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Abbreviations

AfGH  Action for Global Health
BIAAG  Because I am a Girl
CCCD  Child-Centred Community Development
CSO  Civil Society Organisation
DCI  Development Cooperation Instrument
DG  European Commission
DIPECHO  Disaster Preparedness DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
DRR  Disaster Risk Reduction
EC  European Commission
ECHO  DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
EDF  European Development Fund
EEAS  European External Action Service
EIDHR  European Instrument for Democracy and Human rights
EP  European Parliament
EU  European Union
FY  Financial Year
HRDN  Human Rights and Democracy Network
MDG  Millennium Development Goal
MEP  Member of the European Parliament
MFF  Multiannual Financial Framework

This review sets out Plan EU Office’s progress towards Plan’s vision and mission in 2013. Published 2014. Text and photographs © Plan
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Contact us
Plan EU Office, Galerie Ravenstein 27/4, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
+32 2 504 6050
info-eu@plan-international.org
plan-eu.org
Follow us on Twitter @PlanEU

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Plan International’s strategy to 2015 has one goal: to reach as many children as possible, particularly those who are excluded or marginalised. In 2013, we made some positive strides towards achieving this goal, not least of which was the deal reached on the EU’s long-term budget.

The negotiations on the EU’s seven year budget, running from 2014 to 2020, came to an end after almost three years of intense work and debate among EU institutions and with civil society. In the context of ongoing austerity, the outcome could have been much worse for development and humanitarian aid. Throughout 2013, Plan continued to call for children’s rights to be included as a priority in the Development Cooperation Instrument – the primary source of aid to developing countries – as well as the prioritisation of key sectors such as health and quality basic education. Children constitute more than half of the population in most developing countries, and investment in health and basic education is proven to be one of the most powerful tools in breaking the cycle of poverty. We were therefore thrilled to see these included in the final deal, and we look forward to working with Plan offices around the world to ensure this is reflected in the EU’s work on the ground.

Aside from the EU budget, we continued to raise awareness of the double discrimination faced by girls, particularly through our annual European Week of Action for Girls. It was great to see the EU and UN take this issue seriously, proving themselves to be strong allies in the fight to promote and protect girls’ rights. With millions of girls currently denied an education by the daily realities of poverty, violence and discrimination, the European Parliament sent a strong signal that it acknowledges every girl’s right to learn in a safe and supportive environment by awarding the prestigious Sakharov Prize to Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai.

Finally, the clock is ticking on the Millennium Development Goals, and 2013 was a crucial year in the negotiations on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which we followed very closely. We were active in calling for children and young people’s rights to be at the heart of the future framework, and we will continue to work with the European Commission and EU Member States to ensure that education, gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment, decent jobs and child protection, receive special attention in the post-2015 agenda.
Plan’s vision

Plan’s vision is of a world in which all children realise their full potential in societies that respect people’s rights and dignity.
About Plan International

Plan has been working for and with children for over 75 years. Today, we work in 50 low and middle income countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote children’s rights and provide better opportunities for millions of children.

We see a clear link between fulfilling children’s rights and tackling poverty. The benefits of a good start in life are far-reaching – not just for individuals, but for future generations. It is therefore our goal to reach as many children as possible, particularly those who are excluded or marginalised, with high quality programmes that deliver long-lasting benefits.

How we work

We take a rights-based approach to our work, working closely with children and their families in the communities in which they live. Our child-centred community development approach, based on our core values of inclusion, non-discrimination and participation, enables young people to realise their potential and set their own priorities. By building young people’s confidence and skills, we can empower them to build the world they want to live in.

