



Until we are all equal

# Plan International Worldwide Annual Review 2024

July 2023 – June 2024



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**Cover and this page:** Lethubhle, 15, in the community garden at her school in Zimbabwe, part of the DREAMS project. "Our school is like a mini-community where we learn in class, take part in projects and go back to our dormitories to relax, study and play," she explains. ©Plan International/Tendai Marima/Fairpicture

## FOREWORD

My name is Nyasha, and I live in Zimbabwe in a highly populated area called Epworth, known for its challenges with high crime rates and poverty. Growing up in a broken family, I never experienced my father's love, and endured abuse from family members and the community. These experiences made me passionate about advocating for girls' rights. At the age of nine, I began writing songs, poems, and speeches about human rights.

In 2014, I was about to drop out of school, but I approached Plan International, and they covered my school fees, and offered access to counselling. This support helped me heal from my past trauma and shaped the person I am today. Plan International also supported me to develop my leadership skills. I was the Head Girl at school, and in 2018, I was chosen to be the Junior District Administrator of Epworth-Ruwa, where I met with key decision-makers to discuss policy. That same year, I travelled to Namibia to speak about the violation of girls' rights, which I had witnessed firsthand.

In 2019, I became a Youth Ambassador, advocating for children's right to birth certificates, their first step toward identity. In 2020, I participated in activities focusing on economic empowerment for young women. The following year, with Plan International's support, I founded my own organisation, Ladies Excel, aimed at empowering girls and young women to be financially independent, confident, and self-reliant.

By 2022, I was selected as a Global Young Influencer, co-creating the Equal Power Now Youth Manifesto. We engaged with decision-makers to create open, inclusive, and safe pathways for girls and young women to participate in leadership and governance. I represented African youth at the European Week of Action for Girls in Belgium, focusing on economic empowerment, civic engagement, reproductive health rights, and education. I also engaged with key stakeholders in Indonesia, working with parliamentarians on implementing policies that protect girls.

In November 2023, I became a part of Plan International's Members' Assembly,\* and in 2024, I joined the Youth Reference Group, which provides a platform for meaningful youth engagement and decision-making. This allowed me to introduce the group in Zimbabwe, helping to make our country office more youth-centred.

I continue to engage at a community level, actively participating in Plan's projects such as Safe and Inclusive Cities, and Harare Urban Youth Economic Empowerment. These projects promote youth participation in human rights advocacy and provide opportunities for economic development and community safety. I have been involved in petitions, public hearings, and dialogues with local authorities about issues that matter to us.

\* Plan International's governing body, which includes two delegates under the age of 25 from countries where we implement programmes.

Plan International's support has helped me overcome trauma and become a human rights advocate. Plan is more than an organisation to me — it's family. I want to continue giving back to my community, sharing my experience and knowledge to reduce gender inequalities and ensure equal representation for girls in decision-making platforms.

I imagine a future where we will all have dignity, equality, empowered people, sustainable development, and peace. Thank you for your continuous support in my journey with Plan International.

Striving for excellence, driven by heart! Together we can make a difference!

**Nyasha**



## LISTENING & SUPPORTING

Foreword from the Interim CEO, Debbie Simpson, and Chair of the International Board & Members' Assembly, Gunvor Kronman

"I dream of a future where every girl is free to shape her own life," says Sonia, a young advocate from Togo, who now mentors her peers on their rights. "We are powerful voices for change," echoes Shamikshya from Nepal, who, with others, envisions a world where girls lead and make decisions that impact their communities. And Sedra, a 16-year-old Syrian refugee, speaks for countless others when she says, "My dream of influencing change is a reality."

In their words and actions, we see the heart of Plan International's work and the change we are working toward every day. Our Annual Review for 2024 is a testament to this mission—a journey alongside millions of girls, young women, and communities advocating for equality and justice. Together, we are creating a world where girls have the support and freedom to thrive.

In the past year, through collaborative programmes and impactful partnerships, we reached over 43 million children, including 23 million girls, across more than 80 countries. From expanding access to



inclusive education and life-saving child protection activities, to addressing the climate crisis through youth-led advocacy at COP28, our work is breaking down barriers and opening doors for girls everywhere. We proudly work with communities, local organisations, and governments to drive positive change and sustain these efforts for the long term.

In a world increasingly affected by conflicts and disasters, our humanitarian programmes reached those at the heart of crisis: delivering food assistance to displaced families in Mali, providing safe learning spaces for refugee children on the Chad-Sudan border, and ensuring the safety and dignity of girls and young women affected by conflict in Gaza and neighbouring countries.

Our focus remains firm on advancing girls' rights, which include critical areas such as education, protection from violence, economic empowerment, and the right to make their own life choices. At every level—local, national, and global—we continue to push for policies that uphold the

rights of girls, as shown by recent successes like preserving the FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) ban in The Gambia and expanding girls' leadership initiatives across West Africa. This year, young advocates also introduced the Girls' Pact for the Future, a bold manifesto calling on global leaders to act on gender equality and climate justice, amplifying the voices of girls demanding change in the decisions that shape their lives.

As we work to bring these stories to life, we are reminded daily of the resilience of the young people who are building a better future. Their voices inspire us to push forward with our ambitious strategy, aiming to impact 200 million girls by 2027.

To our staff, supporters, donors, and partners — your commitment makes this vision possible.

Together, we won't stop until every girl, everywhere, stands strong and can create the world she envisions.

# "I dream of a future where every girl is free to shape her own life"

- Sonia, youth advocate, Togo



# OUR STRATEGY TO 2027

## All girls standing strong creating global change

### Plan International strives for a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls.

Our strategy to 2027 is to work towards and support all girls standing strong creating global change. Working together we will create:



A world where all girls know and exercise their rights to living the life they choose







A network of supporters, communities, staff, partners, and donors, supporting girls and young women to stand strong as they learn, lead, decide, and thrive




Global change through breaking down the barriers and discrimination girls and young women currently face every minute

## The priorities that will help realise our ambition include:

Our focus on girls' rights, especially adolescent girls and young women, supporting them to learn, lead, decide and thrive.


