

PLAN INTERNATIONAL'S UN STRATEGY 2022-2027

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ABOUT PLAN INTERNATIONAL:

Plan International works to advance children's rights and equality for girls and young women. We drive change in practice and policy at local, national, and international levels, influencing decisionmakers to advance and protect the rights of girls, boys and others. Our work at the United Nations is key to delivering our global ambition of transforming the lives of millions of girls and dismantling structures of inequality and discrimination. While we advance the rights of all children and young people in all their diversity, we focus particularly on girls and young women and the specific vulnerabilities they face.

ABOUT THE UN TEAM STRATEGY

Plan International's UN Team consists of the two Liaison Offices in New York and Geneva, under one UN Representative.

Plan International's UN Strategy 2022 – 2027 outlines the organisation's work with the United Nations and supports all parts of the organisation to confidently engage behind a common agenda. The strategy shapes Plan International's approach and priorities at the UN and provides the UN team with long-term strategic direction and objectives, aiming towards positioning us as the go-to organization on girls' rights in the UN space as we seek to drive change for girls' rights at the international level as well as ensure implementation at the national level. The UN strategy aims to give the "big picture" of the *what* and the *why* of our work over the next 5 years.

WHY DOES THE UN MATTER FOR ADVANCING GIRLS' RIGHTS?

Inclusive multilateralism, where governments work closely together with civil society, is essential to advance children's rights and equality for girls. Despite voices that criticize the UN, its impact and efficiency, the UN continues to matter today for girls' rights. [Here are 6 reasons why:](#)

1. Setting the Global Agenda:

Together with partners, Plan International brings new issues to the global debate and sets the agenda. We use our influence and reputation as a go-to organisation on girls' rights to change the way the world looks at girls' rights.

2. Amplifying Good Practices

Being present in UN spaces allows us to share our evidence and experience, elevating our programmatic successes from the country level to the international level and promoting cross-regional learning.

3. Resolving Crises Together

Crises do not know national borders, and they cannot be solved by one country alone. By engaging with the UN humanitarian, peace and security agendas, we make sure that children and young people in all their diversity, and especially girls, are prioritized in humanitarian responses.

4. Shaping and Improving Global Standards

The international law system provides critical guidance and models to countries on how to best protect, respect and promote the rights of girls at the national level. Our influence on these international policies and frameworks ensures that strong language on girls' rights, diversity and inclusion are transmitted to the national level.

5. Ensuring National Implementation

One of the important roles the UN plays is making sure national governments live up to their legally binding obligations to respect and protect the human rights of every person. Plan International uses the international system to hold governments to account, bringing important evidence on the situation of girls' rights in the countries we work in and shedding light on what governments are doing to implement international standards.

6. Securing Funding for Girls

As key donors, it is important to influence the UN and multilateral stakeholders to increase budgets spent on girls, as well as to access that funding.

A STRONG AND CREDIBLE PARTNER:

In addition to our work to influence agendas, policies and practice at the UN, Plan International has developed strong partnerships with various UN agencies. In a globalized world, collaboration between stakeholders and across borders and sectors is fundamental for the implementation of Plan International's priorities. The importance of partnerships is recognised in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 17). Today Plan International works with a broad range of stakeholders including UN agencies and bodies, Member States, CSOs, and other actors. By improving and transform how our sector works together, progress will accelerate towards greater equality and justice in our world.

In September 2020, Plan International became one of only 142 NGOs to be awarded "general consultative status" by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the highest status an NGO can achieve. It gives us far-reaching privileges and access at the UN and is a recognition of Plan International as a global actor with continued influence in the UN space.

OVERARCHING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Plan International drives change with girls and young women to advance their human rights and gender equality in all contexts. As a credible and critical feminist actor at the United Nations, we advocate with partners for strong laws, policies and frameworks at international and national levels which reflect intersectional identities.

Our Priorities at the UN:

1. **Girls In Crisis** - Girls and young women affected by crisis will have their needs met and rights upheld and can actively shape decisions affecting them. Our main focus is on forced migration (IDPs/Refugees) and Children and Armed Conflict as well as country specific crisis advocacy. We strive to bring in an age, gender and deicity lens to everything we do.
2. **Policy For Girls' Rights** – We strive to enhance the rights of girls in all their diversity in law and policy at the United Nations. In particular, we work toward advancing civil and political rights as well as environmental rights. We also work together with partners to protect rights and push back against regressive trends.
3. **Youth Advocacy, Activism and Participation** - Girls and young women in all their diversity have sustained influence at and through the UN. We strive to make the UN more inclusive and responsive to the voice of girls and young women and to institutionalize meaningful participation of young people at the UN.
4. **Monitoring Obligations and Commitments** - States comply with their international obligations on children's and girls' rights. In collaboration with Plan offices across the globe we engage strategically across multiple human rights mechanisms to ensure stronger accountability of States at the regional and national level and link with the SDGs.

As a cross-cutting priority, we will develop strong partnerships and collaborate with many actors across borders and sectors. Partnerships are critical for successful advocacy to deliver results for girls and to realise girls' rights. Together our voices are stronger.

WHAT WE OFFER:

The UN team is the primary implementer of this strategy, although collaboration across all parts of the organization is critical to achieving our ambition of advancing girls' rights at the UN. **The UN team plays 5 key roles in this regard:**

Liaison: The UN team connects Plan International offices, as well as children and young people, with the UN and its processes, in support of their advocacy objectives and partnership work.

Influencing - At the UN, we ensure that Plan International is represented and work to: 1) advance international standards on girls' rights; 2) push back against regression and roll-back of those rights; and 3) react to new developments of relevance to our work.

Expertise: In collaboration with Plan International offices and teams, we provide support and advice on how best to engage with international actors and navigate the UN system.

Relationship Building: The UN team builds and maintain formal and informal relationships with peer organisations, Member States, UN agencies and entities as well as with other international organisations to advance our agendas.

Convening: We play a convening role with external partners and provide a platform for partners to exchange, collaborate and leverage mutual expertise to jointly advance girls' rights, on our UN strategy priorities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The following eight guiding principles will inform and guide all actions undertaken within this UN strategy:

1. Embody Feminist Principles
2. Apply a human-rights based approach
3. Co-create
4. Bridge for lasting impact
5. Find innovative solutions
6. Promote anti-racism and decolonization
7. Do no harm
8. Be accountable and agile

GET IN TOUCH:

Plan International United Nations Office in New York

228 East 45th Street, 15th floor

New York, NY 10017

United States

E-mail: UNOfficeNY@plan-international.org

Plan International United Nations Office in Geneva

1 Rue de Varembé, 5th floor

1202 Geneva

Switzerland

E-mail: UNOfficeGeneva@plan-international.org

Website: <https://plan-international.org/un/plan-international-united-nations>