



Until we are all equal

Plan International Worldwide

Annual Review

2025

July 2024 to
June 2025

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Centre: Dipsikha, Nepal
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Bottom centre: Darleyn, Bolivia
Bottom right: Racheal, Uganda

Foreword

Learning to take up space

Aseel, 24, is a youth advocate from Jordan who teaches English to young refugees, and champions girls' empowerment, education, and gender equality. As part of a girl's leadership project at Plan International Jordan, she works to bring the ideas and experiences of young people to Plan's policy and influence work via global Plan initiatives, and by serving on our regional advisory board.



I grew up in Jordan amid the political turmoil that has long shaped the Middle East. I don't remember a time when I didn't want to do more to raise my voice for others, yet for many years, I felt so isolated, and unsure how one person like me could create change.

That changed in 2019, when I began volunteering with local initiatives that transformed lives, especially for girls and children. I saw what advocacy truly meant, not just theory, but real human change.

In 2023, I joined the She Leads programme (run by a coalition of NGOs including Plan International) while starting my master's degree and a new job. It was a challenging time, but the project was my lifeline. She Leads gave me a space to grow and learn how to turn actions into words, and to find a community that believed in my 'impossible' ideas. No one dismissed me; instead, I was encouraged to be bold and creative.

Later, when I joined the UN Youth Cohort, I promised myself I would reach the Summit of the Future – and I did. I threw myself into every meeting and every learning opportunity about human rights. When I was chosen, I felt pure joy and purpose. I remember wearing my

keffiyeh at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), standing firm in support of Palestine. I was nervous, but I chose to have a voice rather than give in to fear, and I found that honesty resonates. Activists and even policymakers told me how refreshing it was to hear someone speak with conviction.

That moment opened many doors. I was invited to join a youth council, because someone remembered me as 'the young woman in the keffiyeh at UNGA'. Through She Leads, I learned to take space and to make space for others. My advocacy today is deeply rooted in the community.

My work in development, education, sexual health and reproductive rights, and gender justice research, combined with advocacy at the UN and fieldwork at home, has become the foundation of my passion and purpose. I now tell stories from my community, showing hidden perspectives. I've learned to write statements and advocate within UN systems, all things I once thought impossible.

Plan International believed in me, even when I doubted myself. Today, I trust my voice, lead with courage, and never apologise for being loud, passionate, and angry in the name of girls' rights.

“Today, I trust my voice, lead with courage, and never apologise for being loud, passionate, and angry in the name of women's rights.”

Message from our CEO & Chair

Built for this moment

The past year has seen profound shifts for the international and humanitarian sectors. Devastating cuts to overseas development assistance have gravely undermined climate change adaptation efforts, lifesaving humanitarian work, education initiatives, and vital work to safeguard and advance girls' rights. Girl- and women-led organisations are among the hardest hit, and now face even greater hurdles in accessing the funding and support they depend on.

These cuts are happening at a time when the world is grappling with multiple and intersecting crises, including escalating conflict, climate-induced disasters, forced displacement and food insecurity. From conflicts in Gaza and Sudan to climate emergencies in Myanmar and the Philippines – girls' safety, education and opportunities are under increasing threat.

At the same time, growing global pushback against gender equality and human rights is limiting access to education, restricting



Logistics warehouse where food parcels are prepared for delivery to Gaza. ©Plan International/Mohamed Hesham

reproductive rights, and shrinking civic space in over 120 countries.

In this context, Plan International was built for this moment – standing beside girls to defend hard-won progress and drive the urgent change the world needs. Our work really is more important than ever.

In the past year, through collaborative programmes, impactful partnerships, and relationships of deep trust with communities, Plan International reached 49.2 million children, including 26.1 million girls in more than 80 countries.

We stood alongside girls in every part of their journeys. Over five million girls were reached by our education work, which includes supporting them to access early learning programmes, stay in school, return to their education after dropping out, and access alternative learning programmes.

We partnered with nearly 4,000 youth-led organisations, and supported 1.1 million girls to step into civic life and lead change in their communities last year. We worked with 3.4 million girls in protection activities to prevent child marriage, trafficking, violence, and abuse of girls and all young people.

We expanded youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, providing access and choice for more than half a million young people in 14 countries. And we delivered lifesaving support, responding to 73 emergencies to keep girls safe, healthy and learning from the first days of a crisis.

In the face of new challenges, our focus remains firm: we partner with girls, communities, and local organisations to keep girls and children at the centre of all solutions. We invest in girls and young people. We do so not only to promote equality, but to deliver solutions that meet the world's most urgent challenges.

“Peace is the greatest thing in the world, and I want to say, let us preserve it together.”

- Addi, 23, Ethiopia¹



Reena Ghelani
Plan International
CEO



Gunvor Kronman
Chair of the
International
Board & Members'
Assembly

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 to 2027 is to work towards and support all girls standing strong creating global change.



Girls and young women participating in Plan International programmes.
© Plan International

Our strategy to 2027

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 include:



Scaling up our humanitarian impact



Becoming locally led and globally connected



Being youth centred



Improving our collection and use of impact evidence



Strengthening and optimising sponsorship

Our focus on girls' rights, especially adolescent girls and young women, supporting them to learn, lead, decide and thrive.



Learn: Inclusive Quality Education, and Skills and Decent Work



Lead: Young People Driving Change



Decide: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



Thrive: Early Childhood Development, and Protection from Violence

Where we work

Standing with girls in over 80 countries.^o



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

*Working through partners

Results

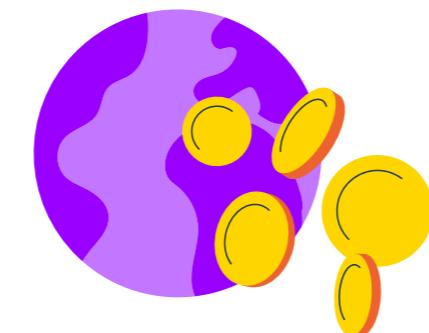
Our year in numbers



49.2m

children reached – including

26.1m girls*



€1.04bn

Expenditure

€1.05bn

Income

1m

sponsored children

902k

sponsors



602,007

community members trained in gender equality

64,320

communities benefited from our work

26,440

partners worked with us this year

1,328

active projects



*Figures include non-binary people, where reported. Totals adjusted for double counting across different programmes.