Our eight programme areas

Plan’s work to promote children’s rights and lift millions of children out of poverty is based around eight programme areas:
- Child participation
- Child protection
- Disaster risk management
- Early childhood care and development
- Economic security
- Education
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Water and sanitation

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- Economic security
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- Sexual and reproductive health
- Water and sanitation

WE WORKED WITH

165 million people

including 78 million children

reaching 90,229 communities

576,371 TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAINED, INCLUDING

67,647 education workers

226,463 health workers

176,341 in child protection
Plan Europe’s goal

Plan Europe’s goal is to ensure that the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, with a focus on gender equality, is a priority for the EU’s external action in policy and practice, while strengthening Plan’s partnership with the EU.
Plan and the European Union

The EU – European Commission (EC) and EU member states – is one of the world’s largest and most influential development and humanitarian actors, providing more than half of all Official Development Assistance worldwide. Influencing both its policies and funding therefore has the potential to positively affect the lives of hundreds of millions of children in developing countries.

Established in 2003, Plan’s EU Office in Brussels has been working with the EU institutions and partner civil society organisations for the past 10 years to ensure that the promotion and protection of children’s rights is a priority in the EU’s external action, in line with its commitments under the Lisbon Treaty.

Successfully influencing such a complex multilateral organisation as the EU requires understanding and coordination among Plan Offices.

Plan EU Office therefore acts as a coordination hub for Plan Europe, a regional network within Plan International which links our 12 European offices with International Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices worldwide. In 2013, we continued to scale up our work with national offices on EU Affairs, embodying Plan’s ambition to operate as ‘One Plan’ – a more efficient, effective and collaborative organisation working towards a common goal.

By working in partnership with other organisations and alliances, both within Plan as well as externally, we aim to strengthen our voice in support of children’s rights and tackle the underlying causes of child poverty.

Our work, which combines advocacy, funding and communications, is informed by children themselves: we know that children and young people are active agents of their own development, and have a right to be heard in the decisions which affect them. We firmly believe that the most convincing voices are those of the children and communities we work with, and as such we strive to ensure their stories are fed into the EU decision-making processes.

Bringing Because I am a Girl to the EU: European Week of Action for Girls

Plan’s global Because I am a Girl (BIAAG) campaign aims to support millions of girls to get the education, skills and support they need to transform their lives and the world around them. With 1 in 5 girls around the world denied an education by the daily realities of poverty, violence and discrimination, the campaign focuses on tackling the barriers which prevent girls accessing and completing quality basic education, such as child marriage and gender-based violence.

Plan therefore worked closely with the EU institutions in 2013 to ensure girls’ rights remained on the development and humanitarian agenda, culminating in the European Week of Action for Girls in October. This week of policy and campaigning events was organised by Plan in partnership with the United Nations Brussels and was once again granted the official patronage of the European Parliament (EP), with its President Martin Schulz raising his hand in support of girls’ rights. During the week, Plan organised a number of events, including a screening of Girl Rising and a policy debate at the EP on adolescent girls and disasters (see page 17).
From Invisible to Visible: Girls as Drivers of Change

The European Week of Action for Girls, organised by Plan EU Office under the patronage of the European Parliament and in partnership with the United Nations Brussels, put girls’ rights at the heart of the EU agenda.

“I am honoured to be the patron of the European Week of Action for Girls. I encourage all stakeholders to promote and defend girls’ rights. I am proud to state that I am raising my hand for girls’ rights.”

European Parliament President Martin Schulz

Child marriage in the spotlight

Plan was one of the panellists during a Special Hearing on Quality education for girls, the fight against illiteracy, and the issue of early and forced marriage, organised by the European Parliament’s Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee and Subcommittee on Human Rights.

I have a voice

We continued to ensure children and young people’s voices were heard by EU policymakers, through attendance at events including the European Week of Action for Girls and the European Development Days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of years Plan has been working with the EU</th>
<th>€119.6 million</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Amount awarded to Plan by the European Commission since 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>New Plan projects funded by the European Commission in 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.1 million</td>
<td>Impressions of the Girls’ Rights Gazette during the European Week of Action for Girls 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Benchmarked for basic social services under the 2014-2020 Development Cooperation Instrument</td>
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“By failing to take into account the specific needs of girls, you discriminate without even realising it.”

Hermine, Haitian Youth Delegate, In Double Jeopardy: Adolescent Girls and Disasters report launch

“Young people are in spaces, namely social media, that local government are not and they are thus wasting opportunities to engage with us.”

