Annual review 2012
Promoting child rights and gender equality in EU external action
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Abbreviations
AIGH  Action for Global Health
BIAAG  Because I am a Girl
CBDRM  Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CCCD  Child-Centred Community Development
CRAG  Child Rights Action Group
CSO  Civil Society Organisation
DCI  Development Cooperation Instrument
DG  European Commission Directorate General
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
FY  Financial Year
EU  European Union
GDP  Gross Domestic Product
HRDN  Human Rights and Democracy Network
MDG  Millennium Development Goal
MEP  Member of the European Parliament
MFF  Multiannual Financial Framework
NO  Plan National office

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We are pleased to present Plan Europe’s Annual Review, an overview of Plan’s work with the EU and partners during 2012 on child rights, gender equality, development and humanitarian aid.

Plan’s vision is of a world where children realise their full potential, and in 2012 we took another step towards this with the launch of our global campaign on girls’ rights, Because I am a Girl. In Brussels, we were overwhelmed by the support from the European Parliament, Commission, External Action Service and UN agencies for the events we organised to mark the first ever International Day of the Girl Child.

Our priority in 2012 was to ensure children are visible in the EU’s 2014-2020 budget. While the European Parliament endorsed our recommendations, we will continue to work with Member States to ensure children’s place in the budget is secured.

Plan also reacted to crises in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, raising with the ECHO the importance of child protection and education in emergencies, as well as the specific risks and challenges faced by girls. We will build on this work in 2013 with the next Because I am a Girl report focusing on girls in emergencies.

Finally, we undertook a number of activities to support young people’s participation in EU decision making, but the most powerful voice for children – especially girls – in 2012 was Malala Yousafzai. She showed Europe, and the world, that children are not just passive recipients of aid but powerful development actors and human rights defenders, and we were proud to support her fight for girls’ education.
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.

February 2012

10 February: Plan organised a training on child rights in EU policy making, for MEPs, political advisors and assistants

17 February: Plan facilitated the child participation workshop during the European External Action Service’s experts meeting on the EU Guidelines on the Rights of the Child
About Plan

Plan has been working for and with children for more than 75 years. Today, we work in 50 low and middle income countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote child rights and provide better opportunities for millions of children. In 2012, Plan worked with 84 million children in over 90,000 communities.

Plan takes a rights-based approach, designing and delivering child-centred community development programmes through regional and country level offices. Our country offices are located in the areas where our programmes are implemented to allow us to respond to the situation of the local communities.

We focus on the inclusion, education and protection of the most marginalised children, working in partnership with communities, local and national government and civil society. Plan is independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations.

What we do

Plan’s work covers eight programme areas on children’s rights to:

• A quality education
• A healthy start in life
• Grow up in communities that are resilient to disasters, and have their rights protected during emergencies
• Participate as citizens
• Protection from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence
• Economic security
• Sexual and reproductive health, including HIV prevention, care and treatment
• A safe, consistent supply of drinking water and improved sanitation

Plan in numbers

€634 million
Plan’s total income for the year

84 million
Children Plan works with

174 million
People Plan works with

90,131
Communities Plan works with

36
Disasters and emergencies responded to

86,809
Community health workers and traditional birth attendants trained

Where Plan works

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, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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

*Programme and donor country
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

Plan EU Office acts as a coordination hub for Plan Europe, a regional network within Plan International which links our 11 European Offices with International Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices worldwide.

The decisions made by the European Union (EU) – which, taken together, is the world’s largest donor providing over half of all official development assistance – affect the lives of up to two billion children worldwide. Following the Lisbon Treaty, the promotion of the rights of the child in internal and external affairs is one of the EU’s priorities, in line with the overarching objective of poverty eradication.

Plan EU Office therefore works with the EU institutions and partner civil society organisations to ensure the promotion and protection of child rights and gender equality is a priority in the EU’s external policy and action, and that children’s voices are heard in the decision making processes. We take an integrated approach to our work, combining advocacy, funding, communications and campaigning.

By working with others, we are able to achieve our vision more effectively. This means working in partnership with different organisations and networks to strengthen our voice and ensure coordinated action at EU level. By doing so, we aim to improve the lives of millions of children in developing countries.

