



Annual Report

Plan International Cameroon 2023

January 2023 – December 2023



Until we are all equal



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Amplifying the Message

I Have a Message for You!

My name is **Mariama Badiang**. I am the **Youth Engagement Focal Point** for Plan International Cameroon. As such, I am a member of the Leadership Team at the Country Office of Plan International in Yaoundé. In 2023, I was very active both in the community and at the office. I was able to amplify the voices of other young people during my participation in national and international meetings. **I have learned a lot, and I am a different person now thanks to all these interactions. I also have a lot to say in support of Cameroonian youth and the role the organization has played here and there to improve the living conditions and rights of children, youth, and especially young girls.**

This year has been marked by a strong focus on digitalization. I see Plan International's Country Strategy as a framework that has impacted the lives of millions of girls like me in Cameroon. **This strategy has benefited from the loyalty of our partners and donors**, thanks to the projects implemented throughout the country. It is through their contributions in crisis regions like the Far North,

where the situation of young girls in the Minawao refugee camps requires urgent intervention, that we can also appreciate their support. With these words, **I want them all to feel appreciated.**

I look admirably at the North Region, where the Plan for Girls program still offers the possibility of improving girls' conditions. I hope that soon the situation will change positively in various crisis regions. **I recognize the major challenges related to the lack of financial resources**, but once again, I have confidence in the government of Cameroon and in our current and future donors and partners to contribute to addressing these challenges.

I know that anything is possible with willpower. **I want to thank all these good intentions that offer youth the opportunity to express themselves, but above all to learn, lead, decide, and flourish.**

Mariama Badiang, Youth Engagement Focal Point sitting on the Leadership team of the Country Office of Plan International Cameroon.

The end of a cycle, the beginning of a new one.



MOHAMED IBRAHIMA BAH
Country Director
Plan International Cameroon

First and foremost, I would like to extend my best wishes for the new year 2024! May it be filled with health, peace, and success, both individually and collectively, for all those engaged in development and humanitarian assistance in Cameroon. I am pleased to present a concise overview of Plan International's activities in Cameroon for the year 2023.

Throughout the past year, Plan International Cameroon, either directly or through local partners, engaged in initiatives spanning over 1200 communities across the country. Our advocacy efforts covered diverse areas, including inclusive and quality education, sexual and reproductive health for girls and young women, malaria and tuberculosis prevention, youth entrepreneurship and employability, especially for young women, food security and nutrition, and protection of children and women against violence.

The implementation of these projects was made possible through close collaboration and facilitation by government services at all levels, as well as support from donors, national and international NGOs, UN agencies, technical partners, and community, religious, and traditional leaders. I would like to express our sincere gratitude for this frank collaboration.

In 2023, Plan International maintained its presence in all ten regions of Cameroon, with a particular focus on seven regions where community needs and funding opportunities are greater. We also had the unfortunate loss of two team members in December 2023, Paul Fotso, Project Manager, and Mahamat Abdoulaye, Emergency Education Specialist in Maroua. May their souls rest in peace!

I am proud to highlight that **Plan International Cameroon successfully implemented over 30 projects totaling 16.9 billion CFA francs (€25.8 million)** in close collaboration with over **60 local NGOs and other civil society partners.**

I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the Government of Cameroon for its support and collaboration, as well as to all our financial, technical, and community partners for their invaluable contribution to the realization of our programs.

Finally, I reaffirm our continued commitment to mobilize and invest the necessary resources to promote children's rights and gender equality in Cameroon. We will continue to work with young people, especially girls and young women, to help them learn, lead, decide, and thrive, and to contribute to building a Cameroon where girls stand together, strong, ready to change the world.

Our Strategy

2 million vulnerable and excluded girls in Cameroon empowered to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights through inclusive quality education and decent employment in a protected environment.

AIM OF PLAN INTERNATIONAL CAMEROON'S COUNTRY STRATEGY

It flows from the global strategy which focuses on girls, the most marginalised and the most often left behind. We continue to deepen our thinking and understanding of what Plan International means by a just world. This is our contribution to the achievement of the sustainable development goals and, to which the government of Cameroon in particular subscribes, the goals of gender equality.

Social Justice

A Cameroon in which children and young people are not underprivileged for any social reason.

Gender Justice

A Cameroon in which gender inequality no longer accentuates the negative effects of all other forms of exclusion.

Economic Justice

A Cameroon where poverty is no longer the main factor behind the abuse and exploitation of girls.

In a dynamic multilateral context marked by a number of crises (internal and external), Plan International Cameroon has been able to adapt over the years to meet the enormous challenges faced by communities in the 8 regions and more than 1,200 communities where we are present.

Young people, girls and boys, are key players in any social transformation. They are at the heart of our influencing and change strategy.

THREE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FORM OF OUR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Vulnerable and excluded children, especially girls 06 – 24 years, access quality basic education and can enjoy decent work and entrepreneurship to succeed in life.

Vulnerable children especially girls, are cared early and develop safely to adolescence and adulthood, enjoying their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and are empowered to make informed choices about their bodies, sexuality, and motherhood.

Vulnerable children, especially girls, are protected from abuse, violence, and live in communities with stronger and responsive mechanisms and systems against perpetrators.

DOMAINS OF IMPACT

LEARN

- Inclusive, quality education
- Strengthening skills and opportunities for decent work.

LEAD

- Enabling girls, boys and young people to become active citizens.