272 influencing successes

We advocate for the rights of girls and young women, nationally and globally. In 2025, our offices reported 272 influencing successes at all levels, including:



34 changes in attitudes and agendas of key international, national or local decision-makers around girls' rights



24 commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services which will contribute to girls' rights



112 changes or developments in laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights

Impact

Lifesaving humanitarian response

In a year of escalating crises defined by intensifying storms, devastating floods, and brutal conflicts, Plan International brought lifesaving assistance and humanitarian expertise to communities on the frontlines of disasters and conflicts. From Gaza to Sudan, from Chad to Myanmar and Haiti, we are there before, during, and after a crisis. Our compassionate, principled action – mobilising relief within hours – and our ability to mobilise fast, because we have been present in many communities for many years, showed the power of collaboration and emergency preparedness.

We delivered vital aid in 73 emergencies: 42 emergency schooling programmes; 53 food support projects; 61 projects to keep children safe in crises, plus emergency health; water; sanitation and hygiene; and sexual and reproductive health worldwide.



“

Amid daily challenges, our staff and volunteers on the frontlines, partners, teams, and supporters stood with conflict- and disaster-affected communities and defenceless children. With grit, readiness, and an unfaltering commitment to humanity, we can bring vital services and hope when and where it is needed.”

- Dr Unni Krishnan, Global Humanitarian Director, Plan International

Gaza

The humanitarian situation in Gaza reached catastrophic levels, with famine officially declared. According to the UN, 68,643 had been killed and 170,655 injured as of October 2025 (OCHA), with children at the gravest risk.

Since October 2023, Plan International's offices in Egypt and Jordan have been working with local partners to deliver humanitarian assistance in Gaza, while calling for civilians to be protected, and for aid workers to safely reach people in need.

During 2025, some 97,672 individuals were directly supported with lifesaving aid by Plan International and its partners inside Gaza, plus additional evacuees in Egypt, including 91,170 people reached with food or hot meals; 11,148 people reached with clean water or hygiene kits, plus shelter kits, and education in emergencies.



Every hour counts in Gaza

“Under constant bombing and threat of forced displacement, you learn to adapt quickly,” says Rana Quffa, from Plan partner, Kotof El Khair Association (meaning, fruits of goodness), in Gaza



“**We have to rebuild Gaza. We all have dreams for the future, to become engineers, doctors and professionals.”**

- Judie, 15, Gaza

The UN has called Gaza a ‘graveyard for children and aid workers’. Before the war, Rana had a predictable work routine. Today, everything is different. “Now I am up by 4am, and complete my household chores before I go for relief work.” With fuel gone and even hospitals struggling to function, she now travels on foot or by donkey cart. “Our humanitarian work is more relevant today. It is necessary, and possible, to do more,’ says Rana.

Plan International is advocating for children’s protection, education, and safe humanitarian access, so young people like Judie (pictured left) can study, recover and realise their dreams.

Impact

Sudan

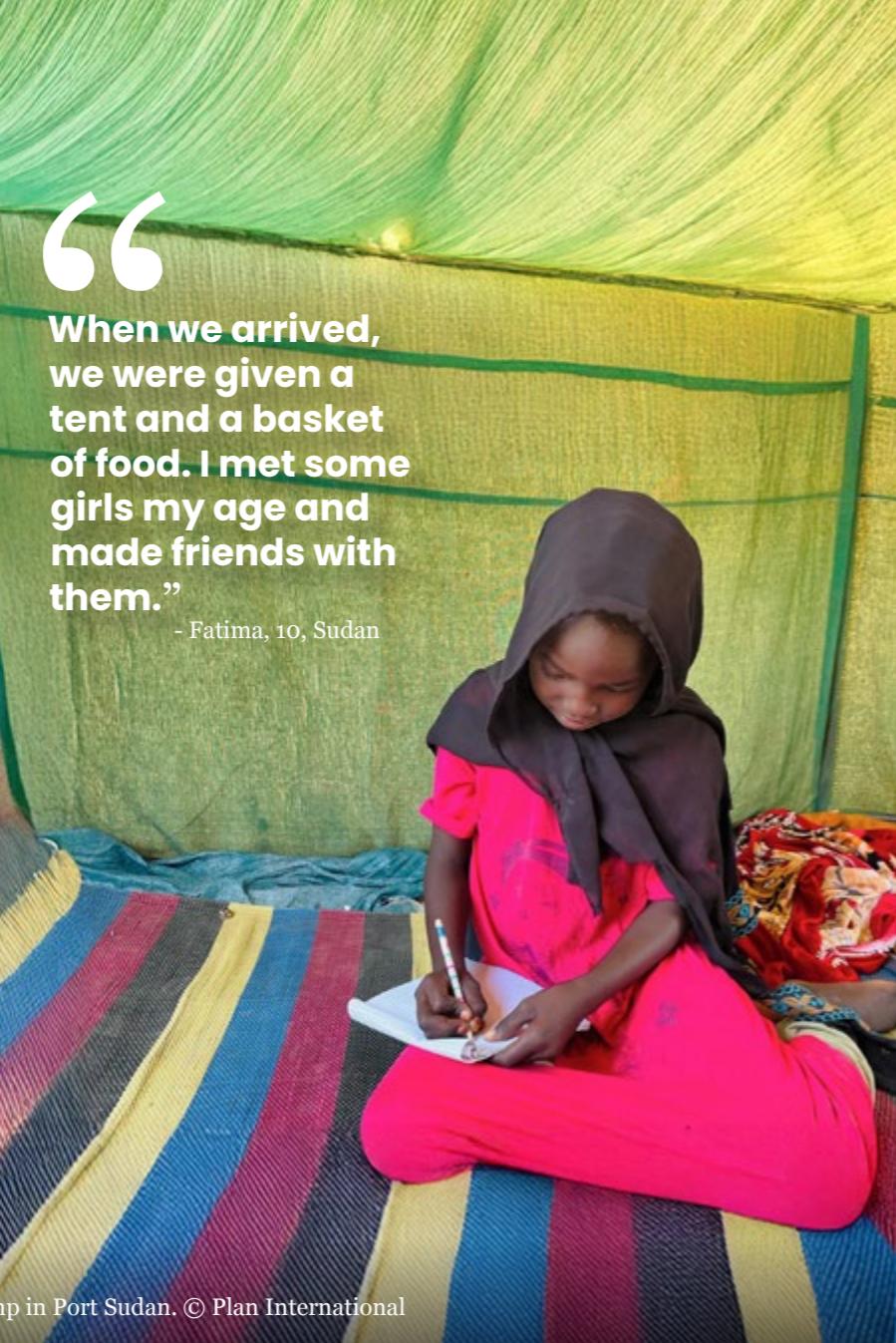
Sudan is experiencing the world's largest internal displacement crisis, and conflict-induced displacement has reached unprecedented levels. According to the UN, in 2025, some 30 million people in Sudan needed urgent humanitarian assistance, according to the UN – including 15 million children. Acute food insecurity reached historic levels in 2025, with famine confirmed in various parts of the country, and millions at risk of starvation. Women and children were particularly vulnerable, as they faced conflict-related sexual violence.