Luciano Frontelle de Paula Filho, Plan youth ambassador, European Development Days
Through her own eyes
We brought the lives of girls in Haiti to the EU, through their own eyes, with a powerful exhibition at the European Development Days.

“Whether you are a girl, boy, man or woman, no storm or conflict, however severe, should have the potential to jeopardise your entire future.”

Plan CEO Nigel Chapman, New Europe Our World in 2014, New Europe

EU budget 2014-2020
“The EU has an important role to play in supporting international development, and you must take this responsibility seriously.” Plan Europe National Directors called for EU leaders to stand up for the development and humanitarian aid budget in their negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Priority! Children and youth
Following over two years of negotiations, the final text of the 2014-2020 Development Cooperation Instrument includes children and youth as a priority focus.

“Educated girls are a powerful force for change... A world where every girl, everywhere has access to education is a better place for all”

Mikael Gustafsson MEP, Girl Rising Screening, European Week of Action for Girls 2013

“The EU must do more to put this issue [girls’ rights] at the centre of the humanitarian agenda”

MEP Michèle Striffler, EU launch of Plan’s State of the World’s Girls Report

EU aid: Saving lives, transforming futures

“The EU is currently defining the breakdown of Heading 4 (Global Europe) in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, and how much to allocate to each instrument. The amount currently earmarked for development (Development Cooperation Instrument) represents less than 2% of overall spending.

Protect the Development Cooperation Instrument. Why?

Because it could:
- Send 90 million children to school
- Provide 224 million people with access to free healthcare
- Lift 5 million people out of poverty through investment in agriculture
- Provide 1.1 million people with access to toilets for the first time

Development aid is a tiny fraction of EU spending, but it is capable of achieving huge results. Make sure it stays that way. Protect the Development Cooperation Instrument.
Child-sensitive budgeting

Ensuring an EU budget which promotes and protects the rights of the world’s children

2013 saw the final chapter in the negotiations on the volume and breakdown of the EU’s long term budget, running from 2014 to 2020. The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) provides the financial blueprint for EU policies across each major category of spending, including development and humanitarian aid. The outcome of these negotiations has implications for children all over the world, and Plan therefore continued to call for children’s rights, as well as key sectors such as health and education, to be prioritised in the EU’s external aid instruments.

In the ongoing climate of budget austerity, the year got off to a disappointing start when the European Council agreed sweeping cuts to the Commission’s original budget proposal – down from €1031bn to €960bn. Following months of intensive negotiations, the EP endorsed the Council’s

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

About 20% of young girls in Bolivia are pregnant or already have children. Their fertility rate is one of the highest in the region, and even if more than a quarter of teenagers are sexually active, just 1.6% recognise they use modern contraceptive methods. The prevalence of modern contraception has dropped from 58% to 38% among married women from 2003 to 2008, and Gender Base Violence is a major issue in the country, with 27% of girls between 16 and 19 having experienced violence at the hands of their partners. Plan led a project to contribute to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in Bolivia. It advocated for the design, implementation and accountability of public policies and programmes in SRHR involving adolescents and young people. As a result, public policies and regulations on teenagers and young people’s SRHR were designed and implemented at local, departmental and national level. Youth groups participated in the National Law for Youth, integrating some key recommendations, and further awareness was raised through a youth-led website on SRHR.

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The deal on the DCI

The agreement on the DCI calls for at least 20% of the allocated assistance under the instrument to be allocated to basic social services, with a focus on health and education, while 25% of the Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme must go towards human development, of which at least 40% on health, 17.5% on education and 27.5% on sectors including gender equality, women empowerment and protection of women’s and girls’ rights and children and youth.

What’s next in 2014?

Although 2013 saw negotiations culminate on the volume and breakdown of EU aid, we will continue to work with our counterparts in the EU institutions on the programming of the EU’s external aid instruments. Annual geographic and thematic action programmes will be finalised in 2014, and we will work with Plan offices around the world to ensure the deal struck is reflected in the work on the ground, especially in those countries which have not selected basic social sectors as focal sectors. Monitoring the implementation of the DCI thematic and geographic programmes will therefore be an important part of Plan’s work.

