



YEARS IN BANGLADESH
Towards a planned future

**Towards a planned future
Until we are all equal**

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UNTIL WE ARE
ALL EQUAL**



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As we step onboard the next chapter of Plan Bangladesh, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin, His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Honourable Prime Minister, Ms. Sheikh Hasina, for their kind words. We are pleased to offer our humble regards to the Honourable Speaker's Office, relevant ministries, directorates, government offices and embassies who have endowed us with their kind appreciation and cooperation.

While reflecting on the journey that Plan International Bangladesh has completed to date, we deem it inevitable that praise and gratitude be extended to our development, implementation and corporate partners; donors, and other stakeholders. Our efforts to empower and strengthen the youth force testify to the constant rapport of our current and former staff, volunteers, partners and supporters, especially those working directly in the field, out of the generosity of their hearts. We would also like to thank all the staff who have helped us bring to light the outstanding stories of hope, courage, and generosity that are spread out immaculately throughout this publication. We pay our highest regards to our affiliated youth and youth groups who worked tirelessly to nudge their innate capabilities and competence to ensure they can impact their lives and those in their families and communities.

Throughout the years, our well-wishers have helped us exert particular efforts in the protection and empowerment of young girls and women who are disproportionately affected by gender-based discrimination, violence, harassment, child marriage, and social taboos.

Plan International Bangladesh is proud to form a tight-knit community of resilience for underserved groups, be it women, children, or displaced populations. We stand in solidarity with those facing the devastating consequences of climate crises and natural calamities. We believe prompt action and response must follow these unanticipated events to indiscriminately protect all lives and livelihoods.

We are dedicated to building a carefully manoeuvred future where we achieve gender equality and empowerment. On that note, we move forward with all of those who have helped us reach our current stage of development today—towards a planned future.





চেয়ারম্যান
জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ড
বাংলাদেশ

বাণী

আন্তর্জাতিক উন্নয়ন সংস্থা প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ, বাংলাদেশে উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রমের ৩০ বছর পূর্ণ করেছে জেনে আমি অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত। প্রতিষ্ঠানটির সঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে আমার শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

১৯৭১ সালে বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্বে স্বাধীনতা লাভের পর ‘পূর্ববঙ্গ স্কুল টেক্সটবুক কমিটি’-এর আধুনিকায়ন হয়ে বর্তমান জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ড গঠন হয়। স্বাধীনতার সূচনালগ্ন থেকেই পাঠ্যপুস্তক ও শিক্ষাক্রম প্রণয়নের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ দায়িত্ব পালন করে আসছে এই বোর্ড। প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ বিভিন্ন শিক্ষামূলক প্রকল্পের সাথে জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ডের সমন্বয়ে যে ধরনের যুগোপযোগী পরিবর্তনের লক্ষ্যে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে তা নিঃসন্দেহে প্রশংসনীয়।

দেশের অর্ধেকের বেশি জনসংখ্যাই নারী। এই বিপুল জনসংখ্যাকে জনশক্তিতে রূপান্তরের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হাতিয়ার হচ্ছে শিক্ষা। ১৯৯৪ সাল থেকে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশের মেয়ে ও নারীদের উপর বিশেষ জোর দিয়ে তাঁদের প্রকল্প প্রণয়ন ও বাস্তবায়ন করে আসছে। প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষা সহায়তার পাশাপাশি তাঁদেরকে বিভিন্ন প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে শিশুদের বিকাশ, জীবন দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি, যৌন ও প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষা, বাল্যবিবাহ প্রতিরোধ, খাদ্য ও পুষ্টিবিষয়ক শিক্ষা প্রদান করে চলেছে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ।

শিক্ষার পাশাপাশি নারী ও মেয়ে শিশুদের সুরক্ষা এবং তাঁদের অধিকার আদায়ে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ বদ্ধপরিকর। নারীর সমান অংশগ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করতে এবং তাঁদের কণ্ঠকে সমাজের সর্বস্তরে পৌঁছে দিতে প্রয়োজন শিক্ষার শক্ত বুনিয়ে। এই বুনিয়ে গঠনে জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ড এবং প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ ভবিষ্যতেও একসাথে কাজ করে যাবে বলে আমার বিশ্বাস।

আমি প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ-এর উত্তরোত্তর সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

প্রফেসর মোঃ ফরহাদুল ইসলাম

Message from the Honourable Chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board: Prof. Md. Farhadul Islam



মহাপরিচালক (গ্রেড-১)
এনজিও বিষয়ক ব্যুরো
প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়

বাণী

এনজিও বিষয়ক ব্যুরোর নিবন্ধিত স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা ‘প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ’ ২০২৪ সালে তাদের উন্নয়নমূলক কার্যক্রমের ৩০ বছর পূর্তি উদ্‌যাপন করতে যাচ্ছে জেনে আমি অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত।

সরকারের উন্নয়ন সহযোগী হিসেবে দেশি-বিদেশি বেসরকারি স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থাসমূহ শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, পুষ্টি, স্যানিটেশন, দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা, পরিবার পরিকল্পনা, জনসচেতনতা, মৌলিক মানবাধিকার, নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন ও সমঅধিকার প্রভৃতি সেক্টরে যে সমস্ত এনজিও কাজ করছে ‘প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ’ তাদের মধ্যে অন্যতম। সংস্থাটি দীর্ঘ ৩০ বছর ধরে মৌলিক কার্যক্রমের পাশাপাশি শিশুদের দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি, যৌন ও প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য অধিকার, নেতৃত্বের বিকাশ, শিশু কেন্দ্রিক সমাজ উন্নয়নের মাধ্যমে সরকারকে সহযোগিতা করে আসছে। এছাড়া, প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগে ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা, প্রান্তিক ও সুবিধাবঞ্চিত জনগোষ্ঠীকে উন্নয়নের মূল শ্রোতধারায় ফিরিয়ে আনতে কাজ করছে যা প্রশংসার দাবিদার।

সংস্থাটি তাদের সর্বস্তরের কর্মী-সংগঠকদের নিরলস প্রচেষ্টা ও ত্যাগের ফলে দীর্ঘ পথ পাড়ি দিয়ে আজকের অবস্থানে এসে দাঁড়িয়েছে। প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ-এর উন্নয়নমূলক কার্যক্রমের ৩০ বছর পূর্তিতে সংস্থাটির উত্তরোত্তর সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

মোঃ সাইদুর রহমান

Message from the Honourable Director General (Grade-1) of NGO Affairs Bureau: Md. Saidur Rahman



বাণী

মহাপরিচালক
স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ সরকার স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনে স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের মাধ্যমে দেশের সর্বস্তরের জনসাধারণের জন্য স্বাস্থ্য সেবা নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে স্বাস্থ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা, কর্মপরিকল্পনা এবং প্রশাসনিকভাবে বিভিন্ন নীতি নির্ধারণ ও প্রয়োগ করে যাচ্ছে। এই কার্যক্রমের সাথে প্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ ১৯৯৪ সাল থেকে বিভিন্ন উন্নয়নমূলক কাজের মাধ্যমে সরকারকে সহযোগিতা করে আসছে। মানব সেবার ৩০ বছর পূর্ণ করায় প্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশকে জানাচ্ছি আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা এবং অভিনন্দন।

১৯৫৮ সালে এ কার্যালয় পরিদপ্তর হিসেবে কার্যক্রম শুরু করে, যা পরবর্তীতে স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনে ১৯৮০ সালে অধিদপ্তরে রূপান্তরিত হয়। স্বাধীনতা পরবর্তী সময়ে স্বাস্থ্য-সুরক্ষা, মাতৃ ও শিশু স্বাস্থ্য এবং প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য নিয়ে এই অধিদপ্তর বিশেষ গুরুত্বের সাথে দেশব্যাপী কাজ করে যাচ্ছে।

প্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের কার্যক্রমের সাথে সমন্বয় রেখে বাংলাদেশের মাতৃ ও শিশু স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষা, কিশোর-কিশোরীদের যৌন ও প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে বেশ কিছু কাজ করে আসছে। এর মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য হলো, কমিউনিটি ক্লিনিক কার্যক্রম শক্তিশালীকরণ, জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ড এবং মাদরাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড এর মাধ্যমে স্কুল ও মাদরাসায় যৌন ও প্রজনন শিক্ষা প্রদানে সহযোগিতা করা, কৈশোর-বান্ধব স্বাস্থ্যসেবা শক্তিশালীকরণ ও সম্প্রসারণের উদ্দেশ্যে সেবাদানকারীদের প্রশিক্ষণ, সেবাকেন্দ্র ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি, সেবাকেন্দ্র ও গ্রহীতাদের মধ্যে সংযোগ স্থাপন করা ইত্যাদি।

প্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ-এর উন্নয়নমূলক কাজের ধারা ভবিষ্যতেও অব্যাহত থাকবে বলে আমি প্রত্যাশা রাখছি।

অধ্যাপক ডাঃ আবুল বাসার মোহাম্মদ খুরশীদ আলম

Message from the Honourable Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services: Prof. Dr. Abul Bashar Mohammed Khurshid Alam



বাণী

মহাপরিচালক
দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তর
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

একটি মানবিক উন্নয়ন সংস্থা হিসেবে বাংলাদেশে প্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল নিজেদের কার্যক্রমের তিন দশক পূর্ণ করায় শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন। এদেশে প্রায় ৩০ বছর এর কাজের ধারাবাহিকতায় এই প্রতিষ্ঠানটি শিশু অধিকার, বাল্য বিবাহরোধ, শিক্ষা, যৌন ও প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষা ও আর্থসামাজিক উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে সাফল্যের সাথে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে যাচ্ছে।

জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্বে ১৯৭২ সালে বাংলাদেশ সরকারের অগ্রাধিকার এবং গুরুত্বপূর্ণ মন্ত্রণালয় হিসাবে ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন মন্ত্রণালয় গঠিত হয়। এছাড়াও ঘূর্ণিঝড় প্রস্তুতি কর্মসূচি ও মুজিব কিল্লার মত এমন সব কার্যক্রম তিনি গ্রহণ করেছিলেন যা আজো বিশ্বব্যাপী দুর্যোগ ঝুঁকি হ্রাসের অনন্য মডেল হিসেবে বিবেচিত হয়ে আসছে। বর্তমান সরকারের স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ পদযাত্রায় দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তরের কার্যক্রমসমূহ অত্যন্ত কার্যকর ভূমিকা পালন করে আসছে। এই কার্যক্রম আরও সমন্বিত ও কার্যকর করে তুলতে অধিদপ্তরের প্রযুক্তি ও তারুণ্য নির্ভর পেশাদারিত্ব, পূর্বাভাস ভিত্তিক আগাম কার্যক্রম, নারী ও শিশুদের অগ্রাধিকার, স্বেচ্ছাসেবকদের জেডার সমতা, অধিক বিপদাপন্ন জনগোষ্ঠীর সুরক্ষা ও অধিকার নিশ্চিত করতে বিভিন্ন ধরনের কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করে আসছে। গত তিন দশক ধরে প্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ এই উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রমে দায়িত্বশীল সহযোগী হিসেবে পাশে থেকেছে।

দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তর দেশে দুর্যোগের ঝুঁকি হ্রাস এবং ক্ষয়ক্ষতি কমিয়ে আনার লক্ষ্যে নেতৃত্ব দিয়ে যাচ্ছে। গত কয়েকটি দুর্যোগে দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তরের সক্রিয় ও কার্যকর ভূমিকার ফলাফল হিসেবে দেশে দুর্যোগ কবলিত মানুষের জীবনহানি ও সম্পদের ক্ষয়ক্ষতির পরিমাণ কমে এসেছে। এছাড়াও দুর্যোগ সম্পর্কে নারী ও শিশুদের সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি এবং নারী, শিশু, গর্ভবতী মায়েরদের সুরক্ষা বিধান করতে রাষ্ট্র যে লক্ষ্য নিয়ে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে সেখানে এই প্রতিষ্ঠানটিও মাঠ পর্যায়ে সরকার, স্থানীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক উন্নয়নমূলক সংস্থাগুলোর সাথে যৌথভাবে কাজ করে আসছে।