Action for Global Health

Plan is co-leading Action for Global Health (AfGH), a cross-European network of health and development organisations calling for the European Commission and EU member states to play a more proactive role in enabling developing countries to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals. Plan EU Office has coordinated AfGH’s work on the MFF, and we have been working to raise awareness among policymakers of girls’ specific health needs within the broader global health debate. Through regular dialogue and information sharing, we aim to increase policymakers’ capacity to adequately address children’s health in their work on EU development policy and funding. www.actionforglobalhealth.eu

March 2012

6 March: On behalf of Concord, Plan was invited to speak at the annual EU member states gender experts meeting with civil society, to discuss the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan

19 March: We facilitated the visit of Plan El Salvador and the Mayor of San Juan Opico to Brussels, where they presented the outcomes of their four-year EC funded project on tackling child labour to EU policymakers

20 March: Plan threw the world’s biggest children’s birthday party to celebrate our 75th anniversary
Working in Partnership

In addition to AfGH, Plan is also an active member of:

**Concord:** Plan is active at all levels of Concord, the European Confederation of Development NGOs, as a board member and chairing key working groups on funding and gender. Through Concord, which represents over 1800 NGOs, we have been working to ensure the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) allocates adequate funding for development aid which reflects Plan’s priorities.

**Child Rights Action Group:** The Child Rights Action Group brings together several European and international child rights organisations. We have used this platform to strengthen our recommendations on the MFF, leading on the drafting of a joint position paper.

**Beyond-2015:** As a member of the Beyond-2015 steering committee, we have been advocating for an inclusive, rights-based post-2015 development framework which puts the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality, participation and sustainability at its core.

**Human Rights and Democracy Network:** Through the Human Rights and Democracy Network, we have contributed to the elaboration of the EU’s first ever Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, adopted in 2012. This framework takes a rights-based approach to development and includes specific EU actions on child rights and gender.

**Voice:** Through Voice, a European network of NGOs active in humanitarian aid worldwide, we have been working to improve the quality of humanitarian aid provided by the European Commission, by working to simplify and enhance the nature of the working relationship between donor and partner.
**Children and the EU budget**

Our campaign to ensure children are visible in the EU’s long-term development and humanitarian aid budget gained strong support from the European Parliament, which endorsed our recommendations on child rights, gender, health and basic (primary and lower secondary) education in its report on the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). Our campaign video, *1 budget. 7 years. 2 billion children*, was supported by several European and international child rights organisations.

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**Because I am a Girl**

On 11 October, we launched Plan’s global campaign on girls’ education, *Because I am a Girl*. The campaign aims to directly benefit four million girls, improving their lives with access to school, skills, livelihoods and protection. Up to 400 million more girls will benefit through policy change. The campaign was launched in the European Parliament with a policy debate on Plan’s 2012 State of the World’s Girls report, Learning for Life. [www.plan-international.org/girls](http://www.plan-international.org/girls)

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**Putting gender on the agenda**

Our 2012 European Week of Action for Girls, organised to celebrate the first ever International Day of the Girl Child in October, raised the profile of girls’ rights among the EU institutions, receiving the official patronage of the President of the European Parliament. High level policymakers including EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and EU Human Rights envoy, Stavros Lambrinidis, also spoke out in support of girls’ rights during the week.

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**April 2012**

26 April: We organised a training on EC funding for Plan’s Country Offices in West Africa to share knowledge and experience of the EU as a donor, improving the quality of Plan’s projects and ensuring high project implementation standards.
Plan’s partnership with the EC
The European Commission continued to invest in quality projects through Plan. In 2012, Plan national offices were awarded funding for a further 23 development and humanitarian projects in all four regions, worth a combined total of €17.7m.

Disaster risk management
We continued to advocate for child rights in emergency contexts, raising Plan’s profile as a humanitarian organisation. This culminated in a one-on-one interview with European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, who reaffirmed her commitment to protecting children in emergencies, particularly girls. In 2012, Commissioner Georgieva visited a Plan project in Burkina Faso on education in emergencies.

