

## Plan International's Call to Action to G7 States

Ahead of the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Plan International calls on G7 states to put age and gender equality and equity at the center of policies, address the gendered impacts of climate change, end the global hunger crisis, and publicly report on the progress of the commitments made in previous G7 Summits. While these issues were included in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Communique, Plan International puts forward specific recommendations to address these concerns.

We welcome the reaffirmation of G7's global leadership on gender equality and the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls in all their diversity as articulated in the Communique. As an organization that works to advance children's rights and gender equality, Plan International believes that this is fundamental in sustainably achieving the other goals and pledges set out in the Communique.

We share the same concern over the global rollback of women's and girls' rights, and the disproportionate impact of conflict and crisis on them and therefore urgently call on G7 Leaders to put age and gender equality and equity at the center of policies, through implementing feminist foreign and development principles<sup>1</sup>. This includes investing in children and young people, especially girls, within a life course approach and intersectional and inclusion lens.

### HUNGER CRISIS

We also welcome the commitments to respond to food and nutrition crisis and the reaffirmation of support to the G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact but call on G7 states to publicly report on their efforts to implement the Compact. In addition, G7 states are called to pledge and disburse new additional funds towards the USD \$23 billion that are needed (according to the latest WFP figures) to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs in the world's worst hunger hotspots and pull 50 million people from the brink of famine. Funds need to be readily available, flexible and unearmarked and help advance locally led responses, especially by youth-led, women-led, and women's rights organizations.

While hunger affects everyone, children and women continue to face the brunt of this crisis. Malnutrition is particularly dangerous for children under five and adolescent girls and young women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Adolescent girls and young women are at increased risks of miscarriage, maternal mortality and giving birth to low birthweight babies, thus passing on the intergenerational effects of malnutrition to their children. This at a time when over 30 million children in the 15 worst-affected states suffer from acute malnutrition, threatening their survival.

---

<sup>1</sup> Feminist foreign and development policy supports the overcoming of stereotypical gender roles, combats the acceptance of gender-based and sexualized violence and aims to change social structures that disadvantage girls and women. It is based on an intersectional understanding and thus considers that people can be affected differently and multiple times by disadvantages and relationships of violence depending on their social positioning, and that historically grown patriarchal, racist and otherwise discriminatory structures that are mutually dependent must be overcome.

We therefore call on G7 states to prioritize gender- and age- sensitive responses to address the age and gendered impacts of hunger, including funding specific programs that address child protection, gender-based violence, girls' access to education, child, early and forced marriage and unions, the burden of unpaid care work, and sexual abuse and exploitation in food insecure contexts. This also includes support for efforts to strengthen disaggregation of food security data by sex, age, diversity, and disability.

We welcome the commitment to enhance international cooperation on disaster risk reduction and capacity building and early warning systems, in line with the UNSG's "Early Warnings for All" initiative, adaptable procurement, and social protection systems. These must be complemented with investment at scale in gender-responsive social protection to address hunger's knock-on impacts on the rights of girls to education, protection, nutrition and health, and bolstering of support for climate-smart livelihood programs like agricultural support, pasture and livestock management, and skills training to increase economic opportunities.

G7 states should advance humanitarian diplomacy efforts to facilitate humanitarian access and enhance prospects of peace in conflict-affected hunger hotspots, with conflict being the main driver of emergency hunger.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND EDUCATION**

We also welcome the recognition of the importance of advancing gender-responsive climate action but call for further actions to address the gendered impact of climate change including the provision of gender transformative education that advances climate justice. Education is a crucial pathway to support and enable adaptive capacities, pro-environmental behaviors and girls' and women's leadership. These girls and young women will feel the greatest impacts but lack the information and resources they need to cope. Twelve years of quality, transformative education can equip girls with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle the climate crisis, claim and exercise their rights, and empower them to be leaders and decision-makers, challenging the systems and norms which reinforce gender and climate injustice around the world.

While there is recognition of breaking down gender barriers to education and bridging the gender digital divide in the Communique, the lack of strong, clear and specific commitments to education, despite the 2021 Girls' Education Declaration, is concerning. With an annual funding gap for global education reaching nearly \$200 billion, all governments must step up and contribute to ensuring at least 15% of ODA and 20% of national budgets are earmarked for education that includes 10% for early childhood education. They must also ensure that at least 10% of humanitarian financing be allocated towards education in emergencies responses. Both the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait funds must be replenished in full.

In addition, the reaffirmation of commitments made to adaptation financing should include financing on loss and damage and girls' leadership.

Girls and women must be meaningfully engaged in and central to all decision making on tackling climate change. This involves recognizing their experiences and expertise, supporting their leadership and financing and implementing their ideas and solutions. This is important across all aspects of climate

action, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to a green economy, adaptation and influencing policy processes.

G7 states should increase funding for gender transformative, child-centered climate action from climate funds, including Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and LDC Fund. Support should include the funding and operationalization of the Loss and Damage mechanism. In particular, states should prioritize investment in building climate resilience, under-served social sectors that are critical to children's rights including education, health, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, and social protection and disaster risk reduction and consistently assess opportunities for co-benefits for children with respect to climate finance for sustainable energy.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS**

Plan International calls on G7 states to set up open and participatory accountability mechanisms in the implementation of the commitments in the joint statements from the previous G7 summits. This will strengthen the partnership between the public and G7 states to promote open, transparent, resilient, and sustainable societies that champion human rights, justice, and dignity, and address the needs of the most vulnerable as mentioned in the Foreign Ministers' Communique.