



PLAN INTERNATIONAL AT THE UNITED NATIONS

2020



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CRC30

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Cover photo: Youth advocate Ayesha at the High Level Political Forum in New York. Credit: Plan International / Joel Thomas Sheakoski.

This page: Nakeeyat, 8, performs at summit to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the CRC Convention. Credit: Plan international.

FOREWORD

There is no doubt that 2020 will go down in history.

It was the year of COVID-19: millions of people have lost their loved ones and livelihoods. Millions of girls and young women risk facing reverses to years of progress made on gender equality in the context of school closures, heightened domestic violence and increased child marriage.

It was the year of Black Lives Matter: millions of people took to the streets to demand change in our societies that have for too long perpetuated systemic racism.

It was the year of elections in the United States: millions of voters exercised their fundamental civil right to vote to express that they had had enough nationalism, bigotry and hatred and were ready for increased compassion, solidarity and multilateralism.

These seemingly unrelated trends and moments come together to paint a picture. It is a picture of ordinary people who are ready for change. People, including children and young people, who are finding and using their voices as never before. While this year of remote communication has exacerbated the gap between the digital haves- and have-nots, it has also opened up opportunities for expression and connection in unprecedented ways.

All of this is happening in the same year as the international community marks important milestones for the gender equality agenda:

- 25 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which codified women's rights as human rights.
- 20 years since the passing of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, bringing women's rights and voices into the center of peace efforts.
- And 2020 is the first year of the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where we redouble our efforts to advance gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, both as a standalone goal and a cross-cutting theme.

How are the developments and trends of the year 2020 being captured at the United Nations (UN)? How can we more strategically bring in feminist and anti-racist principles and question old hierarchies and power structures in order to make space for diverse voices?

The pandemic will eventually end. The media will move on from covering the Black Lives Matter protests. Anniversaries at the UN will come and go. But we must not simply return to the old normal. We must consider the people we serve not as a homogeneous monolith, but rather adopt an age, gender and diversity perspective, addressing the deep inequalities in our societies. 2030 is only 10 years away, and COVID-19 has posed grave threats to our ability to reach the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals. We have to step up the speed. This is our chance to create a new normal, a better normal where everyone's dignity and rights are respected.

This report captures a few highlights of Plan International's work to influence for children's rights and equality for girls at the UN over the course of this year. But it also gives us an opportunity to ask you to join us. This is our call to action:

- **Reality:** We must consult with and listen to children and young people, especially girls and young women, in order to understand their lived realities.
- **Representation:** We must multiply spaces for young people to not only sit at the table but to design the table, bringing their voices to the frontline and including them meaningfully in decision-making.
- **Rights:** We must acknowledge that girl's rights are human rights, and as such, must be more visible and respected.
- **Resources:** We must allocate more funding for children's rights and in particular for girls.

Let us not tire but continue with perseverance as we strive for justice, freedom, human rights and equality for all.



Anne-Sophie Lois,
UN Representative

OUR WORK

PLAN INTERNATIONAL AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Founded over 80 years ago and now active in nearly 80 countries, Plan International strives for a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls by working together with children, young people, supporters and partners. We drive change in practice and policy at local, national, and international levels, influencing decision-makers to protect the rights of girls, boys and others.

Plan International's Liaison Offices at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva and New York [↗](#) influence the agenda at the UN on issues relevant to children and their rights, with a particular focus on girls and young women. Through our advocacy in key UN debates and policy processes in both New York and Geneva and our close partnerships with specialised agencies and UN experts, we work to ensure that girls' rights are prioritised by UN Member States in their negotiations and outcomes. Finally, we support Plan International's offices around the world to keep their governments accountable to their commitments to human rights and sustainable development by using international accountability mechanisms such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the human rights mechanisms.

OUR STRATEGIES



WE INFLUENCE

KEY DECISION-MAKERS
TO ADVANCE
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND
EQUALITY FOR GIRLS



WE TRAIN

CIVIL SOCIETY, YOUNG
PEOPLE, AND
POWER-HOLDERS ON
GIRLS' RIGHTS AND UN
ADVOCACY



WE CONNECT

OTHER PLAN
INTERNATIONAL OFFICES
WITH IMPORTANT UN
SPACES



WE SHARE

EXPERTISE WITH
PARTNERS ON GIRLS'
RIGHTS

ECOSOC STATUS

Embodying feminist principles

Plan International is committed to an intersectional feminist approach – both within our workplaces and in the way we work with and for others. This means that we recognise that our multiple and intersecting identities make each of us unique, and they are shaped by our individual experiences. In order to be truly transformative, we know that we must recognise, celebrate, and take into account the perspectives of all people in all their diversity. As part of our efforts to embody feminist principles, we also work to provide opportunities for young female staff members to develop their voice and their potential.