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Working in partnership

Plan’s work on the EU budget has involved close collaboration, both within the organisation and externally, in support of a common cause. In particular, we have worked through Concord, the European Confederation of Development NGOs, and Action for Global Health (AfGH), a cross-Europe network of health and development organisations led by Plan, to ensure the MFF allocates adequate funding for development and humanitarian aid which reflects our priorities.

Focusing on key sectors

Facing a limited aid budget and increasing demands to demonstrate results and impact, Plan and partner civil society organisations worked with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to ensure the external aid instruments focus on those sectors which are proven to have a multiplier effect in breaking the cycle of poverty. We have consistently called for the EU to meet its commitment to children by ensuring specific budget allocations for children’s rights and gender, as well as ensuring at least 20% of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the primary source of aid to developing countries, is earmarked for health and basic – primary and lower secondary – education.

Following intensive and coordinated advocacy efforts involving several Plan Offices in both Europe and developing countries, Plan welcomed the adoption of the compromise text on the DCI in the Parliament’s last plenary of the year. The content of the final text reflects the Parliament’s determination to reinstate children and youth as a priority issue, critical to meeting the EU’s development cooperation objectives – something which was missing in the original proposal of the EC. The final text also includes specific provisions on health, education, and gender equality and the protection of women’s and girls’ rights, in both thematic and geographic programmes – see box for breakdown.

Plan welcomed the deal as a reasonable compromise which demonstrates commitment to protecting the world’s poorest and most vulnerable. Ensuring that children’s rights are included in a meaningful way in the DCI was a critical step to implementing the EU’s various commitments to promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of the child. Children account for one third of the world’s population and constitute more than half of the population in most developing countries, which means that development objectives will not be met if the specific rights of children are not adequately addressed.

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The right to identity
The absence of birth registration presents a real obstacle for many children to have access to education and health services, and be protected from exploitation. It also prevents victims from being repatriated quickly. Despite the decentralisation reform of 1999 in Indonesia, slow processes have prevented the reform of birth registration services from being included in all regions, such as TTU district (West Timor), where only 4% of children have a birth certificate. A project run by Plan, along with other partners, has aimed to build civil engagement and encourage civil society to demand action from local authorities to ensure the Right to Identity and Nationality for children in TTU through the reform of registration systems and a legislative reform on birth registration. The project has supported mechanisms to guarantee social accountability: monitoring of birth registration, lobbying and advocacy on children’s rights by enabling local human rights Civil Society Organisatios (CSOs) and Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC). Two birth registration services units in the sub-districts of Biboki Monleu and Bikomi were established, with more than 1,000 children being registered.

Child protection: from thematic to systemic
Laying the foundations for effective, efficient and inclusive child protection systems

Many children experience violence and abuse every day from people they know and trust, threatening their survival, development and participation in society. Protecting children and young people from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect is central to everything Plan does.

While we deliver targeted programmes designed to address specific protection issues, such as child trafficking, corporal punishment in schools and child marriage, we do more than introduce short-term fixes for these problems. By working with children, their families and communities at local, national and international level, we aim to raise awareness and influence policies to ensure there is a comprehensive system in place to protect children.

Holistic approach: complementarity between sectors
Through the Lisbon Treaty, the EU has explicitly committed itself to promote and protect the rights of the child. The right to protection from all forms of violence in all settings is a necessary precondition for children’s enjoyment of other rights such as the right to life, survival and development, the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the right to education. A systems approach to child protection therefore implies close coordination across a number of social sectors, particularly social welfare, health, education and justice, overcoming fragmentation and issue-specific interventions which fail to tackle the root causes of violence.

