

# ONE PLAN

PLAN INTERNATIONAL  
WACAH UPDATES

DECEMBER 2022

# SHARED VALUES

“

The authorities are usually very willing to make commitments that delight our hearts. But it would be more interesting to see them take concrete steps to fulfill these commitments.”



Kadiatou,  
Guinea.

COP 27: THE URGENT NEED TO  
ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE,  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF  
GIRLS' RIGHTS IN THE SAHEL.

P. 7

GLOBAL GIRLS' SUMMIT  
IN NIGERIA

P. 8





**P**lan International is happy to have officially launched its new global strategy, which states that: **"All Girls Standing Strong Creating Global Change"**. In line with this, the Global Girls' Summit that brought together girls from all over the world in Nigeria, was another special occasion to highlight girls' voices. We want to once again appreciate the dynamic participation of girls in this major networking space. We learnt a lot about girls' expectations and reflected with them on how to better position ourselves in a way that better serves their rights. Indeed, as I pointed out during the summit, we need a girls' movement to push the progress we make with girls, and we are ready to invest in such a movement.

Talking about the work we do with girls, we are proud of the commemoration of International Day of the Girls across the region, during which, girls' takeover campaign paved the way to build their self-confidence, and the ambition to take part in the political life of their community. We appreciate the bold steps taken by the girl leaders and the great leadership skills demonstrated during the takeovers. We invite decision-making bodies to support them so that they can have equal power now and freely participate in political life.

In this edition of our One Plan Shared values, we invite you to follow the work we do to support the resilience of women in crisis in Central Sahel, the mobilization around our campaign for girls' equal power, including the Youth Talk, the Global Girls' Summit and the commemoration of 10 years of IDG.

We hope you enjoy your reading and we remain open to your appreciation.



## ROTIMY DJOSSAYA

Executive Director,  
Plan International West and Central Africa

@Rotimy\_Djossaya

# CONTENTS



## FAITHFULL TO OUR COMMITMENTS

CENTRAL SAHEL WOMEN RESILIENT TO HUNGER CRISIS	3
YOUTH TALK FOR GIRLS' EQUAL POWER NOW	4
GIRLS TAKE OVER TODAY... TO LEAD TOMORROW	5
COP 27: AN URGENT NEED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE, FOR THE PROTECTION OF GIRLS' RIGHTS IN THE SAHEL	6



## HIGH-LEVEL INFLUENCE ENGAGEMENT

GLOBAL GIRLS' SUMMIT 2022. EQUAL POWER NOW: GIRLS POLITICAL PARTICIPATION	7
HEAR FROM OFFICIALS WITHIN THE GLOBAL GIRLS' SUMMIT	8



## CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

DISCOVER HOW PLAN INTERNATIONAL BECAME A GO TO ORGANIZATION FOR GIRLS AND PARTICIPATED TO THE DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL	9
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

## REGIONAL DYNAMICS

WACAH UPDATES	10
THE MAIN RDV OF THE QUARTER	11



# CENTRAL SAHEL

## WOMEN RESILIENT TO

### HUNGER CRISIS

In the Central Sahel, insecurity, hunger crisis and climate change are correlated, leading to a vicious circle of sufferings, with girl and women disproportionately affected. In a bid to enhance women's empowerment and resilience amidst the protracted conflict, Plan International has implemented an Emergency and Resilience Programme (PURE) project; which is an integrated response that addresses the needs and strengthen the resilience of people affected by crises in Burkina Faso.

Within this initiative, a group of internally displaced women have been trained and empowered to start an income generating activity of their choice, including petty trade, gardening, tailoring and others. They can now earn money and help their family to have a decent life.

A woman wearing a green t-shirt and a patterned headscarf is watering small green plants in a field with a green watering can. A young boy in a blue and red striped shirt stands next to her, looking away. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

“

**My sewing workshop allows me to contribute alongside my husband our family expenses.”**

Bandiba, 24,  
Internally displaced, Burkina Faso.