In September 2020, Plan International became one of only 142 NGOs to be awarded “**general consultative status**” by ECOSOC. This is the highest ECOSOC status an NGO can achieve, and is reserved for large international NGOs with many members across the globe that are concerned with most of the activities of the UN. General status has the most far-reaching privileges and access, and is a recognition of Plan International's continued influence in the UN space.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: COVID-19



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Compounded inequalities for girls

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is changing the environment in which children and young people grow and develop, from their earliest years to late adolescence. Plan International responded quickly to the emerging crisis, launching a largescale programmatic and advocacy response as well as our reports [Living under Lockdown](#) and [Halting Lives: the Impact of COVID-19 on Girls and Young Women](#). Both outlined lessons learned from recent health crises, in which women and girls were especially affected. We launched the latter during the 75th session of the General Assembly at a virtual high-level intergenerational dialogue. In Geneva and New York, we used the growing body of evidence from our organisation to push for a just and equal response and to make sure that girls and young women were high on the agenda of the UN in discussions on COVID-19.

We know from experience that girls are likely to face particular challenges. With widespread school closures, the shift to online learning favours boys who often have greater access to computers, mobile devices and internet. Without school, girls lose meals, the psychosocial support of friends and teachers, and access to lifesaving information about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. When a girl's education is interrupted, she is less likely than a boy to return, with knock-on effects on her opportunities for employment.

Economic hardship increases girls' vulnerability to sexual violence, exploitation, trafficking, discrimination, and abuse, both on- and offline. We are already seeing an increase in harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation. Women and girls bear a disproportionate burden of household duties and unpaid care of the sick. As a result, they are often more exposed to the virus, even as they suffer the effects of unequal access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services, as we highlighted in a [joint statement](#) to the leaders of the world at the World Health Assembly. Confinement measures also negatively affect women and girls, increasing their risk of gender-based violence. Gathering evidence of rising levels of violence from our colleagues in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, our office prepared a [report](#) as part of the [Girls' Advocacy Alliance \(GAA\)](#) in response to a call from the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women for her [report](#) on the impact of the pandemic on women and girls' experience of violence.

All of these challenges threaten the rights of children and our progress towards gender equality, undermining the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. To raise awareness of these serious concerns, we prepared and disseminated an [advocacy brief](#) to governments with recommendations for addressing vulnerability in the COVID-19 response.



SEPTEMBER 2020

A powerful call to action

What do young people want a post-COVID-19 world to look like? They captured their vision in a [powerful video](#) addressed to members of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), shown at our flagship event during the 75th session of the UNGA. We invited attendees to share one action that they plan to take to support girls' rights going forward. These commitments included further learning from and listening to girls, providing girls with a seat at the table, amplifying the voices of young people, and giving them the tools to advocate in international accountability mechanisms.



COVID-19 in crisis contexts

The impacts of COVID-19 were also felt by the most marginalised girls, those forcibly displaced due to conflict and natural disasters. Over the course of 2020, we have used evidence gathered by our offices in emergency and crisis settings to push for policy changes for girls at the international level. For example, together with Plan's International's Centre of Excellence for Girls in Displaced Settings, we produced a policy brief entitled [Close to Contagion: The impacts of COVID-19 on displaced and refugee girls and young women](#), which we used to support our calls towards UNHCR for increased funding and prioritisation of interventions for forcibly displaced girls in COVID responses. In New York, we joined other actors in successfully pushing for the adoption of a new Security Council resolution specifically on COVID-19. This new [Security Council Resolution 2532](#) calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and recognises the critical role that women are playing in COVID-19 response efforts and the disproportionate negative impact on women and girls, children, refugees, and IDPs. It calls for concrete actions to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and youth in the development of an adequate and sustainable response to the pandemic.