Plan has continued to work with the EU institutions to increase the focus on ensuring child protection systems in development

Training the EU
In November, Plan trained human rights staff from across the institutions, including EU Delegations, on children’s rights and child protection, with a special session dedicated to girls. Plan was able to share advice and experience on how to better address children’s rights in diplomacy, in policy and in programming. We hope this will provide a platform for future engagement with EU Delegations as principles are translated into practice.
and humanitarian settings are strengthened, sustainable and adequately resourced. By taking a systems approach to child protection, the EU can promote a coordinated and comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to all forms of violence against children in its relations with partner governments.

**EU campaign on violence against children**

In 2012, the EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy committed the European External Action Service (EEAS), the bloc’s diplomatic service, to conduct a targeted campaign which focuses on tackling violence against children, with all EU Delegations expected to participate.

Plan has worked with the EEAS throughout the second half of 2013 to define the terms of reference for the campaign, which will focus on strengthening the local and national child protection systems, as well as tackling specific forms of violence within each country. In 2014, we will work alongside our country offices, particularly those implementing projects awarded under the EC’s Global Call on Violence against Children, in order to link the political and programmatic sides of the EU’s work in this area.

**Lifting the veil on child marriage**

Child marriage is a violation of girls’ human rights and a major child protection issue: every year, 10 million girls under the age of 18 married, many of them as young as eight. The practice lies at the intersection of a broad set of problems facing girls, curtailing their education, harming their health, and sharply constraining their futures.

Plan has therefore continued to advocate for an end to child marriage, through our Because I am a Girl campaign. The EP has proven itself to be a strong supporter, with the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee and Human Rights Subcommittee organising a public hearing on the subject, with the participation and support of Plan, in March 2013. This year also saw the preparatory work for the EU’s upcoming campaign to end child, early and forced marriage, led by the EEAS. We will continue to work with our country offices in those countries where child marriage is prevalent, in order to support EU Delegations in implementing the campaign.
Discussions on the post-2015 agenda began in earnest in 2013, and Plan was active in calling for children and young people’s rights to be at the heart of the future framework. We firmly believe that the post-2015 framework should be universal, comprehensive, rights-based and people-centred – covering, at a minimum, the three dimensions of sustainable development – in order to address the structural causes of the global challenges we face today. We were therefore pleased to see this reflected in the European Council’s Conclusions, which emphasised the need for targets and goals to be grounded in respect for universal human rights.

By adopting a rights-based approach, underpinned by the principles of inclusion and non-discrimination, equity and equality, participation and empowerment, and accountability, the new framework must aim...
to avoid the mistakes made by its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which incentivised a focus on the easiest to reach, rather than the most vulnerable and marginalised.

**A single, universal framework**

Given the nature and scale of the global challenges the world is facing, “business as usual” is not an option post-2015. Plan therefore supports a single, comprehensive framework encompassing the three dimensions of sustainable development: inclusive social development, economic transformation and environmental sustainability. In addition, it is no longer possible to imagine a framework which is predominantly designed predominantly for implementation by developing countries. Rather, it must include overarching global and universally applicable goals, with targets tailored to national contexts – a concept strongly supported, on paper, by the EU. As yet, however, the EU has failed to give any concrete indication of what it is prepared to do and has remained silent on the thorny, but critical, issue of accountability.

As negotiations gather pace, the EU must acknowledge responsibility for the contribution it has made to the challenges the world faces today, and define what it is prepared to commit to within a universal framework. We will therefore continue to work with the EC and EU member states, together with Plan Europe members, to push for agreement on action which needs to be taken at home in key areas. In doing so, the EU can play an important role in supporting the emergence of an impactful agreement on the future framework.

**Working in partnership**

Plan EU Office is co-chair of the Concord-Beyond-2015 European Task Force, the regional hub of the Beyond-2015 international campaign, and an integral part of the working structures of Concord. Through this platform, we have advocated for an inclusive, rights-based framework which put the principles of non-discrimination, equality, participation and empowerment, and sustainability at its core.

