian

Famine prevention with the United Nations

“Plan International has been one of our key partners in the movement to elevate the voices of women and girls in the global hunger crisis. Together with the Office of the United Nations Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator, Plan is working to ensure the current hunger emergency does not continue to threaten gender equality around the world.”

Reena Ghelani, United Nations Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator

In June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, Plan International, the United Nations Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator and other humanitarian actors convened governments and leaders of local women-led organisations to develop commitments and recommendations around the rights of women and girls in food insecure contexts. Food insecure girls are at particular risk of child marriage, sexual exploitation and abuse, and other child protection concerns. Plan is committed to championing women's and girls' meaningful leadership in global famine prevention and strengthening our integrated child protection and food security programming.



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Tigray: relentless dedication and determination

In the aftermath of the devastating conflict that affected 4.6 million people in Tigray, Ethiopia, the region's people were confronted with a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. The Plan International team, despite numerous challenges such as limited resources, limited access, communication breakdowns, and security concerns, continued their work. The humanitarian scale-up in Tigray is a true story of principled humanitarian relief assistance in a complex emergency in an active conflict setting.

Syria and Türkiye earthquake support

A series of devastating earthquakes struck Syria and Türkiye in February 2023, causing the deaths and injury of thousands of people and widespread devastation. Plan International worked with local partners Charitas, Intersos and Adra to provide protection, psychosocial support and education for children, youth and their caregivers.



As of March 2023

- 9 million people in Syria affected by the earthquake
- 105,000+ households forced to leave their homes
- 250 families received blankets, mattresses, medicines, menstrual health kits
- 600 food baskets and 600 hygiene kits distributed

© MECC / Carole Nicola



© Plan International

Disaster-aware students avert risk

Shadona and the student team wrote an assessment about several safety issues they discovered in their school in Bangladesh. "We used the assessment as a strong piece of evidence of the gender inequalities in our school and the local area. By referring to the findings of this report, we were able to raise our voices to ask for change," explains Shadona.

Based on the findings of their risk assessment, the students mobilised through the Gender Responsive School and Community Safety Initiative to gain new funding to improve and physically reinforce their school facilities.

"I now know why it is important to have a disaster risk plan in place, and how disasters can impact the lives of students, especially girls."

Shadona, 14-year-old girl, student task force member in Bangladesh

Find out more about our humanitarian work and responses



Clowns Without Borders: soothing trauma with laughter

“I liked that the clowns told us
to be nice to each other.”

Artiom, 11-year-old boy

Artiom is from Moldova but has family in Ukraine and several new classmates who were forced to leave their homes in Ukraine. Artiom thought the clowns were funny but he also noticed something else, “When Elin the Clown’s trousers fell off, the other clowns didn’t laugh. They tried to help her.”

Funded by Plan International, Project Laughter trains local artists in humanitarian clowning, teaching them how to respond appropriately to children who have witnessed things no child should ever see.

Clowns Without Borders sends clowns into conflict zones to provide emotional first aid through laughter and play. “When the kids see our show, they can be right there and just laugh and enjoy it without thinking about all the ugliness they might have experienced,” says Elin Janzon, clown performer.

In 2023, Plan International worked in
42k partnerships including:

- **29.6k community-based organisations**
- **4.2k local and national NGOs and civil society organisations**
- **2.7k government institutions at central and local levels**
- **1k international NGOs, development institutions and universities at national, regional and international level**
- **Over 900 corporate and private sector institutions (national and international)**
- **3.4k child- and youth-led organisations**

9
out of 10
partners interviewed
would
recommend
Plan as a
partner

Interested in partnering with Plan International?
Find out more here.



Plan International Ecuador's Superwoman!



"I know that families in emergencies or disasters go through really tough situations. Humanitarian action consists of helping people, by thinking that it could be ourselves."