DECIDE

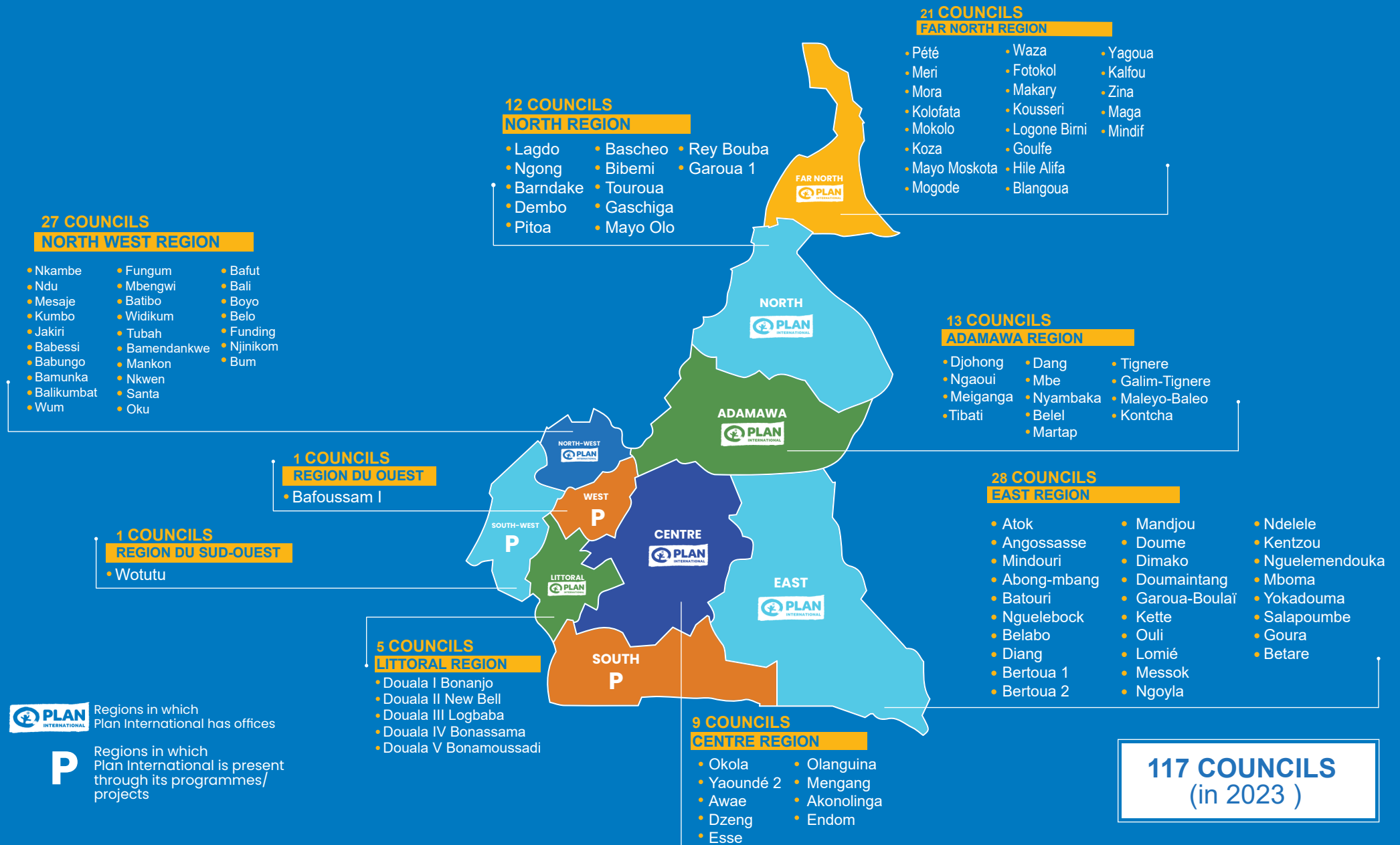
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls and young women.

THRIVE

- Gender-sensitive child protection
- Early childhood development

OUR PRESENCE IN CAMEROON

Since 1996



Regions in which Plan International has offices



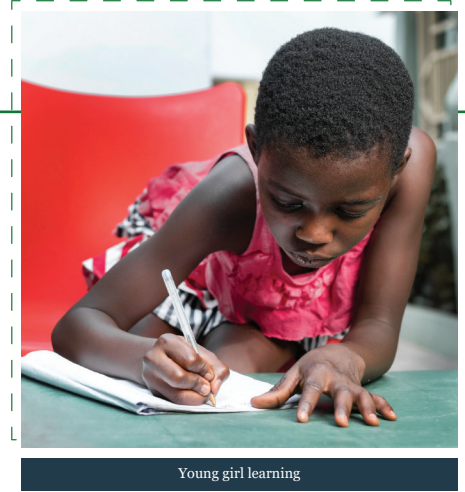
Regions in which Plan International is present through its programmes/projects

SPONSORSHIP OVERVIEW IN 2023

Child sponsorship forms a strong foundation upon which Plan International builds a globally aware, engaged, and united community focused on children's needs, rights, and **gender equality**.

Through sponsorship, a child, as an ambassador of their family and community, is connected with an individual or family (known as a sponsor) in a distant country. The sponsor makes monthly financial contributions on behalf

of the child and their family for projects in the child's community. Both parties exchange letters, photos, postcards, etc., fostering cross-cultural education. These correspondences nurture meaningful relationships between children, families, and communities in Cameroon and their sponsors overseas, while the sponsors' contributions enable Plan International to implement long-term interventions that sustainably improve the quality of life in sponsored children's communities.



Young girl learning

Distribution of sponsored children/families and sponsors as of December 2023.

Number of sponsored children/families per Region											
Centre		East		Far North		North		Adamawa		Total	
Affiliated	Sponsored	Affiliated	Sponsored	Affiliated	Sponsored	Affiliated	Sponsored	Affiliated	Sponsored	Affiliated	Sponsored
2688	2056	5391	4926	1419	277	11592	10515	6109	0	27199	17774

Distribution of sponsors by country

Country	Number	Country	Number
Australia	363	Japan	185
Belgium	299	South Korea	334
Canada	1942	Netherland	654
Danemark	349	Norway	2033
Finland	298	Spain	155
France	669	Sweden	718
Germany	7787	Switzerland	63
Hong Kong	306	United Kingdom	892
Ireland	100	USA	627
Total		17774	

In 2023, Plan International's sponsorship program aimed to broaden its impact through training, awareness campaigns, and support for sponsored children and their communities. Additionally, efforts were made to establish child protection committees.

- **Sponsor donations:** 27,199 sponsored children received Tokens (school kits and solar lamps); 1,612 girls received hygiene kits (buckets, soap, toothpaste, sanitary napkins).
- **Community training:** 41 groups (comprising 25 to 30 members each) of parents of sponsored children, alumni, and community volunteers underwent training in income-generating activities.
- **Child protection:** 96 protection committees, consisting of traditional leaders, administrative authorities, youth, women, community agents, and law enforcement officers, were formed to enhance the understanding of reporting mechanisms, support systems, and referral procedures for child abuse cases across more than 100 municipalities in Cameroon.

Impact

Facilitation of access to basic early childhood services, Improvement of hygiene and sexual and reproductive health for young girls, Empowerment of families of sponsored children, Understanding of child protection mechanisms within communities.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

(By Area of Global Distinctiveness - AoGD)

The Area of Global Distinctiveness (AoGD) is a concept used by Plan International to articulate **(i)** the outcomes we aim to achieve for children and youth, particularly girls, **(ii)** the key strategies we want to focus on as an organization, and **(iii)** the most important areas of work in which we want to invest to build coherent and transformative programming on gender equality.