**Plan’s priorities**

In addition to mainstreaming children’s rights throughout the framework, Plan has identified four priorities which we believe deserve particular attention as standalone goals: education, gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment, decent work and protection. These are issues which are critical to ensuring the post-2015 agenda places the rights and wellbeing of children and youth at its centre, which were either inadequately addressed – or not addressed at all – in the MDGs.

**A livelihood free of poverty**

The abolishment of the Kamaiya bonded labour system in Nepal, in July 2000, has not been accompanied by an end to poverty. Approximately 7,500 freed Kamaiya families have been resettled in the Bardiya district (Western Terai). Among other obstacles, Kamaiya families are confronted with low organisational capacities, no or little access to markets for trade, absence of financial services, and lack of essential production facilities.

As a consequence, freed Kamaiya men have been forced to move away from their home to work and women have taken the responsibility of making a living. In view to optimising the potential of 37,500 children from 7,500 freed Kamaiya families in Bardiya district, the EC funded a project developed by Plan Netherlands to contribute towards a livelihood free of poverty and servitude. After five years of implementation, the project had a great impact on the target population: only 13% of respondents depended on wage labour for their livelihoods at the end of the implementation phase, compared to the 55% prior to the project.
As the frequency and intensity of natural and man-made disasters continues to grow, so has Plan’s role as a humanitarian actor. In 2013 alone, we carried out 54 disaster response programmes. In any disaster, Plan’s priority remains on providing life-saving assistance including food, water, healthcare, shelter and sanitation, to vulnerable families and children. Beyond this, with crisis and conflict situations escalating the likelihood and severity of violence against children, we also work hard to provide psychosocial support and protection for children at risk: places where children are physically safe, where they can learn, play and be children are crucial to help them overcome the trauma caused by a major disaster.

A key tool in protecting children from harm, abuse and exploitation in emergencies, is education. At a time when children are particularly vulnerable, education helps restore a sense of stability, normality and routine into a child’s life, and protects them from a number of different risks – for example exploitation and gender-based violence, recruitment into armed groups, family separation and abuses related to forced displacement. However it is precisely in an emergency that children often stop going to school. They may, for example, be forced to leave home to look for work or resort to transactional sex to help their families cope with the economic burden caused by a disaster.

The EU is a major ally in all our humanitarian aid work, as the world’s largest donor, and we have therefore highlighted the importance of ensuring child protection and access to quality education are incorporated into the first phase of any emergency response. In addition, we have continued our work on resilience, feeding into the EC’s consultation on the issue, and calling for the EU to work with partner governments to ensure child protection systems and education policies include/are built on an analysis of disaster risk, and include specific policies and provisions to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters.

We therefore welcomed the Commission’s continuing commitment to children in conflict and will work to ensure this remains a priority in future disaster risk management work.
In Double Jeopardy: Girls and disasters

In particular, we worked hard to raise awareness of the special situation facing girls in disasters, through our 2013 State of the World’s Girls report, *In Double Jeopardy: Adolescent Girls and Disasters*. The report, launched at the EP during the European Week of Action for Girls, argues that girls are effectively invisible in a disaster: in the clamour for survival, their specific health, education and protection needs – which are different to those of men, women and boys – are often overlooked by the humanitarian community. Because of their age and sex, disasters increase girls’ vulnerability when their families and communities are least able to protect them.

With the release of its Gender Policy in 2013, following input from Plan, the EC committed itself to ensuring a gender-sensitive approach is incorporated into all its humanitarian projects. The introduction of a gender-age marker in 2014 is a welcome practical step towards ensuring projects target the most vulnerable: through it, the Commission can ensure girls are not permanently robbed of the chance to realise their full potential. We will work closely with the Commission to ensure it is properly implemented in practice.

“We need to ensure that emergencies do not permanently deprive them [adolescent girls] of education and of a chance to have a future better than their past.”

Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response
The EU as a donor

The European Commission is Plan’s primary institutional partner, providing funding for development and humanitarian projects throughout Africa, Asia and the Americas.
The EU as a donor

As Plan’s partnership with the Commission has increased, so too has the way we operate as an international organisation.

