

ONE PLAN

PLAN INTERNATIONAL
WACAH UPDATES

SEPTEMBER 2022

SHARED VALUES

“

Beyond Ukraine, the Central Sahel crisis demands attention more than ever before, and especially to avert a full-blown food crisis.”

Rotimy Djossaya, Executive Director
Plan International WACAH



THE SUCCESS OF THE
YOUTH CHALLENGE
FUND **P. 5**



WACAH REGIONAL
DIRECTOR IN CENTRAL
SAHEL **P. 8**



As the world continues to live with the coronavirus, the West and Central African region remains challenged by multiple crises, and most recently the hunger crisis which primarily threatens the future of millions of girls and children.

After years of pressing for their inalienable right to access inclusive quality education in conflict affected communities across West and Central Africa, girls and children are now faced with the hunger crisis. When food is scarce, not only do girls often eat less and eat last, but they often bear the brunt when families resort to negative coping strategies: girls are most likely to be removed from school, with some never returning and are most at risk of child labour, child, early and forced marriage and sexual exploitation.

Plan International through its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Stephen Omollo, declared a Red Alert Level on the hunger crisis with focus on 8 countries, considered as the world's hungriest places Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Haiti. At WACA we have adopted a cross-sectoral regional response approach which allows us to respond to these crises in a holistic manner, as well coordinate our actions by pooling efforts and expertise. Our response plan includes interventions in nutrition and food security, enhancing community resilience and social cohesion, informed by our gender transformative programming and influencing initiatives.

In this first edition of our One Plan Shared Value updates, we shall be focusing among others, on our response to the Central Sahel Red Alert on the hunger crisis, our youth engagement initiatives within the Youth Challenge Fund and the Post-World Girls' Summit initiatives.

I hope you enjoy your reading.

ROTIMY DJOSSAYA

Executive Director,
Plan International West and Central Africa
Girls Youth Power and Action Department


 @Rotimy_Djossaya

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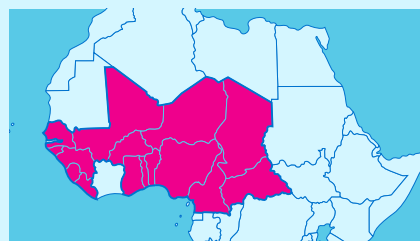
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WACAH UPDATES

URGENT ACTIONS NEEDED TO ELIMINATE HUNGER IN THE CENTRAL SAHEL

The countries of the Central Sahel have been classified by the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations as one of the 20 hotspots of hunger in the world, with **4.4 million people in Niger**, **3.5 million in Burkina Faso** and **1.8 million in Mali** facing food insecurity. The situation is deteriorating rapidly, and Plan International through its CEO have declared a Red Alert on hunger on this zone.

Through our interventions, including the distribution of unconditional cash and food, as well as support to income-generating activities, many communities are able to meet their basic needs and prepare for the future.



“I was lying under a tree, tired and hungry when Plan International staff visited us. When I heard my name, my tears flowed and I felt a huge relief. I am grateful for the money Plan International gave me. I have never received such a large amount.”

Hariata, a vulnerable woman from the host community in the Tillabéri region of Niger.





COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR YOUNG GIRLS AND BOYS

In response to the high rate of teenage pregnancy and the increase in GBV cases in West and Central Africa, the organisations Plan International, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Fonds Français Muskoka (FFM), RAES, EQUIPOP, Rutgers, Alliance of Youth Ambassadors for FP and Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), are mobilised around the campaign "Education Saves Lives". Within this campaign, young girls and boys are sensitized and educated on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive rights.