-  **Learn:** Inclusive Quality Education & Skills and Decent Work
-  **Lead:** Young People Driving Change
-  **Decide:** Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
-  **Thrive:** Early Childhood Development and Protection from Violence

 **Scaling** up our humanitarian impact

 Being **youth centred**

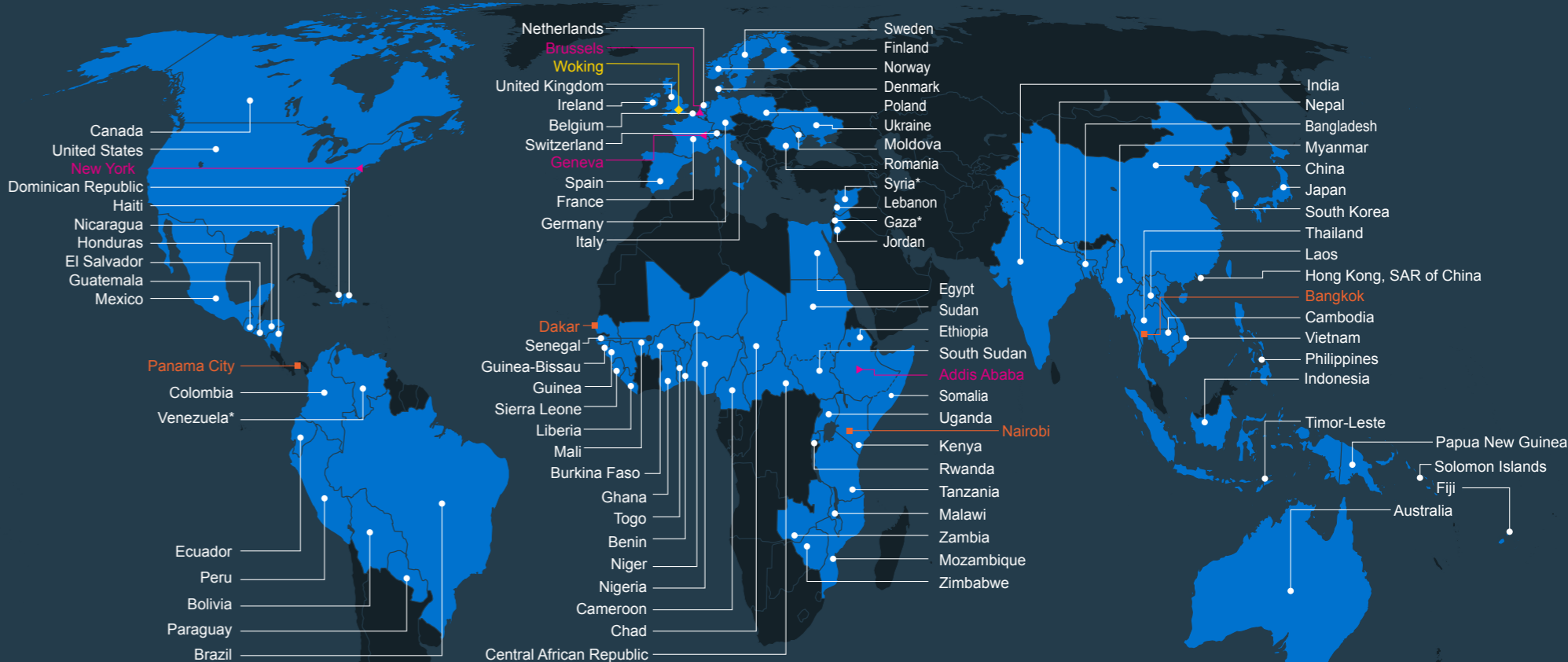
 Becoming **locally led** and globally connected

 **Improving** our collection and use of impact evidence

 Engaging existing and new supporters to **increase funding** for community programmes

# We work in over 80 countries<sup>o</sup>

We aim to improve the lives of 200 million girls in the five years to 2027. When girls thrive in a more equal world, we are all stronger for it.



<sup>o</sup> The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsements or acceptance by Plan International.

<sup>o</sup> Between July 2023 and June 2024  
\*Working through partners

## RESULTS

### Our impact in 2024

# 43m

Children reached – including 23.3 million girls\*



# 66,875

Communities benefitted from our work

Community members were trained in gender equality

# 433.7k

# 36.4k

Partners worked with us this year

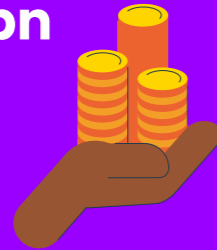
# 1,421

Active projects

# Income: €1bn



# Expenditure: €1bn



# 1.1m

Sponsored children

# 1m

Sponsors



## Influencing successes

We advocate for the rights of girls and young women at global, national and local levels. In 2024, our offices reported 312 influencing successes at all levels, contributing to:

**39** changes in attitudes and agendas of key decision-makers around girls' rights

**43** commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services which will contribute to girls' rights

**120** changes or developments related to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights

### Girls' rights highlighted at the 68th Commission on Status of Women

Plan International led efforts at the 68th Commission in the Status of Women to influence the adoption of new language and commitments on girls' rights. Collaborating across global offices and with member states, Plan secured commitments to prevent violence against girls in schools and transit. For the first time, the Commission recognised the link between investing in girls' education and leadership as essential to breaking cycles of violence and poverty, ensuring girls' rights are protected.

### Advocating for climate action at COP28

At COP28, Plan International advocated for gender-just climate action and children's rights. Youth advocates from several countries engaged with negotiators, pushing for gender-transformative education, climate finance, and resilient health systems. Plan's efforts helped influence key outcomes in the final COP28 texts, addressing gender equality and youth rights, and led to progress in climate discussions that recognised the disproportionate impact of climate change on girls.

### Youth voices at the Global Refugee Forum

At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, Plan International played a key role in securing more than 200 pledges for children. For the first time, refugee children were included in the event, with a notable appearance by **youth advocate, Sedra**, a 15-year-old Syrian refugee, who spoke at a high-level session.

### Upholding the FGM ban in The Gambia

Plan International, with civil society partners, successfully defended the female genital mutilation (FGM) ban in The Gambia, protecting thousands of girls from harmful practices.

Work done in the first quarter of 2024 resulted in a landmark decision by the government of The Gambia to uphold the ban on FGM, after previously announcing its plan to roll back the law. The final decision was significantly shaped by coordinated advocacy efforts led by Plan International, in collaboration with other civil society organisations, youth groups, and regional bodies.