Coordination and collaboration

Although the majority of Plan’s income comes from child sponsorship, grants have become an increasingly important source of funding over the past decade. The EC is Plan’s main institutional donor, accounting for 6% of Plan’s institutional donors income in financial year 13.

As Plan’s partnership with the Commission has increased, so too has the way we operate as an international organisation. In 2013, we continued to respond to a changing institutional landscape, which encourages large-scale programmes implemented in consortium by a wide range of actors, by ensuring Plan’s National and Country Offices operate in a coordinated, coherent and collaborative manner.

By scaling up alliances with other children’s rights practitioners and actors, from community-based to international organisations and the private sector, Plan is acknowledging the increased importance placed by donors on taking a multi-stakeholder approach.

This approach was put in practice in 2013 when Plan, Save the Children and Unicef successfully submitted a joint proposal under the EC’s global Violence against Children call for proposals. In awarding the project, the Commission recognised the added value of combining the global, national and local expertise of all three organisations, resulting in a quality project which achieves maximum value for money.

The private sector is set to take an increasingly prominent role in EU efforts to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth in developing countries, with a Communication from the EC expected mid-2014. Plan will continue to strengthen and expand our collaboration with the private sector, particularly in the field of youth economic empowerment, sharing our global expertise on this emerging trend with the EU.

Climate change mitigation

In a more and more interdependent world, climate change has become a primary focus of concern. Closely related to poverty and exclusion, it is estimated that climate change will adversely affect 175 million children, especially in the least developed countries. With this in mind, children and young people, as main driving forces, should receive the right education and public awareness in order to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Plan UK and Plan Netherlands, with financial support from the EC, developed a three-year Development Education project which ended in December 2012. The project reached over 25,000 young people in 330 schools by developing a meaningful interaction between young people in carbon-consuming EU countries (UK, Netherlands and Bulgaria) and young people in vulnerable Africa (Kenya, Malawi and Senegal). 200 young people from five of the six countries participated in the elaboration of a European Declaration, calling members of the EP to commit and include young people in decision-making processes on climate change. The Declaration was signed by 132 MEPs.
Access to safe drinking water

Poor access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation continue to pose a big challenge to the achievement of development goals. Masinga and Matungulu districts are located within Machakos County, an area of Kenya designated as Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) which experiences low and erratic rainfall. Although sanitation coverage stands at 65%, this figure falls during rainy season when poorly-constructed latrines are prone to collapse. Only 31% of the population in the area is estimated to have access to safe water.

Plan international, together with other partners is implementing a four-year project aiming to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and improve hygiene practices of a total of 180,000 men, women and children in 56 rural communities. Funded by the EC, it contributes to the national policy on water and sanitation to achieve related countrywide MDGs targets, by using community-based mechanisms and an implementation methodology that can be replicated in other districts. It has already improved access to sanitation facilities to safe drinking water points for 48,000 people, and enhanced governance of water infrastructure.

In 2013, Plan continued to work with the European Commission to deliver quality projects around the world

46 projects running

31 countries

€119.6 million awarded to Plan by the EC since 1995*

€12.5 million awarded to Plan by the EC in 2013, covering 18 projects

*Including amount in consortia
Engaging EU Delegations

In the framework of our programmatic advocacy on the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, we have actively encouraged Plan’s Country Offices to engage in a strategic dialogue with their EU Delegation. By sharing our expertise with EU Delegations, we aim to ensure children’s rights are recognised as a priority at the field level.

In 2013, Plan’s relationship with the EU Delegation in Bangladesh flourished. Having established a strong relationship at both technical and Ambassador levels, Plan was regularly invited to contribute to processes aimed at improving the promotion and implementation of children’s rights in Bangladesh. These included an EU consultation on education and skills in May 2013, as well as a consultation designed to support the EU to mainstream child rights in its 2014-2020 Human Rights strategy.

Having established itself as a partner of choice for the EU, Plan Bangladesh has been able to raise awareness of Plan’s priorities including the importance of building women’s empowerment for long-term change, tackling gender based violence in schools and child marriage as a barrier to girls’ education.

