

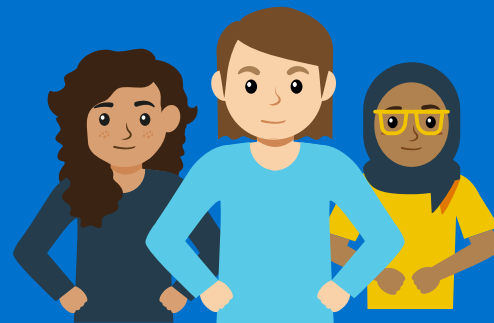


WORLDWIDE ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

# PRIORITY AREA OF WORK: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



(+16% from 2021)



A better start in life for  
**7,864,275 GIRLS**

**OUR GOAL:  
ALL YOUNG CHILDREN  
GROW UP WELL CARED FOR  
AND EQUALLY VALUED.**

## Challenges in the world today

- ➔ More than 175 million children under five are not in pre-primary education.
- ➔ Young children are the most vulnerable to the short and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate and hunger crises and other emergencies.
- ➔ Funding for early childhood programmes by governments is insufficient to meet the needs of children and their parents and caregivers.

## Global priorities for our work

- ➔ Supporting parenting and caregiving that promotes young children's happy and healthy development, equality for girls, and the engagement of men as nurturing caregivers.
- ➔ Increasing access to inclusive and play-based early childhood care and education, to support children's learning and advance gender equality.
- ➔ Improving programming for early childhood development in emergencies.

**READ ABOUT ALL OUR PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK IN  
2022 AT [PLAN-INTERNATIONAL.ORG/ANNUAL-REVIEW](https://www.plan-international.org/annual-review)**

# HOW WE SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

## AMERICAS

→ **Bolivia:** Worked with Autonomous Region authorities on early childhood policies, ensuring a focus on gender equality. As a result, their budget allocations to early childhood increased.

## AFRICA

→ **Nigeria:** Improved access to emergency nutrition services for over 130,000 children (52% girls) and over 40,000 pregnant and lactating women. The programme included screening for malnutrition, nutrition education and food assistance.

→ **Liberia:** Integrated early childhood interventions into a Global Fund malaria project distributing 2.8 million mosquito nets. These included training for health workers on managing common illnesses among under-fives and support for men's groups promoting engagement in mother and child health.

→ **Cameroon:** Created daycare for 600 children aged 0-4, as part of an initiative to support mothers to return to school or training. The programme targeted young people at risk – including survivors of gender-based violence and those formerly associated with armed groups.

→ **Ethiopia:** Health and nutrition interventions in more than 40 districts affected by conflict and droughts. Infant and young child feeding and emergency nutrition programmes reached 105,000 under-fives and 55,000 pregnant and lactating women.

→ **Senegal:** The Responsible, Engaged and Loving (REAL) Fathers approach trained respected older male mentors to work with younger men from their community, to promote improved couple relationships, men's involvement in childcare and a reduction in domestic violence.

## ASIA

→ **Myanmar:** Digital approaches were used to reach 55 villages with mother and child health activities facilitated by volunteers, when face-to-face work was impossible. Volunteers were trained via group calls and supported via messaging apps.

→ **China:** Worked with an animation company to develop videos for caregivers on men's engagement, and the impact of son preference and gender stereotypes in parenting.

→ **Philippines:** Trained community development workers to identify young children at risk of developmental delay or disability, make referrals to services and support caregivers to provide home-based care. They screened over 7,500 pre-school-aged children (50% girls), referring over 800 at-risk children to early childhood services.

→ **Nepal:** Plan International's early childhood development programmes have been adopted and scaled up by local governments – with ongoing support from our teams. The result has been improvements in budgets and policies targeting early years development in multiple areas.



PARENTING  
AND CAREGIVING  
THAT ADVANCE GENDER  
EQUALITY • COMMUNITY-BASED  
EARLY LEARNING • SUPPORTING  
MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH AND  
NUTRITION • IMPROVING COMMUNITY  
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

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