There are six Areas of Global Distinctiveness distributed across four pillars:

- a) Inclusive quality education (**Learn Pillar**);
- b) Skills and opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship (**Learn Pillar**);
- c) Children, adolescents, and youth as champions of change (**Lead pillar**);
- d) Sexual and reproductive health rights (**Decide pillar**);
- e) Protection from violence; and
- f) Early childhood development (**Thrive pillar**).



1. Inclusive Quality Education (IQE)



© Plan International - Happy children who received school kits from Plan International

In the framework of Plan International Cameroon's first priority strategy, our efforts in providing Quality, Inclusive, Resilient, and Safe Education focused primarily on formal and non-formal education for vulnerable children in emergency situations.

In 2023, Plan International implemented 11 projects aimed at ensuring access to quality education for children in a safe and protective environment. These education projects aimed to ensure continuity, retention, inclusivity, and adaptation to climate change in school settings.

The achievements of these projects, which covered both formal and non-formal education, including education in emergency situations, can be summarized as follows:

- **Construction/Rehabilitation of classrooms:** In 2023, 17 classrooms were rehabilitated in 10 formal schools and 2 Accelerated Education Program (PEA) centers.

- **Provision of school equipment:** 2,812 desks and benches were distributed, including 2,600 in primary schools, 122 in secondary schools, and 90 in PEA centers.

- **Teacher training and capacity building:** 492 teachers (115 females and 377 males) received training on various topics such as teaching methodology, psychosocial support, positive discipline, management of multigrade and large classes, curriculum, and climate change, environment, and disaster risk reduction.

- **Distribution of school kits:** 2,294 school supply kits were distributed to primary and secondary school students in Plan International's intervention areas, including 9,393 kits distributed exclusively in the 6 primary schools in the Minawao refugee camp. These kits typically contain notebooks, pens (red and blue), pencils, a geometry set, etc.

- **Uniform distribution:** 400 uniforms were distributed to secondary school students.

- **Provision of teaching kits:** 12 schools received teaching kits for teachers, including preparation notebooks, chalkboards, boxes of pens (blue and red), attendance registers and grade sheets, reams of paper, staplers and staples, as well as rulers, protractors, compasses, and chalk.

- **Construction of school latrines and boreholes:** 10 blocks of gender-specific latrines and 6 boreholes were constructed during the year 2023.

- **Strengthening of school governance:** Key activities related to school governance included the establishment or revitalization of parent-teacher associations, school brigades, mothers' associations, school councils, children's clubs, and school boards in all schools supported by Plan International. These structures were trained on organizational life, financial management, project development, and action planning. Some of them were provided with materials for

income-generating activities to support the operation of their schools.

- **Organization of "Back and Stay in School" campaigns:** Two awareness campaigns were organized during the year 2023 focusing on the return and retention of children in school. 9,197 children aged 6-12 (3,904 boys and 5,293 girls) were reached during these campaigns. The awareness messages emphasized the importance of education, mass enrollment of students for the 2023/2024 school year, and parental and community responsibility in children's education.

- **Conducting remedial courses:** 2,259 learners (1,096 girls and 1,163 boys) enrolled in the CARED or Accelerated Curriculum for the Reintegration of Out-of-School Children program successfully completed remedial courses. They were provided with school reintegration kits.

- **Scholarship awards:** 126 young refugees (37 females, 95 males) were supported with scholarships and a mentoring program for the 2022/2023 academic year through the Albert Einstein German Academic Initiative for Refu-

gees (DAFI) tertiary education program.

- **Implementation of a literacy program:** Three literacy centers operated in the Minawao refugee camp with 280 enrolled learners (127 men and 153 women), with an attendance rate of 73.5%, comprising 74% for men and 75% for women.

- **School safety activities:** In 2023, Plan International was actively involved in activities related to the Safe Schools Declaration, including contributing to the relevant action plan and conducting training workshops and awareness sessions, as indicated by the following elements:

- Plan International Cameroon and UNICEF committed to supporting the establishment of a task force responsible for developing contextualized roadmaps for safe school activities in Cameroon.

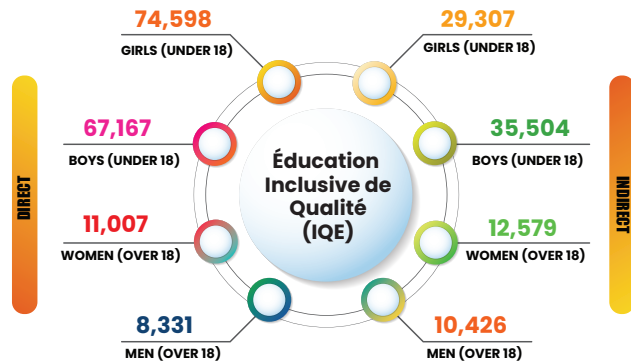
- Establishment of school brigades in 14 secondary schools to ensure a safe and protective environment. 90 students and 36 teachers from these institutions were trained and supported in school safety prevention and management.

- Organization of awareness workshops on

the Safe Schools Declaration for military personnel in conflict-affected regions of Cameroon.

- Establishment and training of Safe School Committees in 12 schools (6 primary, 4 preschools, and 1 secondary) and 3 Accelerated Education Program (AEP) Centers. These Committees consist of student representatives, teachers, and parents.

- **Support for coordination:** Plan International supported the Ministry of Basic Education and UNICEF in coordinating education activities at the national level as co-leaders of the Education Working Group (EWG), at the Northwest and Southwest levels as co-leaders of the Education Cluster, and at the Far North level as co-facilitators of the Education Task Group.



© Plan International, group of students form I, Government High School of Cite Verte



© Plan International, Accelerated Education Pilot Centre, Makari - Far-North

Impact

Increase in enrollment rates; success rates in grade progression and official examinations; improvement in community participation in school management. Additionally, the specific needs of children with disabilities are better addressed. The water points built allow for better adaptation to climate change issues, particularly impacting girls' education.