‘Women’s rights are human rights’: 25 years on

2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 1995 landmark international agreement on women’s and girls’ rights. Now a significant global review is underway to assess the [progress countries have made so far](#) and what is yet to be done, together setting a roadmap for concrete and ambitious actions to achieve gender equality as part of the [Generation Equality process](#).

Plan International’s main priority in the Beijing+25 review has been to ensure that adolescent girls do not fall through the cracks and that their voices are heard in the process, especially through the 6 Action Coalitions. Together with the Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP), a global partnership co-chaired by Plan International and Girls Not Brides, we support partners to implement commitments and to ensure the safe and meaningful participation of adolescent girls and girl- and youth-led organisations in the Action Coalitions and broader Generation Equality process and its



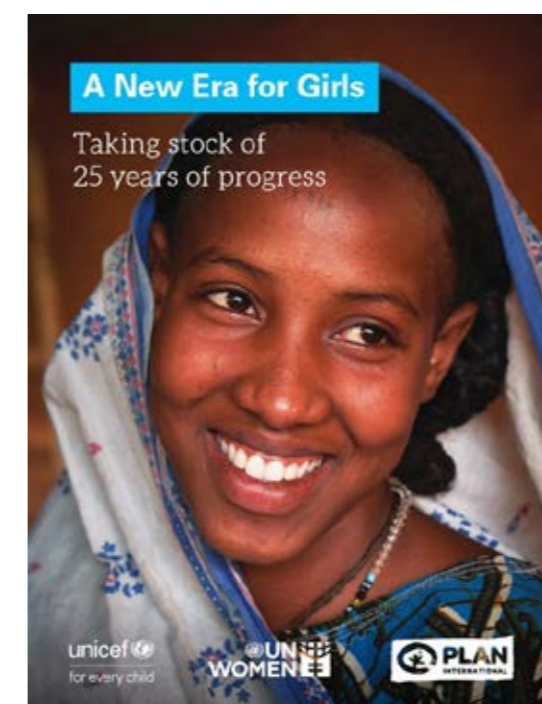
SEPTEMBER 2020

Girls’ vision for the future

One key priority for Plan international is to support girls and young women to engage meaningfully in the Generation Equality process. To this end, our New York office led consultations with over 350 adolescent girls across 12 countries to understand their views and priorities and to create the [“Girls’ Platform for Action”](#) containing a set of priorities and recommendations expressed by adolescent girls across the world. We also produced a [Toolkit](#) that was created for girl and youth-led groups to use for their advocacy, to organise with other girls, amplify their agenda and to ensure their priorities are heard.

accountability structures. As part of these efforts, we used the opportunity of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2020 to co-host a virtual event together with partners on the topic of “Adolescent girls’ vision for accountability in Generation Equality”.

In addition to facilitating the engagement of girls in the review process, we conducted advocacy in various policy-making spaces to ensure that adolescent girls’ issues were being taken into account. This included [influencing](#) the Political Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women by providing comments on the text and lobbying Member States in New York. In Geneva, we worked to influence the discussions on Beijing+25 during the Human Rights Council session in March 2020, outlining the significant risks and gaps in progress for adolescent girls, and recommending specific actions to address them.



MARCH 2020

A new era for girls

We partnered with UNICEF to produce [A New Era for Girls: Taking stock of 25 years of progress](#), launched to coincide with the Generation Equality campaign and to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ADVOCACY

Girls and young women face particular vulnerabilities, both in general and in the context of COVID-19, but they are not victims! Around the world, girls and young women are advocates and agents of social change. Our role is to strengthen their capacity and facilitate access to decision-makers who make policy that affects them.



OCTOBER 2020

International Day of the Girl

Plan International uses International Day of the Girl – 11 October – as an opportunity to push for greater recognition of girls’ right to participate in decision-making. At the UN, we organise events each year to stimulate commitments from power-holders on this issue, and facilitate takeovers of the positions of key UN leaders by girls themselves. This year the New York and Geneva offices organised a high-level [intergenerational dialogue](#) between three girl advocates and three leaders of international agencies. The girls issued a passionate call for girls’ voices to be centred in the international system, stating that if we want a fairer and more equal future, girls and young women must not only be consulted but help design decision-making processes.



OCTOBER 2020

Historic meeting between young advocate and UN Secretary-General

“I am happy to represent the girls from the Kampala slums. Not many girls from where I come from get the chance to make their voices heard this way.”