Plan, particularly through its West and Central Africa offices and Plan International Senegal, played a leading role in a broad coalition of organisations, including UNFPA, UNICEF, and local civil society organisations. This collective work, conducted across West and Central Africa, and at the global level, created a powerful, passionate advocacy platform that influenced policymakers in the heart of The Gambia's government, and ultimately protected the rights of girls and young women across the region.

### Girl activists lead International Day of the Girl

In October 2023, Plan International launched a global campaign on the theme of girls' activism, celebrating the achievements of girl and young women activists worldwide, and highlighting the challenges they face every day as they campaign for change. The campaign was supported by the launch of our flagship annual State of the World's Girls report, entitled: **Turning The World Around**. The campaign was launched for International Day of the Girl, an event that Plan lobbied the UN to create in 2011. Some 60 Plan offices took part in 2023, including 500 girls' takeovers, where girls took over key positions of power at the global to national level, and over 100 events celebrating girls' activism.

### Girls leadership in West & Central Africa

The Youth Challenge Fund supported transformative projects across 14 West and Central African countries, focusing on digitalisation, climate change, education, and girls' leadership. Initiatives like the feminist leadership programme in Togo and safe spaces for girls in Mali demonstrated the fund's impact. In Burkina Faso and Niger, youth groups addressed immediate crises such as food insecurity, while focusing on long-term goals including girls' education and digital innovation, empowering youth to lead change even in restrictive contexts.

\*Figures include non-binary people, where reported. Totals adjusted for double counting across different programmes.

## ADVOCACY

### Amplifying girls' voices

#### Girls' Pact for the Future

"The chance to advocate for a more just and sustainable world, where girls' voices are heard and respected, is something I deeply value," says Shamikshya, 19, from Nepal. She was part of a youth task force that developed a Girls' Pact for the Future, a girl and youth-driven manifesto setting out their vision of a gender-equal future, as well as the necessary steps to be taken as part of Summit of the Future and the

Post-2030 Agenda in order to achieve that vision. The Girls' Pact was launched in May 2024 during the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, which convened prominent international civil society organisations, youth changemakers, academia, public opinion makers, and international media to discuss issues of global concern.

"Girls need to be heard and included in decision-making processes. Our resilience and determination in the face of adversity are inspiring, and we are powerful voices for change. Being part of the Youth Task Force has been an extraordinary journey, working with 35 young activists from 22 countries to advocate for gender equality and amplify young voices. This experience has deepened my commitment to youth advocacy and gender equality!"

- Shamikshya, 19, Nepal



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**"In the past, my mum taught me that girls should be good at housework and farm work so they could get married and have children. But I now know that I can do more."**

- Dung, 15, Vietnam

Dung, (above right) 15, advocates against early and forced marriage, a common practice among her H'mong community in Vietnam. The Time to Act! project is being implemented by Plan International in Ha Giang province, Vietnam, supporting youth-led activism, advocacy and engagement to end child, early and forced marriage in Vietnam.



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#### Empower Art for Peace project

Nicol, 18, leads the Municipal Youth Council in Cauca, Colombia, advocating for children's rights through Plan International's Empower Art for Peace project.

"Ensuring peace is an urgent call. If we continue like this, young people and children will continue to be abandoned, and soon, there may be no solutions left. I believe that when young people participate in leadership and cultural processes, it generates hope for a better future. Even though these processes are not easy or safe, they are necessary for transformation."

The Empower Art for Peace project fosters reconciliation and peacebuilding in regions heavily impacted by armed conflict in Cauca, Colombia, using art and citizen participation to promote memory, peace, and equality, directly impacting the lives of over 10,000 people.

#### Tackling child labour in Kenya

Plan International Kenya advocated for the National Child Labour Policy, protecting vulnerable girls from exploitation and aligning national efforts with Plan's gender equality goals.

#### Girls' voices amplified at Pan-African conference

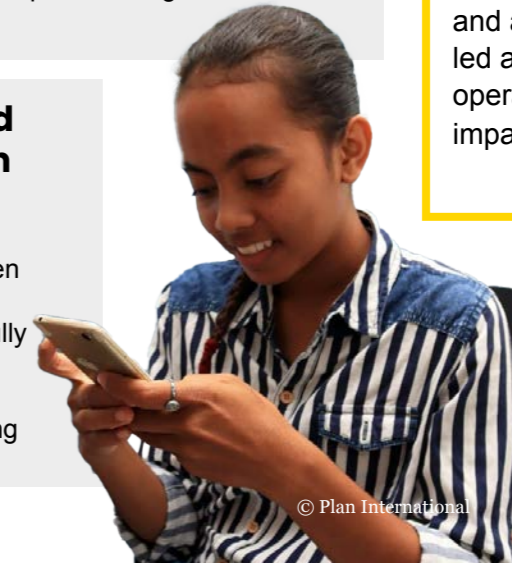
Plan International co-organised the first Pan-African Conference on Girls' Education with the African Union. The event amplified girls' voices and showcased lessons on gender-responsive education, particularly in humanitarian settings.

#### Girls' leadership in Asia

At the UN 75 Asia Regional Dialogue in Bangkok, youth representatives supported by Plan International advocated for expanding advocacy platforms for marginalised groups, including girls, LGBTQI+, and young activists, highlighting the need for improved freedom of speech and government accountability in Asia.

#### Advancing sexual and reproductive health in Timor-Leste

Plan International led youth-driven dialogues with the Ministry of Health in Timor-Leste, successfully advocating for family planning policies that reduced teenage pregnancies and supported young mothers returning to school.



© Plan International

## Global Campaigning at Plan International

### Girls Get Equal

In 2023, Plan International's flagship campaign for the last five years, Girls Get Equal, came to an end. The GGE campaign envisioned a world where girls have freedom from discrimination, harassment, and violence, enabling them to participate in decisions that impact their lives. It provided an overarching theme and approach for Plan's campaigns, and gave offices a new, powerful way to inspire, mobilise and influence others to take action for gender equality and girls' rights issues. Now, we have updated our ambitions to drive bold action on girls' equality for Plan International, while providing a platform for youth voices and advocacy. We will champion locally-led action, connect efforts across our operating countries, and help deliver impact across our influencing goals.

Left: Valeria from Timor Leste, accesses information about reproductive and sexual health using the Reproductiva app

## IMPACT

### Priority areas of work



"I was chosen as a leader because I am not afraid to speak out"

- Roukaya, 12, Niger

## Protection from violence

Children and young people, particularly girls, grow up free from violence, fear, or discrimination.