বাংলাদেশকে একটি উন্নত, সমৃদ্ধ ও স্মার্ট দেশ হিসেবে গড়ে তুলতে এই আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থাটি তাদের উন্নয়নমূলক কার্যক্রমের মধ্য দিয়ে অনন্য ভূমিকা পালন করছে এবং ভবিষ্যতেও প্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ এভাবেই তাদের কার্যক্রম চালিয়ে যাবে এবং আরও ইতিবাচক দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করতে পারবে বলে আমি প্রত্যাশা করি।

মোঃ মিজানুর রহমান

Message from the Honourable Director General of the Department of Disaster Management: Md. Mijanur Rahman



বাণী

মহাপরিচালক (গ্রেড-১)
যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর

উন্নয়নের যাত্রায় সাফল্যের ৩০ বছর পূর্ণ করায় আন্তর্জাতিক উন্নয়নমূলক সংস্থা প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশকে অভিনন্দন। এই সংস্থার সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল সদস্যকে জানাচ্ছি আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা।

‘স্মার্ট যুব সমৃদ্ধ দেশ, বঙ্গবন্ধুর বাংলাদেশ’- বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের স্বপ্নের সোনার বাংলা নির্মাণের কারিগর এদেশের যুবরা। জনসংখ্যার সবচেয়ে প্রতিশ্রুতিশীল ও উৎপাদনমুখী অংশ হচ্ছে যুবগোষ্ঠী। দেশের অসংগঠিত, কর্মপ্রত্যাশী যুবগোষ্ঠীকে সুসংগঠিত, সুশৃঙ্খল এবং উৎপাদনমুখী শক্তিতে রূপান্তরের লক্ষ্যে যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়ধীন যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর নিরলস প্রচেষ্টা চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে। যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর যুবদের জন্য সরকারি নীতি ও কর্মসূচির একমাত্র বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থা। যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তরের সাথে বিভিন্ন স্থানীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক উন্নয়নমূলক সংস্থা যৌথভাবে কাজ করে আসছে, যার মধ্যে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ অন্যতম।

১৯৯৪ সাল থেকে বাংলাদেশে কাজ শুরু করে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ বর্তমানে দেশের ৪০টি জেলার বিভিন্ন উপজেলায় সমাজের সামগ্রিক উন্নয়নে অংশগ্রহণমূলক প্রক্রিয়ায় উন্নয়নমূলক কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়ন করে আসছে। প্রান্তিক জনগোষ্ঠীর নানা সমস্যা চিহ্নিতকরণ এবং তাদের জীবনমান উন্নত করতে সেখানকার মানুষের ক্ষমতা ও দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধিতে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ অনন্য ভূমিকা পালন করে আসছে। এছাড়াও বিভিন্ন প্রকল্প যেমন যুব নারী ক্ষমতায়ন, যুব অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়ন ইত্যাদি বাস্তবায়নের কাজ চলমান রয়েছে।

প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ ও যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তরের যৌথভাবে কাজ করার লক্ষ্য হলো নেতৃত্ব, উদ্যোক্তা এবং দক্ষতা বিকাশের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় পরামর্শ প্রদান, দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি এবং কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি করে যুবদের বিশেষতঃ যুব নারীদের ক্ষমতায়ন করা। সেই লক্ষ্যকে সামনে রেখে যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশের সাথে বেশ কিছু উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করে যার মধ্যে অন্তর্ভুক্ত রয়েছে যুব উন্নয়ন, জেডার সমতা প্রচার, জলবায়ুর বৈরী প্রভাব থেকে সহিষ্ণুতা বৃদ্ধিতে সহায়তা প্রদান এবং যুবদের বিভিন্ন সুবিধার জন্য টেকসই তহবিল সুরক্ষিত করা।

এছাড়াও প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ ধারাবাহিক কার্যক্রমের মাধ্যমে জাতীয় যুব পরিষদের সদস্যদের সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধি, জাতীয় যুব দিবস ও আন্তর্জাতিক যুব দক্ষতা দিবসকে জনপ্রিয় করে তোলা, উদ্ভাবনী কর্মসূচির নকশা প্রণয়ন ও সরবরাহের জন্য যৌথ সহযোগিতা করা এবং সুবিধাবঞ্চিত জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য প্রকল্প গ্রহণ ও বাস্তবায়নে যুব সম্প্রদায়ের সম্পৃক্ততা নিশ্চিত করা সহ, কোন জেলায় কোন প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে কতজন যুব উপকৃত হয়েছে, তার অগ্রগতি সম্পর্কে যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তরকে অবহিত করে আসছে।

দেশের নতুন প্রজন্মকে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যাওয়ার লক্ষ্যে এবং তাদের সুন্দর ভবিষ্যত নিশ্চিত করতে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ সরকারকে যেভাবে সহযোগিতা করে আসছে তা অবশ্যই প্রশংসনীয়। সামনের দিনেও তাদের অবদান অব্যাহত থাকবে বলে আমি প্রত্যাশা রাখছি।

ড. গাজী মোঃ সাইফুজ্জামান

Message from the Honourable Director General (Grade-1) of the Department of Youth Development: Dr. Gazi Md. Saifuzzaman



বাণী

অতিরিক্ত সচিব
শরণার্থী ত্রাণ ও প্রত্যাবাসন কমিশনার

প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ তাঁদের কার্যক্রমের ৩০ বছর পূর্তি উপলক্ষে একটি ক্রোড়পত্র প্রকাশ করবে জেনে আমি অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত এবং এই শুভক্ষণে প্রতিষ্ঠানের সঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে আমার আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

তিন দশক ধরে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ একটি আন্তর্জাতিক মানবিক উন্নয়ন সংস্থা হিসেবে নানাক্ষেত্রে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। কক্সবাজারের রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পগুলোতে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ নারী ও কন্যা শিশুদের সুরক্ষা, তাঁদের অধিকার, শিক্ষা, যৌন ও প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য, আর্থিক ক্ষমতায়ন ও নেতৃত্ব বিকাশে সরকারের সমন্বয়ে প্রকল্প চলমান রেখেছে।

২০১৭ সালের রোহিঙ্গা সমস্যার শুরু থেকেই প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ বলপূর্বক বাস্তুচ্যুত মিয়ানমার নাগরিকদের জন্য মানবিক সহায়তা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করেছে। তাদের এহেন উদ্যোগ রোহিঙ্গা জনগোষ্ঠীর কষ্ট লাঘবে অসামান্য অবদান রাখছে। সে সাথে রোহিঙ্গা সমস্যা সমাধান না হওয়া পর্যন্ত তারা এ ধরনের ভূমিকা চলমান রাখবে মর্মে আমি বিশ্বাস করি।

আমি প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশের বলপূর্বক বাস্তুচ্যুত মিয়ানমার নাগরিকদের জন্য অবিরাম জরুরি সহায়তা কার্যক্রম চালু রাখার জন্য আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন করছি। রোহিঙ্গা জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য এ ধরনের সহায়তা প্রদানের জন্য বাংলাদেশ সরকারের পক্ষে আমি তাদের ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি এবং সে সাথে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশের সর্বাঙ্গীন উন্নতি কামনা করছি।

মোহাম্মদ মিজানুর রহমান

Message from the Honourable Additional Secretary of Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner: Mohammed Mizanur Rahman



EU Ambassador
Head of Delegation to Bangladesh

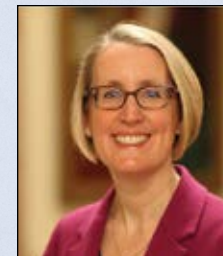
Message

Building an equal world for boys and girls, men and women alike takes each one of us.

Bangladesh has made tangible progress in crucial areas related to gender equality over the past years. In the 2023 Global Gender Gap Report, it ranked 59 among 146 countries worldwide and first among seven South Asian countries. Despite the progress, gender-related inequalities remain visible, but so are the opportunities to keep on addressing them. It requires a holistic approach across sectors bringing on board all spheres of society: the Government of Bangladesh, the international community, civil society organisations and individuals. I believe that we all have a role to play when it comes to protecting and creating an enabling environment, where human beings can equally thrive despite of their gender. This is core to the European Union's values and it is reflected in our Gender Action Plan III, through which the European Union and its Member States are committed to help building an equal world together with our like-minded partners.

In the name of the Delegation of European Union to Bangladesh, I would like to congratulate Plan International for its commitment in helping create a safer, more equal and prosperous environment for the children, girls and young women of Bangladesh over the past three decades. May we continue on sharing the same values, vision and work on the ground.

Charles Whiteley



British High Commissioner
to Bangladesh

Message

I congratulate Plan International on celebrating 30 years in Bangladesh. Plan's focus on empowering girls aligns with the UK's commitment to promoting gender equality and advancing women and girls' rights around the world. Plan is committed to advocate for rights of young girls and boys and their allies by tackling the root causes of gender inequality and exclusion.

Plan's "Girls' Take Over" initiative provides a fantastic platform for girls to takeover leadership roles. Last year, I was delighted to welcome Taslima Akhter to "take over" my role as the British High Commissioner during the celebration of the International Day of The Girl Child. I was so impressed by the confidence and passion of all the girls participating in the Girls' Take Over initiative, which reinforced to me the importance of achieving gender equality.

Unlocking the full potential and power of women and girls is one of the UK's top priorities and underpins all our work - from economic prosperity to security. We put women and girls, in all their diversity, at the heart of everything we do. Last year, the UK Government launched our first International Women and Girls Strategy 2023-30, representing a leap forward for women's and girls' rights. In line with the UK's International Development Strategy, it sets out our ambition in three priority areas – Educating Women and Girls, Ending Violence, and Empowerment of Women and Girls. The '3Es'.

In Bangladesh, the UK is supporting both the Education Ministries to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the education sector. Our support is focused on, improving learning outcomes and keeping girls in primary and secondary education. We are also supporting approximately 360,000 marginalised children, including 60% girls, to basic literacy, numeracy, socio-emotional and life skills. By increasing access to education and supporting 12 years of quality education for girls, our support means girls are less likely to experience child marriage and can achieve their full potential. Our work in health promotes women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and we have helped 8,700 women to become qualified midwives. We are also supporting the Government of Bangladesh to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children. Our joined-up advocacy is focused on protecting and promoting the status of women and girls. We are partnering with the Government of Bangladesh, like-minded agencies, and civil society organisations to end child marriage and support survivors of gender-based violence. Between 2017-2023, UK funded awareness campaigns have stopped 15,600 child marriages in Bangladesh. The UK continues to strive for a world that advances children's rights and equality for girls and young women. On this journey, we remain committed to continue our influencing work with agencies like Plan international towards a fairer, more equal world.

HE Sarah Cooke



Message

Ambassador of Sweden
to Bangladesh

On behalf of Sweden, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Plan International family as you celebrate three decades of dedicated service in Bangladesh. This significant milestone marks 30 years of impactful work in advancing the rights of children, promoting gender equality, and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Plan International's firm commitment to the well-being of children and communities in Bangladesh has undoubtedly made a significant difference in countless lives. Your efforts are also well aligned with Swedish values and our commitment to creating positive change on a global scale.

Sweden is, and will remain, a steadfast partner in accelerating equal rights for everyone, irrespective of sex, age, or ethnicity. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, in line with SDG 5, is a top priority for the Government of Sweden – globally, in our partner countries, and at home. Sweden seeks to promote women's and girls' full and equal rights and representation in all spheres of life, as well as equal access to resources.

In this spirit, Sweden's partnership with PLAN has focused on reducing child marriages in Bangladesh and we welcome the achievements and progress that Plan International Bangladesh together affected communities have made in this regard. These achievements carry special importance since they are related to strengthening of the girl child, by combatting social harmful norms and strengthening administrative systems.

Sweden is proud to stand alongside Plan International in these efforts, and we celebrate the successes that have been realized over the past three decades. This anniversary is not only a moment to reflect on past accomplishments, but also an opportunity to look forward with renewed determination and a commitment to continuing our support to the development of Bangladesh and its people – through empowering communities, addressing challenges, and building a more equitable society.

May the next chapter of Plan International's journey in Bangladesh be as successful and impactful as the last 30 years. Congratulations once again on this remarkable anniversary.

Warm regards,
Alex Berg von Linde



Message

Ambassador for the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to Bangladesh

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Plan International family as they celebrate three decades of being active in Bangladesh. This significant milestone marks 30 years of impactful work in advancing the rights of children, promoting gender equality, and fostering sustainable development in the region.