2. Skills and opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship



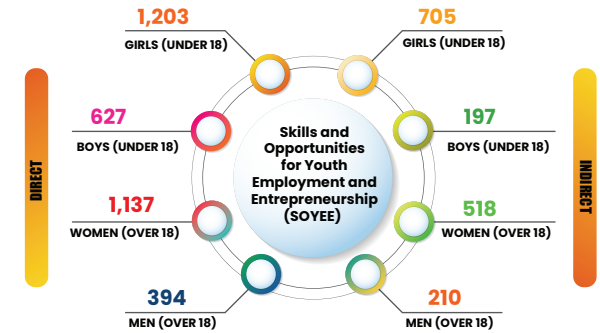
© Plan International, Project participant AVENIR 2

Impact

Strengthening of social cohesion and socio-economic integration of young people, aiming for their genuine financial empowerment.

In its endeavor to equip young people with the means to access decent employment, Plan International conducted several initiatives in 2023, notably:

- Technical and vocational training:** 59 refugees, comprising 38 women and 21 men, received training in fields such as sewing and automotive mechanics. These comprehensive programs encompass both theoretical and practical training, along with support in the form of complete kits to start micro-enterprises.
- Establishment of Community Savings Groups (CSGs) and support for Income Generating Activities:** 98 groups, each consisting of 25 to 30 young farmers and small ruminant herders, were formed in the regions of the Far North and North of Cameroon.



Jania

My name is Jania, and I live in Bamenda in the North-West region. I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact of school boycotts in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions of Cameroon. These boycotts have disrupted the education of thousands of children, hindering their development and future prospects. That's why I decided to step into the shoes of the regional education delegate during the "Girls Take Over" Campaign in Bamenda. I learned that "education is not a bargaining chip. It is the foundation of a better future for every child." I urge all parties to prioritize the education and well-being of children.



"Education is not a bargaining chip. It is the foundation of a better future for every child."
Jania

Youth Engagement and Consultation



© Plan International, girls group at the Regional Girls' Summit, Yaounde, Cameroon

Youth engagement and consultation translated into a series of training sessions, empowerment opportunities, and advocacy actions at various levels (national and international), as well as contributions to major campaigns for girls' empowerment. In 2023, Plan International's key actions included:

- **Institutional partnership:** Providing technical support to the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education (MINJEC) to

consolidate the National Youth Action Plan.

- **Youth engagement:** Training and engaging 180 youth parliamentarians on the theme of the year, namely Health and Civic and Citizen Rearmament. Youth engagement initiatives also reflected through:

- 01 young woman currently serving on the Youth Advisory Panel, integrated into the leadership team of Plan International Cameroon.
- 01 pioneer young woman integrated into the Decision Committee of the traditional chieftaincy - "Lawana" of Mendeze, Mokolo, Mayo Tsanaga (Extreme North).
- 15 youth-led associations receiving funding for the implementation of 30 micro-projects, organizational restructuring reinforcement, and training provided by the Youth Leading Stabilization Efforts in the Lake Chad Basin Project.
- 01 "Women's Office" association that won a partnership with the World Bank for the implementation

of a women's empowerment project in Diamaré (Extreme North).

- 03 youth-led organizations receiving financial support through the Youth Challenge Funds for their income-generating activities.

- 1000 e-volunteers trained in information and communication technologies and activated as e-volunteers against hate speech based on Plan International's "Champions of Change" curriculum.

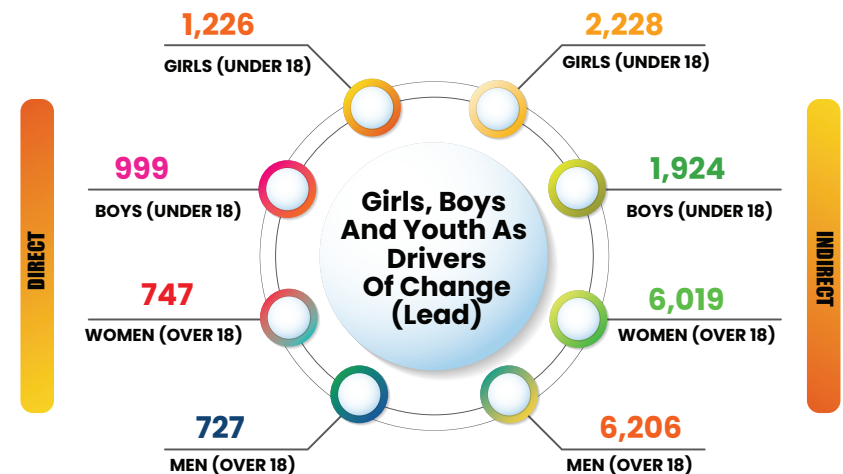
- **Youth Training:** 10,000 young people, including 6,700 girls, have benefited from training and empowerment opportunities through projects such as "Plan for Girls" in the North and "Youths Leading Stabilization Efforts in the Lake Chad Basin" in the Extreme North.

- 120 young girls, organized into advocacy networks (Girls Get Equal), across six regions of Cameroon, have had their profiles elevated as local leaders.

Impact

Youth actively participate in decision-making and manage issues concerning them, including representation at the highest levels of national decision-making bodies.

Their economic empowerment has been strengthened, evident through their active engagement in community initiatives, advocacy, and awareness-raising efforts. Informed and equipped, young people now contribute to stabilization and peace-building within their communities.



1. Early Childhood Development



© Plan International/ Photographer - xxxxx

In 2023, Plan International Cameroon focused on three main priorities aligned with the Framework for Responsive Caregiving for Early Childhood Development. Interventions included:

- Maternal, neonatal, and child health:**
 Training of 63 healthcare professionals and 292 community health workers. Provision of essential medical equipment for 22 integrated health centers in the Northern region; essential medical equipment and enhancement of energy supply through solar infrastructure for the Maternity Ward of a District Medical Center in the East.
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH):**
 Construction of seven (7) water supply points in the communities of Ngong, Lagdo (North), and Atok (East), and twelve (12) gender-sensitive latrine blocks in Touroua (North), Minawao (Extreme North), and Atok (East).
- Awareness campaign:** 1,905 children, comprising 962 girls and 943 boys, sensitized during awareness campaigns to promote good hygiene practices at home, school, and within the community.

Impact

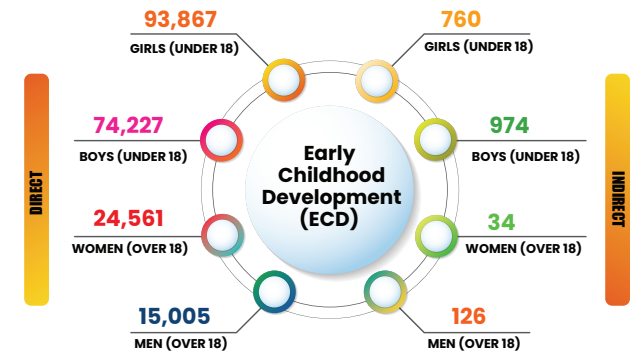
Gender norms are addressed in order to provide young children with a safe and healthy environment where girls and boys receive equal care adapted to their needs, enabling them to grow and express their full potential.