In October 2020, we hosted an historic [virtual bilateral meeting](#) between the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres and a 15-year-old Ugandan girl advocate, Stecia. The Secretary-General had the opportunity to listen to Stecia discuss her advocacy and to address the disproportionate ways in which girls have been impacted by COVID-19, specifically on education and child marriage.

In July 2020, Stecia was part of the virtual girl delegation to official follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). During this key UN Moment, Stecia and her fellow girl advocates spoke at several official side events and met with the high ranking UN officials, impressing upon them the importance of involving girls in decision-making processes.

Celebrating successes in joint advocacy for girls’ rights



December 2020 marked the closing of the [Girls Advocacy Alliance \(GAA\)](#), a 5-year joint initiative of Plan Nederland, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, and Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, implemented in strategic partnership with and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The GAA aimed to eliminate gender-based violence and promote the economic empowerment of girls and young women through lobby and advocacy. One of the key successes of the GAA programme was the empowerment of dozens of [young advocates](#) to advocate for change both in their countries and at the international level. We are thrilled to be continuing this work from 2021-2025 with the Dutch MFA through the She Leads programme.

SPRING 2020

Youth training on accountability mechanisms

As part of our efforts to facilitate youth advocacy, we conduct capacity-building for young advocates. This year, one of these included a virtual youth training on accountability mechanisms that we delivered to 11 young women from 6 countries over 2 months on topics such as human rights, gender equality, advocacy, and power. The training, whose goal was to support the young people’s national-level advocacy, strengthened their knowledge of human rights mechanisms and helped them prepare advocacy plans to engage with the reviews of their countries. This pilot training will be scaled up to reach more advocates across the world.

GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN CRISIS

Humanitarian crises have a significant negative impact on girls' and young women's ability to enjoy their rights. In settings where gender inequality was already entrenched, the complex nature of crises as well as the breakdown of protective structures can worsen discrimination and violence against girls and young women. Plan International advocates for humanitarian action to take into account age, gender and diversity, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Advancing the pledges of the Global Refugee Forum

In the context of the first Global Refugee Forum which took place in December 2019, Plan International has in 2020 redoubled its efforts to advance the rights of refugees. This historic meeting brought the international community together to demonstrate solidarity with the world's refugees and provided an opportunity for States and other stakeholders to announce concrete pledges they would make. Over the course of 2020, Plan International has worked to implement its own pledges, particularly in the areas of education, child protection and youth empowerment, and as a thread throughout, we have advocated for refugee policies to be responsive to age, gender and diversity. This is in continuation of efforts that Plan International had made in preparation for the Forum, when we worked to bring political attention to the needs and potential of refugee women and girls, as well as to influence actors to take an intersectional approach to their pledges by preparing the [Age, Gender, and Diversity Tip Sheet](#). [↗](#)

Influencing the UN Security Council

Our New York office works to influence the outputs of the UN Security Council, as the primary intergovernmental body working on peace and security. This year, our influencing activities ranged from bringing increased attention to crises that are not high on the agenda, to generating political pressure by one Member State on another, for example. We also worked to ensure that Security Council mandated agendas address the specific challenges and issues affecting children and young people, particularly of adolescent girls in humanitarian crises and peacebuilding. We have also held numerous humanitarian briefings on the Security Council's Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) mandate and the specific needs of girls in conflict situations, including in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin.

Bringing attention to internally displaced children

The [High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#) [↗](#) was established by the UN Secretary-General to find solutions to internal displacement while developing concrete recommendations for Member States, the UN system and others. Our Geneva team, together with colleagues in our country offices coordinated extensive consultations with adolescents and young people from Colombia, South Sudan and Nigeria experiencing internal displacement to understand their needs and suggestions to find solutions to their situation. The results will be compiled and used by the Panel to inform their final recommendations to governments and the humanitarian system by the end of 2021.

Protecting migrant and refugee girls in the Venezuelan Crisis response

Concerned by the situation of migrant and refugee girls and young women in the context of the Venezuela Crisis, Plan International's two UN offices worked in both New York and Geneva to influence the response. Our New York team visited the region, working closely with country teams, and speaking with children, adolescents, and adults affected by the crises. This helped us to connect our country-based work and the reality for children there to our advocacy efforts at the international level, providing invaluable inputs for nuanced, accurate and impactful humanitarian advocacy in New York and beyond. We organised a series of private briefings in Geneva and New York for diplomats and representatives of UN agencies on the Venezuela Crisis. We raised the concerns of our colleagues from the Plan International Regional Office in the Americas regarding the rising rates of sexual and gender-based violence against migrant girls and young women, as well as the increased trafficking of young women and girls on the borders of Colombia. We made recommendations and called for increased regional coordination to respond to these serious issues.