As the Ambassador for the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bangladesh I commend the progress that Plan International has achieved in collaboration with the people and government of Bangladesh. Your dedication to empower communities, addressing challenges and building a more equitable and inclusive society is truly commendable.

Our mission here in Bangladesh stands alongside Plan International in these efforts as a partner and we celebrate the successes that have been realized over the past three decades. This partnership between the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands government and Plan International has been developed over the past years by successful cooperation in activities and projects. Especially in the fight against child marriage, child trafficking, in strengthening leaderships and empowerment of girls and promoting safer working environments for women. In the course of this cooperation our partnership has proven to be very effective.

Further I look forward to the successful project implementation of our current cooperation called 'Shomotay Tarunno' (Youth for equality. In which we together will work for the youth, with the youth, and by the youth to bring sustainable changes in the Bangladeshi society through promoting positive gender stereotypes in partnership with diverse media. Plan International together with Jaago Foundation and media and government partners will generate a nation-wide social campaign to address negative gender stereotypes among the youth. And thereby promote a just, inclusive and equitable Bangladesh.

Warm regards,
Irma van Dueren



High Commission of Canada
to Bangladesh

Message

Canada would like to congratulate Plan International Bangladesh for 30 years of advancing children's rights, promoting gender equality, and empowering marginalized communities across Bangladesh.

We take immense pride in supporting Plan International Bangladesh, a local partner dedicated to eradicating poverty and fostering a more peaceful, more inclusive, and more prosperous Bangladesh. Plan's work strongly resonates with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. Your relentless efforts have profoundly impacted the lives of countless individuals and families.

Your initiatives have helped prevent sexual and gender-based violence, strengthened advocacy for girls' and women's rights, enhanced institutional capacity to address gender equality, and worked towards eliminating child, early and forced marriages.

I commend Plan International Bangladesh for its outstanding dedication. You have created a more equitable, inclusive, and vibrant society for all.

Canada is honoured to support programs focused on preventing child marriage and advancing gender equality in partnership with Plan International Bangladesh. Your achievements exemplify the power of collective action and collaboration and align with our shared vision of eradicating poverty and promoting equity worldwide.

As we celebrate this pivotal moment, let us build upon our past successes and move forward with even greater determination for transformative change. Your commitment to building stronger communities for girls, women and the most marginalized people and promoting a culture of equality is truly admirable.

I extend my best wishes for continued success and progress as Plan International Bangladesh embarks on its next phase in Bangladesh.

Warm regards,
Dr. Lilly Nicholls



Chief Executive Officer
Grameenphone Ltd.

Message

Congratulations to Plan International Bangladesh for three decades of incredible achievements in advancing gender equality, inclusivity, and community empowerment across Bangladesh. Your dedication has sparked transformative change, making significant strides in narrowing the gender gap and promoting equality on a substantial scale.

Our partnership for Digital Inclusion, with Telenor and Plan International, perfectly resonates with Grameenphone's values of empowerment, inclusivity, and practicality. Together, we're committed to enhancing digital skills and promoting online safety awareness among vulnerable communities. With our joint initiative aiming to train 2.3 million individuals by 2024, we're already seeing promising results, with 500,000 individuals trained so far, showcasing the effectiveness of our tailored solutions.

Financial inclusion and increased digital participation among women are pivotal for Bangladesh's progress. Grameenphone's 'Internet-er Duniya Shobar' project aims to empower women by providing internet usage training and enhancing their digital skills across 2000 unions, ensuring their safe engagement in the digital realm. Moreover, our efforts to empower women in the workplace have seen significant growth, with females now constituting 20 percent of our workforce, compared to 12.7 percent in 2020, with many in leadership roles. Concurrently, we're spearheading three youth up-skilling programs to tap into their potential as catalysts for positive change.

As we forge ahead, let's continue to champion initiatives that empower women and nurture youth leadership for a more inclusive and empowered future. Here's to thirty years of impactful work by Plan International Bangladesh and to ongoing collaboration for positive change ahead. Cheers to the journey ahead!

Yasir Azman



Message

Chairman and Managing Director
Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. (UBL)

Dear Friends at Plan International Bangladesh,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Plan International Bangladesh on reaching a significant milestone - the commemoration of your 30th anniversary. Over the past three decades, your steadfast commitment to addressing the needs and rights of girls and promoting their leadership skills has been truly commendable. Your dedication to preventing child marriage, facilitating equitable rights, and ensuring economic empowerment of girls and young women has established the organization as a key national and international player, and I am thrilled to celebrate this momentous occasion with you.

As we celebrate this milestone, I am proud to reflect on the impactful collaboration between Unilever and Plan International Bangladesh, particularly through the Dove Self Esteem Project (DSEP). At Unilever, we recognize that beauty and confidence are intrinsically linked to overall wellbeing. Globally, over half of girls struggle with body esteem, impacting their participation in essential life-building activities and potentially hindering their full potential. The Dove Self Esteem Project aims to address this challenge by reaching 250 million young people worldwide by 2030.

In Bangladesh, our partnership with Plan International Bangladesh has allowed us to introduce DSEP with the goal of nurturing positive self-esteem among adolescents. Through collaborative efforts, we launched the DSEP on the International Day of the Girl Child in October 2021, and have reached over 100,000+ adolescents in Bangladesh with training that has instilled body positivity and self-confidence. We have trained 796 peer leaders to disseminate a self-esteem curriculum among adolescents and formed 150 parent groups to raise awareness about their children's self-esteem and body confidence.

I also fondly recall the memorable Day of the Girl Child 2023 celebration at Unilever Bangladesh. It was an honour to welcome a Nupur, a dynamic youth representative from Plan International, who took over my role as the Chairman for a day. Nupur's enthusiasm, passion, and fresh perspective left a lasting impression on all of us, reaffirming the importance of youth engagement in driving positive change. Such initiatives not only provide inspiration but also serve as a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and inclusivity.

As we look ahead, let us continue to collaborate and innovate to create a brighter future for the children, girls, and young women of Bangladesh. Together, we can overcome challenges, break down barriers, and build a more inclusive and equitable society for all. By harnessing the collective strength of our partnerships, we can amplify our impact and create lasting change that reverberates throughout our communities and beyond.

Once again, congratulations to Plan International Bangladesh on this significant milestone. Your dedication and impact serve as a beacon of hope, paving the way for building an equitable and empowered future for girls in Bangladesh and beyond.

Warm regards,

Md. Zaved Akhtar



Message

Director of Sub Regions
Plan International APAC

I'm excited to congratulate everyone involved on the 30th Anniversary of Plan International Bangladesh. For 30 years, Plan International Bangladesh has focused on empowering children, girls, young women, and communities ensuring they are heard, safe from violence, and can enjoy their rights. In all its programmes, Plan International Bangladesh works to address the root causes of gender inequality, reshaping unequal gender and power relations to fully realize girls' rights and equality for all children, young people, and adults.

The team at Plan International Bangladesh is committed to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people. Their partnership approach is key to its future vision, and the team is committed to collaborating with communities, strategic partners, and government ministries.

Despite Bangladesh's progress in reducing poverty over the past decades, challenges like inequality, and exclusion remain. Many vulnerable and marginalized children and young people, especially those in hard-to-reach areas, economically disadvantaged children, teenage girls, and children from ethnic minority backgrounds, are being left behind. Child, early and forced marriages remain a significant concern and although there's a national plan to end child marriage, change needs to be accelerated. The challenges of urbanization and climate change pose significant threats, and it starts with the most vulnerable. Many children with disabilities experience high levels of violence, and their needs are often overlooked. Gender discriminatory norms and cultures are still widespread in Bangladesh posing significant challenges to bridge the gender gap.

Over the past 30 years, Plan International Bangladesh has in areas like early childhood development, quality education, ending child and early forced marriage, nutrition, sexual reproductive health and rights, protection from violence, youth participation, and economic empowerment. They also played a significant role in assisting the displaced Rohingya population living in Cox's Bazaar.

On this special occasion, let's celebrate the successes achieved through collaborative efforts to support child rights and improve community options in Bangladesh. I join everyone in celebrating the hard work, commitment, and successes of these efforts. Let's also plan together on how we can collaborate and work towards creating better change for everyone in the next decade and beyond.

Kane, Sharon



Regional Director - ARO
Plan International

Message

Founded in 1937, Plan International addresses the root causes of inequalities that children and young girls face. We're there for children from birth until adulthood and we enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity.

Commencing its activities in Bangladesh in 1994, Plan International Bangladesh has made significant progress from being a service delivery organization to working with children, adolescent and youth for harnessing their potential. Now, steadily, the organization has changed its focus on influencing to bring the most pressing issues girls face in Bangladesh to the forefront of both international and national conversations.

Child, Early and Forced Marriage is one of these pressing issues. While South Asia is still home to the largest number of child brides with 44 percent of girls married off before the age of 18, the prevalence of child marriage among girls stands at 51 per cent, putting Bangladesh amongst the top ten countries with highest rate worldwide.

Over the years, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reducing the prevalence of child marriage. Thanks to the efforts by the government, non-government organizations, and civil society organizations. However, to meet the SDGs target to end child marriage by 2030 or the national target to end child marriage by 2041, the rate of progress must be rapidly accelerated and PIB is committed to contribute effectively.

The impact of COVID-19 and prolonged school closures has been another challenge leading to the increased number of child marriages. Covid-19 disrupted several years of gains made for the advancement of girls, particularly in the reduction of child marriages. As soon as the pandemic abated, Plan International Bangladesh has built back better by positioning itself as a girls' rights focused organization.

We believe that concerted efforts to eliminate child marriage can accelerate progress towards its elimination and ensure that the country targets to end child marriage by 2041 are realized.

Not ending there, Plan International Bangladesh also has demonstrated a robust response to crisis, addressing the needs of those affected by cyclones, severe flooding and forceful displacement. It continues to be committed to providing quality services in the humanitarian programme in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps through inclusive quality education, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (SOYEE)

Being filled with pride, as the Regional Director for Plan International Asia and Pacific, I would like to congratulate Plan International Bangladesh for its contribution for 30 years in Bangladesh for the advancement of children and girls rights. I am so pleased to see how 30 years have marked primarily the collaboration Plan International Bangladesh has with the government, local partner organisations, local administrations, families and communities. I want to congratulate all PIB staff and its partners for their relentless commitment and dedication to go one step further to enhance the lives of those we serve.

Happy 30th Anniversary Plan International Bangladesh! Together, we won't stop until we are all equal!

Bhagyashri Dengle



Chair of the International Board
and Members Assembly

Message

Congratulations to Plan International Bangladesh for completing 30 years of service in Bangladesh. I want to particularly congratulate all members of Plan International Bangladesh, our local implementing partners, civil society partners, youth and most importantly the communities who we have and continue to work with. The journey of the past 30 years has been full of achievements came through the paths of diverse challenges.

Bangladesh has made remarkable strides in several key development indicators since its independence 52 years back, as the macroeconomic conditions of the country transformed, so did the needs of the people. When Plan International began its journey in Bangladesh in 1994, it started as a service delivery-based organisation supporting children through our flagship sponsorship programme and communities with infrastructure development. Over the years, our approach involved participation of children keeping child's rights at the heart of what we do. With this aim we are putting highest efforts for girls; leadership, girls decision making abilities over their body and they have access and control over resources. Through the current country strategy, Plan International Bangladesh has positioned itself as a girls' rights organisation. At present, youth are the population dividend of Bangladesh making up nearly 30 percent of the population and hence the focus of Plan International Bangladesh has been prioritised to support the youth through developing their agency and leadership; with special emphasis on girls.

As a humanitarian organisation, Plan Bangladesh has been working and serving people in cyclones, floods and climate resilience in different parts of the country. Since the influx in 2017, Bangladesh has been generously hosting nearly a million Rohingya people who were in humanitarian need. To date, Plan Bangladesh has reached with humanitarian assistance to nearly half a million people, including the Rohingya Community and adjacent host community in Cox's Bazar.

Bangladesh is internationally recognised for its remarkable progress in reducing the gender gap but we must not fail to remember that women, children and particularly girls are disproportionately vulnerable to inequality, systemic shocks, poverty and climate crisis as we have been witnessing the interconnectedness of child marriage to crisis; hence I want to urge that as we gain renewed vigour to our work, we should show up as more powerful advocates for children's rights and equality for girls. We must address the barriers that prevent the full participation of women and continuously collect insights from the lived experiences of youth and girls.