### Speaking out against child marriage in Niger

"I was chosen as a leader because I am not afraid to speak out," says Roukaya, 12, from Niger, who reported a classmate's early marriage, leading to its prevention. Through Plan International's GirlEngage project, which has trained 1,800 girls and 1,440 boys in life skills and leadership, Roukaya and others are empowered to fight child marriage in Niger, a country where 76% of girls are married before 18, and 28% before age 15.

### Global impact

- Gender-sensitive protection from violence for **6m girls**, reaching a total of **18.8m children and adults**
- Plan International carried out **49 child protection in emergencies programmes** across 33 countries
- We spent **150.1 million euros** in protection from violence programmes
- 84% of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls
- 366,474 community members and volunteers, and 25,714 staff in partner organisations and institutions trained in child protection

### Influencing successes on child early and forced marriages and unions

- 14 changes or developments related to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines

## Early childhood development

All young children grow up well cared for and equally valued.

### Fathers' Clubs in Cambodia

"Now I read to my son after dinner and before bed. He loves to listen to my voice. My wife, son, and I also sing together, draw, and do maths," says Pen (right), in Cambodia, who explains that previously, when he returned from the farm, he would usually relax with his phone, or sometimes go out drinking with his friends. When Pen took part in a Father's Club, part of Plan International's Healthy Start programme, he learnt to take more responsibility for household matters, and is now more involved with his wife and son at home.



### Global impact

- A better start in life for **8.6m girls** with programmes reaching **29.9m children and adults**
- We spent **102.2 million euros** in early childhood development programmes
- 73% of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls

## Inclusive, quality education

Children, particularly girls, have the education they need to succeed in life.

### Returning to school against the odds in Bangladesh

"I now have the confidence to return to school," says Rinki, 16, in rural Bangladesh. Rinki had to leave school due to her family's financial struggles, but was inspired by an Accelerated Learning Programme to re-engage with education, and subsequently persuaded her parents to enrol her younger sister, too. Both girls are now thriving as they prepare to re-enter formal schooling. Accelerated empowers children like Rinki by providing a supportive learning environment, helping them overcome educational setbacks and go back to their studies.

### Global impact

- **5.3m girls** with better access to education
- Inclusive, quality education reached **17.8m children and adults**
- Plan International carried out **35 education in emergencies programmes** across 28 countries
- We spent **140.4 million euros** in inclusive, quality education programmes
- 79% of our projects have gender equality at the heart

### Influencing successes on education:

- 28 changes related to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights
- 11 commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services

"In our community, girls often stay at home, but I know education is for everyone"

Rinki, 16

## Young people driving change

Girls, boys and young people shape decisions that affect their lives by leading change within their own communities and influencing decisions at higher levels.

### Andrea leads the fight for girls' and women's rights

"When I joined the Girls' Movement, I saw confident girls, and I knew this was my place," says Andrea, 18, from Ecuador, who joined a Plan International leadership project to learn how to defend girls' rights, then ran for president of her school's student government, organising talks on preventing violence and teenage pregnancy. "I will not stop until I achieve equality," she says. The Learn and Be Protected project, developed by Plan International in partnership with Beiersdorf, was designed to teach adolescents how to exercise their right to education and protect themselves against violence. It also addressed critical issues such as teenage pregnancy and sexual violence.

### Global impact

- **1.1m girls** supported to be active citizens
- Girls, boys and youth as drivers of change reached **4.8m children and adults**
- We spent **55.1 million euros** in programmes related to young people driving changes
- 88% of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality

#### Influencing successes on girls' leadership:

- 6 commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services
- 18 changes or developments related to laws, policies, regulations or guidelines on girls' rights

"I will not stop until I achieve equality"

- Andrea, 18, Ecuador



## Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Girls and young women have the right to make their own life decisions, from what happens to their bodies to when and to whom they marry.

### The peer educator changing futures

"My dream is to show my peers that they have the power to change their destiny through education and information," says Sonia (right), 21, from Togo, who overcame a controlling relationship by asserting her rights, and now inspires other young women to do the same via Plan International's Youth Empowerment in West Africa programme. Trained as a peer educator, Sonia teaches her peers about sexual and reproductive health and rights.



### Global impact

- Improving sexual and reproductive health for **5.8m girls**
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights reached **32m children and adults**
- Plan International carried out 14 health – including sexual and reproductive health and rights – in emergencies programmes across 13 countries
- We spent **109.6 million euros** in sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes
- 85% of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls

#### Influencing successes on sexual and reproductive health and rights

- 19 changes or developments related to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights
- 8 commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services

## Skills and decent work

Marginalised young people, especially young women, gain knowledge and skills, access opportunities, and engage actively in decent work of their choosing.

### The heady heights of hair

In Nairobi, Janet Ndete (right) is leading the fight against climate change by recycling synthetic hair braids. "We clean and sort the hair, then weave it into handbags, doormats, and jewellery," explains Janet, who runs Queening Africa, an eco-friendly social enterprise, with the support of Plan International's Safe and Inclusive Cities project. The project empowers young women to influence urban governance and find economic opportunities in their local communities, accessing mentorship and coaching. "We sell about seven or eight handbags a month," Janet says.



### Global impact

- **770.5k girls** with improved skills and work opportunities
- Skills and opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship reached **4.6m children and adults**
- We spent **74.8 million euros** in skills and decent work programmes
- 80% of our projects tackle the root causes of inequality for girls

#### Influencing successes on economic empowerment:

- 6 changes or developments related to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights



## Humanitarian and emergency response

Protecting and upholding the rights of children, particularly girls, before, during, and after emergencies.

## Protection for Ukrainian children with learning disabilities in Moldova

"I come to read, write, and play with others. I have found my own routine," says Stas, 13, a Ukrainian refugee in Moldova who attends a centre providing children with a safe space to learn and grow amidst the uncertainty of conflict, run by Plan International's partner, Amici di Bambini. Stela Vasluian, Executive Director, says: "The power of play lies in providing children and adolescents with age-appropriate educational and psychosocial support, fostering resilience, cognitive and emotional development, social connection, and a sense of stability. The war has stolen the most precious thing from children. But this is childhood, the right to education and play."