15%

In West and Central Africa, **more than 1 girl out of 7** is married at the age of 14 or before

In some countries, this figure can reach **3 out of 10 girls**

UNICEF, La situation des enfants dans le monde 2019 - Tableaux statistiques

West and Central Africa has the **highest birth rate among adolescent in the world**

Region	Percentage
North America	~18
East Asia & Pacific	~22
Europe & Central Asia	~28
South Asia	~32
Middle East and North America	~42
Amérique latine et Caraïbes	~65
Afrique orientale et australe	~92
West and Central Africa	~115

UNICEF, La situation des enfants dans le monde 2019 - Tableaux statistiques

Taux d'achèvement de la scolarité - enseignement primaire

Boys: 69%
Girls: 65%

Les filles sont moins nombreuses que les garçons à terminer leur scolarité et cet écart augmente avec l'âge

UNICEF, La situation des enfants dans le monde 2019 - Tableaux statistiques



THE SUCCESS OF THE YOUTH CHALLENGE FUND

The Youth Challenge Fund (YCF) is an inclusive, competitive, flexible and participatory fund targeting girls' and youth organizations (15-30 years old) in West and Central Africa. Thanks to the financial (total fund of 104,345 euros) and non-financial support of the YCF pilot phase, **23 grantees** were able to implement their initiatives and thus respond favorably to the problems of their communities and have a better visibility.

“Being a YCF winner has given us experience and visibility. We now have funding and support from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.”

Geraldo, CSDAC (Climate and Sustainable Development Action Club), Niger.



“The YCF was the first funding for MuSoDev. We developed version 1.1 of the Zero GBV mobile application where survivors of GBV feel safer to speak out and seek help. Since its launch, the application has been widely used.”

Marguerite, MuSoDev association, Mali.



“Thanks to the YCF, we have been able to support five communities in the Upper West Ghana region with a modern library and two desktop computers. An average of 35 users use the library every day.”

Mulumba, Necessary Aid Alliance, Ghana.

MEMORANDUM OF THE GIRLS' NETWORK POST GLOBAL GIRLS' SUMMIT

In October 2021, Togo hosted the Global Girls' Summit organised by Plan International. A key outcome of the summit brought together girls from all over the world, was the birth of Girls' network. A memorandum has been signed between the Girl's network and Plan International WACAH. Amongst others, the memorandum commits actions to hold governments and international organizations accountable for the commitments made during the summit; and further commits to supporting the implementation of the recommendations made during the summit for the promotion and achievement of girls' rights.

Within a large-scale campaign, the girls' network has been presented their memorandum to the public and handed it over to the decision makers, international organizations and youth led organizations in their various countries, as a key reference of girls' voice to achieve equality for girls.



“The memorandum is our strategy as young girls to claim our rights, and we hope that the leaders will make good use of it to protect our rights as a priority.”

Member of the post summit network, Niger.