Child participation
Plan’s High Level Panel at the 2012 European Development Days brought together young people from Europe and West Africa to discuss youth economic empowerment from their perspective. The youth-led panel – the only one at the 5000 participant event dedicated to young people – challenged policymakers to do more to tackle youth unemployment through EU development cooperation.
What are we calling for?

We call on the EU to meet its commitments to children by:

**ONE: Child rights**
Ensuring there are specific budget allocations to child rights, which must be mainstreamed effectively as a cross-cutting issue, including child-sensitive budgeting and indicators

**TWO: Gender equality**
Making gender mainstreaming a requirement in all financial instruments, with explicit commitment to gender assessments, gender-responsive budgeting and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as ensuring specific budget allocations for gender

**THREE: Health and basic education**
Ensure at least 20% of the DCI (thematic and geographic programmes) and the EDF is earmarked for health and basic (primary and lower secondary) education
of the MFF, with many EU member states calling for drastic cuts to development and humanitarian aid in particular. We continued to argue against cuts to lifesaving aid, as this risks undoing the progress towards poverty eradication made to date and represents a backwards step by the EU. In addition, two separate Eurobarometer surveys found the vast majority of European citizens continue to support EU development aid (85%) and humanitarian aid (84%) despite the economic crisis.

Working with Plan Europe members, as well as Plan Country Offices and partners at EU level, we continued to state the case for increased investment in the EU aid budget. Investing in children, particularly girls, is one of the most effective uses of EU money and is key to fostering long-term, sustainable and inclusive growth – a central pillar of the EU’s Agenda for Change, endorsed by member states in 2012. As a member of Concord, we also stressed that aid must continue to go to the poorest and most marginalised people, regardless of which country they live in. With 75% of the world’s poor living in middle income countries, it is imperative that decisions on differentiation in future EU development funding are based on more than a country’s GDP alone, and take into account a broad range of criteria such as the Human Development Index.

Invest in a child, invest in a nation
We focused on raising awareness of the importance of mainstreaming child rights and gender equality throughout EU external action, and of allocating at least 20% of aid under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and European Development Fund (EDF) to health and basic (primary and lower secondary) education – two sectors which have a proven multiplier effect in breaking the cycle of poverty. Following intensive advocacy and awareness raising activities, our recommendations were adopted by the European Parliament in its report on the DCI, which forms the basis of the triilogue negotiations with member states and the European Commission.

What’s next?
While 2012 focused largely on the overall volumes, we will continue to work throughout 2013 to ensure our priorities are also reflected in the geographic and thematic programming of the DCI and EDF. Together with Plan Europe members, we will advocate for child rights to be mainstreamed throughout the thematic CSO and Local Authorities and the newly established Global Public Goods and Challenges programmes of the DCI. At country level, we will work with our offices in Africa, Asia and the Americas to ensure EU delegations prioritise child rights, health, basic education and gender equality in their multiannual indicative programmes.

“A healthy, well-educated population is the first step towards poverty eradication”
Karen Schroh, Head of Plan EU Office
Giving girls a voice

From poverty to opportunity: supporting girls to get the education, skills and support they need to realise their rights and achieve their full potential

In 2012, Plan launched its global campaign on girls’ education, Because I am a Girl. Education is the cornerstone of sustainable development, and completing nine years of quality education has been proven to be one of the most powerful tools in breaking the cycle of poverty. The campaign therefore aims to directly support four million adolescent girls get the education, skills and support they need to realise their rights and achieve their potential, and benefit up to 400 million more girls through changes in legislation and policy. It was launched globally on 11 October 2012, the first ever International Day of the Girl Child, with high level EU policymakers speaking out in support of girls’ rights.

Learning for Life
Plan’s 2012 State of the World’s Girls report, Learning for Life, identifies a crisis in the quality of education, with successes in primary enrolment masking more worrying trends in the quality of what is being taught and learnt. Based on the findings of the report, our key policy recommendations called on the EU to implement existing commitments to gender equality, prioritise the completion of quality basic education for girls, and tackle barriers to girls’ education including child marriage. These were endorsed

Why girls?
Globally, 66 million girls of primary and lower-secondary age are not in school, denied an education by the daily realities of poverty, discrimination and violence. Making it through both primary and secondary education is critical to girls being able to help break the cycle of poverty. Educating girls not only improves the lives of girls themselves, but in turn their children, families and communities. Better education raises maternal health, reduces child mortality, improves nutrition within the home, and increases the potential workforce and opportunities for economic growth.