### Global impact

- 12.2m children and adults reached by our disaster work, including 3.2m girls
- 87 disaster responses were carried out globally, ranging from localised responses to large-scale national and regional emergencies.
- 22 cash and voucher assistance programmes across 20 countries
- 34 food security programmes across 28 countries
- We spent 125.1 million euros in humanitarian response

### Influencing successes on girls in crisis

- 4 changes or developments related to laws, policies, regulations, or guidelines on girls' rights
- 4 commitments to, or increases in, investment, budget, expenditure, systems or services



© Plan International / Souleymane Drabo

## Cash and voucher food assistance in Mali

Salimata, 12, fled her home in Mali with her family, due to conflict, and now lives in a displaced persons camp. "The difficulties I face are mainly problems related to food; on top of that, I have no clothes or shoes," she says. Her father, Sanoussi, was able to buy food and raise livestock thanks to Plan International's cash and voucher assistance programme. "The cash allowed us to buy food like rice and millet. We also used it to raise sheep and goats," says Sanoussi, who now supports his eight children, including Salimata. "I eat four times per day: breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner," she says.



Humanitarian crises are becoming more frequent and ferocious, and our impact hinges on the actions we take together. We share a fragile ecosystem that needs all of us — local communities, relief agencies, governments, and humanitarian organisations — to unite and collaborate. Only through collaboration can we act swiftly, stay relevant, face today's challenges, and ensure that no one, especially children, women, differently abled people, and other vulnerable people, is left behind in crisis.



- Dr Unni Krishnan, Global Humanitarian Director

## New humanitarian units to enhance rapid response

To enhance humanitarian capability, to respond to emergencies in a timely, principled and appropriate way, and to strengthen trust with the public and donors, four global units have been established: the Global Rapid Response and Readiness Unit, the Global Hunger Response and Resilience Unit, the Global Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Unit, and the Global Humanitarian Policy, Advocacy, and Diplomacy Unit. These units will work together to provide rapid, coordinated responses to crises, strengthen resilience, fight hunger, and protect children in humanitarian settings.

## Sudan: Children never start wars, yet they pay the biggest price

"I come to the child-friendly space to forget the killing I witnessed back home," says seven-year-old Zenab, who now attends a Plan International-supported safe play space in Abutenge refugee camp in Sudan. Initially quiet and shy, Zenab has grown bolder and more talkative, even beginning to envision a future for herself.

Children, in particular, face hunger, exposure, and loss of family security, with many at risk of recruitment into armed groups.

In camps like Abutenge, children share harrowing stories of violence, including the widespread use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Aliya, a mother of four, describes her children's recurring nightmares, haunted by memories of terror. To address this trauma, Plan International and local partners have established safe spaces in refugee camps, providing children with learning, play, and art activities to help them process their experiences. These spaces allow children a precious opportunity to feel safe and simply be children again.

Sudan is grappling with one of the world's fastest-growing humanitarian crises. Since fighting erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, over five million children have been displaced, marking the largest displacement crisis for children globally. Today, 25 million people — half of Sudan's population — are in urgent need of aid, with famine declared in Darfur.



A learning space in Chad set up by Plan International and partners, where children can learn in safety and socialise with their friends. © Plan International

## Power walks to combat harassment and violence in Peru

"The Power Walk helped me realise how few places I feel safe," says María (below), 16, from Piura, Peru, where the Coastal El Niño Phenomenon has left more than 787,000 people affected. María and other girls lead Power Walks to identify safe areas and protect themselves during emergencies. "During floods, we were isolated, and many girls faced harassment and violence," she explains. With support from Plan International's In the Emergency with You project, which demonstrates Plan's commitment to anticipatory action and disaster risk reduction, the girls are now raising awareness and advocating for safer spaces.



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© Plan International / Anika Büssemeier

## Haiti teengaer in school amid escalating crisis

"I've been involved with Plan International since I was a child," says Dalande, 16, in Haiti. "I can say that Plan helped me become the person I am today. Recently, Plan gave my family money. I was able to pay half of my school fees, and we gave the rest to my sister so she could do her exams." Dalande lives with her family, who struggle to make a living from rice farming. Haiti's deteriorating food security situation, in addition to violence, has left many families struggling to survive and often going hungry, including Dalande's. Food insecurity has secondary impacts on the protection of children, especially girls. Plan International has been a vital source of support for Dalande and her family.



A mother and child amid the tents in Rafah, southern Gaza  
©Tdh / Abed Zagout

## Delivering dignity kits and food in Gaza

As the emergency spiked in Gaza, presenting overwhelming unmet humanitarian need and restrictions for aid workers and relief supplies, in collaboration with local organisations and humanitarian partners Plan International took a decision to work in the occupied Palestinian territory for the first time. Plan International Egypt worked with ActionAid to prepare dignity kits to be delivered as relief aid into Gaza. The kits were a response to the personal needs of displaced people, primarily girls and women, containing sanitary pads, soap, hairbrushes, hair clips, dresses, and underwear. Plan International is also supporting the Egyptian Red Crescent to deliver much-needed first aid kits to families in Gaza. We also collaborated with key humanitarian agencies and advocated for improved access for humanitarian workers and relief supplies, protection of children and for a ceasefire.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Kibera Joy Initiative: Kenya

“Before I came across Kibera Joy, my mother didn’t always have money for sanitary towels,” says Faulat, 21, a programme participant. “Sometimes, I used cloth. Now, you can go there for pads at any time.”

Kibera Joy Initiative is a youth-led organisation based in Nairobi’s Kibera neighbourhood. Its ‘My Period, My Pride’ campaign drives positive change around menstrual hygiene management, challenging harmful gender norms and enhancing young people’s understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

As a Plan International partner for five years under the Safe and Inclusive Cities project, Kibera Joy Initiative has increased access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health and rights and sexual and gender-based violence information.

Faulat, 21 at the Joy Initiative, youth-led organisation based in Nairobi’s Kibera neighbourhood. ©Plan International/Lorenzo Maccotta

## Working with young people as equal partners

Plan International’s Regional Youth Programme, funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and with the support of Plan International Sweden, worked with more than 15 youth led partners across Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, enabling young people to become drivers for social change in their communities.

Initially, youth groups participated in decision-making, but quickly expressed their desire to be recognised as equal partners, rather than beneficiaries or participants.

Many offices changed the way they work to reduce barriers for youth partnerships, allowing them to increase the number of such partnerships they can work with. For example, the Honduras country office has up to 75% of partnerships conducted with unregistered and emerging youth-led groups. The programme empowers and supports youth, while strengthening their autonomy and growth.