Plan International delivered lifesaving support to 1.6 million conflict-affected individuals across Sudan.

“

When we arrived, we were given a tent and a basket of food. I met some girls my age and made friends with them.”

- Fatima, 10, Sudan



Fatima, 10, does her school work in her tent at the camp in Port Sudan. © Plan International



Women take home a family kit in Mandalay.
© Plan International/Aung Moe Hein

Myanmar

On 28 March 2025, a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar, killing more than 3,000, and injuring thousands more. Plan International Myanmar and partners reached 68,609 people with lifesaving aid, including shelter, food, water and sanitation, education, and child protection. Some 18,743 people received cash they could use for whatever urgent needs their families face, and 23 child-friendly spaces now serve 8,373 children.



Helga, 9, draws a picture at the child-friendly space she attends every day. © Plan International

Creative spaces for children in Ukraine

“When the centre opened, it was like a miracle! Now I go there every day.” Helga, age nine, in Cherkasy, Ukraine, where Plan International runs child-friendly spaces offering safe, creative environments for war-affected children, helping them learn, cope with trauma, and dream again.

Angelica plants mangroves for the future

“One of the projects that the youth innovators are currently working on is how to save the mangroves. We are planting mangroves to save our community,” says Angelica, 21, in the Philippines.

Through Plan’s Youth Cares 2.0 project, she leads climate adaptation projects to reduce flooding, protect coasts and build resilience, while empowering young women to lead urban disaster risk reduction and create safer, more sustainable communities.

Angelica (centre) and her friends plant mangrove seedlings.
© Plan International



Snapshots of humanitarian impact in 2025

Reached **3,201,997 girls**

Evidence of impact includes:

Over **336,000 people** – mostly children under five – treated for malnutrition by projects in 9 countries

Cash and voucher distribution to over **332,000 people**, including more than 180,000 women and girls in 21 countries, to meet their survival needs

Set-up or improved **429 child or adolescent-friendly safe spaces** in 13 countries

Influenced **7 changes to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines affecting girls in crisis**

[See our website for more information of our impact in 2025.](#) ↗

Impact

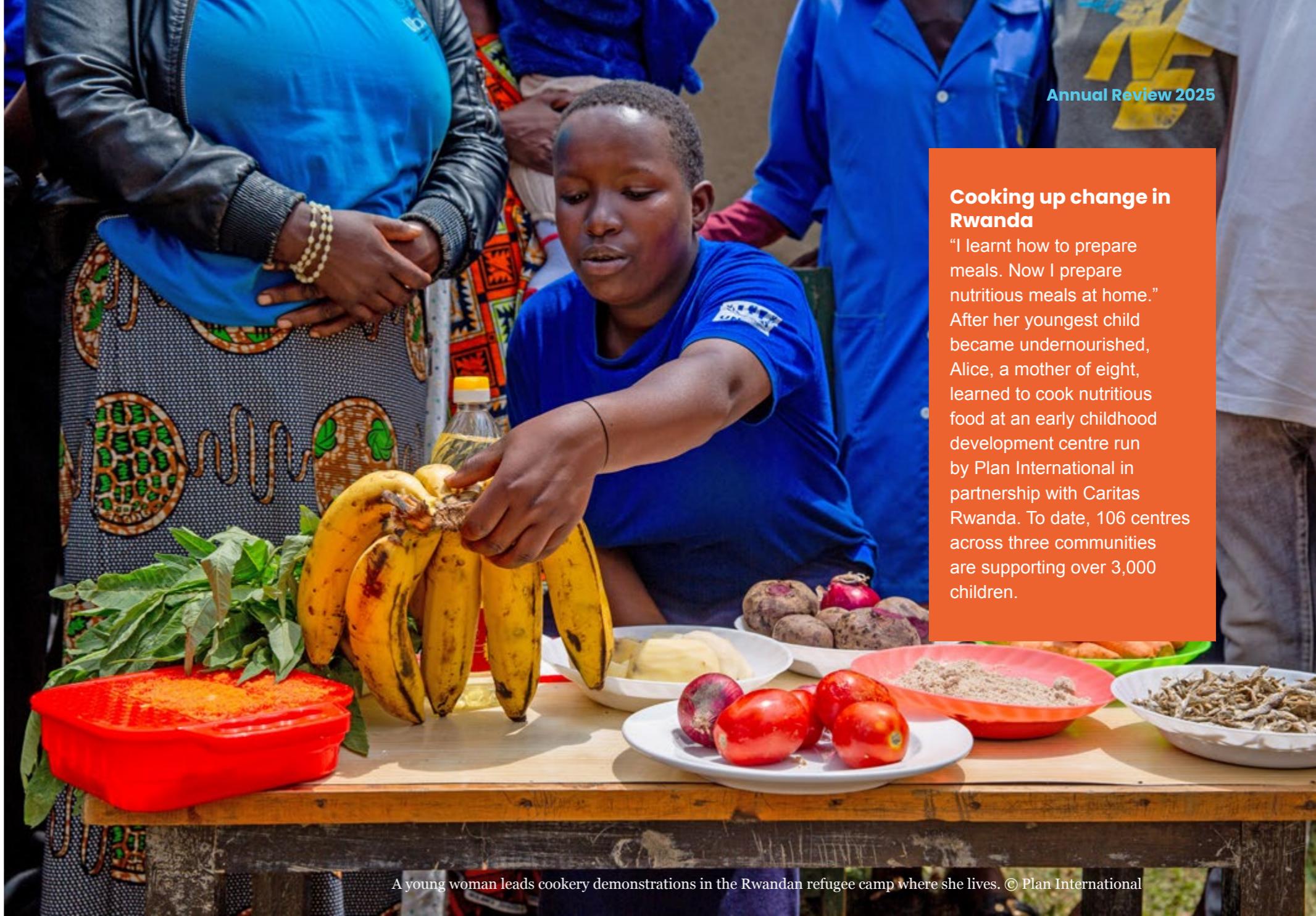
Early childhood development

The first five years of life shape a child's future, yet millions of children still lack access to nutrition, health care, and early learning. Plan's early childhood interventions take diverse forms across the globe, but share one common goal: ensuring children thrive!



Better parenting in Timor-Leste

"We discussed how to take care of our children and how to help each other in this family," says Augusto, a father who attended Plan's positive parenting groups where parents learn about nutrition, hygiene, play, and non-violent discipline. He and his wife, Julia, now share tasks equally and prepare healthier meals for their children.