June 2012
18 June: Plan released a campaign video on the MFF, 1 budget, 7 years, 2 billion children, calling on EU leaders to invest in children. This followed the release of a joint position paper, Making Children Visible, with the Child Rights Action Group

26 June: As part of Plan’s Youth in Action project, funded by the European Commission, we organised an online training for young people from Europe and Africa
Quality education for all
A two-year project funded by the European Commission aimed to improve equal access of girls and boys, including those with disabilities, to quality education in 56 primary schools in Lembata, Indonesia. According to the EU Delegation, the project “significantly surpassed” all targets. By working with government and a wide range of non-state education actors, the project introduced improved school management systems and increased community participation in school affairs, significantly enhancing the quality of school processes at all levels, from developing inclusive lesson plans to transparency and accountability at school and community level. The quality of teaching has also improved as a result of schools implementing child friendly, gender sensitive and joyful learning methodologies. Teachers are now able to spend their time more productively and students are more enthusiastic to engage in learning activities.

What are we calling for?
We call on the EU to meet its commitments to girls by:

ONE: Mainstreaming gender
Stepping up its efforts to mainstream gender in EU development cooperation by implementing commitments in the EU Gender Action Plan

TWO: Investing in quality education
Increasing investment in quality basic (primary and lower secondary) education for girls, focusing on the transition to, and completion of, lower secondary education

THREE: Addressing barriers
Addressing the barriers that girls face in realising their rights such as child marriage and gender-based violence

Breaking down barriers
Two of the key barriers which prevent girls’ from realising their right to education are child marriage and gender-based violence. The EU made firm commitments in 2012 to gender equality and to ensuring children are protected from all forms of violence, including the EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, which highlighted the elimination of child marriage as a priority area for EU action.

The EU must therefore use its weight to ensure legislation prohibiting child marriage is enforced. Similarly, EU development policy must contribute to the elimination of gender-based violence, and we will work to ensure the programming of the EU’s 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework includes a clear commitment to effective local and national monitoring and enforcement of mechanisms to prevent and punish gender-based violence.
Prepare. Prevent. Protect.

Helping children grow up safely in resilient communities

With a growing youth population and an increasingly fragile planet, disaster risk management is an important component of Plan’s work. In any emergency, children are among the most vulnerable – for example they may become separated from their families, face increased risk of violence and sexual exploitation, be forced out of school, or miss out on meals.

We believe children and young people are entitled to grow up in resilient communities, and have their rights protected should a disaster occur. We therefore aim to ensure their needs are accounted for in all aspects of disaster risk management.

At the ready
Resilience – the ability of an individual, a household, or a community to withstand, adapt, and quickly recover from stresses and shocks – received considerable attention at EU level throughout 2012, with the European Commission taking steps towards greater coordination between its Development (DevCo) and Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) Directorates General. It was the subject of a pilot initiative in the Horn of Africa (SHARE) and joint Communication by the two directorates, and while we believe the Communication itself contains a number of gaps, we will work to ensure the accompanying Action Plan, expected in 2013, addresses these. In particular, we will highlight the importance of community participation, and of adopting a gender sensitive approach.

Reducing vulnerability to disasters is a key step towards building resilience, and represents a sound investment: according to the European Commission, every euro spent preparing for a disaster saves seven euros responding to one. However, funding for disaster risk reduction (DRR) represents a fraction of the Commission’s

Mainstreaming Gender

In 2012, DG ECHO began work on a Gender Policy – a welcome step forward in efforts to mainstream gender throughout its work. Disaster situations are not gender neutral and affect women, girls, men and boys differently. Adolescent girls, for example, face even greater risk of sexual violence and abuse, of being forced into an early marriage, and of being denied access to education and healthcare. Programme interventions targeted at girls in emergencies can help keep them safe and in school. Plan’s 2013 State of the World’s Girls report focuses on this topic, and we will work alongside the European Commission throughout the year to share our recommendations on how to address the particular needs and rights of girls in disaster situations.
development aid spending. Plan therefore contributed to position papers by Voice and the Child Rights Action Group calling for the European Commission to earmark adequate funding for DRR activities in its future development budget.