Raquel Gavilanes, Ecuador

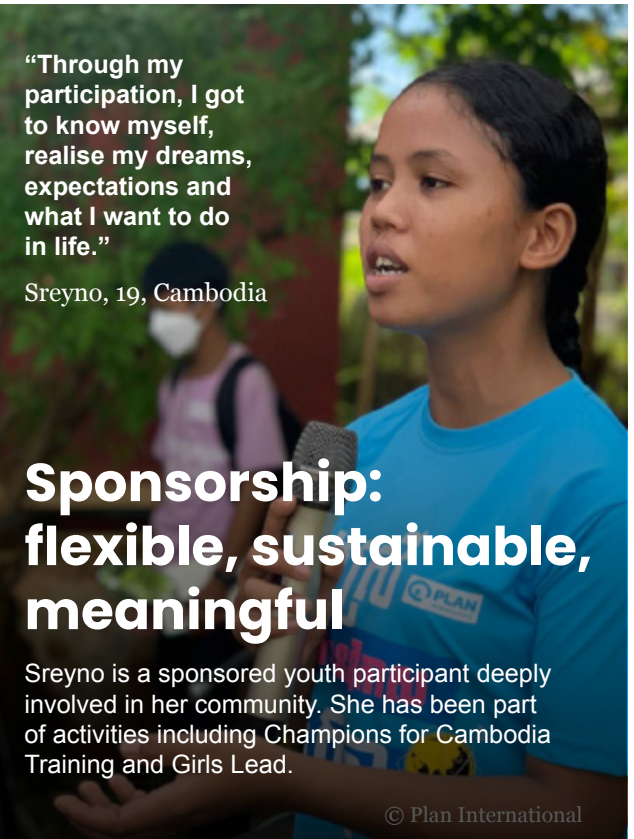
Raquel loves her job as Emergency Programmes Manager for Plan International in Ecuador but her history with Plan goes back to her childhood. Born in Marcopamba in the highland province of Bolívar, Raquel started her journey with Plan as a sponsored child.

"I was a Plan girl. That is, I was sponsored by Plan International. When I stopped being sponsored, I started to help my dad, who was a volunteer for Plan. We collected data for the family census once a year so that children could take part in community projects.

"At university, I studied risk and disaster management. I got involved with various organisations working on international cooperation, then I joined Plan about seven years ago. I never imagined that I would be able to work here, as I knew that strong profiles are required.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in 2020, I was appointed as the COVID-19 Response Manager. We helped people affected by the pandemic, both Ecuadorians and migrants. Consortiums were formed with other organisations to deliver food and hygiene kits, and we were able to reach 100% of the families sponsored by Plan International in Ecuador.

"It is difficult but we try to alleviate distress. I am certain we can achieve a fairer world if we work with children."



"Through my participation, I got to know myself, realise my dreams, expectations and what I want to do in life."

Sreyno, 19, Cambodia

Sponsorship: flexible, sustainable, meaningful

Sreyno is a sponsored youth participant deeply involved in her community. She has been part of activities including Champions for Cambodia Training and Girls Lead.

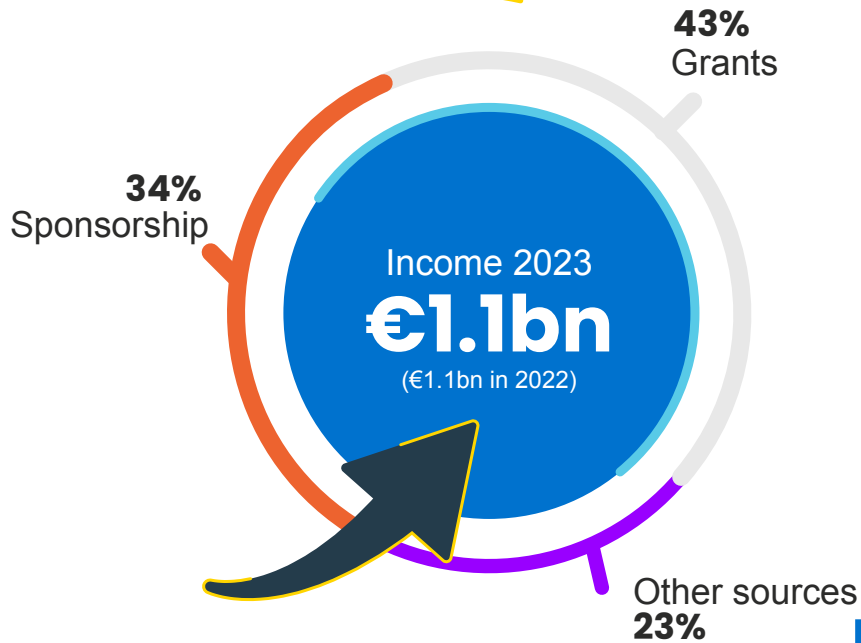
Child sponsorship nurtures meaningful relationships with communities, families, children and sponsors to enable lasting positive change. It's a solid foundation for a global community united around the needs and rights of children.



Find out more about sponsorship.