# YOUTH TALK

2nd Edition

A pre-event to the Global Girls Summit 2022



## YOUTH TALK FOR GIRLS' EQUAL POWER NOW

The 2nd edition of the Youth Talk was held virtually on **07th October 2022**, as a pre-event to the Global Girls' Summit, with the theme: Equal Power Now: Girls' Political Participation. The youths discussed on issues hampering girls' political participation, adopted key calls to action to power holders, including governments, humanitarian actors and other stakeholders. The call to action was channeled to the stakeholders through youth delegates to the Abuja Global Girls' Summit. They now hope for concrete commitments from all stakeholders with regards to their call to action. This includes:

- › More platforms for girls' voices to be heard so as to build their self-esteem necessary to take a public stand political issues and debates
- › Support from the community, to be their first backup and encourage girls, so that they can grow up with the confidence and ambition to enter political life.
- › Continuous support and protection for girls who are already engaged in political life in their communities and countries.



**To build girls' self-confidence and make their male friends grow respecting girls' potential, teachers who are at the basis of education should have the habit to voice out positive speech on girls' skills."**

**Esther, Ghana**



## GIRLS TAKE OVER TODAY...

Every year, within the regional commemoration of the International Day of the Girl, Plan International organizes around 50 take-overs sessions; whereby young girls for one day, assume the position of a leader in their community, their country and abroad. These experiences are giving girls exposures that build their power, their self-confidence and motivation to strongly work for their aspirations to come through.



**The takeover, especially the media attention it attracted, gave me credibility with many people. I hope to lead an organization with such an impact on the rights of many people."**

**Mariam**, Takeover of Plan International Country Director, Mali.



**When I sat on the seat of the speaker of the parliament, I was like having this mindset of a leader, representing so many people. As a girl, I had this idea that only women support women. But when we debated on the law, I saw male honorable speaking for the bill to be enacted to law, I realised that we need gender coalition, to come together to support each other."**

**Blessing**, Takeover of the speaker of the parliament, Sierra Leone.



**It was really inspiring. Imagine at my age, you are put in the Minister's car, with his bodyguard, you are welcomed from the stairs and put in the Minister's chair with all the respect due to a Minister. I tell myself that it is possible for me to become a minister one day if I decide to study and work for that."**

**Marie Madeleine**, Takeover of the Minister of Territorial Administration, Guinea.





## **COP 27:** **THE NEED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE, FOR THE PROTECTION OF GIRLS' RIGHTS IN THE SAHEL**

Invited at the COP 27, Plan International seized this opportunity to highlight how climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities with devastating impact on the rights of adolescent girls and young women who are disproportionately affected by the impact of climate change. Indeed, climate change is a major driver of conflicts, including food insecurity in most parts of Sub Saharan Africa and the world at large. Consequently, girls have little access to food, are forced to drop out of school and are victims of child marriage. As a response, the organization made the following recommendations amongst others as part of its advocacy asks during the COP:



- › Ensure climate policies include actions to uphold children's rights, recognizing the disproportionate impact on girls;
- › Increase climate finance that is gender responsive and accessible to girls and young women;
- › Finance loss and damage considering gender and intergenerational equity.

The Plan International Delegation, including delegates from WACA, amongst whom were two youth delegates to COP 27, engaged in panel discussions, negotiation sessions and networking sessions, with partners such as UN women, UN special Rapporteur for child protection, the Feminist Coalition for Climate Justice, the AU Africa group of Negotiators for Climate Justice, National Governments, to cite just a few. These spaces were used to reiterate Plan International advocacy message for a gender transformative approach to climate Justice, with girls and youth voices at the center.



## GLOBAL GIRLS' SUMMIT IN 2022

### EQUAL POWER: GIRLS' POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Around 100 girls came from all over the world to demand equal power now for girls within the Global Girls' Summit. The summit that was held in Nigeria from 12th to 13th October created a multicultural, intergenerational, and citizen space, where girls interacted, strengthen themselves and addressed leaders and decisions makers on the profound changes they want in their environments, this includes their rights to political participation.

They expressed their disappointment with the fact that, youth and especially girls are less included in decision making spaces and their opinion less demanded nor considered. And when they are called to the floor, it is just to applaud what others have decided for them. Thus, with boldness and passion, these young leaders demonstrated that they have the qualities and skills to be taken seriously, and to be treated equally. But above all, they demanded to be put in the front line of decision-making processes, especially for initiatives that concern them, as they pointed out **"We know better what is good for us"**.