Plan has been partnering with DG ECHO for several years, implementing child-centred DRR projects to reduce communities’ vulnerability to future disasters, and increasing their capacity to respond effectively and efficiently in an emergency. Young people have a key role to play in identifying risks and how to address them, and raising awareness among their peers and families. By engaging young people, local, regional and national DRR measures will be more comprehensive and effective in the long term.

**When disaster strikes**

As the frequency and intensity of disasters increases, Plan has developed its ability to respond to emergencies, focusing on the immediate survival needs of children and their communities, such as food and water, as well as child protection and return to education.

In 2012, Plan responded to 36 disaster situations, including the food crises in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. In the Sahel, Plan deployed more than 31 disaster response experts in five countries, focusing on access to food, child protection, education, water and sanitation, and children’s health. In Burkina Faso, we built two boreholes, 96 latrines and 81 showers at three refugee camps, benefiting 16,620 refugees. We also established 16 primary school classes and five pre-school classes, and distributed school kits benefiting 993 children in two refugee camps.

In the Horn of Africa, we set up ongoing programmes in five drought-stricken areas new to Plan, to help nearly 1.2 million people, including children, rebuild their lives. We raised €23.2m and provided food to communities and supplementary feeding in schools and health centres, as well as water, health and sanitation training and facilities.

In 2013, Plan will continue to strengthen its emergency response capacity, while strengthening the relationship with DG ECHO.

**Making the transition**

Plan, as a development and humanitarian organisation, understands the importance of ensuring an effective transition from relief to rehabilitation and development (LRRD). Our work is grounded on the needs of the communities we work with, and we have built up expertise and relationships over an extended period of time. Crucially, we remain accountable to these communities once the immediate emergency response has passed.

We believe the European Commission can play a significant role in overcoming the artificial gap which exists between relief and development interventions and must strengthen its efforts to establish concrete linkages between humanitarian aid and development cooperation programmes. A joint Action Plan on LRRD by DGs DevCo and ECHO would be an important step towards achieving this.

Flexible, predictable and timely funding is essential to ensure an effective transition from relief to rehabilitation and development. In 2012 we therefore supported a joint position paper by Concord and Voice calling on the European Commission to ensure its funding mechanisms are better suited to support LRRD, and we will work to ensure child rights, particularly to education, health, and protection, are prioritised in this process.
Youth voices

Empowering children to stand up for their rights as active citizens

Children and young people have the right to express themselves and participate in the decisions which affect them. At Plan, it is our goal to help them realise this right, and as a child centred organisation this forms a core element of our approach to development.

Children are capable of playing a key role not only in their own development, but also in the development of their entire community – from school led campaigns on the importance of good sanitation to radio programmes raising awareness of child rights and child help lines for children to report violence and abuse. Empowering children to stand up for their rights as active citizens is the first step towards ensuring their voices are heard in the decisions which affect them. At EU level, we work to ensure adequate systems are in place to enable children and young people to meaningfully contribute to EU processes.

Meaningful child participation goes beyond facilitating children’s consultations on specific issues. It is about supporting children’s networks to have their voices heard in policy dialogue, including child rights organisations in all civil society consultations, ensuring European Commission programmes consider the voices of children as legitimate stakeholders, and creating spaces for children and young people to express their views and opinions in their communities.

Participatory processes

Throughout 2012, the EU Guidelines on the Rights of the Child, which underline the EU’s commitment to ensure child rights are promoted and protected in external action, have undergone review. As part of this process, Plan lead a workshop for the European External Action Service on implementing child participation. This, together with the appointment of human rights focal points in EU Delegations, is an enormous step forward, particularly given that more than half of EU Delegations have identified child rights as a priority human rights issue. We will continue to work at EU and country level to ensure this leads to genuine engagement of young people in EU decision making processes.