I would like to extend gratitude to the Plan International Bangladesh team for their dedication. We live in complex and challenging times but I am confident that success will continue to follow due to the determination, commitment and boldness of you all. Thank you and congratulations again.

Gunvor Kronman



Country Director
Plan International, Bangladesh

Message

Over three-decade of journey in Bangladesh, Plan International has been working together and tirelessly with the people and for the people of Bangladesh for their betterment. Over the past three decades, we've built strong bonding with communities across the country through our dedicated efforts. Our primary focus remains on advocating for the rights and welfare of girls and youth, empowering them to reach their full potential and stand strongly. Through unwavering commitment, we've championed progress in education, reproductive health rights, and gender equality and child protection. Witnessing the resilience and hope of the people firsthand, we remain persistent and relevant in our dedication to build a brighter future for girls, and youth Bangladesh.

On this significant milestone, it is imperative to acknowledge the contribution, support and handwork of countless individuals who have made this journey possible and also helped Plan International Bangladesh to be a stronger organization and an effective development partner in Bangladesh. I would like to commemorate of all the contribution, hard-work and dedication of all Plan's ur staff, volunteers, donors, and community people. – Your contributions have been the cornerstone of our success in Bangladesh. We are very grateful to the Government of Bangladesh for their trust, support and collaboration to Plan International Bangladesh in building a society of equal rights and a more equitable society.

However, our work is not ended yet. Inequalities, violence and exploitation persist. Children, especially girls children, young women and women, are facing discrimination to enjoy their rights in comparison with their male counterpart. With the lessons learned and the foundation built over 30 years, we stand even more resolute. Throughout our intervention in last three-decade, we have been reviewing and reshaping our strategic plan and programme approach keeping relevant with time. We shall continue our commitment, efforts and investments in quality education, especially girls' education, to enhance their leadership and skills, economic empowerment, sexual and reproductive health, climate change, gender equality.

Our 2020-2030 Country Strategy serves as our key drivers which is guiding us to advance towards a future where girls are empowered, and recognized as leaders, young peoples are engaged and their voices are heard in decision-making, and every child, specially girls' children can reach their full potential. Plan International Bangladesh continues working with government and the community across the country in humanitarian crisis with emergency humanitarian assistance in both man made and nature induced disasters. Since 2017, we have been supporting in the Rohingya Crisis with the humanitarian response for children, girls, youth and the community.

Today, on this occasion of 30 years celebration, I would like to call upon each of you to join us in this endeavor. Together, let us rewrite the narrative for the children, specially girls children of Bangladesh. Let us create a future where every child, very girl regardless of their gender identity or background, can dream big and achieve their aspirations. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Together, we can build a Bangladesh where every child can flourish, every girl and young people can be agent of change, leading their communities towards a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you.

Kabita Bose

Editorial



Nishath Sultana
Director - Policy,
Advocacy, Influencing
and Campaign
Plan International
Bangladesh

Plan International has completed its 30 years of glorious journey in Bangladesh. These thirty years have been marked by a tapestry of emotions, from moments of elation and triumph to challenges and setbacks. Yet, within these experiences lies the essence of our mission and purpose. As we reflect on our evolution, we recognize the maturation of Plan International Bangladesh into a formidable force for development and humanitarian action.

Throughout this journey, our focus has remained steadfast on empowering marginalized children, particularly girls and young women. We have tirelessly worked to nurture their potential, uphold their rights, shield them from harm, and nurture them into the leaders of the future. Over time, we expanded our response for the people in natural disasters and humanitarian crises. Across the nation, our endeavours have yielded countless tales of transformation, each deserving of acknowledgement and celebration.

প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ তার গৌরবের পথচলার ৩০ বছর অতিক্রম করেছে। আমাদের ত্রিশ বছরের এই পথচলায় মিশে আছে কত হাসি, কত আনন্দ, কত অর্জন আর প্রাণ্ডি-অপ্রাণ্ডির গল্প। এই গল্পগুলোই আমাদের সমৃদ্ধ করেছে। এই অভিজ্ঞতাগুলোর পথ বেয়েই আজ পূর্ণতার পথে পা বাড়িয়েছে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ। যৌবনের তিরিশে প্ল্যান আজ একটি উন্নয়ন ও মানবিক সংস্থা হিসেবে অনেক পরিণত, পরিপূর্ণ, দক্ষ আর আত্মবিশ্বাসী। বিগত তিরিশ বছর ধরে প্ল্যান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ সুবিধা-বঞ্চিত শিশুদের; বিশেষত কন্যা-শিশু ও যুব নারীদের অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠায়, তাদের শিক্ষায়, সুরক্ষায়, তাদের দক্ষতা ও নেতৃত্ব বিকাশে নিবেদিতপ্রাণ হয়ে কাজ করে চলেছে। সময়ের পরিক্রমায় কাজের পরিধি বিস্তৃত করেছে প্রাকৃতিক ও মানবিক বিপর্যয়ে সহায়তা নিয়ে মানুষের পাশে। ফলে সারা বাংলাদেশে জন্ম দিয়েছে হাজারো জীবন পরিবর্তনের গল্প। এতো এতো পরিবর্তনের গল্প ছাপার অক্ষরে বাঁধাই করব এমন সাধ্য কার! তবু আমরা চেষ্টা করেছি ৩০টি সাফল্যের গল্পের

In this publication, we share 30 such stories that encapsulate the essence of our proud journey of 30 years. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who have contributed tirelessly to our cause, from the pioneers who laid the foundation to the passionate individuals who have made this publication possible. Their unwavering dedication is a testament to the enduring spirit of Plan International.

As we embark on the next chapter, let these glorious thirty years serve as a beacon of inspiration for the decades to come. May this publication inspire future generations to continue the legacy of positive change driven by the children and youth of today. Our vision will truly be realized through their collective efforts, and our impact will endure for generations.

মাধ্যমে আমাদের ৩০ বছরের গৌরবোজ্জ্বল পথচলাকে উদযাপন করতে। যাদের অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রমে প্ল্যানের এই আলোকিত পথচলা সম্ভব হয়েছে তাদের প্রতি কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাই। যাদের নিষ্ঠা ও আন্তরিকতায় আমরা এই প্রকাশনাকে সবার সামনে তুলে ধরতে পেরেছি সেইসব কারিগরদের জানাই শুভেচ্ছা। তাদের অনেকেই জন্ম প্ল্যানের জন্মের পর। অথচ কি উৎসাহ আর উদ্দীপনায় তাঁরা প্ল্যানের তিরিশ বছরের গল্পগুলো তুলে এনেছেন সবার সামনে।

গৌরবের এই তিরিশ অনুপ্রেরণার উৎস হোক আগামীর তিরিশের। আমি নিশ্চিত, আগামী দিনগুলোতে নতুন প্রজন্মকে অনুপ্রেরণা দিবে আজকের এই প্রকাশনা। আমরা প্রত্যাশা করি, শিশু ও তরুণদের হাত ধরে নতুন নতুন উন্নয়নের গল্পের সূচনা হবে আগামীতে। তবেই না সার্থক হবে আমাদের আজকের এই প্রচেষ্টা।

Acronyms and abbreviations

BBBS	Big Brother Big Sister
BBGF	Building Better Futures for Girls
BITA	Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts
CBO	Community-based Organization
CEM	Community Education Mobilizer
CEMB	Combatting Early Marriage in Bangladesh
CNB	Child, Not Bride
CoC	Champion of Change
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DM	Disaster Management Committees
ECD	Early Childhood Development
GEMS	Gender Equity Movement in School
GeTECD	Gender Transformative Early Child Development
GGE	Girls Get Equal
GRSCSI	Gender Responsive School and Community Safety Initiatives
IQE	Inclusive Quality Education
JANO	Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome
JF-CPIE	Joining Forces for Child Protection in Emergencies
MHM	Menstrual Health Management

MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
NCTB	National Curriculum and Textbook Board
OTP	One Time Password
PfV	Protection from Violence
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SBCC	Social and behavior change communication
SBK	Shishu Bikash Kendro (Childhood Development Centre)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDSGY	Safe Digital Space for Girls and Youth
SHOW	Strengthening Health Outcomes for Women and Children
SMC	Shelter Management Committees
SOYEE	Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
UDMC	Upazila Disaster Management Committees
TTC	Technical Training Centre
WDMC	Weather Disaster Management Committees
YLC	Youth Learning Centre

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About Plan International

Plan International is a development and humanitarian organisation that works with children, young people, supporters and partners to strive for a just world where we are all equal. Plan International envisages a world where all children and young people realise their full potential, a vision now shared by the 193 Heads of State and Government who adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. We strive to advance children's rights and equality for girls worldwide. As a development and humanitarian organisation, we work alongside children, young people, our supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. We support children's rights from birth until adulthood and enable them 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 80 years, we have been building powerful partnerships for children and are active in over 80 countries.

Our ambition



Plan International working over 80 countries worldwide

Africa		Americas		Asia-Pacific		Europe	
Africa: Eastern and Southern and Middle East	Africa: West and Central	Americas Office	Mexico	Asia-Pacific Office	Papua New Guinea	EU Office	Ukraine UN Office
Egypt	Benin	Bolivia	Paraguay	Australia	Philippines	Belgium	
Ethiopia	Burkina Faso	Brazil	Peru	Bangladesh	Solomon Islands	Denmark	
Kenya	Cameroon	Canada	USA	Cambodia	Thailand	Finland	
Lebanon	Central African Republic	Colombia	UN Office	China	Timor-Leste	France	
Malawi	Ghana	Dominican Republic		Hong Kong, SAR of China	Vietnam	Germany	
Mozambique	Guinea	Ecuador		Fiji		Ireland	
Rwanda	Guinea-Bissau	El Salvador		India		Italy	
Somalia	Liberia	Guatemala		Indonesia		Moldova	
South Sudan	Mali	Haiti		Japan		Netherlands	
Sudan	Niger	Honduras		Jordan		Norway	
Tanzania	Nigeria			Korea		Poland	
Uganda	Senegal			Laos		Romania	
Zambia	Sierra Leone			Myanmar		Spain	
Zimbabwe	Togo			Nepal		Sweden	
						Switzerland	
						UK	

About Plan International Bangladesh

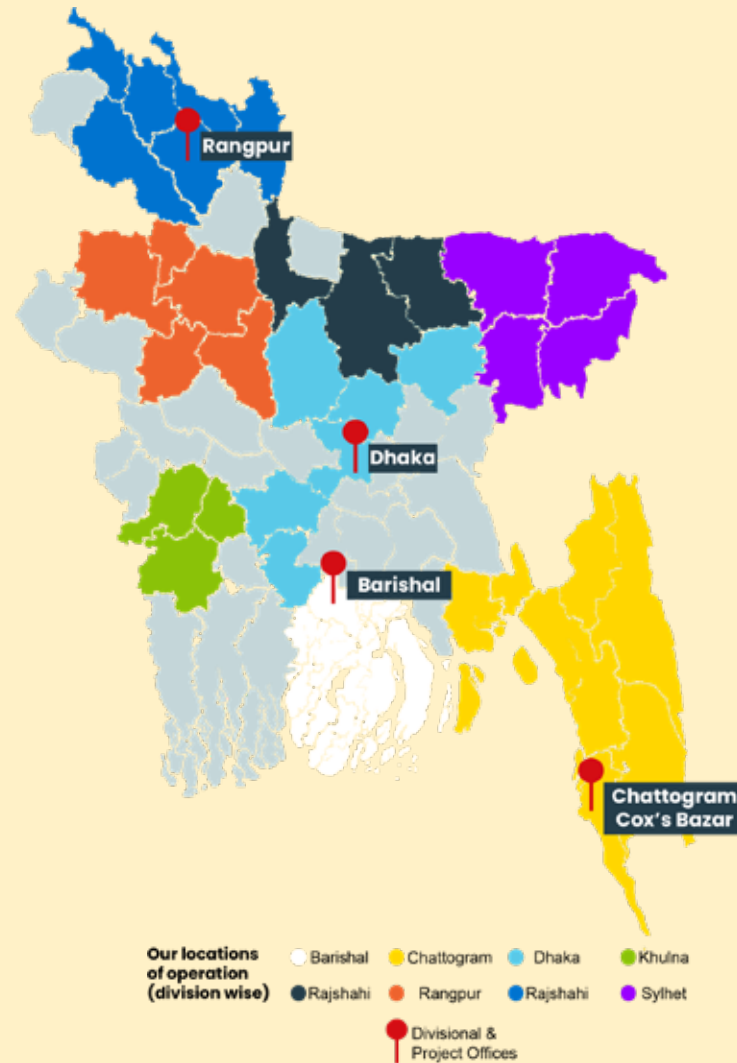
Impact

Systemic change in gender norms and power relations at individual, family, community, national, regional and global levels.