**The authorities are usually very willing to make commitments that delight our hearts. But it would be more interesting to see them take concrete steps to fulfill these commitments."**

Kadiatou, Guinée



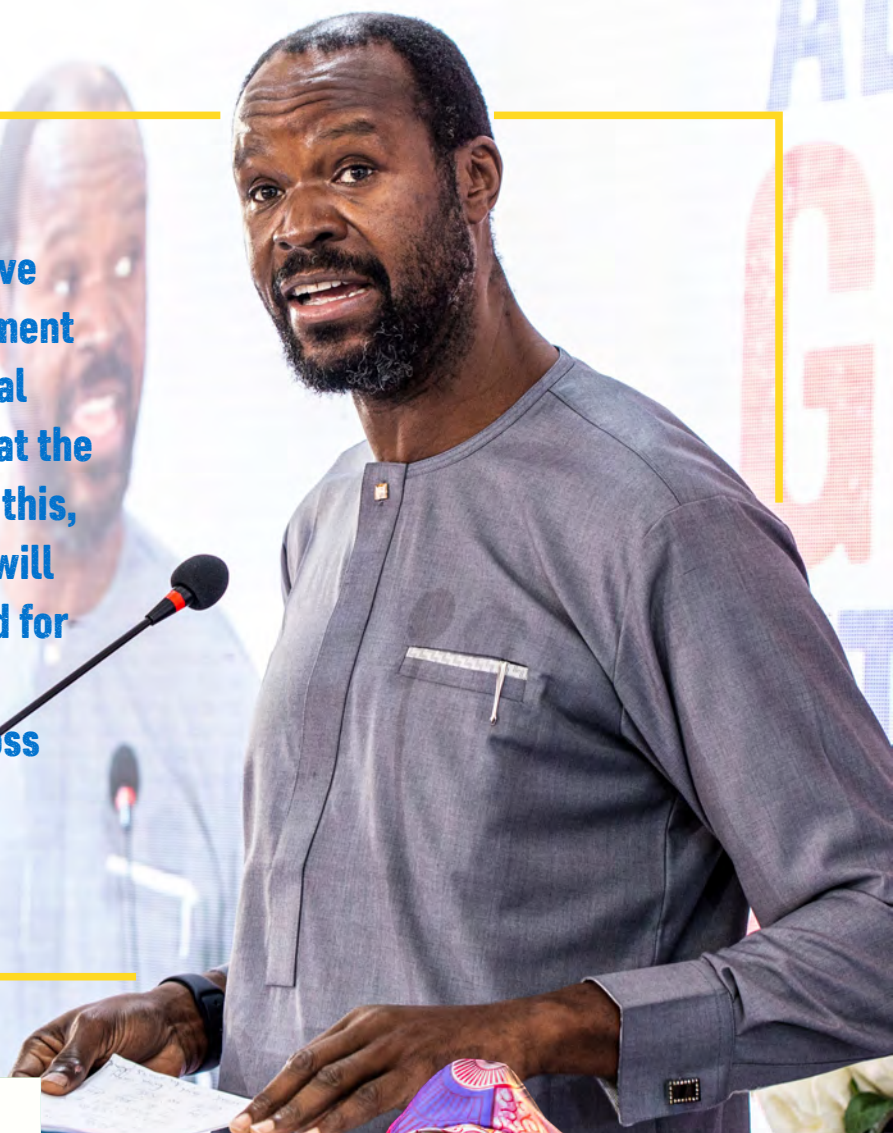


# HEAR FROM OFFICIALS WITHIN THE GLOBAL GIRLS' SUMMIT

“

We heard the youth, and we have the idea of providing an investment plan, that we will call the Global Girls' Foundation. Though still at the incubation step we plan to use this, to mobilize resources that we will direct to girls. This will be used for education formal or informal, capacities building and go across the different work we do.”

Stephen Omollo, CEO Plan International



“

As a take away of this summit, let's give the best attention possible to education. We wish that at the end of the Global Girls' Summit, the girls gain self-confidence to impact and transform their environment.”

Pauline Tallen, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Nigeria.



“

Women don't lack potential, they lack opportunities. We need to put ourselves together and work in a different way that men do not expect.”

Angélique Kidjo, Singer.