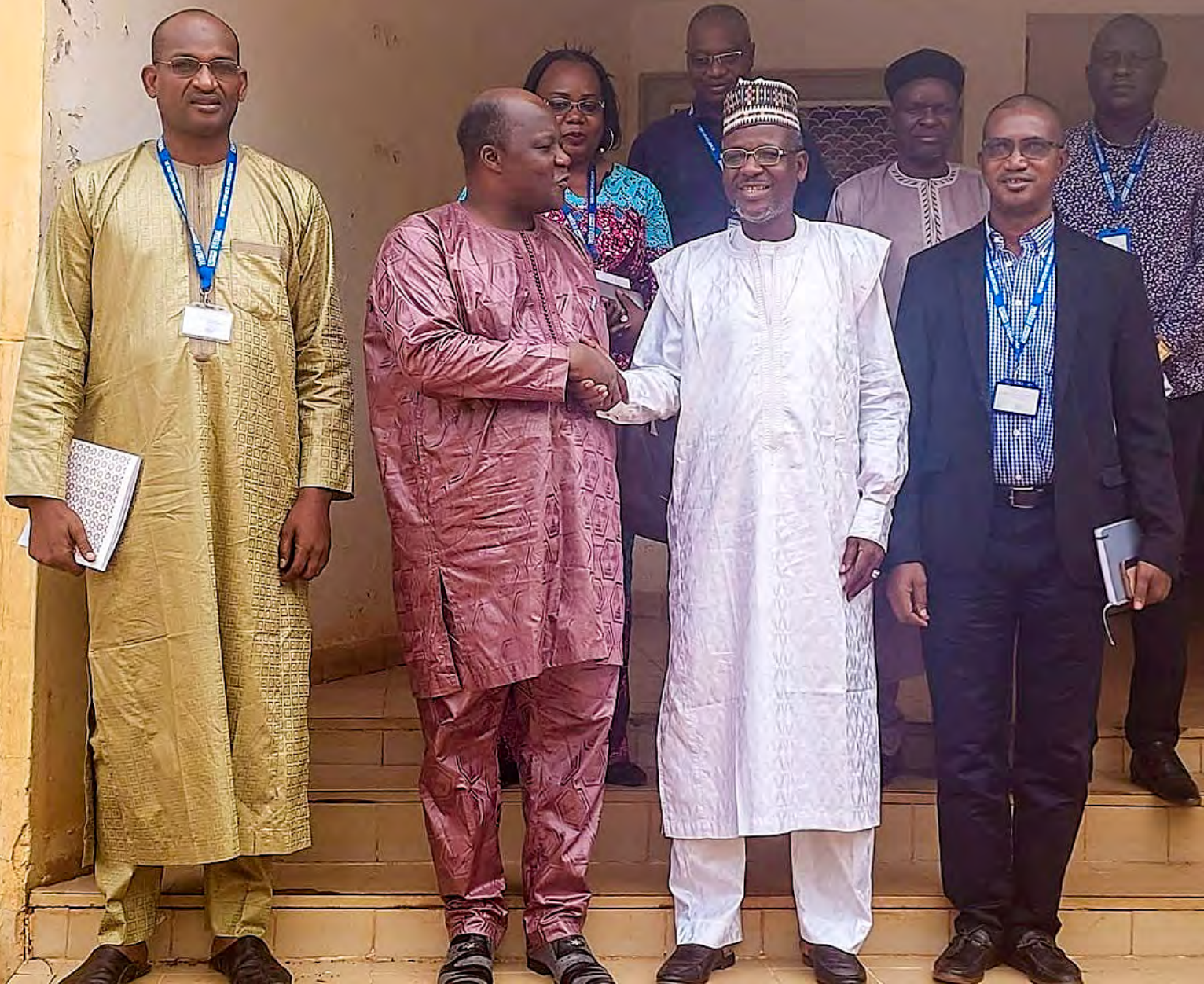


WACA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ISSUES A **STATEMENT FOR JOINT EFFORTS** TO END HUNGER CRISIS IN THE SAHEL

At the end of a recent visit to the Central Countries of Niger and Burkina Faso, the Executive Director for Plan International West and Central Africa, Mr. Rotimy Djossaya, issued a [key note statement](#) calling for urgent actions by to all governments and humanitarian actors and sundry to put an end to the devastating hunger crisis in the Central Sahel.

Mr. Rotimy Djossaya cautioned:

“In the Central Sahel dire projections of mass food insecurity are materializing. To date, programmes and funding for the humanitarian response have failed to address the challenges faced by vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls.”



In Niger and Burkina Faso, the Executive Director held high-level meetings with the Ministers of Humanitarian Affairs, Ministers of Protection and Gender, including visits to UN OCHA, some embassies and other humanitarian entities. Key messages throughout the visit were a call for an urgent need for coordinated and joint effort including the allocation of the needed funds to respond to hunger crisis, which has devastating impact on the communities with children, girls and women bearing the greatest brunt of the impact of the crisis. Through press conferences and media engagements the Regional Director alerted on the scale of the food crisis which will potentially revert into full blown hunger disaster if urgent actions are not taken.

In his words he reiterated:

“Investments in multidimensional solutions are essential. Only coordinated action and a strong partnership between communities, governments, humanitarian and development actors and international partners, as well as sustained investment in social services, can ensure an adequate response to the crisis.”

“Everyone knows that in times of crisis, girls, young women and children are the most affected. So, the call I would like to address to our partner Plan International, is above all to strengthen existing projects and multiply new ones aiming at girls, young women and children's welfare, throughout the entire Malian territory, because in reality, it is all over Mali that we have issues with the rights of girls and young women not being respected.”