Our Thematic Areas

- LEAD** Girls, Boys, and Youth as Active Drivers of Change
- SRHR** Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
- SOYEE** Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship
- IQE** Inclusive Quality Education
- ECD** Early Childhood Development
- PfV** Protection from Violence

Humanitarian & Climate Change Plan International Bangladesh works on both Humanitarian and Climate change aspects



In alignment with our Global Strategy, Plan International Bangladesh also prioritises on the following eight aspects-

Focus on girls' rights	Locally led, globally connected
Impact evidence	Effective, responsive organisation
Scale up humanitarian impact	Strengthen and optimise sponsorship
Youth centred	Grow quality income

Our Commitment to the SDGs





Plan International Bangladesh Country Director List

Name	From	To
Alka Pathakm	01/01/1994	30/06/1994
Subhadra Belbase	01/07/194	1997
Edward Mac Abbey	1997	2004
Edward Thomas Espey	2004	2010
Anwar Hossain Shikder (Acting)	2010	2011
Myrna Remata Evora	2011	2013
Ms Alina (Acting)	2013	2014
Senait Gebregziabher	2014	2016
Soumya Guha (Acting)	2016	2017
Orla Alicia Murphy	2017	25/11/2021
Afraz Mahal (Acting)	25/11/2021	11/01/2022
Dennis O'Brien (Interim)	12/01/2022	17/07/2022
Kabita Bose	18/07/2022	Up to Date



Journey of Plan International Bangladesh

Plan International Bangladesh started its journey with Service Delivery Approach. In consultation with elite and as per demand we invested more in infrastructural works i.e. construction of schools, bridge, culvert, roads. School feeding programme, student uniforms, furniture/supplies to schools and potable water & sanitations at community level. Programmes were fully sponsorship funded and in sponsorship communities only. Programme Units: Dinajpur, Dhaka Urban, Nilphamari and Gazipur.



1994-1997
SERVICE DELIVERY APPROACH

We Introduced Participatory Development Approach involving children and community people and designed program based on the needs. ECD, Quality Education, Community Managed Health Care and Flexible Micro Finance were major program interventions. Programme expanded beyond sponsorship areas. Child rights was in consideration in project design. Children and adolescent clubs were formed. Programme Units: Dinajpur, Dhaka Urban, Nilphamari, Gazipur and Lalmonirhat.



1998-2003
PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

Started working directly with communities in a continuous action and as central actors. Their participation increased through initiatives like: Enabling Environment Program, Community Learning Program, Community Managed Health Program, and Family Economic Security Program. Interventions focused on children's rights with extensive partnership with Government and Non-government organisations. Children organisations were developed at village and union level. Barguna Programme was established in FY 2007 immediately after Sidr Cyclone.



2004-2009
CHILD CENTRED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Plan International Bangladesh developed its Country Strategy Plan from Rights perspective and strengthened partnership with duty bearers and rights holders. We started engaging corporate sectors. Our approach was to sensitise outside institutions to be more responsive and accountable to local populations, and to provide increased opportunities for community participation in service delivery. Evidence-based advocacy and campaign were in more focus.



2010-2015
CCCD: A RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

2016-2020
JOURNEY TOWARDS TRANSFORMATION



Plan International Bangladesh introduced its 4th Country Strategy Plan, carrying a vision for children and youth. During this time, Plan International Bangladesh focused following six impacted areas.

- ◆ Right to Health
- ◆ Right to Quality Education
- ◆ Right to Protection
- ◆ Right to safe Water and improved Sanitation
- ◆ Right to prevention and protection from disasters and climate change and assistance in emergencies
- ◆ Right to Youth and Economic Empowerment

2017-Present
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Since 1994, Plan International Bangladesh has supported emergency crisis situations through partners in different parts of Bangladesh. In August 2017, almost a million Rohingya were forced to flee Myanmar and now live in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Plan International Bangladesh has been addressing the needs of the Rohingya community, especially of the women, adolescent girls, and children who are the most vulnerable in this crisis, and

Our vision for 2030 is, 'We will partner to empower girls and young women, to be heard, to live without Fear of Violence and to achieve their rights'. By 2030, our work will ensure stronger engagement of girls, and provide ways and means to involve them as leaders. Our Gender Transformative approach challenges gender norms. Partnership is in center of our vision. We build resilience in communities to support the challenges fear of violence through its critical role in movement building, helping us to get political comment and resources, and guiding us towards evidence-based advocacy to drive the ambitions and goals.



2020-2030
TOWARDS EQUALITY: THE CRUCIAL DECADE

Plan Bangladesh has been working on gender transformative programs in the following areas:

- ◆ Education in Emergency
- ◆ Child Protection and GBV
- ◆ Food Security and Livelihood
- ◆ Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- ◆ Disaster risk reduction and emergency responses

Our stories of transformation



Contribution of Plan International Bangladesh in establishing 3 districts as

100% birth registered area



Along with establishing human rights in all spheres of national life, the Government of Bangladesh enacted the Birth and Death Registration Act of 2004 to protect children's rights. Articles 7 and 8 of the United Nations Charter on the Rights of the Child provide for confirmation of birth registration immediately after birth. Various studies show that the birth registration rate in Bangladesh is very low. Lack of awareness, as well as a lack of necessary materials, human power, expertise, and monitoring, made universal birth registration difficult in Bangladesh. To eliminate these difficulties, the Local Government Department of the People's Republic of Bangladesh implemented a special birth registration programme in collaboration with UNICEF under a project titled 'Birth and Death Registration'.

Under this special programme, birth registration campaign and consolidation (strengthening) activities were conducted in 24 districts till December 2004. The international development organisation Plan International Bangladesh supported implementing this programme under the 'Universal Birth Registration' project in 4 districts. This project was implemented in Dinajpur, Nilphamari,

Lalmonirhat, Gazipur and Dhaka City Corporation.

Former Project Manager of Plan International Bangladesh's Birth Registration Project S. M. Abdul Quader said,

“

As a result of taking various activities of this project, the awareness among people about birth registration has increased. Initially, the local government department was involved, but later, the active participation of the health department and education department's active participation accelerated the birth registration process.”

The respective Deputy Commissioners and Local Government Departments declared Dinajpur, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts as 100% birth registered districts with the help of Plan International Bangladesh through this project.

NCTB credits Plan International Bangladesh's Collaboration between Plan International & National Curriculum and Textbook Board for developing pre-primary curriculum and textbook

Since 1997, Plan International Bangladesh has been actively working with the Early Childhood Development (ECD) program. With Save The Children (USA), a research centre for ECD was established to develop components for child care, development, and preschool activity.

As a continuation of that program, Plan Bangladesh collaborated with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) to develop a book for preschoolers called “Khelte Khelte Shikhi” (Learning by Playing). The book was published in 2002 and made possible with the joint effort of BRAC, Proshika, FIVDB, and Inner Force technical support.

Later on, in 2009, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's effort to make education more interactive and fun for children resulted in the development of a book called “Amar Boi” (My book) for pre-primary

students. A significant portion of Plan Bangladesh's curriculum was used to develop this book. NCTB credits Plan International Bangladesh's effort in developing the curriculum within the book.

Plan Bangladesh's Education Specialist Monjur Al Khaled says, “Pre-school intervention is an important step of childhood development. Initially, Plan International Bangladesh worked with this curriculum in Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Gazipur, Dhaka, and Barguna districts. Later on, when NCTB recognised preschool as an individual grade, this curriculum was spread nationwide. I appreciate everyone's contribution in this regard.”





Plan International Bangladesh received an award from the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2011

Former Project Coordinator of Plan International Bangladesh Md. Zahidul Kabir (2010 -2012), Advisor SBCC of Ipas Bangladesh, said,

“

This was the pioneer project in Bangladesh on Exclusive Breast Feeding. Through this project, community people, especially lactating mothers, their husbands and in-laws, understood the benefit of the EBF project, and they cooperated for ensuring exclusive breastfeeding till six months of the age of their infants. As a result, the infants became healthy, contributing to the reduction of neonatal death.”

Through this project, 29,647 pregnant women and 46,941 lactating mothers with <2 years children and indirectly, 29,647 husbands of pregnant women and 46,941 lactating mothers, fathers of <2 years old children and mother-in-law received benefits. In addition, more

than 5268 health awareness sessions were conducted, especially on EBF and pre and post-natal care.

Asma, a project participant and mother, mentioned, “Avoiding societal stigma and stereotypes regarding such issues was tough. I feel proud when I overcome such stigmas. Now, people say I am an ideal mother”.

The Exclusive Breast-Feeding Project of Plan International Bangladesh was a two-year project that commenced on 1 April 2010 and ended on 31 March 2012. This project was implemented in Sreepur Upazila of Gazipur district, Khanshama and Chirirbandor Upazila of Dinajpur district, Jaldhaka Upazila of Nilphamari district and Hatibandha Upazila of Lalmonirhat district. Plan Bangladesh included Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices as one of the essential components of a health program in this initiative. It addressed the issues of IYCF through awareness-raising sessions through mother support groups. ‘Mother Support Group’ (MSG) is a community-based intervention that supports mothers with children below two years of age for breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Through this project, 29,647 pregnant women and 46,941 lactating mothers with <2 years children and indirectly, 29,647 husbands of pregnant women and 46,941 lactating mothers, fathers of <2 years old children and mother-in-law received benefits.



Nishat Mazumder

Changing the narrative because she is a girl

A free-spirited teenage Nishat joined a group of young mountaineers heading out to take on Keokradong, the tallest peak in Bangladesh, on the 50th anniversary of Edmund Hillary's victory over Mount Everest. Not only would this mark her first mountaineering experience, but for young

Nishat, this would also be her first taste of freedom.

Like any other girl, society had taunted her when she wanted to play sports or dressed in shirts. Little Nishat did not like to adhere to gender roles, but she also wanted to be appreciated by a society that would only accept a girl if she were demure. So, she complied for a while.

Little did she know that someday, the peak of Mount Everest would be beneath the girl who had dreamt of living freely like boys. Nishat went on to climb many mountains in her life, both as a mountaineer and a feminist icon. She often remembered her mother saying, "You have legs, hands, and a body like anyone else. You can do anything anyone else can."

Today, she calls attention to the name of Plan International's campaign, BECAUSE I AM A GIRL, that supported her on her Everest trail. She says-

“

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL. How powerful is that name? We are always told we can't do this or that because we are girls. But look how those tiny little words entirely changed the narrative. I CAN BECAUSE I AM A GIRL.”

On that note, she recommends that today's youth follow their heart's desires, no matter what society says.



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Nishi, promoting healthy lifestyle among adolescents

“

“Menstruation is not a matter of shyness or secret; it’s a matter of physical change which every girl faces during adolescence; it’s a matter of healthy adolescent life. All these I learned from the training facilitated by the Stop the Stigma project. I am quite confident about discussing MHM issues with my community people,” said Nishi.

Nishi is a bold peer leader of 12th grade who works for Menstrual Health Management (MHM) in her community and stands confidently in support of the Stop the Stigma (StS) project of Plan International Bangladesh in Bhola district. In 2022, she became a certified Peer Leader. Since then, she voluntarily conducted courtyard sessions on MHM using flash

cards. Currently, she conducts courtyard sessions in four peer groups in her community. A total of 90 adolescent girls are regularly participating in these session, learning MHM and sharing their views and insights they faced during their menstruation. Her journey as a Peer Leader wasn’t easy. Initially, she faced challenges. People in her community did not receive it easily because they were unaware of MHM. Family members were not so considerate. Many girls suffered from abdominal pain, were irregular in school, and dropped out of school, which contributed to conducting child marriage. Some parents did not allow their girls to attend the courtyard season. But Nishi was persistent, she did not consider these and ignored all criticism with solid confidence and determination. Therefore, participating in a



training session on MHM, she gathered extensive knowledge of menstruation, personal health, hygiene management, and society’s existing culture and practices associated with menstruation.