Impact

Improving access to certain services through dedicated equipment and the quality of services provided by professionals specialising in maternal, neonatal and child health has made a considerable contribution to reducing maternal and child mortality in the target communities.

Impact

Retention of pupils in schools, controlled management of menstrual hygiene for young girls in communities; contribution to reducing morbidity and mortality linked to water-borne diseases, including cholera.



“ Beltivate

My name is Beltivate. In 2011, I joined the children's forum established in my community by Plan International. I was a very shy girl, with little self-confidence and no big dreams. Community volunteers saw potential in me that I was completely unaware of. They continued to encourage me to speak up and express myself. Gradually, I began to get involved with other children, and to my surprise, I became one of the most active participants in the forum. In 2015, I was elected president of our children's forum.

Today, I am the Vice-President of the Regional Youth Advisory Panel for Plan International West and Central Africa. Today, I can stand up and speak in front of millions

of people. I speak not only for myself, but for the youth of my community, my country, and the entire region. Plan International has offered me many opportunities that have changed my life, and I have been able to go to places I never thought I would go. I have also been able to sit down with respected men in society to advocate for the rights of girls.

I advocate for girls' rights so that all girls, regardless of their background or status, can have the power to decide their own lives and futures.



© Plan International - Beltivate at the Regional Leadership Team meeting, september 2023, Yaounde, Cameroon

2. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Plan International contributed to ensuring that children, adolescents, and youth, in all their diversity, have control over their lives and bodies, and can make decisions about their sexuality, free from discrimination, coercion, or violence. Some initiatives are outlined below:

- **Support for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE):** Plan International Cameroon provided comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) through schools, non-formal settings, and communities to reach both enrolled and out-of-school children and complement school curricula in partnership with key ministries.

Plan International, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, developed, validated, and disseminated three (3) national reference manuals to promote adolescent-friendly, quality, and gender-sensitive SRHR services in Cameroon.

- **Strengthening the quality of adolescent-friendly and gender-sensitive SRHR services:** Efforts were made to improve health services for adolescents, with a focus on preventing early pregnancies, and advocated for increased funding for sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian contexts, while promoting the implementation of the Minimum Initial Service Package

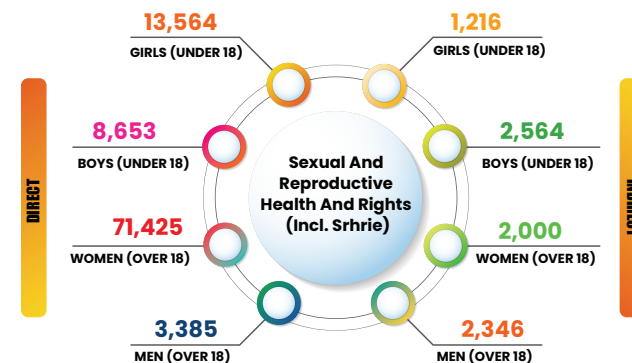


© Plan International - Members of the Champions of Change Club at an exchange session, Garoua, Cameroon

(MISP).

• **Reinforcing support for the most at-risk adolescent girls and young women:** Safe spaces were established to enhance the autonomy of at-risk girls, community dialogues were supported to reduce stigma related to sexual and reproductive health, especially for single mothers, and a positive masculinity approach was adopted.

• **Combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic:** Through its network of 3,790 Community Health Agents (including 1,067 women and 2,723 men), Plan International Cameroon supported 9,359 children, adolescents, and youth (including 4,131 girls and 5,228 boys), as well as their families, in accessing HIV services, reinforcing condom acceptance, and combating the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.



Impact

Improving access to certain services through dedicated equipment and the quality of service provision by specialized maternal, neonatal, and child health professionals has significantly contributed to reducing maternal and infant mortality in target communities. Furthermore, there has been an improvement in the level of knowledge and communication among youth and healthcare providers regarding adapted SRHR norms and standards to guide their daily practice.



Solantine

My name is Solantine, a young participant of the Plan for Girls program, a project by Plan International funded by Global Affairs Canada. My advocacy aims to create safe spaces for young girls in schools. In the Northern region, 218 schools lack secure frameworks for girls to freely express their issues. Young people, especially girls, are exposed to numerous instances of gender-based violence and harmful practices, both within the community and at school. These pressures sometimes lead them to drop out of school.

Family dialogue is often taboo due to certain cultural practices and misinterpretations of religious texts. As a result, young people do not always have a receptive ear to turn to. Early pregnancies, forced marriages, and academic failures are challenges faced by these young people.

Out of the 218 secondary schools in the Northern region, only 45 cases of gender-based violence have been reported. To address this situation, I propose a youth-friendly solution for students: the construction of "bouca-

rous," in schools. These are conceived as dedicated safe spaces within secondary schools, coordinated by assigned school matrons. These spaces would provide young people with a place where they could find a professional and attentive ear for their problems and where they could speak openly and confidently without taboos.



© Plan International - Solantine - Projet Plan for Girls - National advocacy session with senators - Yaounde, Cameroon

Protection

This year, the protection program focused on improving policies, case management, and supporting community actors and mechanisms for child protection through:

- **Institutional partnership:** Technical and financial support was provided to all sectoral ministries dealing with child issues:

- **Technical and thematic support** was provided for the elaboration of the Draft Bill on Child Protection Charter online in Cameroon. This contribution was materialized through technical meetings with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL) and other stakeholders, for the definition of key child protection concepts.

- **Provision of office equipment:** 10 state structures, including 5 social centers (MINAS) and 5 civil status centers (MINDDEVEL), were equipped with office equipment and materials to facilitate their work in responding to protection issues.

- **Community mechanisms for child protection:** Establishment and/or revitalization of 276 community mechanisms for child protection, thus reaching 33,678 individuals at risk of protection, including 8906 men, 9769 women, 8584 boys, and 6418 girls.

- **Provision of assistive devices:** 66 individuals, including 35 non-refugees and 23 refugees (08 women, 11 men, 07 girls, and 14 boys), as well as 12 Cameroonians living with disabilities,

benefited from: 09 wheelchairs, 03 tricycles, 02 crutches, 01 hearing prosthesis, 15 optical glasses, 03 leg prostheses, 03 white canes, 04 medications, and 01 walker.