Spoke person of the organization ROAJELF (West African Network of Young Women Leaders), Mali Chapter

“When we arrived in Torodi, Plan International visited us. They gave us clothing, soap, toothbrushes, sanitary pads and four food vouchers worth 40,000 CFA (60 Euros) that allowed us to eat. I personally received training which helped me to take care of my daughter Bayama. They take good care of us, visiting us regularly to learn our needs. This gives us hope.”

Yandi, IDP in Torodi Niger



Plan International's new global strategy "All Girls Standing Strong Creating Global Change" and what it means for the WACA Region was a key focus for WACA Leadership during a recent Regional Leadership Team meeting held in Sierra Leone (5-9 September 2022).



ALL GIRLS STANDING STRONG CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE

08
PRIORITIES

FOCUS ON GIRLS' RIGHTS

SCALE UP HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

LOCALLY LED, GLOBALLY CONNECTED

IMPACT EVIDENCE

YOUTH CENTERED

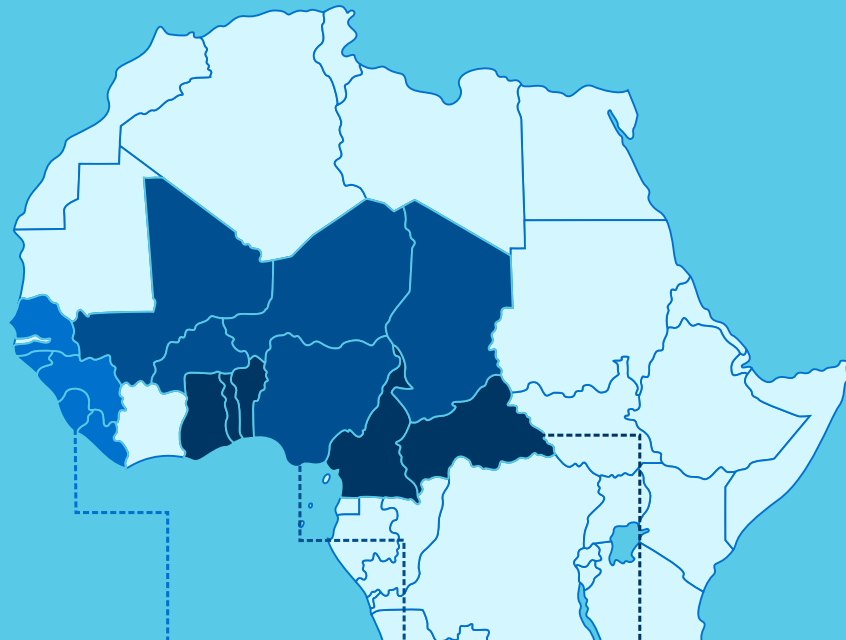
STRENGTHENING AND OPTIMISING SPONSORSHIP

EFFECTIVE, RESPONSIVE ORGANISATION

GROW EQUALITY INCOME

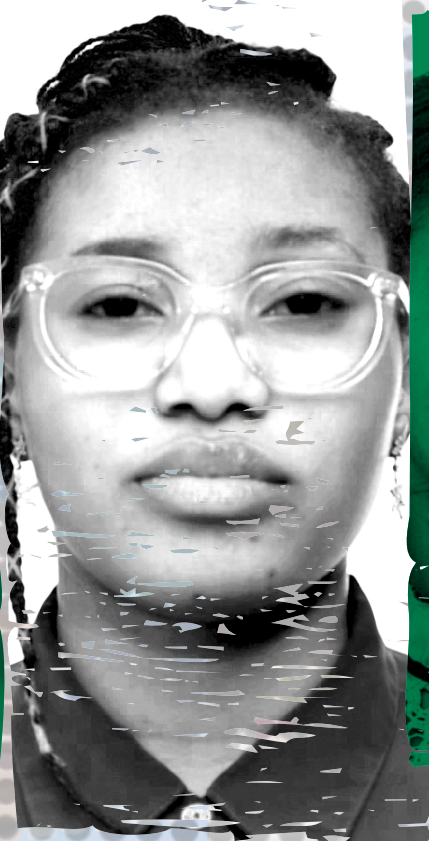
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ANNOUNCES UPDATES ON THE REGIONAL PRESENCE AND ORGANIZATION.