Youth voices

We facilitated the participation of young people at several events throughout 2012. Plan’s youth-led High Level Panel at the European Development Days on Youth Economic Empowerment, for example, brought together young people from across Europe and West Africa to discuss the causes and consequences of youth unemployment. The Climate exChange project, another youth-led initiative, resulted in the launch of an MEP Written Declaration on engaging young people in tackling climate change, while a young girls’ rights activist also joined the launch of our Because I am a Girl campaign to share the commitment and passion young people have for the issue of girls’ education.
The world we want

Ensuring the future development framework delivers the world we want

2015 is the deadline for the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and while work continues to ensure we meet these targets, 2012 marked the beginning of the process for defining the post-MDG agenda. We believe development must benefit the poorest and most marginalised members of society, including children, who should be at the heart of the post-2015 framework.

General principles

2012 was a year of consultation on general principles of the post-2015 agenda, and we responded to the European Commission’s consultation calling for a new development framework which is more sustainable, equitable, inclusive and people-centred. Taking a rights-based approach to development is critical to ensure poverty reduction efforts reach those most in need and tackle the structural causes of poverty, such as gender inequality, discrimination, and lack of accountability to citizens, and we were pleased to see the UN Task Team echo these calls in its report, Realising The Future We Want For All.

For a new framework to tackle these issues directly, change needs to start with the development of the framework itself – a truly participatory process is needed to ensure ownership and accountability. This includes children and youth, 87% of whom live in developing countries. As co-chair of Beyond 2015’s child and youth working group, we will work to ensure young people’s voices are heard by producing child and youth friendly consultation guides to facilitate consultations with this group.

The small print

Beyond the general principles, the success or failure of the framework lies largely in the small print – the particular targets and indicators used to measure success. We believe the targets should be both qualitative as well as quantitative, with focus given to transformational change targets such as girls’ education. Having achieved remarkable success in promoting access to primary education, the agenda should be broadened to look at the quality of the education received and the transition to, and completion of, lower secondary education, particularly for girls.

The EU’s position

The EU has an important role to play in shaping the post-2015 framework, and we look forward to an EU Communication and an EU position on post-2015 in the coming year. We will be active in pushing for European Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, who sits on the UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel on the Post-MDG framework, to champion the issue of education, and for the EU to take a strong position on the post-2015 framework.

We will work closely with Plan Europe members, Concord, and our Beyond 2015 partners to ensure EU member states take on board our recommendations before adopting the European Council position on the post-2015 framework ahead of the UN Summit in September 2013.

17 September: Plan Europe board members met with their respective Permanent Representations in Brussels to discuss children in the MFF

18 September: The European Parliament voted to include child rights and gender in its report on the Development Cooperation Instrument, and recommended a benchmark of 20% for health and basic education
The EU as a donor

The European Commission is one of Plan’s most important partners, providing funding for quality Plan projects through its Development and Cooperation (DevCo) and Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) Directorates General.

October 2012
8-12 October: Plan organised the European Week of Action for Girls under the official Patronage of the President of the Parliament. The Week of Action received broad support from the European Institutions, United Nations and civil society.
How much have we been awarded in 2012?

In 2012, Plan was awarded funding from DevCo for a further 12 projects, worth in total €10.7m. This brings the total number of EC funded projects to 96 worth €89.4m since Plan was awarded its first EC grant. ECHO also represents a large share of Plan’s income with the EC, with 11 new projects funded in 2012 for disaster response and preparedness, amounting to €7m in total. In 2012, 53 development projects were running worldwide.

In which regions?

2012 was a stand-out year for Plan in the Americas in terms of EC funding, with four development grants awarded amounting to €2.6m, two disaster preparedness (DIPECHO) projects and one emergency response (ECHO). A Results Oriented Monitoring visit to an EC funded project on combating child labour in El Salvador showed excellent results, and representatives working on the project travelled to Brussels to present the project’s outcomes. An EC funded food facility project in Nicaragua was also awarded the “Project of the Year” at Plan’s Global Awards (see below).

In which sectors?

Plan’s EC funded projects cover a number of different sectors. In 2012 almost half of the projects funded covered youth economic empowerment and vocational training, with a focus on gender and vulnerable groups, the largest ones being awarded to Plan in Indonesia (€1.5m) and Plan in Pakistan (€1.8m). In addition, we had projects focusing on violence against children, early childhood care and development for ethnic minority children, water and sanitation and livelihood.

And the winner is...