Cooking up change in Rwanda

"I learnt how to prepare meals. Now I prepare nutritious meals at home." After her youngest child became undernourished, Alice, a mother of eight, learned to cook nutritious food at an early childhood development centre run by Plan International in partnership with Caritas Rwanda. To date, 106 centres across three communities are supporting over 3,000 children.



Nutrition for life in Indonesia

"We can now manage our daughter's eating, her development, and her education. The meals she eats now include vegetables, fish and fruit, not just rice," says Maria, 25, in Indonesia, whose daughter Ajeng was also diagnosed with undernourishment, but is now recovered. Maria learned about nutrition via one of Plan's nutrition programmes.

Explore the data

Impact

Inclusive, quality education

With 251 million children out of school globally*, girls are still the most likely to be left behind. Yet wherever girls learn, they lead! Girls unlock opportunity, drive progress, and transform futures for themselves and their communities.



Keo shows her students how to use a protractor to measure angles in the garden. © Plan International

Garden of change

“The garden integrates real-life lessons for the students. It helps teachers better connect with the students.” Keo is a primary school teacher in Siem Reap, Cambodia, where a learning garden supported by Plan International has transformed school learning by combining gardening with maths, science, and life skills. Class attendance is up, dropout rates have fallen, and children’s enthusiasm for school has grown as much as the garden itself!

*UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2024



Girls learn STEM skills in China

By the end of December 2024, 91 rural schools were supported to run science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) activities for more than 6,600 girls. Some 130,000 rural students were inspired to join Plan-organised girls’ STEM learning activities in three provinces of China.



Photos of the robotics programming and technology club in Shaanxi Province. © Plan International/ Zhang Zh



Kavita (right) and her friend read the newspaper together. © Plan International

Open a classroom, open a future in India

Kavita was taken out of school to help her family, but joined the Balika Shivir project, which provides teenage girls and young women in Jharkhand and Rajasthan a second chance at education, while educating them about financial stability. Over 7,200 participants have re-enrolled in school or had vocational training since the programme began in 2022.

“I never imagined I could go to school like other children, but now, I study in a school, and I feel so proud of myself.”

- Kavita, India



Back to school in Nigeria

“Before, I was not attending school and didn’t know how to read or write,” says Hafsat, in Borno State, Nigeria. In Borno and Yobe, the Accelerated Basic Education Programme has set up evening classes and learning centres in churches, mosques, and community leaders’ houses for children who are disadvantaged or out of school. Since 2021, the programme has helped more than 60,000 children return to school: 55% are girls. “Now I can read and write a story,” says Hafsat.

Girl at the accelerated learning centre in Borno, Nigeria. © Plan International

Explore the data

Impact

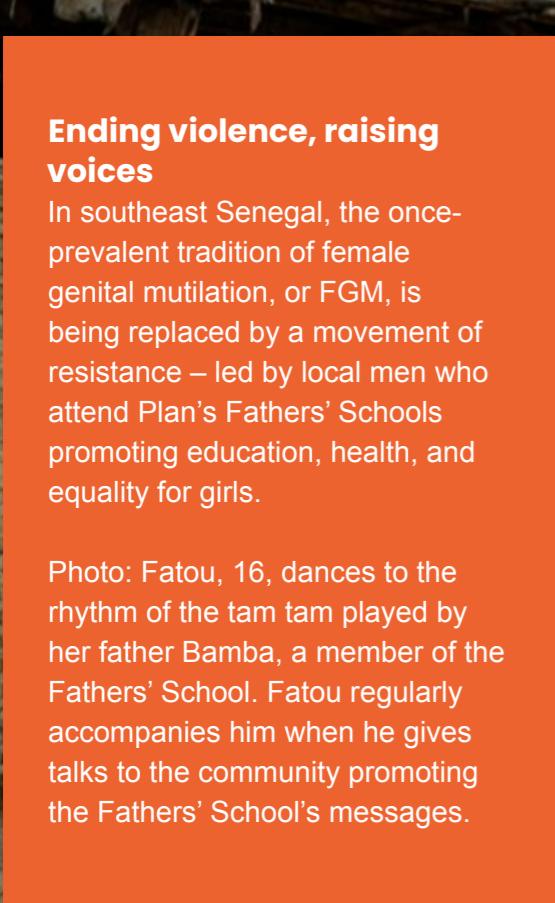
Protection from violence

Conflict, climate change and inequality are driving violence against girls. Plan works with families and communities to challenge harmful stereotypes, strengthen protection, end violence against girls, and create safe spaces where girls can thrive.

“

My dad was the one who told me not to accept FGM,” says teenager Fatou, 16. “He also said that if I ever see or hear of a girl in my community being cut, I should come and tell him, so we can report them.”

- Fatou, 16, Senegal



Ending violence, raising voices

In southeast Senegal, the once-prevalent tradition of female genital mutilation, or FGM, is being replaced by a movement of resistance – led by local men who attend Plan's Fathers' Schools promoting education, health, and equality for girls.

Photo: Fatou, 16, dances to the rhythm of the tam tam played by her father Bamba, a member of the Fathers' School. Fatou regularly accompanies him when he gives talks to the community promoting the Fathers' School's messages.

Fatou, 16, with her father in Senegal. © Plan International/Sylvain Cherkaoui



“

The future I want is for children, especially girls and young women, to be protected from any forms of violence, where everyone can participate, regardless of gender and age.”

- Nezel, 16, Philippines

In Eastern Samar, Philippines, 16-year-old Nezel joined Plan International's Protection from Violence project. Once shy, she now leads advocacy campaigns, lobbies local leaders, and helps shape community policies that protect children.

Communities build peace

In conflict-affected regions of Colombia, where children face a high risk of violence, extortion, and kidnapping, Plan International's Empoderarte por la paz project reached over 25,000 people across 23 communities, helping prevent gender-based violence and protect young people, who say they feel safer in their communities.

Ending harmful norms in Togo

“In our customs, girls have no right to education and are given in forced marriage, but the project has brought about a considerable change.” So says a female community leader in Togo, where 89,000 young people are standing up to child marriage through Plan's EMPOWER programme, and the Allo 1011 hotline. The projects aim to stop forced marriage and domestic violence through training, advocacy, community engagement, youth clubs, and protection committees.

Fighting trafficking in Malawi

Plan International Malawi is supporting the fight against trafficking of children and young people, which particularly affects young women, by working with local government and communities in Lilongwe, Mulanje and Mwanza to support fairer legal systems, and bring young people together to stand up to exploitation.