The purpose of the **WACA Regional Presence and Organisation Update** is to respond to the fast changing and complex regional operating context, and ensure the most relevant, efficient, and cost-effective organisational structure and ways of working to effectively deliver Plan International's global strategy and ambition – **All Girls Standing Strong Creating Global Change** – in West & Central Africa (WACA).



MANO RIVER CLUSTER	SAHEL CLUSTER	CENTRAL AFRICA AND GULF OF GUINEA CLUSTER
Guinea Guinea Bissau Liberia Senegal Sierra Leone	Burkina Faso Mali Niger Nigeria Chad	Benin Cameroon RCA Ghana Togo

LOOK OUT FOR...

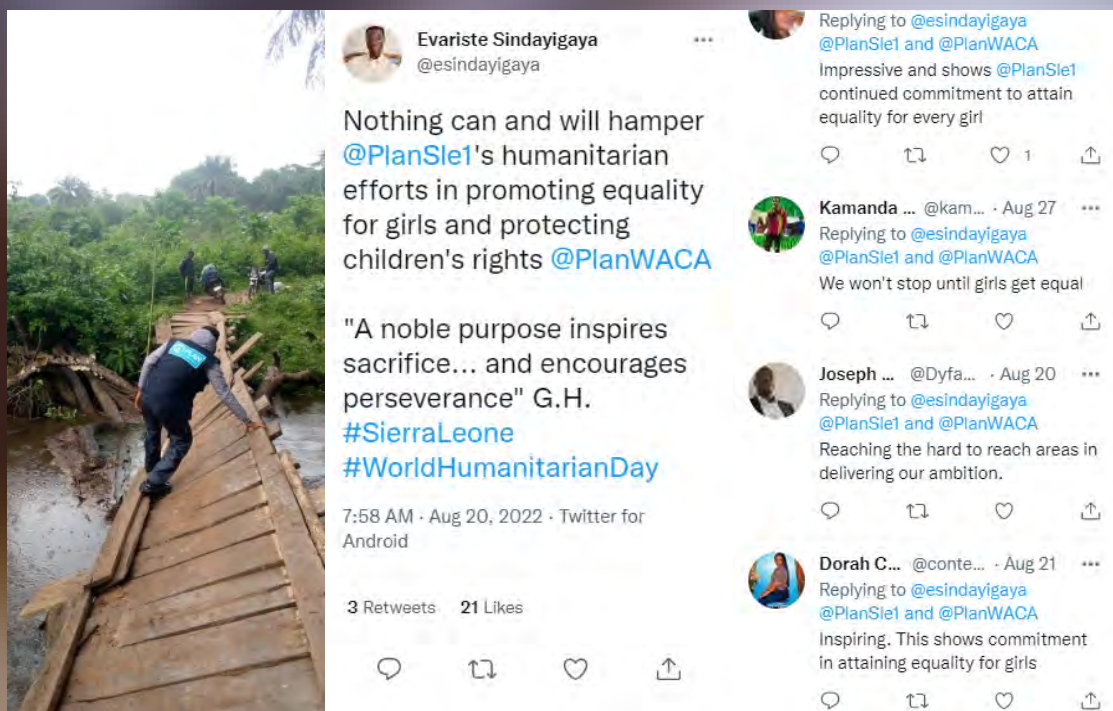


GLOBAL GIRLS' SUMMIT



NIGERIA
OCT. 2022

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PAGES



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An acknowledgement to the Communication and Advocacy teams of Plan International WACA for the production of this newsletter.

ABOUT

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1937, Plan International is a humanitarian child centered development organization without religious and political affiliation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. It strives for a just world, working together with children, young people, supporters and partners. Plan supports the safe and successful progression of children from birth to adulthood.