Plan Nicaragua scooped the 2012 Plan Global award for best project design and implementation with their EC funded food facility project. The project aimed to strengthen family farming to ensure greater food production and lessen vulnerable communities’ exposure to shocks and volatility. Among other things, the project was assessed against criteria including: innovation and creativity; a multi-level approach; adoption of a human-rights based approach; and the ability for scaling up the project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DevCo projects awarded in 2012</th>
<th>ECHO/DIPECHO projects awarded in 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>West Africa</strong> 16.5%</td>
<td><strong>Latin America</strong> 27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asia</strong> 25%</td>
<td><strong>Asia</strong> 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern and Southern Africa</strong> 25%</td>
<td><strong>Latin America</strong> 33.5%</td>
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17 October: Plan organised youth-led High Level Panel at European Development Days on Youth Economic Empowerment, bringing together 18 young people from six countries in Europe and West Africa.

November 2012

December 2012
How do we work?

In addition to Plan’s work with grassroots organisations, we also work in consortia with other child rights and development organisations active at country level. In 2012, Plan Ireland received funding as part of a group of organisations and government bodies working to make communities and vulnerable groups in South East Asia more resilient to disaster risks. South East Asia currently accounts for a 14% of disasters globally, and with the effects of climate change is likely to face even greater risk in future. By working in consortia throughout the region, Plan aims to improve national and regional disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, highlighting the needs of particularly vulnerable groups including women and children.

We also understand the importance of cooperation across borders, in order to increase the impact of our work and benefit as many children and their communities as possible. This broad approach was recognised by the EC, which awarded Plan UK funding to implement a multi-country project in central America spanning El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations and child and youth groups in defending child rights, particularly protection from violence.

Disaster response and recovery

The Philippines is regularly battered by typhoons. In late 2011, after the northern part of the archipelago was devastated by two typhoons, DG ECHO funded a recovery project developed by Plan Philippines and Plan UK which aimed to respond to the immediate needs of the communities affected, as well as strengthening their resilience to future disasters. Through Cash for Work and Cash for Training (CfT) programming, the project allowed families – including 186 women-headed households identified as most vulnerable during emergencies – to earn an income by working to restore public facilities such as roads, schools and drainage, damaged by the typhoons. The cash earned could be used to buy food and other basic needs, which in turn supported local traders and small businesses, boosting the local economy.

In addition, the CfT component of the project increased the capacity of the local communities to prepare for and respond to the threat of natural or man-made hazards, for example by diversifying food production and establishing alternative sources of income. By the time the project came to an end in May 2012, 92 public facilities had been restored – more than three times the original target – and disaster risk reduction plans were formed in 30 vulnerable communities.

Tackling child labour: Out of the workplace, into the classroom

Instead of going to school, millions of children around the world are instead going out to work in underpaid and often hazardous jobs. In Tanzania, a country where nearly 97% of inhabitants live on less than $2 a day, child labour is a major problem: over 70% of children aged five to 17 years old are engaged in economic activity. In Geita, one of the country’s gold mining districts, poverty forces thousands of children out of school and in to work to supplement the family income. Boys, sometimes as young as four or five, work in the mines while girls are likely to be engaged in related activities such as bar work. Prostitution and sexual exploitation is endemic.

Determined to address this issue, Plan France received funding from the European Commission to support 38,600 victims of child labour aged five to 13 in order to reintegrate them into full time quality education, while promoting a better preventative environment through awareness raising activities. As poverty is a major factor in the incidence of child labour, the project aims to improve the economic security of 4,500 of the most vulnerable households such as youth, female and elderly-headed households. Vocational training and apprenticeship programmes will be implemented and complemented by financial and technical support to most vulnerable families so as to develop income generating projects. Working with local partners, Plan aims to benefit up to 260,000 people through the project, which started in 2012.
Improving quality and impact

As our experience of implementing EC funded projects has increased in recent years, Plan EU Office has worked with national and country offices to improve the quality of Plan’s projects, both in terms of management and donor compliance rules. This in turn ensures greater impact and sustainability of our projects. In 2012, we continued to conduct capacity building trainings, which have now taken place in all four regions, in order for Plan staff working in the field to better understand how Plan’s priorities align with the EU as a donor, and ensure quality project design and implementation.

