Plan International Uganda held a Girls Get Equal Caravan drive for three weeks across the country to launch the Campaign.

The Campaign was flagged off on Wednesday 29th May at Plan International Uganda’s Head office in Bugolobi, Kampala. The Girls Get Equal caravan traversed 8 districts in Uganda including Kamuli, to Tororo, Lira, Adjumani, Yumbe, Arua, Nebbi and then back to Kampala.

We reached over 10,000 people, 80% youth and girls making 70% in these districts. The girls had an opportunity to raise issues that affect them and hold them back in terms of gender equality and raised petitions to that effect.

Different district stakeholders made commitments towards addressing these issues by supporting the Girls Get Equal campaign.

29th May 2019 - Caravan
Caravan was flagged off at Plan International Country Office by the (then) Interim Country Director; Greg Lavender. The Event was attended by Girls, partners, media and staff.

Greg called upon the public to support the campaign by ensuring that more girls and young women are able to participate in decision making processes, are no longer subjected to street harassment, any kind of violence or discrimination and that society stops the gender stereotypes which hold back girls’ excellence and advancement.

OVERALL NUMBERS REACHED BY THE GIRLS GET EQUAL LAUNCH ACROSS 8 DISTRICTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Boys (12-18 years)</th>
<th>Girls (12-18 years)</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td>5,128</td>
<td>1,649</td>
<td>6,241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Girls from the Safer Cities project participating at the flag off of the Caravan in Kampala.

Plan International Uganda staff, partners and the media flagging off the caravan from Kampala to the rest of Uganda.
Girls' demands:

- Parliament to pass or review the current Universal Secondary Education Policy to offer free education for child mothers.
- The world’s educators, advertisers, marketers to stop using damaging stereotypes or generalised beliefs in or through their communication and start working with girls and young women to share more diverse stories about girls’ power, position and representation.
- Information and National Guidance sector to ban with immediate effect the airing of the song which regards women as “property, sukaali, chapatti and yoghurt” - by Fik Fameica.
- Education sector to formulate and institutionalise data collection, analysis and tracking for school dropouts.
- School systems should create more opportunity for the education of the girl child and more favorable conditions and environments for their education.
- Special consideration and more efforts towards supporting the disabled girls in society should be done by all the men.
- Active participation in educating the disabled girls, creating conducive environments and atmospheres for them to work or study free from stigma, designing all buildings with access for them.
- Employers should implement Sexual harassment policies, make sure that these policies are known and understood by all employees, signed and reviewed annually, and make sure they have a focal point person who is responsible for cases of harassment at workplace.
- Enforcement and implementation of the end child marriage ordinance in every village and not only in the sub county.
- Promote women and girls leadership in both public and private decision-making spaces - including institutions of learning, in private companies, formal and informal workplaces.
- Implement development strategies, policies and programs that generate more jobs and ensure decent work for women, particularly in the informal sector.
Promote all-round age appropriate and gender neutral informal education to young people so as to undermine the social cultural perceptions, beliefs, language and customs that give boys an upper hand over girls.

Strengthen local government structures including the police, referral centers, social infrastructure like schools and health that support and protect the girl child to enjoy her rights.

Justice sector to strengthen its monitoring systems at district levels and demand accountability for all cases that are reported on a quarterly basis.

Girls from Adjumani getting set to participate in a football match as part of launch.

Providing adequate Menstrual Hygiene Management facilities, supplies and materials in institutions like schools, hospitals, workplaces among others to ensure women and girls manage their periods with safety and dignity.

Build capacity of girls and young women to strengthen their agency to enable them speak up on matters that affect their lives.

Cultural and religious institutions at all levels to spearhead campaigns against negative practices like child marriage, inheritance laws, and biased socialization processes that nurture boys as heads, leaders, brave people and girls are subjects, weak, and passive.

Teachers should be trained on gender responsive teaching to ensure schools are gender sensitive and responsive to the learning needs of girls, boys, young women and young men in learning institutions.

Strengthen school monitoring to ensure that they are girl friendly and that the school does not harbour any form of risks to the girls.

Strengthen implementation of the end child marriage ordinance and produce a special report every year about progress towards this.

Work with and monitor the operation of the private sector to ensure non-exploitation of the girls and favourable working conditions.

Provide a slot for girls during major district, council meetings to present their priorities for the leadership to address.

Plan International Uganda Staff from Adjumani and partners participating in a radio talk show ahead of the Girls Get Equal district launch.

Plan International staff, parents, district duty bearers, children matching along the streets of Nebbi town.

Girls from Adjumani getting set to participate in a football match as part of launch.

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The Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga officiated the national and grand finale (launch) on 14th June in Kampala. Hon. Kadaga pledged commitment to support the initiative and also work with other arms of government on the rights of the girl child and young women. “We are going to fast-track the passing of the Sexual Offences Bill, 2015, subject to the amendments proposed by the various stakeholders,” she said Rebecca.

**Girls’ Demands:**
- Parliament to expedite the passing of the Sexual Offense Bill to have a national law and policy that criminalize child marriage, as this is among the top most challenges that girls in the eastern regional are facing.
- Increased budgetary allocation to support enforcement of gender and child-related laws and policies; as well as programmes for women and girls.
- Call for an end to Child Trafficking!
- Regulations as well as sanctions should be imposed to companies running advertisements that seek to use girls as sex objects.
- The Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development investigate labor importing countries especially Asian countries.

The Speaker of Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Rebbeca Alitwala Kadaga committing to promote and protect girls rights in Uganda, this was during the grand launch of the Girls Get Equal Campaign held in Kampala.

Children displaying placards at the Girls Get Equal launch recently in Kampala.

A girl lead advocate presenting a petition to the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rebbeca Alitwala Kadaga.

Partners and children matching during the grand launch of the Girls Get Equal campaign in Kampala.

Picture moments for partners during the grand launch of the campaign at Hotel Africana in Kampala.