Building accountability on the rights of the child

In Central America, children and adolescents under 18 years-old constitute 42% of the population. Among these 17 million children and adolescents, 45% live in conditions of poverty and 18% suffer from extreme poverty. Despite significant progress in the realisation of the rights of the child during the last two decades, legislative advances have not been accompanied by the required budget allocation. In particular, in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, national budgets reflect an investment of less than $1 a day per person towards the achievement of the basic rights of children and adolescents. In this context, Plan Sweden, together with NGO coalitions and networks from these countries developed a project to support their public policy, legislation and budget allocation. This has helped to realise children’s rights in the areas of health, education and participation. The project involved an investment study, which showed that national governments do not invest enough in their children.
In the year leading up to 30 June 2013 Plan raised €679 million, which represents an increase of €45 million or 7% over the previous year. Child sponsorship income represents 54% of Plan’s worldwide income in 2013 and grew by 2%, mainly due to currency movements. Plan has a deficit for the year of €25 million, after surpluses in each year since 2007, as 2013 has been a year of investment in fundraising, systems and programme development. All these activities contribute to achieving Plan’s Global Strategy to 2015. The deficit also reflects maintaining programme budgets at planned levels, including spending funds received in 2012, although donations from child sponsors were lower than projected for the year.
Programme expenditure by activity

Total expenditure, including foreign exchange losses was €704 million. Expenditure growth over 2012, excluding foreign exchange gains and losses, was €63m or 10%. The regional distribution of expenditure shows the ongoing trend of increasing the proportion of programming in Africa, which accounted for 47% of programme expenditure in 2013. Early childhood care and development and education are Plan’s largest programming areas representing 21% and 16% of programming expenditure respectively.

Income by country

Plan Europe National Offices in Germany and Norway were particularly successful in increasing income from child sponsorship, while bilateral donors in Sweden, the Netherlands and Finland contributed to strong growth in grants income, which grew from €31 million to €184 million.

Plan EU Office

In Financial Year 13*, Plan EU Office’s total budget was €448,089.16. This comes from contributions from Plan Europe members, including International Headquarters, calculated in proportion to their income.

Action for Global Health

Plan EU Office’s budget as a member of AfGH during Financial Year 2* was €37,399.00.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan EU Office</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme costs</td>
<td>53,150.00</td>
<td>43,014.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>49,811.00</td>
<td>45,010.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff salaries and fringes</td>
<td>341,555.00</td>
<td>325,628.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,573.16</td>
<td>6,800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>448,089.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>420,453.01</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action for Global Health</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and fringe</td>
<td>28,469.00</td>
<td>47,108.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>2,993.00</td>
<td>873.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities and supplies</td>
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<td>89.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,399.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>48,072.15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Plan’s financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June and AfGH’s financial year runs from 01 November to 31 October.
Plan EU Office
Galerie Ravenstein 27/4, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
t +32 (0)2 504 6050
e info-eu@plan-international.org
w plan-eu.org

Plan Europe members
Belgium: planbelgie.be / planbelgique.be +32 2 504 60 00
Denmark: plan danmark.dk +45 35 300 800
Finland: plan.fi +358 1 6869 8000
France: planfrance.org +33 1 44 89 90 90
Germany: plan deutschland.de +49 40 611 400
Ireland: planie +353 1 659 9601
Italy: plan-italia.org +39 39 684 8701
Netherlands: plan nederland.nl +31 20 549 55 55
Norway: plan norge.no +47 22 03 16 00
Spain: plan espana.org +34 900 244 000
Sweden: plan sverige.org +46 8 587 755 00
United Kingdom: plan uk.org +44 300 777 9777
International Headquarters: plan international.org +44 1483 755 155

Plan offices worldwide
Programme Countries
Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

National Organisations
Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States

Liaison Offices
European Union Office, Brussels, Belgium
Liaison Office to the United Nations, New York, USA
Liaison and Advocacy Office to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
African Union Liaison Office, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Regional Offices
Americas, Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, West Africa