Protecting children in humanitarian action

In the fall of 2020, the [Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action \(the Alliance\)](#) [↗](#) (co-led by Plan International and UNICEF) launched two reports. The first, "[Still Unprotected: Crisis in Humanitarian Funding for Child Protection](#)" [↗](#) highlights that the funding gap for child protection is increasing, in particular due to COVID-19. The second is a Technical Note on "[Girls Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups: Lessons learnt and best practices on prevention of recruitment and use, release and reintegration](#)". [↗](#)

STRENGTHENING POLICY FOR GIRLS' RIGHTS

Through our UN team, Plan International is present in numerous intergovernmental policy-making spaces, including the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). In these fora, we bring not only our expertise on Plan International's priority areas, but also our understanding of international political dynamics and the nuances of legal language. Here are a few highlights from that work this year.

FEBRUARY 2020

Advancing girls' and young women's civil and political rights

It is essential to ensure that girls have an enabling environment in which they can conduct their activism and advocacy. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, girls faced restrictions. International policy governing the right of freedom of peaceful assembly and association are often age- and gender-blind, and fail to address the specific risks for girls. We drew on our experience of girls' activism globally to influence key policy documents and UN guidance on the right to freedom of assembly and association for girls and young women, through one submission [to the UN Special Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association for his report](#) [on the enjoyment of the right by women and girls](#), and two submissions ([here](#) [and here](#)) [to the Human Rights Committee](#).

MAY 2020

Strengthened policy on trafficking of women and girls on the move

In our work, [we have seen](#) that girls oftentimes fall in the cracks between the dominant agendas of women's rights and children's rights, mentioned simply as an add-on (for example, "women and girls"). Part of our advocacy work towards the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and others, is to ensure that the specific experiences and needs of girls are taken into account and examined separately from their adult counterparts. For example, in order to influence the new [General Recommendation](#) [of the CEDAW Committee on trafficking of women and girls](#), our Geneva office prepared a [submission](#) [on trafficking of girls](#), and provided [suggestions](#) [for how the language could be strengthened to better account for age-, gender-, and diversity-related risks, especially for girls](#). The final text of the General Recommendation reflects several of our key contributions on the rights of girls.

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE



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Continued pressure to end child marriage

Ending child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) is a key priority for Plan International, and we are working at many levels and across regions to address this harmful practice, including through our [global 18+ programme](#). [We use the evidence generated from our experience in countries to influence international policy on the topic](#). This year, for example, we led on civil society engagement to influence the [resolution on child, early and forced marriage](#) [at the 75th session of the UNGA](#), providing suggestions for strengthened language at all stages of the negotiations. A few of our key advocacy success in this resolution were securing a specific reference to the specific needs of adolescent girls in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, recognition of the impact of school closures on CEFM, and language on girls' sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (SRHR). In addition to the resolution, we were also able to bring our key advocacy messaging on CEFM through our [submission](#) [to the UN Secretary General's report](#), which is the key UN report regularly providing an analysis of the state of child marriage worldwide and giving concrete recommendations to Member States on how to end the practice.

BECAUSE OF COVID-19
13 MILLION
MORE GIRLS
MAY BE MARRIED BY 2030



#LanguageMatters

Language is not neutral. It is both a reflection of our worldview and a tool to reinforce stereotypes and unequal power relations.

That is why we've produced this guide to help policy-makers develop language that takes age, gender and diversity into account. The [#LanguageMatters](#) [brochure](#) serves as a tool to help anyone writing policy or other types of documents to make sure that the language they use leaves no one behind. It contains checklists of questions to ask oneself, explanations of why it's important, and concrete examples of best language for the promotion of girls' rights.

HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE

One of the important functions that the international system plays is setting standards to which governments should strive, with regards to human rights, sustainable development, peace and security and gender equality. But those standards mean nothing if governments are not being held accountable to live up to them. Plan International's UN team use various international agreements and conventions to make sure that governments are doing what they have promised to do.