- **Distribution of food items and hygiene kits:** 38 individuals (13 women / 21 men / 04 girls / 04 boys) received food and hygiene kits containing: 1 large bath towel; 1 bottle of liquid detergent 5L; 1/2 dozen cups; 1 toothpaste; 1/2 dozen toothbrushes; 1 bucket of 15L; 1 bag of 5kg rice; 1 can of refined oil 5L; 5 pieces of 300g soap; 1 package of 5kg spaghetti; 1 package of 1kg sugar cubes.

Impact

Children are increasingly less at risk of abuse and live in communities that are safer and more secure. Identified cases of abuse are recorded and managed according to principles and standards of case management, reflected in an operational mapping. The communities' ownership of protection mechanisms ensures the sustainability of child protection actions.



© Plan International - Children's Parliament 2023

Fatoumata

In the North region, over 12,000 primary school children were unable to submit their examination files in 2023 due to a lack of birth certificates. Among them, 22-year-old Fatoumata, residing in the Tcheboa Lamorde community, decided to take matters into her own hands. She is one of the young people who fought independently to obtain this crucial document.

Fatoumata had to travel to Garoua, the capital of the North region, and spend two days there to obtain a supplementary judgment. Upon returning to her community, she initiated

awareness sessions, registered young people without birth certificates, and collected files for children lacking them. Additionally, she visited the Ngong municipality to inquire about the procedure to contribute to the establishment of birth certificates for children.

Fatoumata brought this issue to the attention of senators from the North region. She emphasized, **"Without birth certificates, we are nothing. We cannot continue our studies. We cannot obtain a national identity card. I myself have been a victim of this, and I do**

not want other members of my community to experience the same situation."

In response, the parliamentarians acknowledged that their actions could unfold on two levels: facilitating the process of establishing birth certificates and funding mass supplementary judgments within the community. Although the road ahead is still long, progress can be made by working hand in hand.



© Plan International - Fatoumata, Projet Plan for Girls - National advocacy session with senators - Yaounde, Cameroon



2. Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an organizational policy of Plan International. It encompasses all responsibilities, preventive, reactive, and guidance measures undertaken to protect children, youth, and program participants in all their diversities.

In 2023, Safeguarding focused on training and capacity building, mapping of services and child protection risks, and case management.

The following elements provide an overview:

- **Systematic application of the Safeguarding policy:** 253 risk assessments related to safeguarding were conducted in Cameroon. All projects and activities undergo rigorous risk assessment to ensure the protection of children and program participants. Appropriate measures are automatically taken to report any concerns regarding their well-being.

- **Training on the Safeguarding policy:** 10,300 staff, partners, and associates (4,300 women and 6,000 men) were trained on Plan International's comprehensive safeguarding policy.

- **Prevention and case management:** A mapping of child protection services and risks was consolidated and made operational to facilitate holistic case management.



Impact

All Plan International activities are implemented in a safe and secure environment for children and program participants. Staff, partners, and associates now adopt appropriate behaviors towards children and program participants. Communities are now informed about informal and formal child protection mechanisms in their community, enabling them to report cases more easily for appropriate action.

Olive



While still very young, I had a great passion for cars. I am trained as a paramedic and had never considered driving as a profession. One day, I saw a woman driving a truck, and it melted my heart. And when an opportunity arose with Plan International, I seized it. I thus had the opportunity to combine my passion and my vocation.

Before encountering men and the organization's

staff, I knew that driving was primarily a male-dominated profession. **The prejudices of society in general are evident, but at Plan International, we are all EQUAL!** I always feel like I'm contributing to improving the living conditions of others when I'm assigned to drive teams in the field, hence my encouragement to all young girls who wish to join me here or elsewhere.



© Plan International - Conductrice à Plan International Cameroun, Mendzang Olive

OVERVIEW OF MAIN PROJECTS

1. Global Fund for Malaria Prevention

The project is implemented under the coordination of the Ministry of Public Health through the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) at the central level and the 08 Regional Delegations of Public Health (Adamaoua, Centre, East, Far North, North, Littoral, West, and South). At the operational level, activities are carried out by 53 District Health Services and Civil Society Organizations, 498 heads of health areas, 3790 Community Health Workers (CHWs), and 15 traditional birth attendants.

During the year 2023, the project contributed to:

- 53.2% of the treatment of all cases of

uncomplicated malaria in the project-covered areas;

- Diagnosis and treatment of 474,468 individuals (M=229,109; F=245,359), including 232,056 children under 5 years old (M=115,105; F=116,951) suffering from uncomplicated malaria in the community;
- Diagnosis and treatment of 15,259 children under 5 years old (M=7,719; F=7,540) suffering from diseases such as respiratory infections and simple diarrhea in the community;
- Referral and orientation of 61,795 pregnant women to health facilities for antenatal care.

Impact

The project contributed to the reduction of mortality and morbidity related to malaria and the most common diseases among children under five in the community (simple respiratory infections and simple diarrhea). This was achieved by inducing changes within the populations and promoting the adoption of desired health-related behaviors.



© Plan International - Scientific discovery day at Garoua regional hospital, North Region, Cameroon

PLAN
INTERNATIONAL
Until we are all equal

WE ARE DETERMINED OPTIMISTS

**ADVANCING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
AND EQUALITY FOR GIRLS**

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2. Plan–UNHCR Project for Urban Refugees

The Social Project for Urban Refugees, implemented by Plan International in collaboration with UNHCR, is an initiative aimed at supporting refugees living in the cities of Yaoundé and Douala.

In 2023, our efforts were focused on expanding our interventions towards a holistic approach to facilitate access to basic social services for 12,663 refugees, including children and vulnerable families.

Additionally, notable achievements include:

- **Enrollment of 2,709 refugee children** (1,377 girls, 1,332 boys) in primary and secondary schools.
- Provision of **psychosocial support to 339 at-risk children** (182 girls and 157 boys).
- Successful **transfers of 136 students** initially enrolled in private schools to public schools for the

2023/2024 school year with the support of MINAS and MINESEC.

- **Establishment of a Protection Committee comprising 19 youths** in Yaoundé and Douala to raise awareness on violence prevention and children's rights.
- Facilitation of **birth certificate acquisition for 14 children**, thereby facilitating their access to education and other essential services.



Impact

Reduction in the dropout rate among refugee children, and children fully enjoy their rights within host families and institutions.