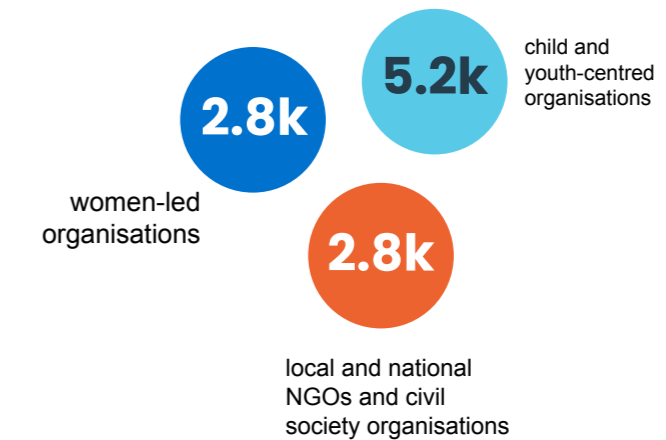
Interested in partnering with Plan International?  
Click to find out more:

Partner with us

## The importance of partnerships

At Plan International, partnerships are central to our strategy, reflecting our global priority of being ‘Locally Led, Globally Connected’. This approach emphasises the importance of building strategic, equitable, long-term relationships, in line with external commitments like the Pledge for Change and the Localisation of Humanitarian Action. An analysis of our progress in partnerships over the last ten years revealed significant improvements in all areas measured. The highest scores were in expertise and acumen, and key successes included fostering productive engagements with partners, and creating a safe and inclusive work environment.

In 2024, we worked globally with a total of 36.4k partnerships, including:



## Global Girls Foundation

The Global Girls Foundation, launched by Plan International in August 2024, aims to raise money to tackle gender inequality by empowering girls worldwide. Its mission is to champion girls’ rights through increased access to education, leadership opportunities, and protection from exploitation, particularly in crisis situations.

The foundation focuses on girls in leadership, crisis, and innovation, seeking to improve the lives of 200 million girls over the next five years. Youth are central to the foundation’s work, with Youth Delegates advising on strategies to ensure youth-centred solutions. The foundation combines impactful philanthropy with co-creation, uniting changemakers to address global issues sustainably.

Co-Managing Director, Lea Bachmann: “With the Global Girls Foundation, we ignite a movement for girls’ rights and gender equality. By harnessing the power of philanthropy, we can shatter barriers, uplift voices, and create a world where every girl can learn, lead, decide and thrive.”

## SPONSORSHIP

**Child sponsorship nurtures meaningful relationships with communities, families and children to enable lasting positive change. It's a solid foundation for a global community united around the needs and rights of children.**



**Fátima, 14, Peru**

"The biggest problem I observe in my region is femicide. Men think women deceive them, that we are objects. They kill women just for being women." Fátima, a sponsored child and part of the Decide without Violence project, is an outspoken advocate against gender violence.



**Salsabil, 14, Egypt**

"I was very excited attending the Champions of Change sessions. It helped me understand social gender issues and challenge the stereotypes imposed on girls." Salsabil, a sponsored child who takes part in Plan International's Our Future in Our Empowerment project, convinced her family to reject female genital mutilation (FGM). Salsabil continues to drive social change in her community, particularly advocating for girls' rights and health. "I told my family about the dangers of FGM, and I prevented the circumcision of all the girls in my family."



**Helene, 11, Guinea**

"Many children in our community do not have birth certificates. Through this project, our parents were informed about the importance of birth documents." Helene, a sponsored child, received her birth certificate thanks to a Plan International initiative in her village. Now, Helene and her peers are officially recognised as citizens, giving them access to essential services like education and healthcare, which were previously out of reach.

## Changing Lives 2024: Impact of Plan International's Child Sponsorship Programmes

This report on Plan's sponsorship work, conducted in Bangladesh, Ecuador, and Uganda, illustrates how investing in communities can bring about real change, transforming lives through education, healthcare, and community cohesion.

Gabriella, 21, from Sierra Leone, reflects on her journey as a sponsored child to becoming a teacher: "I didn't want to be held back by the past. As a teacher, I have earned the respect and admiration of my community." Anika, 20, in Bangladesh, says: "If I didn't get involved with the sponsorship programme of Plan, today I would have two children. They would have married me off a long time ago."

Plan International is ever evolving its sponsorship model to fit the modern world, focusing on long-term, sustainable development. Our approach ensures girls are more likely to attend school and continue to contribute to their communities.

The report underscores the success of initiatives empowering girls and promoting gender equality, while also calling for more localised, data-driven programming to address specific community needs and improve child protection. The findings demonstrate Plan International's commitment to the long-term, sustainable development of communities where we work, through child sponsorship.

[Click to read the report](#)



**Find out more about sponsorship here:**

**Support our work**

## RESEARCH

This year's reports amplify the voices of girl activists, showing their resilience and determination to fight for gender equality, climate justice, and education despite societal opposition and climate change. They highlight young women's agency in advocating for gender-transformative education, improved disaster planning, and greater accountability from wealthy nations to address the climate crisis. Most importantly, the reports call for the inclusion of girls and young women in decision-making processes that shape their futures, emphasising their power to drive change and demand policies that prioritise their rights and the planet's sustainability.

**"Gender equality has taught me to embrace myself, stand up for myself, and raise my voice."**

- Valerie, 23, an activist from Nigeria

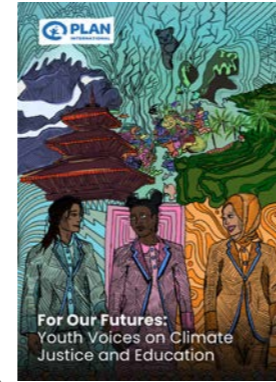


### Turning the World Around: Girl and Young Women Activists Leading the Fight for Equality

"They literally chased us out of the school with a cane," says Valerie, 23, an activist from Nigeria, speaking for the 2023 State of the World's Girls report. This report captures the resilience of over 1,000 adolescent girls and young women across 26 countries. Girl activists say they face barriers such as safety concerns and societal opposition. Enna, 18, from the Philippines, says: "Gender equality has taught me to embrace myself, stand up for myself, and raise my voice." Despite barriers like societal opposition, mental health struggles, and safety concerns, activists like Sanjiva, 18, from Nepal, say: "I feel capable." Stephanie, 24, adds, "Faceless strangers can't silence me."