Monitoring progress towards the SDGs

Plan International uses the official follow-up and review processes for the Sustainable Development Goals to hold governments accountable for their commitments under the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, we engaged particularly with the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), including by inputting through the UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) into the official documentation of the HLPF.

We also supported youth advocates from six countries whose governments were up for review this year to produce girl-led reports on their countries. The girl advocates had the chance to meet with high-level UN leaders in strategic bilateral meetings, as well as to share their experiences, priorities and recommendations at numerous side events, including our [flagship event](#) as part of the Girls Advocacy Alliance, on girls' engagement in SDG Accountability processes. At one event, [Nisha](#), a girl delegate from Nepal, gave a powerful voice to the experiences of girls in her community in light of COVID-19, saying, "Girls are more vulnerable to child marriage in my community because of the COVID-19 crisis."

One of the critical elements of measuring progress towards the SDGs are the indicators attached to each goal and target. At Plan International, [we are convinced](#) that if girls are not counted, they remain invisible. That's why influencing the SDG indicators to ensure that the right data is collected on girls is a key part of our SDG strategy. This year, we worked to influence the revision and addition of SDG indicators on education, gender-based violence, economic empowerment, and inclusive access to justice for victims of violence.



INNOVATING FOR GIRLS' RIGHTS



At Plan International, we believe that the protection and promotion of the human rights of girls, boys and young people requires innovative solutions. We challenge assumptions and change course based on our learnings, rather than conducting business-as-usual. Using the principles of human-centered design, we seek to develop tools that respond to the needs of power-holders at the UN, equipping them to advance children's rights and equality for girls.

FEBRUARY 2020

Using artificial intelligence for human rights

In February 2020, we launched our [Human Rights Database 2.0](#) during the Human Rights Council (HRC). Part of the [Girls Rights Platform](#), policymakers can search the improved database for existing agreed language and identify gaps in the current legal framework. We partnered with tech companies to use artificial intelligence to benefit human rights. We continually host [online drop-in sessions](#) in English, French and Spanish to demonstrate how the database can be used to draft policy and legislation that leaves no one behind. Used together with [#LanguageMatters](#), the database equips policy-makers to develop language that takes into account age, gender, and diversity.



SEPTEMBER 2020

Passionate young woman advocates at the UPR

Our Geneva office supports youth to engage in human rights mechanisms and hold their governments accountable. For example, in September 2020, a young woman from Guinea spoke via [video statement](#) to the entire Human Rights Council, providing recommendations during the Universal Period Review of her country.