Earlier, their teacher did not feel comfortable discussing menstruation in their class. Most of the time, they advise them to read the lesson on menstruation at home. But now they freely discuss these issues, advised and support them. Teachers show empathetic attitude toward girls and allow them to leave class based on need,” said Nishi. Now, Nishi has become a known face in her community. She also shares MHM issues with her classmates in her college. She is accepted well in her community.



Nishi has become a “known” face in her community. She also shares MHM issues with her classmates in her college. She is accepted well in her community.



Sadiya, a sponsored child, took part in girls take over in japan

“

I believe this platform will give me a boost to be more potent in promoting and bringing gender equality in my community and influence others so that this creates a slipover impact in my community and other communities,” Sadiya asserted.

54

Sadiya transformed from a child marriage survivor to a community leader, Sadiya is a wonderful example of life transformation. It’s an inspiring story of a child marriage survivor who ultimately became an icon of inspiration to other girls. Through education initiatives and awareness campaigns, she empowers girls to protect themselves and pursue their dreams, creating an effect of change in her community. Currently, she is working as a field facilitator at the organisation, Radda. She was a sponsored child of Plan. Being a sponsored child, she had the opportunity to participate in Girls Take Over in Japan. Through Plan International Bangladesh, she received training on improving life skills and leadership. Now, she is working to ensure

that girls in her community are taking the lead to bring positive changes in their lives. Being a child marriage survivor and now the President of the youth group of her community, she continuously pushes herself to prevent child marriage in a coordinated way with her group, which incorporates information collection, motivation, taking the help of law enforcement through a national helpline and helping the survivors to cope with the social challenges in her community. So far, with the assistance of her peer group mates, she has prevented (14) child marriages in her community.

“With the help of my fellow youth group mates, we identified school dropout

children. We also raised funds and created a sustainability plan for the re-admission of those children and their retention in school. Till now, we have ensured the re-admission of 54 children in school.”

She also conducts regular awareness-raising activities to help children, especially girls, to protect themselves from any forms of physical & sexual abuse. They routinely do training by our initiative to carry out safety triangle/body boundary and ‘No-Go-Tell’ sessions for the children (aged 3 to 5 years) so that they can protect themselves from such abuse. In future, she wishes to create a robust platform of her own, where she will help young girls in a broader way to fight back against these burning issues.

Shefali’s story promoter of online safety awareness

“

I immediately discussed with my mother to keep her account secure, make strong passwords, and remain vigilant against future attempts. This includes not sharing personal information, such as One Time Password (OTP) codes, with anyone over the phone,” Shefali mentioned.

Shefali, a girl from Khagrachari, is a twelfth-grader at a Government College. Six months ago, she received a call from an unknown number on her mother’s phone. The person who called claimed to be her college teacher. He sounded concerned, explaining a technical issue with Shefali’s bKash account. The caller assured her mother he was trying to fix the problem and wanted to ensure she received her stipend without further delay. He requested her cooperation

and told her he would send her a code that she needed to share with him immediately. Believing the man, without thinking twice, her mother was ready to share the OTP with him, assuming it was necessary to resolve the technical issue and ensure the safe transfer of her stipend. To share the code, she sought help from Shefali and told her about the problem.

After listening to this, she suddenly remembered the lessons on scamming and phishing from the Online Safety session of the Safe Digital Space for Girls and Youth (SDSGY) Project of Plan International Bangladesh and Grameenphone Telecom. she then took the phone from her mother. She told the scammer that she would report this phone number to the Cyber Security Department of Bangladesh Police. The scammer immediately left the call and blocked her number. Shefali narrated.

“Initially, my mother primarily looked at me with anger thinking I had misbehaved with my teacher, but after discussing with the teacher, she understood how we escaped from a scamming incident”- Shefali smiled and added, “We were about to fall on a deceitful scam through exploiting my mother’s trust and lack of knowledge about cybercrime.”

Shefali’s experience reminded me of the importance of knowledge and learning in digital literacy and online safety. She promised to work as a youth advocate to spread this awareness to her community.





Open CRVS (Civil registration and vital statistics) a digital product

Shammi serves as a Health Assistant at the union level of the Kurigram district. Every day, she works hard with a smiling face to ensure vaccination support and safe primary health support for every member of the community, especially children.

“

I feel like I am the guardian of this community as I am responsible for ensuring birth and death registration for every community member. I go to every house in the community which has a birth or a death within the last 45 days. I feel delighted to see that with a single visit, people now can access such crucial documents.”

She admits the new application has become more accessible to work with. It can finish the job with minimal supporting documents within ten minutes. This system is less prone to mistakes. Also, she can recheck the information with the applicant before registering without the fear of losing any document.



She feels very proud as she is involved in the initiative to ensure the birth rights of every child and their families.

This has been possible as The OpenCRVS project in Bangladesh was led by Plan International Bangladesh with support and partnership with the cabinet division, the Government of Bangladesh following key organisations, the Directorate General of Health Services, the Office of the Registrar General and a2i. OpenCRVS was conceived as an opportunity in Bangladesh in January 2018 when the Government led the International Conference on CRVS and introduced OpenCRVS as an option to support the realisation of digital CRVS+ in the country. In rural areas (Joymonirhat), OpenCRVS enabled Community Health Assistants to send digital notifications of birth and death, which led to significant increases in the birth and death registration rates within one year of occurrence (from 14% to 63% and from 2% to 47% respectively).

The OpenCRVS project in Bangladesh was led by Plan International Bangladesh with support and partnership with the cabinet division



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Local production for the women by the women

Shirin Akhter Asa is the founder and executive director of the Asmani Youth Foundation. She is also a female entrepreneur and social worker. She has been conducting various social activities for the protection and rights of children and young women in Nilphamari district since 2009. She had the opportunity to work as a volunteer with multiple international organizations and represent Bangladesh as a representative in the Spanish Parliament in 2014. However, she struggled to pay her tuition fees as an adolescent girl. To help fund her education, Shirin started her own business production and began selling sanitary pads with the support of Plan International's entrepreneurship programme. The pads were sold at a reduced rate to adolescent girls in her community, helping them to manage their periods at an affordable cost. Her business proliferated, and she now manages a team of 36 young women who use the money they earn to support their studies.

“

I started volunteering as a woman entrepreneur to empower our women in 2016. We set up Asmani Sanitary Napkin Factory with 15 adolescent girls and young women. We are working to train adolescent young women as woman entrepreneurs to remove social prejudices and move forward economically through social development,” she exclaimed with delight.

Three hundred sixty women entrepreneurs work directly and indirectly in Asma Sanitary Napkin Factory. All of them are skilled in the production and marketing of sanitary napkins. They have used their skills to create employment and become financially self-sufficient. As a result, adolescent girls, young women, urban and rural women, and especially marginalised women are getting quality sanitary napkins at affordable prices.



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Her business proliferated, and she now manages a team of 36 young women who use the money they earn to support their studies.

Gaitree escapes abuse and childhood marriage to become a Karate champion

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Karate has turned my life into an ocean of possibilities,’ she explains. ‘It showed me a way to survive, gave me the strength to struggle against poverty and social stigma, and gave me a source of income to support my family. ‘Karate is my passion. I believe in my heart that it can change a life,’ she says. ‘It can change people’s views and perceptions and give them new strengths,’ Gaitree asserted.



An orphan at just 15, she had to take on the responsibility of caring for her younger brother and sister. The teenager from Bangladesh fell into a spiral of depression. But just when everything felt utterly hopeless, she found martial arts. Now, she trains thousands of other young girls – as part of the Girl Power programme run by Plan International – and hopes to help other teenagers and children escape desperate situations. After losing her parents, Gaitree’s world fell apart – she had to become an adult overnight.

Karate has given her the confidence to survive. It has empowered her and given her mental and physical strength. There was no one to take responsibility for her

family. Everything Gaitree did was for her younger siblings. She had to make huge sacrifices but was willing to do anything necessary to keep them safe and give them a good life. Discovering martial arts was a lifeline for Gaitree.

“

Karate combines fighting, intellectual foresight and decision-making –all fantastic transferable skills for life. This has been an enormous boost to my confidence,” she mentioned.



Now, she trains thousands of other young girls – as part of the Girl Power programme run by Plan International – and hopes to help other teenagers and children escape desperate situations. After losing her parents, Gaitree’s world fell apart – she had to become an adult overnight.

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Igniting a spark of hope within a sponsored child, Kanchan

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My dream is to establish Ovinondon Foundation, capable of working nationwide and eventually worldwide. I don't want any child to drop out of school again or youth to remain unemployed,” Kanchan stated.

Kanchan Chandra Ray emerged from the heart of poverty, a child shaped by the harsh realities of a broken family. His parents' separation during his early years left him adrift, and his education was disrupted amidst the turmoil. Yet, amidst the darkness, Plan International Bangladesh extended a lifeline, sponsoring his education and igniting a spark of hope within him.

He became a sponsored child in 1999. Talented Kanchan only moved forward after that. He eventually pursued a university education and left Rajshahi University with a master's degree. He joined in a local development organisation afterwards.

He ultimately founded his own voluntary organisation named Ovinondon Foundation.

His organisation works to help underprivileged children in his own upazila of Nilphamari. Ovinondon Foundation is implementing health care programs and various cultural education interventions within the community. As the foundation's founder and executive director, Kanchan aims to work globally and eventually worldwide.



He became a sponsored child in 1999. Talented Kanchan only moved forward after that. He eventually pursued a university education and left Rajshahi University with a master's degree. He joined in a local development organisation afterwards. He ultimately founded his own voluntary organisation named Ovinondon Foundation.



GEMS (Gender Equity Movement in School) is bringing incredible transformation!

Suraiya is a student of class 6 who lives in Barguna. One year ago, she didn't know about menstrual hygiene management, puberty, gender, and so on. However, after getting 13 sessions of GEMS Now, she is well aware of these. South Asia Partnership (SAP) BD Implementing Girls Get Equal-GGE project of Plan International Bangladesh at Barguna Sadar Upazila, under this project, GEMS (Gender Equity Movement in School) sessions are operated by GEMS teachers at schools, bringing magnificent change to the community. Sonia is a GEMS teacher who regularly takes classes at the GEMS corner. She shared that, at the very beginning of the session, the students were quite shy and unclear concerning the puberty session.

“

Students are also now well aware of gender. Before the GEMS session, girls didn't play football, cricket, long jump, or high jump. Currently, after the GEMS session, girls enjoy these games. Girls attended the district-level tournaments and won prizes. It's a great change. Now the scenario has changed, and students have broken the barriers of shyness and misconception,” she added.

Hafiza is a student in standard- 8 at her school. She belongs to such a family where there's nobody to be aware of her to learn about menstrual hygiene management, sex and gender, puberty, and so on. She got



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engaged in harmful traditional practices when her period commenced. As a result, she encountered some problems with that (such as rash and allergies). But now she knows how to manage menstrual hygiene, what gender and sex are, and she also knows about gender transformative approaches.

I have faced a lot of problems when I was in the first cycle of puberty because of the lack of my knowledge about it. I want everyone to know and be aware. Personally, in the future, I will always take steps to teach people who don't know about it. Girls like Hafiza in the community will be aware one day”, she mentioned.



when her period commenced. As a result, she encountered some problems with that (such as rash and allergies). But now she knows how to manage menstrual hygiene, what gender and sex are, and she also knows about gender transformative approaches.



Nurturing dreams building futures: The transformative impact of youth learning centres

“

I had a dream to learn how to operate a computer, but I never got the chance. After enrolling at the YLC (Youth Learning Centres), my dream has come true. Now, I know how to work on MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint presentations. The YLC has opened a new door for youths. I feel proud of myself,” asserted by a youth from the centre, Meghla.

The Youth Learning Centre (YLC), run by Plan International Bangladesh, known for its innovation, opens its doors to individuals aged 15 to 24 from six communities in Nilphamari district on Saturdays to Wednesdays. It grants them access to computers and the internet and offers technical expertise, enabling them to nurture their talents and pursue their passions. The YLC comes fully equipped with educational resources, encompassing TVs, computers, designated spaces for inventive brainstorming, and areas dedicated to acquiring traditional handicraft skills. A tool gallery is also available for individuals learning trades like carpentry. Many of the centres’ attendees have experienced early school dropouts, viewing the YLC as a place to acquire the essential skills necessary to shape a more promising future for themselves.