Explore the data

Impact

Skills and decent work

Around the world, millions of young people aren't in education, employment, or training – and girls are the most excluded. We equip them with the skills, mentorship, and opportunities they need to thrive and find their future in work, supporting their success, and that of their communities.

“This training turned me into an entrepreneur.”

- Sophie, Benin

Girls lead, communities rise in Benin

Sophie from Ouémé, Benin, produces ecological charcoal through Plan's Youth Empowerment in West Africa programme. Once, Sophie relied on selling porridge, after dropping out of school. With training, start-up tools and the support of a youth network, she diversified into green charcoal, macaroni, and cassava flour, and now earns a steady income. Her profits even fund a community sewing apprenticeship.



Sophie dries pieces of her ecological charcoal in the sun. © Plan International



Clary makes her artisan chocolate in her kitchen workshop © Plan International

“I see my business growing and distributing to supermarkets, convenience stores and restaurants in many parts of the country.”

- Clary, El Salvador

Love chocolate from El Salvador

Clary turned unemployment into opportunity by founding Tláloc Chocolat. Clary benefited from a Plan training, mentorship, and seed capital programme supporting young people to identify niche markets and business opportunities.



© Plan International

Skills today, power tomorrow

“With the right skills, a person can become self-reliant in any situation.” Balkumari, 23, who is deaf, was supported by Plan's Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Development programme in Nepal to launch a snack shop with three friends selling momos and chow mein. The shop is now a community meeting place as well as thriving business, and is helping transform local people's attitudes to deaf people.



© Plan International

Ready to lead in Honduras

“I didn't know I had these skills. Teamwork is essential, and I've learned how to lead,” says 16-year-old Aylin, who runs a food business with her friend Grecia in Copán, Honduras, supported by Plan's Generation with Opportunities project.

Explore the data

Impact

Young people driving change

Young people make up half the world's population! Yet their voices are often ignored in decisions that shape their lives. We are changing that, supporting girls, boys, and communities to lead movements, influence policies, and hold leaders to account

“

You speak from the heart, based on facts”

- Angela, 26, Malawi

Angela's path to leadership

Angela grew up in Malawi's Dzaleka refugee camp. Joining Plan International's children's parliament – that empowers refugees to influence decision-making – gave her the confidence to advocate for change, and she has helped secure new schools and a community library for the camp. Today, she mentors the 75 young activists aged between eight and 17 in the current children's parliament, and uses social media to challenge stereotypes about refugees.



Angela, 26, is a content creator using social media to challenge stereotypes © Plan International/Enzo Tabet Cruz

Georgette's youth committee is determined to bring about change. © Plan International



Fighting for a fairer future in Guinea

“Since our committee began raising awareness about sexual and reproductive rights, we have seen real changes,” says Georgette, who leads a youth committee in Macenta, Guinea. Supported by Plan International's My Health, My Rights project, the group raises awareness of early marriage, FGM, gender-based violence, and education.

After initially facing resistance from the community, Georgette's group is now supported by the local council – and is planning more sessions in neighbouring villages and communities. “Young people do not always dare to ask the real questions in the presence of adults,” says Georgette. “These meetings are therefore essential.” The project is also present in Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Georgette at a committee meeting. © Plan International



Nidsa watches a dance performance at the student club. © Plan International

Student clubs form new leaders in Laos

“I was shy about joining my school's student club,” says Nidsa. “But last year I took on the role of club leader.” In northern Laos, student clubs in primary and lower secondary schools provide young people with a supportive and safe environment in which to learn and grow, while making informed decisions about their sexual health and wellbeing.

Explore the data

Impact

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Globally, millions of girls aren't able to make their own free and informed life choices, from what happens to their bodies, to whether, when, and whom they marry. We work with communities to equip them with knowledge and services to decide their futures.

“

I always have contraceptives for young people, which is why they call me Madame Condom.”

- Agnes Apio, Uganda



Informed choices in Peru

“I never thought the project would have such an impact on my life,” says Gabriela, who fled Venezuela at 11. Through Plan’s ELLA project in Peru, she learned about consent, rights and reproductive health, and now inspires dozens of peers and younger girls to take informed decisions about sex and sexual health, using Instagram to spread her messages. Over three years, the project has trained over 1,300 young people, and delivered over 3,000 menstrual health and sexual and reproductive health kits to adolescent girls and young women, particularly Venezuelan refugees and migrants.



Her body, her voice, her future

“In our communities, parents and guardians find it difficult to talk about sex and reproductive health. It’s a taboo.” Califo, 20, in Guinea-Bissau, is changing conversations and inspiring other girls to speak openly about their health and rights. She joined a youth network via Plan’s My Health, My Rights project, which teaches peers about their bodies and helps prevent unplanned pregnancies and runs in six countries: Guinea-Bissau, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Togo.



Period power in Cambodia

“I want all students to know about their sexual and reproductive health and rights,” says 14-year-old Sreyneith, who teaches classmates about menstruation in Ratanakiri, Cambodia. Once shy, she trained as a peer educator with Plan’s Time to Act project, which tackles child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Her sessions now help reduce stigma, keep girls in school, and empower other girls to make informed choices.



Explore the data

Snapshots of impact in 2025*

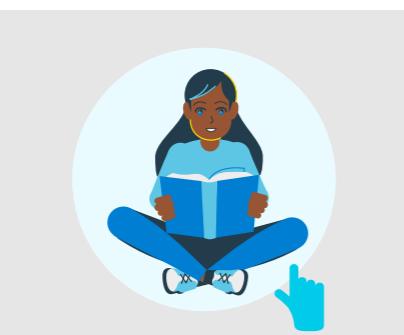


Early childhood development

Reached 14,353,406 girls

Evidence of impact includes:

- Over 556,000 children screened for malnutrition across 10 countries
- 85% of parents and caregivers reported using positive parenting practices after being involved in our projects in 14 countries
- Provided access to vital health services for more than 895,000 children in 12 countries
- Health and nutrition support to over 200,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women in 15 countries

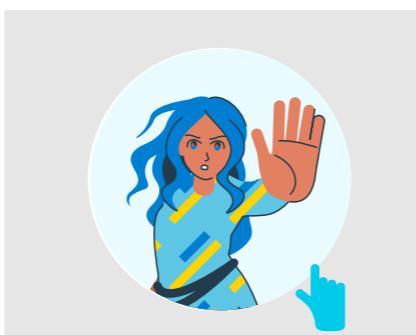


Inclusive, quality education

Reached 5,130,049 girls

Evidence of impact includes:

- Influenced 15 changes to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' education
- Across 20 countries, more than 550,000 children, including almost 260,000 girls, supported to progress to the next stage of education
- Across 27 countries, over 42,000 teachers and school staff trained to teach literacy and numeracy addressing specific needs of girls, as well as boys
- School feeding programmes reached over a million children, providing the nutrition they needed to learn effectively in school

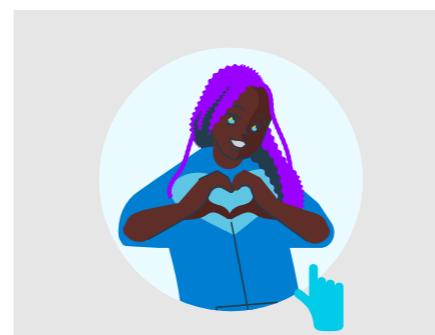


Protection from violence

Reached 3,414,162 girls

Evidence of impact includes:

- Influenced 31 changes to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on ending violence against girls
- More than 391,000 family and community members joined training on protecting children from violence across 32 countries
- Just under 1,500 community-based child protection groups set up or reinforced in 18 countries.
- Supported almost 24,000 survivors of gender-based violence in 17 countries

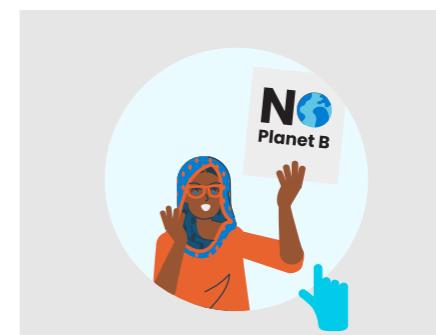


Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Reached 3,573,233 girls

Evidence of impact includes:

- Influenced 14 changes to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on supporting the ending of child marriages and unions
- Menstrual health and hygiene materials for over 107,000 girls and women in 24 countries.
- Over half a million children and adolescents, including some 278,000 girls and young women, accessed sexual reproductive health care in 14 countries
- Influenced 18 changes to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on young people's participation in decision making
- Over a million people reached by awareness-raising activities about the risks and harms of child marriages and unions in 13 countries

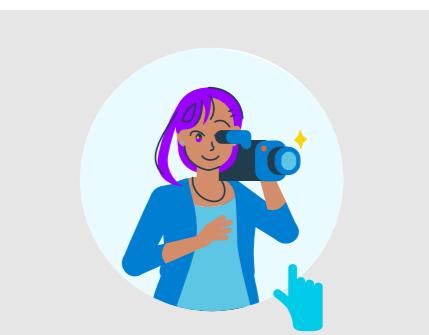


Young people driving change

Reached 1,112,434 girls

Evidence of impact includes:

- Supported and strengthened almost 3,000 youth-led organisations in 26 countries
- Almost 13,000 young people in 17 countries supported to directly engage in advocacy via community dialogues, committees, policy consultation processes and campaigns
- Influenced 7 changes to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' economic empowerment



Skills and decent work

Reached 588,664 girls

Evidence of impact includes:

- 1,921 new savings groups or cooperatives established across 19 countries
- 95% of young women in six economic empowerment projects pursued waged employment within six months of the activity

See our website for more evidence of impact in 2025. 



*These programme numbers show only a part of our total, global reach. They are based on specific projects and activities and depend on reporting cycles, which can vary.

Sponsorship

“

Coffee is very important to me. I call it the little black coffee that carries my dreams” says Karen,

26, a former sponsored child in Honduras who launched Kalo Café through Plan’s entrepreneurship training. Her business now employs local people, and inspires local youth, especially girls.



Karen, 26, a former Plan International sponsored child. © Plan International

Child sponsorship nurtures meaningful relationships with communities, families, and children to enable lasting positive change. It's a solid foundation for a global community rooted in solidarity and shared responsibility for children's rights. Children in sponsorship communities have greater access to education and resources that reduce risks including gender-based violence or child marriage. Here, young people share how sponsorship enabled them to achieve their goals.

“From a very young age, I began to be part of the Plan International family,” says Stephany, 16. Sponsorship enabled her to join a youth innovation lab where she learned how to manage money and save. Her community now benefits from savings groups supporting 650 people, especially women-led businesses.

“I can make my own choices and pursue my dreams,” says 14-year-old Sintiyya in Dhaka. Supported by Plan sponsorship, she joined a youth-led campaign that empowered 800 teenagers, and won commitments from parents and local leaders to end child marriage.

[Find out more](#)

“Sponsorship transformed my life, and also made a significant impact in the lives of many other children,” says Hellen, once a sponsored child in Uganda. Now a Plan Project Officer, she supports refugees with education, girls’ clubs, and safe spaces to talk and heal.

Hellen, 24, at the United Nations Headquarters. © Plan International / Joel Sheakoski



“I fled South Sudan when I was seven. Plan’s sponsored school was my first contact with services at the camp,” says

Nyari, 18. Now she’s an activist and adviser in Plan’s humanitarian programme in Gambella, Ethiopia. Once supported through sponsorship, she campaigns against child marriage and for girls’ education in her refugee community.



Nyari, 18, Ethiopia. © Plan International/Enzo Tabet Cruz

Partnerships



A young mother and her child in Zambia. © Plan International/Izla Bethdavid.

Zambia: putting power in communities

Plan International Zambia joined the Reverse Call for Proposals, which flips traditional aid models so that communities can choose their own partners.

Nyankanga Community Foundation selected Plan Zambia to collaborate on sustainable resource management, child protection, and sexual and reproductive health. The approach strengthens trust, coordination, and local ownership, showing how communities can be better supported to lead their own development agendas.

While changing the traditional balance of power takes time, this partnership is an example of how localisation can work in practice, transforming international organisations into true allies in community-driven change.

Following the global aid funding crisis, the past year has been one of the toughest for our civil society partners. The impact of funding cuts on local NGOs and non-governmental partners we work with has been critical. Many local organisations faced immediate financial strain, highlighting an urgent need in the sector to rethink funding models and for greater local ownership, resilience, and diversified incomes. Despite these challenges, Plan International has worked to sustain strong, equitable, long-term partnerships.

We supported partners via non-financial assistance, shared risk management, and joint problem-solving. We transferred funds to help some partners continue operations, including youth economic empowerment initiatives. We also shared our experience to help several partners design fundraising aimed at new donors. These efforts reflect our commitment to standing alongside our partners as they navigate a changing aid landscape, ensuring that, even in crisis, local leadership remains at the heart of lasting change.

“

The programme changed my life: it provides real job opportunities.”

