



# STATEMENT ON DUAL ENROLMENT

**We have found that a small percentage (0.3%) of our sponsored children have mistakenly been linked to more than one sponsor. We deeply regret this error.**

We assign only one sponsor to a child, so that as many children as possible can take part in our sponsorship programme. As a result, some of our sponsors will not be able to continue sponsoring the same child. We are contacting them and will be offering them the opportunity to sponsor other children in our programmes. We realise this could be unexpected news for them, especially for those who have built a close relationship with their sponsored child. We are also explaining the situation to sponsored children concerned.

It is important to highlight that there is no loss or misuse of funds involved.

Plan International currently engages nearly 1.4 million children through its sponsorship programme worldwide, and errors of this nature can occur, but are rare. As soon as dual enrolments are identified and confirmed, we address them quickly and practically.

Even though only a fraction of our total sponsors and sponsored children are affected, we are taking the matter very seriously. We will be carrying out an independent process review of our systems to further minimise the scope for errors, such as dual enrolment, in the future. This will include exploring technical solutions and providing further training to field staff involved in sponsorship enrolment and documentation. Our field offices are additionally conducting local analysis for context specific measures.

Our sponsorship programme is designed to benefit the entire community. All sponsorship funds are pooled together to implement programmes that benefit all children and families in sponsored communities. Therefore, despite the error, our affected sponsors' contributions have still supported their sponsored children and their communities.

Sponsorship works to transform communities and is central to Plan International's mission to advance children's rights and equality for girls. A recently completed independent analysis of our sponsorship programme, based on over **12 million surveys** conducted with children since 2006, shows sponsorship reaches the most marginalised and vulnerable children. Girls and boys are more likely to go to school in communities where Plan International runs sponsorship programmes. The longer Plan International is in a community, the more children attend and stay in school, and the better access the community has to water and sanitation. This is only possible with the support of our sponsors.

Sponsorship has been the driver of Plan International's life-changing work since it was founded in 1937. We are now active in more than 75 countries and in the fiscal year 2018 alone our programmes benefited over **18 million girls** and more than **16 million boys**.

We thank our sponsors for their support and commitment, and for giving children the chance to grow up with education and healthcare, and to become empowered in their communities.

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