“

I come to YLC to browse the internet and learn computing skills as I don’t have a smartphone or access to the internet due to lack of money,” stated Shoron.

Observing the centre, we witnessed young individuals actively acquiring computer skills while others engaged in batik printing, jute

making, and papercrafts. Simultaneously, another group is immersed in learning photography, video editing, and graphic design.

“

I have always been interested in the food industry but lacked the opportunity to gain knowledge. At the YLC, I learnt how to run a business. After that, I started my own business from home with my parents’ support. Now, my business is growing, and I am receiving orders from different offices,” Ashfy explained.

He joined the centre when it opened in April 2022 and now he has the skills to start his own food delivery business. Nearly 1,000 young people have passed through the doors of the YLC, or the ‘Door of Thoughts’ as it says on the doorframe. With the continued support of Plan International Bangladesh and our local partner USS, we hope that many more young people can use the centre to grow their skills and develop sustainable income opportunities to achieve financial independence.



Observing the centre, we witnessed young individuals actively acquiring computer skills while others engaged in batik printing, jute making, and papercrafts. Simultaneously, another group is immersed in learning photography, video editing, and graphic design.

Empowering resilience

Fatema's journey leading cyclone anticipatory action in Patharghata

“

I am the first woman in the Community Based organization (CBO) groups of our village to facilitate sessions for Speedy dissemination of forecast warnings, Community Preparedness and Safe movement to shelter, Coordination and communication with WDMCs and UDMCs, and Household contingency plan,” said Fatema, a woman from the woman group of Patharghata who has adopted the STEP Project's courtyard session discussions, she now conducts courtyard sessions with neighbours,” asserted by Fatema.

Fatema resides in the Barguna District, the most cyclone-prone district in southern Bangladesh; she supports her husband in operating a grocery shop in the area. In addition to his grocery role, he engages

in seasonal fish drying work. But, in every cyclone season, they face a lot of asset damage. Access to information poses a significant challenge for community members, particularly women like Fatema in her community. Furthermore, as a woman, she doesn't always find a welcoming environment in various discussions within her community. However, the losses and damages she experienced during Cyclone Sidr have heightened her awareness of cyclones, prompting her to seek and participate actively in related discussions. Recognising the need, she willingly became part of the women's group when Plan International Bangladesh, in collaboration with SAP BD, initiated the formation of community-based organisations (CBOs) through the Strengthening Forecast-based Early Actions in Cyclone-Prone Coastal Regions in Bangladesh (STEP) project; include women's groups, adolescent clubs, and youth groups, which are designed to facilitate the local disaster management committees (DMCs) and shelter management committees (SMCs) in fulfilling their responsibilities for anticipatory actions regarding cyclones. Later, she expanded her role to facilitate courtyard sessions for broader community groups, reaching beyond the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), where she covers topics such as the rapid dissemination of special weather bulletins and forecast warnings, community preparedness, safe

movement to shelters, coordination, and communication with Weather Disaster Management Committees (WDMCs) and Upazila Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs), as well as household contingency planning. With unwavering confidence, Fatema is at the forefront of driving positive change within the people in her community. She leads the charge to build awareness and preparedness for cyclones, emphasising anticipatory actions based on timely warnings and early action plans. “I am determined to continue this effort to raise awareness among more people. This way, they can equip themselves, follow the warning messages about cyclones, and minimise potential losses and damages.”



Furthermore, as a woman, she doesn't always find a welcoming environment in various discussions within her community. However, the losses and damages she experienced during Cyclone Sidr have heightened her awareness of cyclones, prompting her to seek and participate actively in related discussions.



Powerful and indomitable Khadija



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“Previously, I was very frustrated as I couldn't continue studying and was not self-dependent. But after being self-employed, I am much more confident now. I feel strong because now my family values my opinion, and I have decision-making power in my family. My acceptance is increasing day by day in my family and surroundings. With the support of the CEMB project, I became skilled in recognising the outside world and changing my life,” said Khadija, a peer leader and a shining example for the out-of-school peer group of Bhola district.

Because of the financial crisis, Khadija's education was about to stop after grade ten. Still, with her effort and indomitable willpower, she continued her studies and completed the Higher Secondary Certificate. However, at a certain point, due to extreme poverty, it was no longer possible to continue her studies. Through community consultation and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) mapping, adolescents (out of school) who have stopped studying or do not attend school are selected as peer members by



the CEMB (Combatting Early Marriage in Bangladesh) project of Plan International Bangladesh. Khadija was selected as a peer leader in her area after the process. She regularly attended the courtyard sessions of dropout school children. She discussed the issues around gender inequality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, child

protection and adverse effects of child marriage with her fellow members.

She received training from the Technical Training Center (TTC). Later, she applied for it in a private bank in Bhola and was selected as a computer operator. Now, she can contribute to her sister's education and

family expenses. Not only that, but after a few days at her job, she decided to continue her studies, and she got admitted to a national university for a graduate course. She is the only working adolescent in her area. Other adolescents in her locality are getting inspired by her. Previously, she was not confident enough to express her opinion or wish, and had no idea about the outer environment.

However, the scenario has changed now. Seeing this transformation, the misconception of family and society has ended. She has decided to continue her studies and get admission to higher education for future betterment.





Breaking gender norms and transforming locality: Kohinur

“Cooperation within the family is pertinent by delegating household work among all the members, regardless of gender. This approach assists us in efficiently maintaining balance and harmony at home. Both men and women are responsible for doing all the household tasks. Everyone can get benefitted from working together within the family,” stated Kohinur.

Kohinur’s family consists of six members. Her husband Ashrab & son Benazir work as farmers. Benazir is married to a girl named Sohagi. After getting married, she handled all the household responsibilities like any other family in her locality. It was a regular practice in the families of her community to delegate all the household responsibilities to women and girls of the house. Kohinur got used to these traditional gendered work divisions. She was annoyed to witness her son helping her daughter-in-law. She learnt that men are the head and decision-makers of the family. Kohinur used to think that if Benazir supported Sohagi at household care work, the neighbours would laugh at them. Later, when Sohagi became the mother of a baby boy, Kohinur and her family started facing difficulties in handling all the household tasks and taking proper

care of the child and mother due to a lack of knowledge about maternal and neonatal care. Meanwhile, Plan International Bangladesh’s Gender Transformative Early Child Development (GeTECD) project, in collaboration with South Asia Partnership-Bangladesh, reached Kohinur’s locality. Kohinur heard about it from her neighbours and was eager to learn about its interventions. She was selected by the “Altaf Hawlader Bari Grandparents Club. There, she received orientation on the importance of delegation of household responsibilities and care works among all, roles of grandparents for ensuring equal participation of men and woman in the family, child and maternal care, tactics to adopt in regards to eliminating gender-based violence at home and the roles of all family members for shaping a child’s overall development. Now, Kohinur’s son Benazir contributes to doing regular household tasks such as supporting in cooking, bringing water from a distance, household cleaning, feeding, teaching and playing with children. Now, Kohinur acknowledges the positive parenting approach. She regularly attends every monthly grandparent meeting. She awaits patiently to attend the awareness-raising sessions and place their issues for tangible solutions. Starting in 2019, the project worked in areas such as Barguna Sadar Upazila and 7 Dhaka South City Corporation wards.



Transformation & empowerment through education

Towards a Planned Future Until We Are All Equal

Jesmin comes from a financially struggling family where her parents work tirelessly to support them. Witnessing their dedication, Jesmin becomes increasingly focused on her studies. Initially starting her education at Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK), run by Plan International Bangladesh, she progresses through primary school and secures admission to Dakhil Madrasa for secondary education.

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I am determined to become a teacher and support young girls & women to advance in their studies and careers, and I am preparing myself accordingly,” Said Jesmin.

However, during her seventh-grade year, the unexpected outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic forces the closure of schools indefinitely. Amid this crisis, Plan International Bangladesh initiates the “Alternative Education Centre”

to support sponsored children from grades one to nine, aiming to bridge the learning gap. Jesmin actively engages in this program and reaps significant benefits from it. Continuing her participation in the alternative education centre, Jesmin becomes more dedicated to her studies, especially during her ninth and tenth-grade years. Her commitment pays off when she achieves an outstanding GPA of 4.81 in the SSC examination, bringing her and her family immense joy.

With her sights set on becoming a teacher and advancing professionally, Jesmin’s future aspirations are bright. Her father expresses gratitude towards Plan International Bangladesh for their timely educational support, which enabled Jesmin’s academic success and discouraged early marriage by emphasising the importance of education.





Climate-smart homestead garden for improved nutrition

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“The garden wasn’t just about vegetables; it nurtured our dreams and brought newfound hope. The economic success was a game-changer. We improved our diet and turned the surplus into a steady income. This helped with our daily expenses and allowed us to invest in our education, securing a brighter future,” Smrity mentioned.



Smrity is a student of class 9. She grew up in a vulnerable family where every penny mattered. With her father toiling as a day labourer to support their family of five, including three school-going siblings, the weight of education expenses became a constant struggle for them. One day, a school Nutrition Volunteer from the Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome (JANO) project of Plan International Bangladesh visited Smrity’s community. The volunteer taught them about the benefits of having seasonal vegetables, nutritional benefits, and child safeguarding. The volunteer and her teachers practically taught them how to prepare a climate-smart vegetable garden in our school playground in a child-friendly manner. She encouraged them to replicate this gardening technique at Smrity’s household level. She found immense inspiration.

Smrity made a climate-smart vegetable garden at home to lighten her father’s load. She worked with her sibling and mother for days, transforming her small backyard into a flourishing vegetable garden. Smrity carefully chose vegetables like vibrant tomatoes, leafy spinach, cabbage, and hearty carrots, considering climate issues in her area. The garden became successful, offering her family a regular supply of fresh and nutritious vegetables. But it didn’t stop there; she realised she could sell the surplus in the market. This turned her little garden into a source of income, easing her father’s struggles using climate-smart technology and improved production systems.

The impact was profound. Not only did they enjoy healthier meals, but the extra income also made education more manageable for her and her siblings. In the modest backdrop of their backyard, their homestead garden became a symbol of resilience and triumph. Her little initiative didn’t just change their meals; it transformed their lives, showing them the power of a small garden to create a big difference.

Smrity made a climate-smart vegetable garden at home to lighten her father’s load. She worked with her sibling and mother for days, transforming her small backyard into a flourishing vegetable garden. Smrity carefully chose vegetables like vibrant tomatoes, leafy spinach, cabbage, and hearty carrots, considering climate issues in her area.

Uplifting parents in the community through practical parenting sessions

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It was an eye-opening experience for her entire family, who are all well aware of it. The project works immensely to enhance the knowledge and capacity building of the parents because if they can obtain developmental knowledge, it will assist them in applying effective parenting practices. As parents' knowledge and child development are interrelated,” asserted Khadiza, a mother of three daughters.



Khadiza resides in the Kurigram district of Bangladesh. She lives in a very secluded area. There is no transportation facility to carry out any business. Considering disrupted communication, they cannot access basic facilities such as health, education, employment, etc. Besides being a day labourer, her husband struggles to find alternative employment opportunities to meet their basic family needs. In her locality, child marriage is a burning issue, and most of the girls and women are a victim of it, mainly because of socioeconomic conditions, social norms, traditional stereotypes, etc. Likewise, Khadiza was also preparing to discontinue her daughter's education. She was making necessary arrangements for her eldest daughter's wedding. Since they could not purchase educational materials and had to bear the expenses for other essential requirements, she was only focusing on the opportunity to cut their family expenses by reducing the number of family members. And she thought marriage was the only solution for it. In this way, both parents will be free from the responsibilities of taking care of their daughter and from social insecurity.

Meanwhile, Empower Girls, through the Education and Skills project of Plan International Bangladesh, started to implement its activities in local schools in Kurigram, including her daughter's school. Khadiza got acquainted with the

“parenting session” activities through the project's intervention. There, she received sessions on sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), personal hygiene management, safeguarding, risk factors of early marriage, mental health and the importance of education for the girl child. She was heavily influenced by those sessions, communicated with one of the personnel from the project, and started to seek support for her daughter's education. She realised the detrimental effects of early marriage and soon corrected her misconception. Later, she convinced her husband and let her daughters study further.



Empower Girls, through the Education and Skills project of Plan International Bangladesh, started to implement its activities in local schools in Kurigram, including her daughter's school. Khadiza got acquainted with the “parenting session” activities through the project's intervention.