The "Gender Transformative Approach"^{1/2}



© Plan International - Aicha - Stand up for girls' education of Far-North, Cameroon

Impact

We intensified our approach by taking actions to remove barriers preventing girls, in all their diversities, from reaching their full potential and exercising their rights. Barriers preventing men and boys from embracing gender equality, exercising their rights, and becoming champions of change have been broken.

In 2023, starting from internal organization to partners, service providers, and even recruitment, measures were taken to promote the approach. The following points highlight the key achievements:

- **Combatting Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Two multidisciplinary protection platforms were established. They comprise public administration (MINAS, MINSANTE, MINPROFF, MINAT, MINJEC), law enforcement, civil society, decentralized local authorities, religious and traditional authorities, youth leaders, etc.
- **Recruitment and procurement:** Female candidates are strongly encouraged, reflected, among other things, by prioritizing female candidates for

vacant positions and service contracts.

- **Management:** 70% of the senior leadership team at Plan International Cameroon is comprised of women.
- **Project management and implementation:** All projects underwent a gender assessment, with over 90% classified as "Gender Transformative".

The Gender Transformative approach addresses the root causes of gender inequalities. Any initiative or project classified as "transformative gender" respects six key elements that, when combined, contribute to achieving gender equality, including:

1. Understanding and addressing how gender norms influence children throughout their life journey, from birth to adulthood.
2. Working to strengthen the agency of girls and young women in decisions that affect them, as well as by enhancing their knowledge, confidence, skills, and access to and control over resources.
3. Engaging with and supporting boys, young men, and men to embrace positive masculinities and promote gender equality, while also achieving meaningful outcomes for them.
4. Considering girls, boys, young women, and young men in all their diversity when identifying and responding to their needs and interests.
5. Improving the social conditions and positions of girls and young women.
6. Fostering an enabling environment where all stakeholders work together to support children and young people in their journey towards gender equality.

OUR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Disaster Risk Reduction / Preparedness & Response

During the year 2023, Plan International Cameroon intensified its humanitarian efforts, directly impacting 41,027 girls, 36,099 boys, 24,792 women, and 13,465 men. One of the key focuses of our humanitarian action was primarily the consideration of regional leadership on the humanitarian situation in Cameroon and neighboring countries, as well as the response to the cholera epidemic. Among other initiatives, we were particularly interested in the following:

- **Emergency response to the cholera epidemic funded by the Start Fund** and implemented in the Centre region by Plan International and two local organizations (AJESSEY and APDSP) supported **9,086 people** (2,606 girls, 2,412 boys, 2,234 women, and 1,834 men).

- **Organization of the WACA**

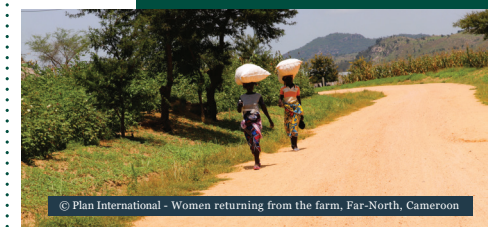
- **Regional Leadership Team (RLT) Meeting.** Approximately 45 Country Office Directors, non-governmental organizations, regional offices, and Plan International headquarters convened in Cameroon to deliberate on what increasing humanitarian impact means in fragile and security-sensitive contexts, which now characterize much of the West and Central Africa region.

- **Risk mapping** in the country aimed at understanding the diverse threats, capacities, and needs of various groups, with particular attention to the challenges faced by girls.

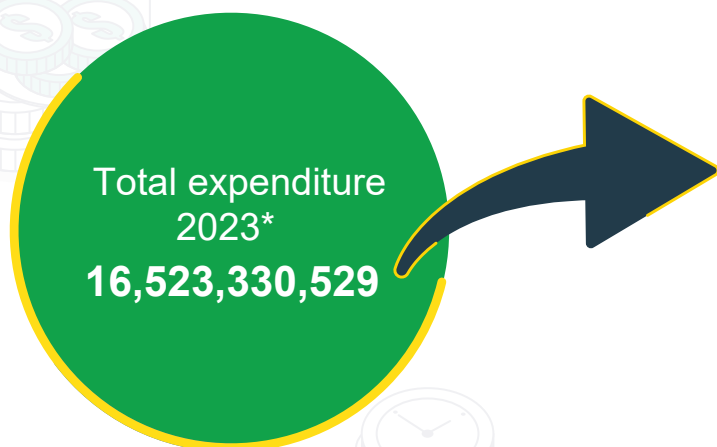
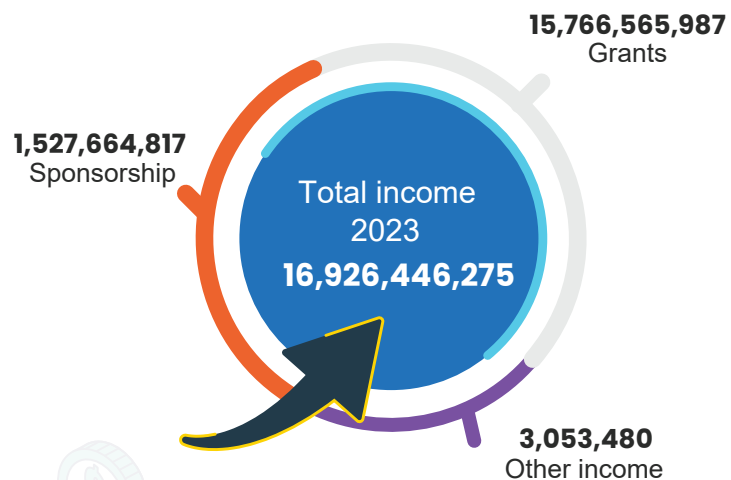
- **Strengthening local capacity** to address disaster risks and respond to the needs of affected populations.