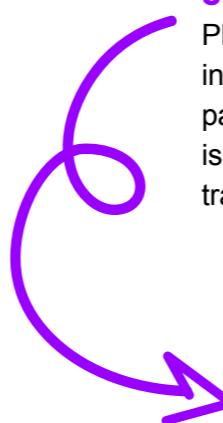
- Suppakit, 20, Thailand



In 2025, Plan International delivered €109 million (22%) of programme spend through partners, the majority through humanitarian work. The examples below show how Plan International's global reach enables strategic partnerships that add value to people's lives.

The Building Digital Resilience report was a strategic partnership with CNN As Equals, amplifying girls' voices on online harms and safety. We heard directly from young women and girls about the harms they face online, how they protect themselves, and how tech companies, governments, local communities, and their own families should play their part in keeping them safe. Partnerships that help Plan's issues reach different audiences are vital if we are to create change as fast as possible.

Suppakit, 20, now a waitress in Phuket, joined Plan's TUI Academy to train in hospitality, English, and life skills. Plan's partnership with the TUI Care Foundation is allowing young people to gain inclusive training, leading to a lasting career.



Exploring with Dora and Paramount

In celebration of International Day of the Girl 2024, Plan International announced a partnership with Paramount to launch a new global campaign, featuring Nickelodeon's iconic Latina heroine Dora, to champion girls' access to education.

The campaign kicked off with a 60 second public service announcement airing across Paramount's networks in more than 160 markets worldwide as well as social media. The announcement celebrated the limitless potential of every girl, encouraging them to face challenges and pursue their dreams with courage and determination, embodying Dora's core values of bravery and empowerment.

As part of the campaign, the "Dora Fund" was created to provide grants to organisations which support projects aimed at advancing girls' education in communities around the world. Six youth-led organisations across India, Haiti, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Nepal were supported through the Dora Fund.

Paramount also funded the distribution of more than 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in need in five countries. Together, we harnessed Dora's adventurous spirit and iconic purple backpack to help make sure every girl has access to the quality education she deserves.

Advocacy

Building a world where equality for girls leads to progress for all, Plan speaks out with and for girls

In a year of crises and global funding cuts, Plan International worked in collaboration with girls to influence more than 250 changes to laws, policies, or priorities around the world. Most progress focused on ending violence against girls, advancing girls' leadership, and strengthening education systems. Notably, a growing proportion of these successes happened in places where it is hard for people to speak out, showing how Plan continues to adapt and stay strong in difficult contexts. Our girl-focused, youth-centred, locally-led, evidence-based advocacy shows that collective action can, and will, change policy for girls worldwide.

Summit of the Future: Girls' Pact

“Our voices were heard, and our priorities are in the Pact for the Future,” said a youth advocate involved in the negotiations at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, a high-level United Nations event to address global challenges and urge international cooperation to solve them. Plan International co-created the Girls’ Pact for the Future with a group of young advocates, and its recommendations were included in the summit outcome document, elevating girls’ voices at the highest policy levels, and ensuring governments were held to their commitments.



Lilerita, 22, from Timor Leste moderated the Stories from the Future event. © Plan International/Joel Sheakoski

Lilerita shines at the UN

“Rise, sisters, for the world needs your light. With every step, we break barriers, shatter stereotypes, and build a future where girls lead with courage, strength, and grace,” said Lilerita, 22, from Timor Leste, addressing delegates at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, an annual event dedicated to promoting gender equality. Representing Plan International, Lilerita championed girls’ leadership, moderated a global youth panel, and powerfully reminded policymakers that true change begins at the grassroots.



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International Day of the Girl 2024

We once again celebrated International Day of the Girl, a day Plan lobbied the UN to create in 2011, with events around the world defined by youth leadership and bold campaigns.

We co-hosted a global event with UNICEF and girl leaders to launch the State of the World's Girls report, Still We Dream, and the global #UniteForPeace campaign, which called for urgent action for children in conflict. The goal of the event, including 708 Girls' Takeovers – where girls and young women step into the leadership roles of senior figures in business, politics, or media for a day – was to raise awareness of the specific needs of girls and boys living through conflict, and urge decision makers to take immediate action.

“It is good if the voices of women are heard,” said Aculle, 13, from Ethiopia, in the report. “Without the participation of women, nothing happens. Women need to live freely and express their thought freely.”

Still We Dream explored the gendered impact of conflict on over 10,000 young people in ten countries. Girls face ever heightened risks of sexual violence, early marriage, and emotional stress, yet show remarkable resilience and hope. Plan International called for young people to be included in peace efforts, for more mental health support, and for safer schools, so that girls can rebuild their futures.

Young Citizens Score Card

“I am not alone as an advocate; I am now together with many different people who want to walk with me.” say Kenia, from Bangladesh. The Young Citizens Score Card, operating in 18 countries, is a tool allowing children and young people, along with their communities, to measure and rate the quality of local services such as healthcare, water and sanitation, education, or child protection – then advocate for their improvement in a two-way process that engages children, youth, community members, and government officials.

The UN's European Humanitarian Forum 2025

Plan International brought children's voices to the heart of the UN's European Humanitarian Forum. CEO Reena Ghelani spoke on a high-level panel about children in crises, while a youth advocate joined a closed-door session with EU Commissioner, Hadja Lahbib. Plan International's photo exhibition spotlighted education in emergencies, and sparked donor engagement and political dialogue. Meetings with EU policymakers focused on education, protection and localisation, securing stronger EU commitment to children in humanitarian settings and sustained investment in crisis response.

Research

Our research work aims to promote and advance gender equality and girls' rights on key issues. This includes the right to education, sexual and reproductive health, and a life free from violence and exploitation. We engage with policy makers, parliamentarians, young people, the media, and civil society to drive changes in policy and practice at national and global levels.



2024 Girls' Leadership Index



"We girls need love, care, and support to dream of becoming leaders," says Saima, from Bangladesh. The index measured girls' access to education, health, economic opportunities, protection, political voice, and climate action across Asia-Pacific. It revealed progress, but also highlighted deep-rooted barriers – from gender stereotypes to fewer opportunities for campaigners to speak out. The report offered policy recommendations to stop discrimination and amplify girls' power, positioning them as key to building just and equitable societies.

Out of Time: The gendered care divide and its impact on girls



"Sometimes I miss school to look after my brothers. I want to be a doctor, but I have less time to study," says a girl in this report using Real Choices, Real Lives data. The data comes from 18 years of research, following the lives of 142 girls across nine countries – Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Philippines, Togo, Uganda, and Vietnam – from their births in 2006 through to age 18 in 2024. This report explored how unpaid care work holds girls back from studying, following their dreams, and staying healthy, and called for families and governments to share care responsibilities more fairly, invest in childcare, and help girls reclaim their time.