As a result, Plan’s reputation among EU Delegations continues to go from strength to strength, and in 2012 Plan Laos carried out a training session for 28 local Non Profit Organisations on EU funding procedures, at the request of the EU Delegation.

This strategic approach also helps achieve maximum value for money – a key priority for the European Commission and an important consideration given the economic and financial crisis which continued to see aid budgets tightened in 2012. We will therefore continue to work with both national and country offices throughout 2013 in order to further enhance our capacity in EC funding procedures and implementing EC funded projects.

Youth economic empowerment

In Rwanda, growth in GDP has not necessarily translated to improvements in “access to money” at an individual level. With this in mind, Plan – in collaboration with national partners – set out to improve the economic wellbeing of young people and local communities in Gatsibo, Rwamagana and Kayonza districts. By encouraging the establishment of youth cooperatives – business enterprises which seek to strike a balance between pursuing profit and meeting the needs and interests of members and their communities – an EC-funded project, managed by Plan UK, has helped create opportunities for employment, expanded access to income-generating activities, developed local business potential and improved entrepreneurial and business management capacities.

The 36-month project has already exceeded all expectations: to date, 2480 cooperative members (1499 females and 981 males) have formed 61 cooperatives. One young woman to benefit from the project is 27 year-old Annette, who grew up in a poor family. Unemployed and with limited resources, she struggled to meet her basic domestic needs. In 2010, her life changed when she joined a Plan supported tailoring cooperative, and she has transformed her €19 starter savings into capital worth €375. “My life became better since I made some money out of making school uniforms and I was able to meet a number of my basic needs,” she says.

Countries in which Plan is currently running EC funded projects

Countries implementing EC (DevCo and ECHO) funded projects
Bangladesh, Brazil, Bolivia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Netherlands*, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom*, Vietnam, Zambia

Plan National Offices that received EC funding
Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom

New for 2012
*Development Education project
**Income and expenditure**

In the year to 30 June 2012 Plan raised income of €634m worldwide – an increase of €42m from the previous year. This represents a 7% increase on the previous year, or 5% excluding the impact of exchange rate movements. The Plan worldwide surplus during the year, of €11m, consists mainly of favourable currency movements, reversing the losses suffered in 2011.

**Programme expenditure by activity**

Total expenditure was €623m, €62m (11%) more than the previous year. The biggest increases in expenditure were due to the malaria prevention programmes in Africa, provision of food aid, and response to the food crises and drought in the Sahel and Horn of Africa.
Income by country

Despite the economic crisis, the majority of Plan Europe members increased their income in 2012, with particularly strong growth in Germany, Sweden and Norway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Europe National Office</th>
<th>2011 (€m)</th>
<th>2012 (€m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>105.705</td>
<td>113.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>64.626</td>
<td>64.665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>45.860</td>
<td>50.934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>44.945</td>
<td>47.889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>26.478</td>
<td>33.682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>15.510</td>
<td>13.737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>14.126</td>
<td>13.125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>13.252</td>
<td>12.906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>12.441</td>
<td>12.324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>8.091</td>
<td>8.421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>5.241</td>
<td>6.301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plan EU Office

In Financial Year 12*, our income was €384,053.88 from contributions from Plan Europe members and Plan International Headquarters, calculated in proportion to their income.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Budget FY12</th>
<th>Actual expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme costs</td>
<td>53,600.00</td>
<td>38,476.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>43,344.00</td>
<td>50,212.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff salaries and fringes</td>
<td>287,109.88</td>
<td>295,283.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>384,053.88</td>
<td>383,971.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Action for Global Health

Income as a member of Action for Global Health (AfGH) during Financial Year 1* was €46,718.00.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Budget FY1</th>
<th>Actual expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and fringe</td>
<td>36,664.00</td>
<td>30,558.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>2,142.00</td>
<td>501.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities and supplies</td>
<td>3,666.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management fee</td>
<td>4,246.00</td>
<td>4,246.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>46,718.00</td>
<td>35,305.81</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

December 2012

6 December: We participated in the annual EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights, organised by the European External Action Service and European Commission. The event focused on promoting the universality of human rights.
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