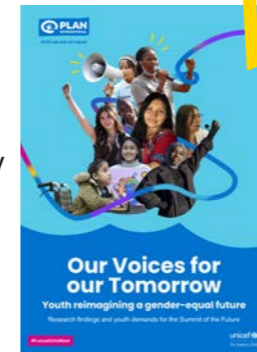
### For Our Futures: Youth Voices on Climate Justice and Education

Our crops are failing, and we can't afford school. I am worried about my future," says a girl from Indonesia in For Our Futures: Youth Voices on Climate Justice and Education. Girls in lower-income countries bear the brunt of climate disruptions, facing floods, food insecurity, and school dropouts. Despite these challenges, they advocate for climate justice, demanding inclusion in decision-making. "Girls' activism gives hope, but wealthy countries and big polluters must act," one participant states. A youth activist from Australia adds: "I saw it as an opportunity to make a positive change."



### Our Voices for Our Tomorrow: Youth Reimagining a Gender-Equal Future

In Our Voices for Our Tomorrow, another piece of research produced to influence the Summit of the Future, Furaha, 16, from Sub-Saharan Africa, urges: "Please, listen to our voices as young people, as the decisions you make today will impact our lives tomorrow." The report, conducted in anticipation of the UN Summit of the Future, captures girls' frustrations with their rights being compromised, and the need for better education and climate justice. It presents their vision for a future where girls' rights are upheld, and their voices are included in policymaking, emphasising the importance of gender-transformative education and climate justice.



**"Sometimes, it feels like the war isn't just outside, but inside my head too"**

- Olesya, a teenager from Ukraine



### Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Voices from Ukraine, Poland, and Romania

"Sometimes, it feels like the war isn't just outside, but inside my head too," says Olesya, a teenager from Ukraine, in the Adolescent Girls in Crisis study. Conducted in Ukraine, Poland, and Romania, the research highlights the war's psychological toll, including anxiety, disrupted sleep, and increased mental health needs. Safety concerns are severe, with refugee girls reporting high rates of sexual harassment. Jisu in Poland says: "I'm afraid to walk alone." The study calls for urgent action on education disruption and language barriers. Despite challenges, girls like Emiliya in Ukraine find strength: "Civilian life is now largely on women, showing our independence."

### Real Choices, Real Lives: Climate Change and Girls' Education in Benin, Togo, and Uganda

Climate change is upending the lives of girls in Benin, Togo, and Uganda, as explained by Nimisha, 17, from Uganda: "Floods make roads inaccessible which makes my journey to school difficult, and at times I'd be missing school." The Real Choices, Real Lives report follows 142 girls from nine countries since 2007, highlighting how climate change disrupts education in Benin, Togo, and Uganda, exacerbating poverty, increasing domestic burdens, and fuelling child marriage. Alice, 16, from Benin, adds: "Rainwater degrades the road, making it hard to attend school." The report, released for COP 2023, calls for gender-transformative climate education, improved disaster planning, and financial support to safeguard girls' education and futures, amid escalating climate challenges.