Impact

Enhanced contextual understanding of disaster risks and identification of community capacities in disaster prevention and management. Plan International's emergency response to the cholera epidemic significantly contributed to its eradication in the target area; and increased community awareness of barrier measures.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Expenditure in 2023 by funder

The World Food Programme
Ministry of Health / Global Fund
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Global Affairs Canada
ECHO
Education Cannot Wait
Irish Aid
START Network
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Orange Fondation
The German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
The European Union
French Development Agency
Mary Dinah Foundation
Plan International Canada
Plan International Japan
Plan International France
Plan International Irlande
Plan International Germany
Plan International United States of America

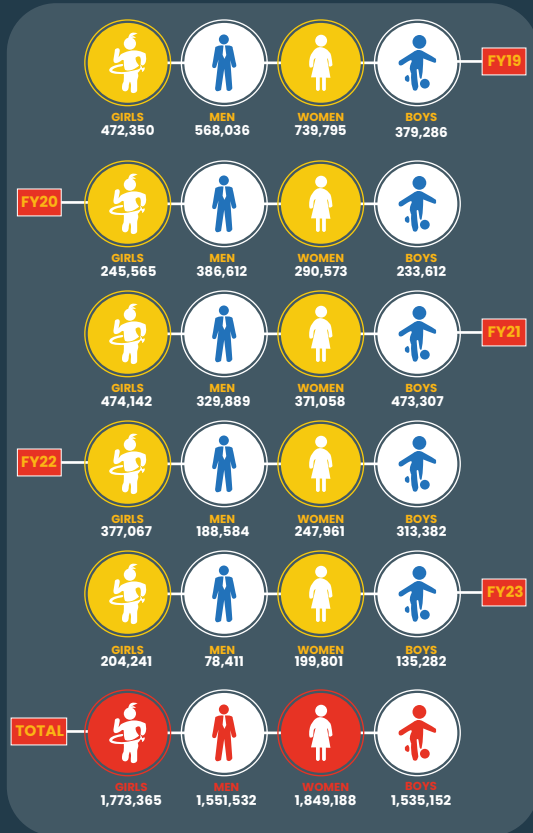
2023 expenditure by area.

Domain	Total in Euro	Total in XAF
Education / Vocational Training	14,568,616	9,556,385,646
Health and Nutrition	9,288,068	6,092,573,221
Protection against abuse and violence	1,874,117	1,229,340,165
Economic activities	73,398	48,145,932
Grand Total	25,804,199	16,926,444,963



PLAN INTERNATIONAL 2023 IN NUMBERS

OUR REACH / OUR PARTICIPANTS



Projects

1 Number of projects (excluding administrative and support projects) active in the last financial year **29**

Locations

2 Number of communities with sponsored children benefitting directly from Plan International's work **397**

3 Number of communities with no sponsored children benefitting directly from Plan International's work **350**

Partnerships

4 Number of civil society organisations (CSOs) **27**

5 Number of Community Organisations (COs) **7**

6 Number of local and national NGOs **9**

7 Number of civil society networks **1**

8 Number of organisations run by children or young people **--**

9 Number of international NGOs **1**

10 Number of Intergovernmental and Development Aid Institutions **12**

11 Number of governmental institutions **19**

12 Number of Private Sector Companies/Institutions **2**

13 Number of universities/research institutes **--**

Participation

14 Community members trained in gender equality and inclusion **2,363**

Child Protection

15 Community members and volunteers trained in child protection **2,628**

16 Staff members of partner organisations and institutions trained in child protection **509**

HUMAN RESSOURCES

CATEGORIES	QTE	%
NUMBER OF STAFF ON GRANTS	84	46%
SPONSORSHIP STAFF	98	54%
PIIAS & PROJECT OFFICES	104	57%
CO SUPPORT	78	43%
TOTAL STAFF (GRANT+SPONSORSHIP)	182	48%
NUMBER OF SERVICE PROVIDERS	189	50%
INTERNS	07	2%
TOTAL	378	100%

LIST OF ACCRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ANJE : Alimentation du Nourrisson et du Jeune Enfant

AOGD : Area of Global Distinctiveness

APEE : Association des Parents d'Elèves et d'Enseignants

AVEC : Associations Villageoises d'Épargne et de Crédit

CdC : Champions du Changement

CDPE : Centre pour le Développement de la Petite Enfance

COVID-19 : Maladie à coronavirus 2019

DPE : Développement de la Petite Enfance

DSSR : Droits et Santé Sexuels et Reproductifs

EEI : Engins Explosifs Improvisés

ESU : Education en Situation d'Urgence

INEE : Réseau Inter-Agences pour L'éducation en Situations D'urgence

IRC : Comité international de secours

IST : Infections Sexuellement Transmissibles

MAM : Malnutrition Aiguë Modérée

MAS : Malnutrition Aiguë Sévère

MINADER : Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural

MINAS : Ministère des affaires sociales

MINEDUB : Ministère de l'éducation de base

MINEFOP : Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Formation professionnelle

MINJEC : Ministère de la jeunesse et de l'éducation civique

MINPROFF : Ministère de la promotion de la femme et de la famille

NWSW/NOSO : Nord-Ouest Sud-Ouest

OCHA : Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires des Nations Unies

OMS : Organisation mondiale de la santé

ONG : Organisations Non-gouvernementale

P&I : Programme et Influence

PDI : Personnes Déplacées Internes

PESU : Protection des Enfants en Situation d'Urgence

PIIA : Programme Influencing and Implementation of Area

RCA : République centrafricaine

SOYEE : Compétences et Opportunités pour l'Emploi et l'Entreprenariat des jeunes

STEM : Science, technologie, ingénierie et mathématiques

TLS : Espaces d'Apprentissage Temporaires

UNHCR : Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UNICEF : Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance

VSBG : Violence Sexuelle Basée sur le Genre

WASH : Eau, de l'assainissement et de l'hygiène

Thanks to Our Partners and Funders



Ministère des Relations Extérieures (MINREX)
 Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille (MINPROFF)
 Ministère des Affaires Sociales (MINAS)
 Ministère des Postes et Télécommunications (MINPOSTEL)
 Ministère des Enseignements Secondaires (MINESEC)
 Ministère de l'Éducation de Base (MINEDUB)
 Ministère de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Civique (MINJEC)
 Ministère de la Santé Publique (MINSANTE)
 Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale (MINAT)
 Ministère de la Décentralisation et du développement local (MINDEVEL)



- Plan International GLOBAL HUB
- Plan International CANADA
- Plan International ANGLETERRE
- Plan International SUEDE
- Plan International ALLEMAGNE
- Plan International IRELAND
- Plan International FRANCE
- Plan International JAPON
- Plan International FINLANDE
- Plan International PAYS-BAS









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About Plan international

Founded in 1937, Plan International is an independent global organization defending the rights of the child, committed to supporting vulnerable and marginalized children and their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. By actively connecting committed people with strong ideas, we work together to bring about positive, profound and lasting changes in the lives of children and young people.

For over 80 years, we have supported girls and boys and their communities in more than 70 countries around the world to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to assert their rights, lift themselves out of poverty and live fulfilled and positive life.

We strive for lasting and large scale impact to ensure children, young people and their communities have access to protection, quality, inclusive education, health information and services and decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities.