Photo by Carator, CC BY 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=801312647>



## DISCOVER HOW PLAN INTERNATIONAL BECAME A GO TO ORGANIZATION FOR GIRLS AND PARTICIPATED TO THE DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

At first Plan International vision was primarily for the protection of children rights and dignity, with no major emphasis on girls. The triggering factor came from a community visit of a Senior Leader. During this visit in the raining season, he asked a mother why she dressed her daughter so lightly and her son very warmly. The latter answer "Because she is a girl". This comment greatly troubled the leader who, returning from this visit wrote a report which led to the launching of a series of reports on the situation of girls across the world known today as the State of the World's Girls reports.

These reports brought out evidences showing how preoccupying is the girl's situation. From then, Plan International started advocating for an international day of girls at the United Nations. To this they issued a petition that gathered more than 7,000 signatures, and sponsored young girls to speak at the UN, of their harsh living conditions.

Finally, in December 2011, the UN declared 11 October International Day of the Girl. From then on, Plan International has put particular emphasis on girls' rights protection, even changing its purpose to become: "We strive for a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls". To learn more on this, watch this inspiring video on the ['Memories of a Girls Rights campaign icon'](#).





# GLOBAL STRATEGY LAUNCH EVENT



WACA face to face RLT meeting took place in Sierra Leone, from the 6-9th of September 2022. The team celebrated the achievements of the last year and looks forward together to delivering the new global strategy **All Girls Standing Strong Creating Global Change** in the WACA region.

Five key priorities areas were adopted at the end of the RLT that would be the focus of the region for the FY23. These include:



Prior to the RLT meeting, Plan International WACA Executive Director participated in the Gender transformative Award in Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone National Alumni forum.

The RLT meeting in Sierra Leone was recently followed by WACA Hub management reflection week team meeting which mainly focused on reviewing, analyzing and act on the WACA COs and RH Quarterly performance, based on corporate data sets, the CO and RH Management and Insights Reports and other reports made available through functional leads. This included a series of deep dives, critical analyses of issues/challenges, risks and opportunities.

“

**My take home from the Alumni and Gender Transformative Champion Awards ceremony would truly be the power of young people to mobilize, drive movements, raise awareness on key issues, and bring stakeholders to action.”**

**Rotimy Djossaya**, Executive Director  
WACA region





# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

POST SUMMIT LAUNCHING...

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST  
**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

25 NOV - 10 DEC



GIRLS  
GETEQUAL



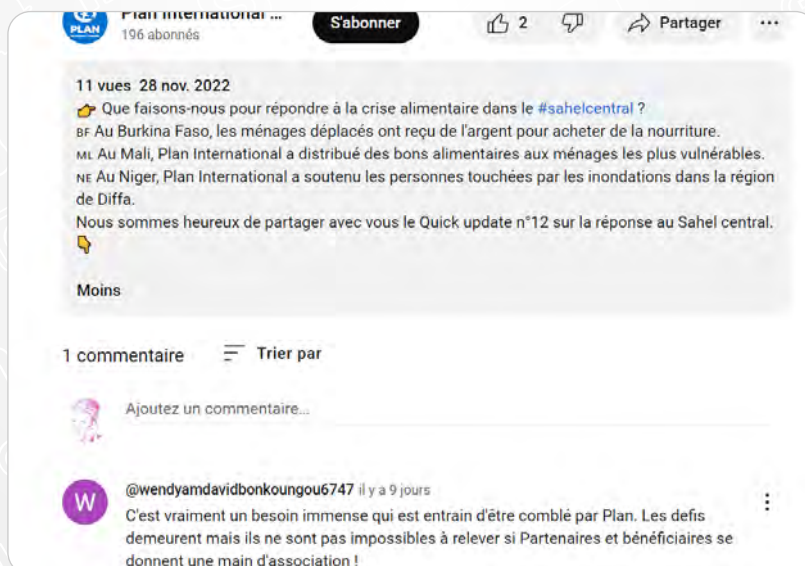
DO YOU  
**STAND**  
WITH GIRLS  
CHANGING THE FACE  
OF POLITICS?



GIRLS  
GETEQUAL



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PAGES



For a request or more information:

### GABRIELLE COLE

Regional Head of Gender Equality & Inclusion  
Plan International WACA,  
[Gabrielle.Cole@plan-international.org](mailto:Gabrielle.Cole@plan-international.org)

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.