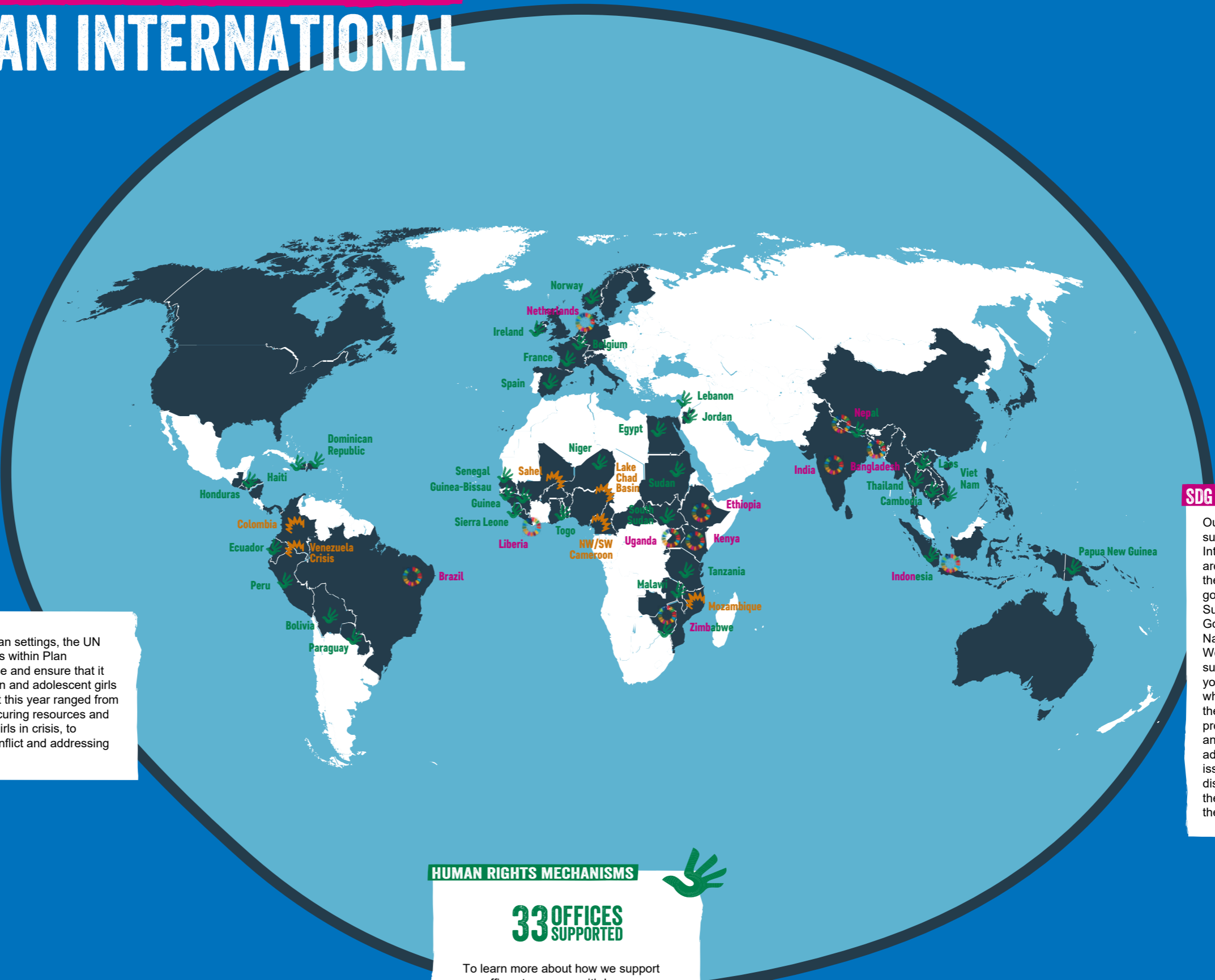
Accountability to international human rights obligations

Plan International's UN Office in Geneva has extensive experience of and deep connections within the human rights monitoring system. Part of the office's mandate is to support Plan International offices from all over the world to engage with this system and hold their governments to account using tools such as the CRC, CEDAW and UPR reviews of their countries. This support includes working with our offices around the world to develop alternative reports, facilitate meetings with decision-makers at the UN, and empowering young people to engage in these processes. For more information on countries supported by Plan International in this regard, please see the map on pages 18-19.

SUPPORTING ADVOCACY ACROSS PLAN INTERNATIONAL

49 PLAN INTERNATIONAL
OFFICES SUPPORTED

Plan International's two UN offices have significant expertise on both advocacy and international accountability mechanisms. We support our offices around the world to conduct strategic and multi-level advocacy, and use our position and reputation at the United Nations to advance the advocacy priorities of our colleagues.



CRISIS-SPECIFIC ADVOCACY

Given our expertise on advocacy in humanitarian settings, the UN team works closely with other teams and offices within Plan International to influence humanitarian response and ensure that it takes into account the specific needs of children and adolescent girls in crisis. The type of change we aimed to effect this year ranged from ensuring access for humanitarian actors, to securing resources and greater protection and support for adolescent girls in crisis, to longer-term change including the end of the conflict and addressing grave violations against children.

SDG ACCOUNTABILITY

Our New York team supports Plan International's offices all around the world to monitor the progress of their governments towards the Sustainable Development Goals, using the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). We provided ongoing support to colleagues and young people themselves, who took an active role in their national reports by providing policy messaging and guidance to ensure that adolescent girls - and the issues that disproportionately affect them - were reported on in the VNRs.

HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

33 OFFICES
SUPPORTED

To learn more about how we support our offices to engage with human rights mechanisms, see page 16.



About Plan International

We strive to advance children's rights and equality for girls all over the world. We recognise the power and potential of every single child. But this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it's girls who are often the most affected. As an independent development and humanitarian organisation, we work alongside children, young people, our supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood, and enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive change in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge. For over 80 years we have been building powerful partnerships for children, and we are active in nearly 80 countries.

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This report details some of the activities undertaken by Plan International United Nations Offices in New York and Geneva between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020.

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