Finance

Read full financial statements



For every euro spent**

76.4 cents
on life-changing programmes and global advocacy and influencing work



10.4 cents
on raising funds and attracting new supporters

13.2 cents
on activities such as HR, finance and IT systems to make our programme work as efficient and effective as possible

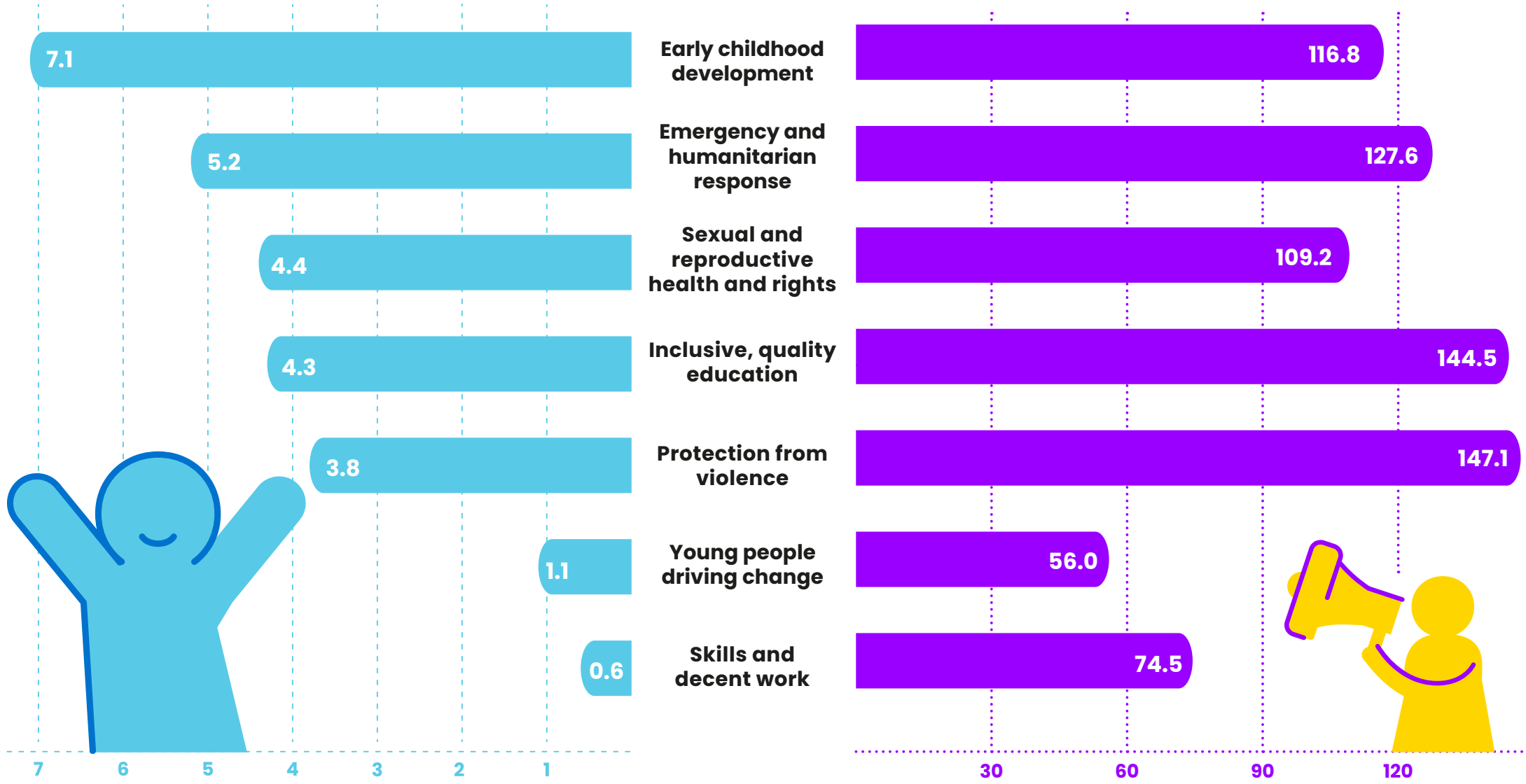
* including foreign exchange gains and losses

** excluding foreign exchange gains and losses

Priority areas of work

Number of girls reached (million)

Spent (€ million)





Children who took part in a workshop to learn about online safety, Vietnam © Plan International / Ngoc RnP

**Until we are
all equal**





Until we are all equal

About Plan International

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We believe in the power and potential of every child but know this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it is girls who are most affected.

Working together with children, young people, supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges girls and vulnerable children face. We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood and we enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge.

For over 85 years, we have rallied other determined optimists to transform the lives of all children in more than 80 countries.

We won't stop until we are all equal.

Cover: Young women attending a Gender Equality Summer Camp, Vietnam © Plan International

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