**"Floods make roads inaccessible which makes my journey to school difficult and at times I'd be missing school."**

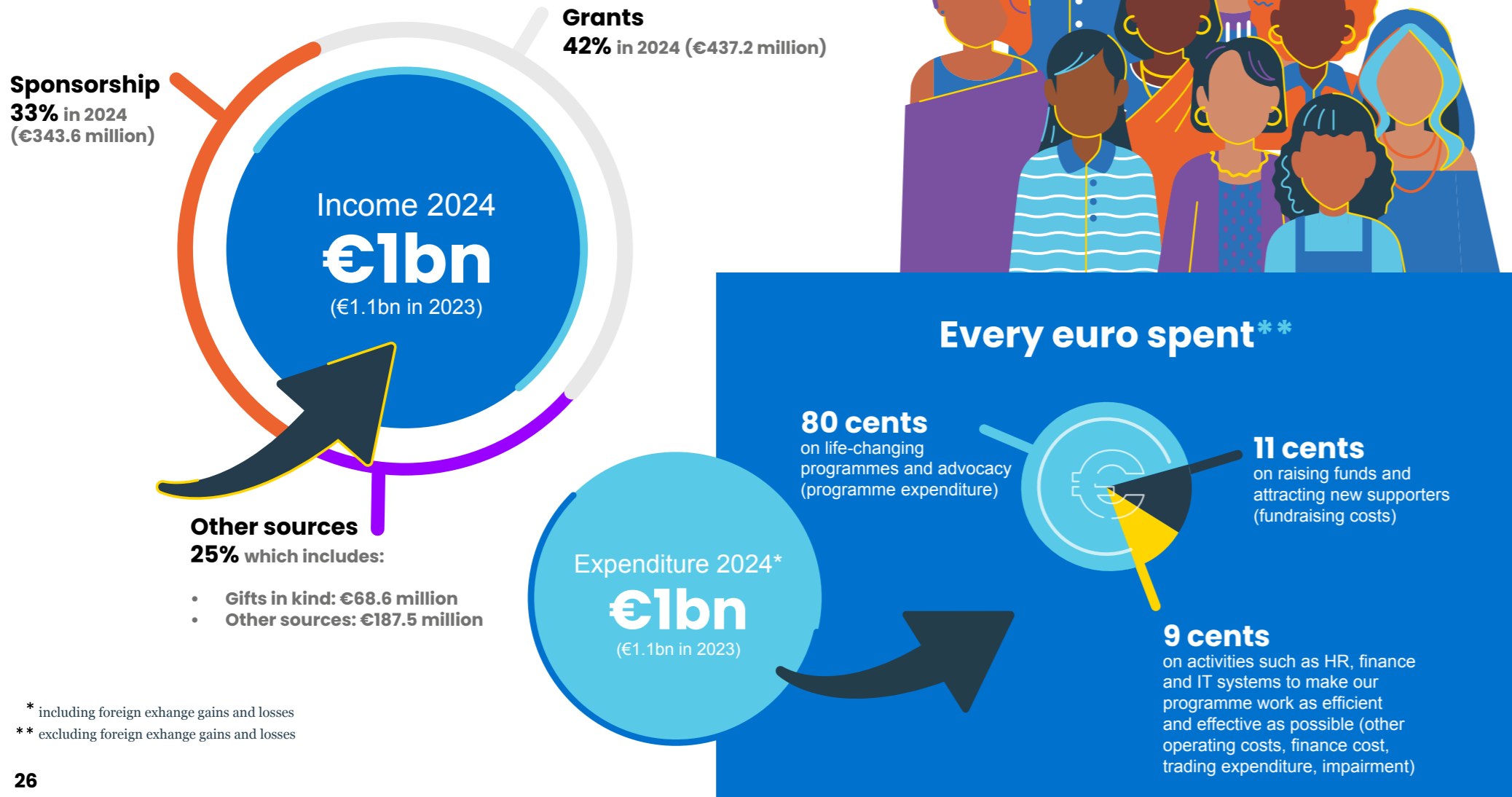
- Nimisha, 17, Uganda



# FINANCE

## Financial summary for July 2023 – June 2024

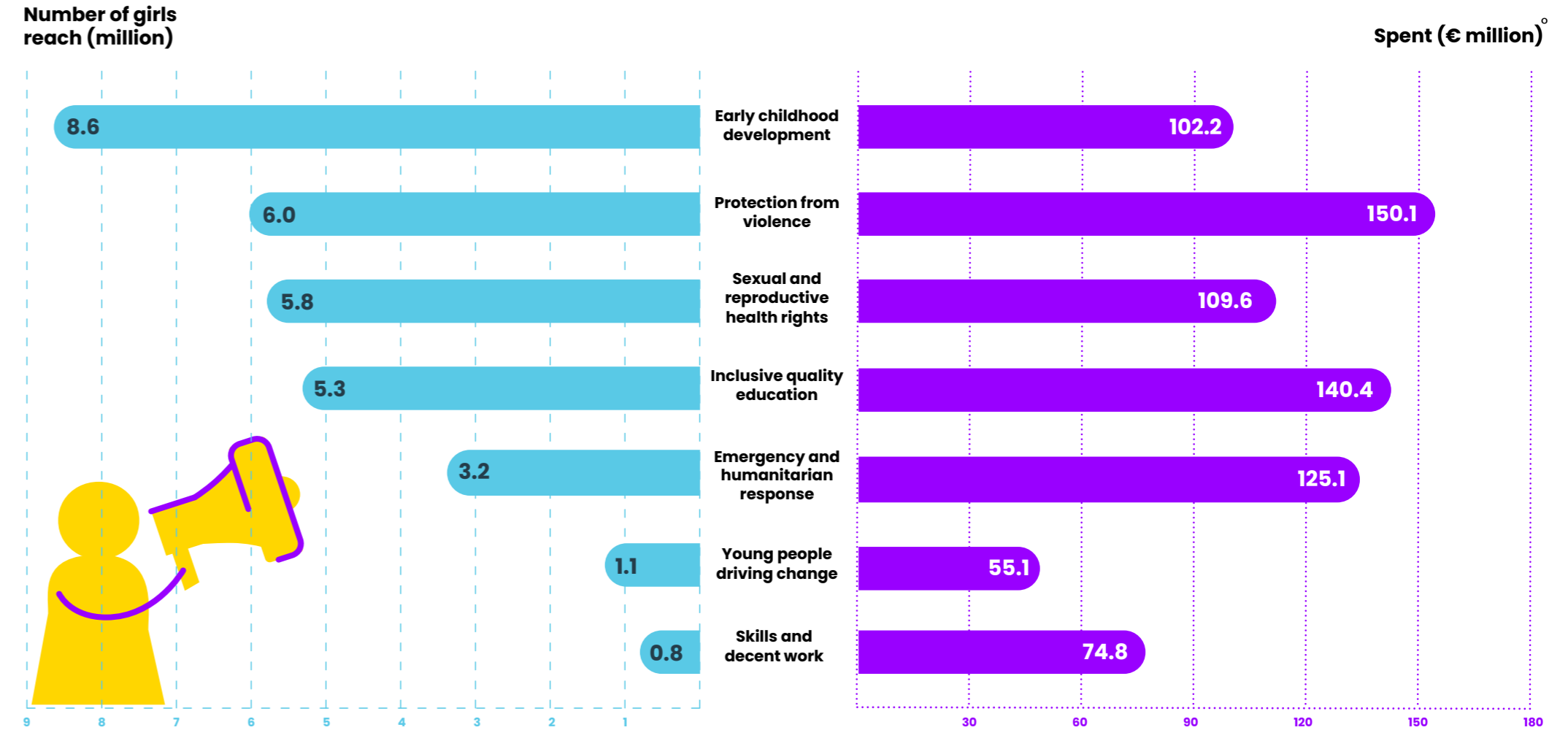
Based on the Unaudited Abridged Financial Statements



\* including foreign exchange gains and losses

\*\* excluding foreign exchange gains and losses

# Priority areas of work



Other programme spend of €68.3m includes donations to non-Plan partners and sponsorship communications.



## **Sedra, a Syrian refugee living in Canada and a youth delegate at the Global Refugee Forum, talks about her work with Plan International.**

Hey there! I'm Sedra, a 16-year-old from Syria, now living in Canada. As a former refugee, my experiences fueled a passion for helping others like me, especially kids forced to grow up too soon. Since joining Plan International Canada in 2022, I've had unforgettable experiences, including speaking at the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum in 2023.

In Geneva, I was one of four youth representatives, and I spoke at six high-level events on topics like refugee education, mental health, and youth leadership. I even had the chance to meet Plan International's former CEO, Stephen Omollo, who gave me his platform to speak on behalf of Plan, making me feel truly heard and valued.

While the experience was powerful, I believe more youth voices need to be included in decision-making spaces like the Global Refugee Forum. It's also crucial to shift the language used around refugees — terms like 'burden' are really harmful. Additionally, we must improve accountability for pledges and promises made at these events.

Thanks to Plan International Canada, my dream of influencing change is a reality. Together, we will continue to fight for spaces where young voices are heard, and young people are empowered.

**Sedra, 16**

**Until we are  
all equal**



Until we are all equal

## About Plan International

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We believe in the power and potential of every child but know this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it is girls who are most affected.

Working together with children, young people, supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges girls and vulnerable children face. We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood and we enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge.

For over 85 years, we have rallied other determined optimists to transform the lives of all children in more than 80 countries.

We won't stop until we are all equal.







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