Unaccompanied Children: Risks and violence along the migration route through Mexico



"I left because I didn't want to be recruited. I want to study and have a different life," says a 15-year-old girl interviewed along the migration route. This report documented the extreme dangers faced by children travelling alone through Mexico, including armed groups, trafficking, and being forced into exploitation. The report highlighted urgent protection needs, called for coordinated government and humanitarian responses, and raised migrant children's voices to inform policy and ensure their safety and dignity.

A Gathering Storm: A study on the gendered impact of climate change



"Men underestimate us in the fight against climate change." 15-year-old girl, Mali. This multi-country Sahel study showed how climate change is worsening food insecurity, school dropout rates, child marriage, and violence against girls. For the report, teenage girls from the region became co-researchers. Their call was clear: include girls in climate policymaking, fund local adaptation, and support income solutions so girls are not forced into harmful coping strategies.

Finance

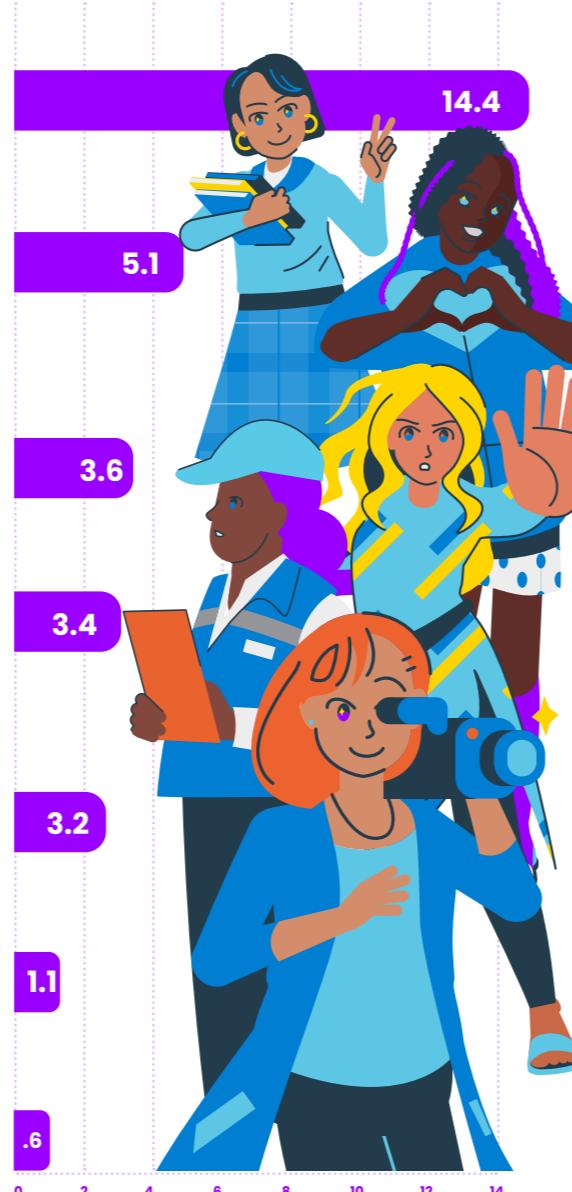
Priority areas of work



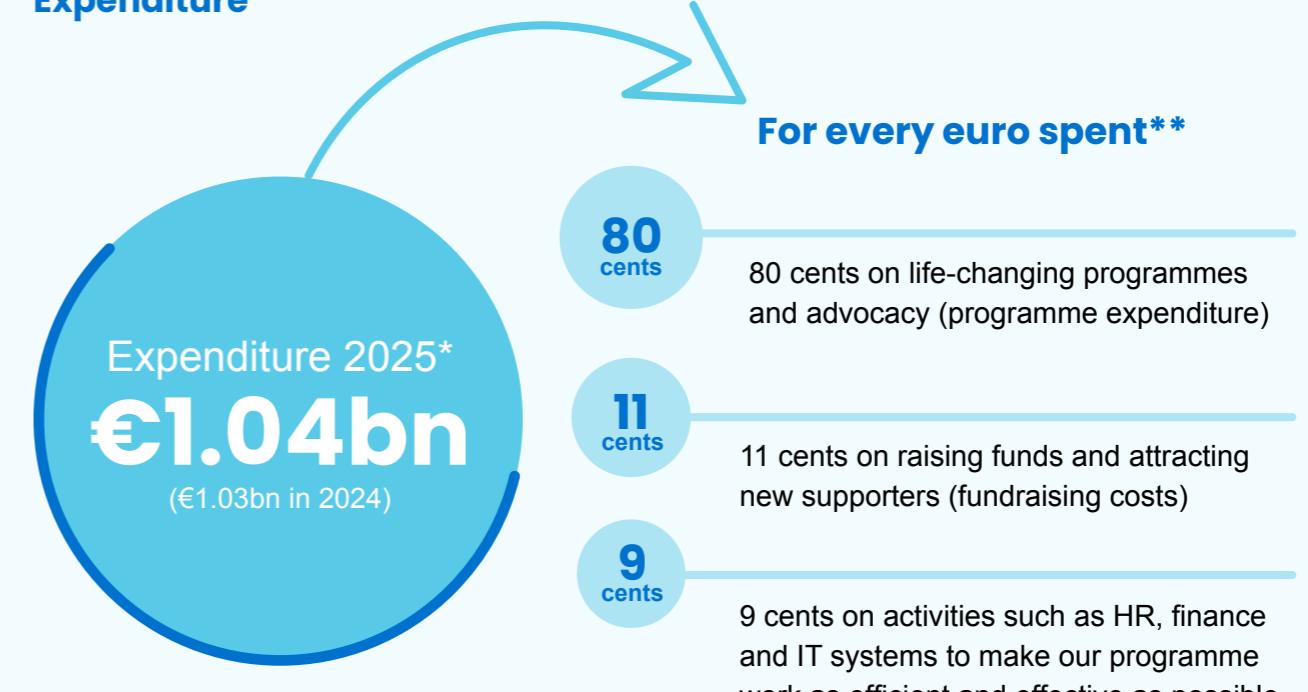
Financial summary for July 2024 – June 2025

Based on the Unaudited Abridged Financial Statements

Girls Reached (million)



Expenditure



Income

Sponsorship:

31.4% in 2025
(€330.6 million)



Other sources:

25.2% - which includes:

- Gifts in kind: €77 million
- Other sources: €188.9 million

*Including foreign exchange gains and losses

**Excluding foreign exchange gains and losses

[°]Other programme spend of €65.3m includes donations to non-Plan partners and sponsorship communications.



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.

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