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Shadona, an adolescent, lives in one of the most disaster-prone parts of Bangladesh. Every year, her village in the Kurigram district is hit by floods, storms and lightning strikes, causing massive damage to homes, livelihoods and infrastructure, particularly roads that can be swept away instantly by deadly landslides.

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The roads are often impassable, so we cannot get to school. We suffer a lot from the impact of disasters.” “We learnt how to conduct a risk assessment to identify the risks to our school and how to plan for emergencies. I now know why having a disaster risk plan is important and how disasters can impact students’ lives, especially girls,” explains Shadona.

In rural parts of the country, the disruption of children’s education is common due to floods and cyclones, which damage access roads and school buildings and materials, preventing children from going to school and, in some cases, forcing them to drop out altogether. To provide children with a safer environment in which to learn, Plan International Bangladesh is implementing

a three-year Gender Responsive School and Community Safety Initiatives (GRSCSI) project in four secondary schools in the district. As part of the project, Shadona became a member of a student task force group which prepares children for emergencies that regularly disrupt their lives. Girls are more likely to drop out of school to save on school fees or to spend more time fetching water. At the same time, women are often left out of the conversation about adapting to climate change, even though they are sometimes in the best position to provide solutions.

Jahanara Begum, a teacher at Shadona’s school, explained that,

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The initiative has provided students and teachers a platform for learning and transferring knowledge. It has created a space for students and teachers to share their issues. Earlier, when there were issues, the students did not know how to raise them. Now they feel comfortable discussing them with their friends and teachers.”

After conducting their risk assessment, Shadona and her team discovered that some issues were affecting their school’s

safety, particularly girls’ welfare. There were many problems regarding a safe learning environment, including unsafe classrooms, poor wash facilities and no common room space for girls to participate in after-school activities. During a community meeting the secondary education officer also attended, the student task force decided to share their assessment findings with students, teachers, community members, and local government representatives. Based on the risk assessment findings, they successfully mobilised new funding and completed the renovation work of two classrooms. The students felt safer and more comfortable in these classrooms than before.

After conducting their risk assessment, Shadona and her team discovered that some issues were affecting their school’s safety, particularly girls’ welfare. There were many problems regarding a safe learning environment, including unsafe classrooms, poor wash facilities and no common room space for girls to participate in after-school activities.



Disaster-savvy students assess the risks in their school



Shahina's Journey towards enlightenment

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When I felt that I was a burden to my parents, it hurt me much, but I had no way other than to stay here with my parents. There were no opportunities for a girl to earn money. As I have a baby, I just tried to survive for my baby. Now I feel much better because I can earn and support myself and my child. I want to continue my education and send my child to school. I dream of growing my small business and becoming self-sufficient. I want to set an example for our society,” Shahina added.

She is an adolescent girl from Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. When she was just 15, She was forced into marriage after finishing 10th grade since her father was a rickshaw puller, and it was tough for him to look after three children. After three years, she became a mother. Later on, her marriage ended. She was sent back to her parents' place. She felt burdened because she wasn't earning money and became frustrated. In her community, many



people aren't aware of children's and women's rights, empowerment, and the importance of education. This leads to problems like child labour, drug dealing, sexual harassment, early and forced marriages, polygamy, dowry issues, trafficking, and kidnappings. However, a significant change began in July 2022, when Plan International Bangladesh (PIB) teamed up with the Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA) to kick-start the "Joining Forces for Child Protection in Emergencies" (JF-CPIE) project of Plan International Bangladesh. They aimed to tackle these issues by raising awareness, empowering the community, and building their skills. In December 2022, as part of the program, they held a special session in Shahina's village called a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA).

The aim was to find families needing support, especially those with vulnerable children. Shahina was among the families identified and enrolled in a training program to acquire work skills and the know-how to manage a small business. Shahina received startup support of Twelve Thousand Taka to explore small-scale opportunities. With the support she received, Shahina bought a pregnant goat with the first instalment and used the second instalment to start poultry farming and grow vegetables. Now she has three goats, eggs and chicken from her hens, and fresh vegetables from her garden, and she's making money.

Shahina was among the families identified and enrolled in a training program to acquire work skills and the know-how to manage a small business.



Plan U-15 Girls Football Championship 2015

Plan International Bangladesh's Girls Football Project started involving secondary school girls in eight districts in the Rajshahi division, primarily based on experience, and the project may be gradually extended to other divisions.

Plan always believes that girls' participation and increased skills in football will contribute to their empowerment process, and they can transform their knowledge and experiences into their own future lives and the lives of all around. In the selection round 3 matches for each district, 32 girls were nominated for a district camp. Underprivileged players got preferences in this round. In the camp round, there was a 15-day-long residential camp in each district under two football coaches. Life skill sessions were carried out to build confidence and increase rights-related awareness.

Rajshahi district team won the "Plan U-15 girls football championship 2015" final match. The team defeated the Natore district team by 11 goals. The competitive final match of the tournament was held on 2 February 2016 at the Rajshahi Physical College field and with support from UNIQLO, Plan International Bangladesh and the Directorate of Sports jointly organised the event.



There is no such thing as 'men's jobs'



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Earlier, I thought serving mobile was a man's job requiring much knowledge. However, my mindset has changed after receiving the training. I believe any girl can service mobile easily if she can gain proper knowledge like me,” said Akhi.

Akhi, a 12th grader, lives in a distant area of Kurigram with her mother and two siblings. As the only wage earner in the family, her mother works hard on farmlands as a day labourer to support her children. However, she cannot manage to work every day, and on such days, she barely has any savings to sustain. Affording meals twice a day is already a struggle for Akhi's family; when her mother cannot work, they can hardly eat once a whole day.

The Child Not Bride (CNB) project of Plan International Bangladesh identified her family as the most vulnerable and took the family under the project following Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods.

Under the intervention, she enrolled in a mobile servicing training program to provide financial support for the family and help her younger sister, who is currently in 8th grade, stay in school.

In May 2023, Akhi started learning mobile servicing in a local repair shop near her residence. The day-long practice session is provided by local entrepreneurs starting from 10 am to 5 pm for 30 days. After completing the training, she purchased some equipment for mobile servicing, such as a power supply, hot gun, quick charger, etc. And she started working from her residence.

“Now I am quite sound when repairing button(feature) phones. I want to start repairing smartphones next. I am trying to get a shop servicing mobile phones in a marketplace to get more orders,” said Akhi. She also continued by saying,

“I charge 80 – 100 takas as a servicing fee per mobile set. I get orders regularly. Now, my daily income is around 150 takas. I invest some of the money in my business as well as helping my mother to buy groceries.”

The Child Not Bride (CNB) project of Plan International Bangladesh, funded by NRK Telethon, has implemented a mentor-mentee approach for developing technical skills for the youths, especially young women, to be involved in income-generation activities for their economic empowerment. Challenging the social norms, Akhi participated in economic empowerment intervention with that approach to learn mobile phone servicing. She broke the perception of a 'man's job' and moved forward with knowledge and skill to become self-dependent.





From peer leader to teacher inspiring the next generation with life skills education

“

We have received real-life skills lessons that encompassed a range of psychosocial competencies and interpersonal abilities within us. It empowered us to make informed choices, solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, establish healthy relationships, and show empathy towards others. While theoretical knowledge is commonly acquired, developing strength and confidence propels individuals forward and guides them towards their goals,” Mohammed said.

Mohammed is an optimist adolescent from Kutupalong Rohingya Refugees Camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. His father is a tailor at the camp. Mohammed is a successful teacher at a Learning Centre (LC) and holds the position of a youth leader. Before joining the Champions of Change (CoC) project of Plan International Bangladesh as a young participant, Mohammed was a high school student and a local advocate for the rights of Rohingya youth. By engaging in the CoC project, he had the opportunity to attend various sessions focused on life skills, covering subjects like Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Drugs and Human Trafficking, the challenges faced by adolescents, and Parenthood and Family Planning Methods. Consequently, he gained



extensive knowledge and expertise in several areas of life skills from the sessions.

Recognising his expertise and exemplary behaviour, he was chosen as a Peer Leader among his fellow adolescents. While serving as a paid Peer Leader in the CoC project for one year, he effectively supported and conducted numerous sessions on life skills for adolescents and friends in different locations such as shops and shelters. However, due to budget constraints within the CoC project, he could not continue as a Peer Leader.

Therefore, he applied for a position in another non-governmental organisation (NGO). As a result, he was selected as a Rohingya Teacher (RT) at the learning centre operated by an NGO. Although his primary role is now that of a teacher, he occasionally conducts life skills sessions for adolescents, particularly when he has free time.

Mohammed expressed his belief and highlighted the importance of these sessions for this group of people. He further added the knowledge which navigated their lives in a positive & productive manner.



Our activation initiative has always encouraged the facilitators and caregivers to develop toys from local materials close to hand and easy to manoeuvre into something beautiful. I always work for this cause, and children of my block seem to enjoy this very much and participate with me in making these.



Kalpana building a sustainable future

“

My dream of becoming an entrepreneur came true. It has changed our lives. I have become an independent woman covering most of my family expenses,” Kalpana mentioned.

Kalpana is a small entrepreneur in the Barguna district of Bangladesh. She does all the household chores and takes care of her children. She has two daughters and one son. Kalpana’s husband is a fisherman; therefore, carrying on the children’s education while maintaining their expenses is challenging. Her son’s name is listed as a sponsored child on Plan International Bangladesh, so Kalpana’s name and information were taken as a participant in self-employment by the SOYEE Component. Kalpana was selected as a beneficiary member of the SOYEE component in 1st week of January 2023. After being chosen as a project participant, Kalpana received training sessions on- the “Start Your Business (SYB)” training and “Income Generating Activity (IGA)” training provided by the SOYEE component of Plan International Bangladesh.

Upon completing the training, the SOYEE component of SAP-Bangladesh provided her with financial support of Tk 15000 through Mobile bKash to help her start a small business according to her needs.

After receiving 15000 Taka, she bought a goat with some money, and as she and her husband had previous experience, they started making bamboo handicraft materials. Presently, she has four goats, and every month, she receives income worth TK 10000 per month from the bamboo industry. After running all the family’s expenses from the bamboo industry’s income, she started the business of betel barge on about 6 per cent of the land beside her house. The income from betel barge is about 5-6 thousand taka per month, making Kalpana a self-reliant woman. The SOYEE component of SAP-Bangladesh has introduced Kalpana to various government and private organisations, which gave her more courage to be self-sufficient. Now, she can also continue her sons’ and daughters’ studies. She is saving money and living happily with her husband and children.



Ensuring adolescents’ mental health and wellbeing

Rajia is a well-known district adolescent club member under the Strengthening Health Outcomes for Women and Children (SHOW) project of Plan International Bangladesh in the Nilphamari district of Bangladesh. Rajia sometimes felt that her family members misunderstood her like any other adolescent. Therefore, adolescent Rajia felt insecure and couldn’t concentrate on her studies. Meanwhile, the Peer leader from the SHOW project informed her about the psychosocial services of the SHOW project, supported by the Moner-Bondhu Foundation.

“

Our school was shut down for a long time due to COVID-19, so I couldn’t move outside and share my feelings and anxiety with friends. I felt relieved to seek the psychosocial support arranged by Plan & Moner-Bondhu to reduce my mental stress. I shared my issues with them, and they encouraged me to free up and discuss without hesitation. I felt comfortable and let it all go. Later, I informed my friends to receive

Towards a Planned Future [Until We Are All Equal](#)

psychosocial support through mobile phone,” Rajia Stated.

SHOW project has provided psychosocial support through the agency Moner Bondhu, by which adolescent boys and girls, along with other community people, can reduce their anxiety due to the COVID-19 situation. This support improved their mental health and reduced stress in this pandemic situation.

SHOW project was a four-and-a-half-year (2016-2020) gender transformative initiative to increase the quality, availability, utilization and accountability of essential Maternal, Newborn and Child Health/Sexual and Reproductive Health (MNCH/SRH) services. It aimed to reduce maternal and child mortality amongst marginalized and vulnerable women, specifically adolescent girls, and their children in targeted regions across five countries (Bangladesh, Ghana, Haiti, Nigeria and Senegal.)





Champion debater Ashfia

“

My parents were separated when I was very young, and my grandparents raised me. My mother works in a garment factory near Dhaka and only comes during Eid. My father started another family, and I never knew a father's love,” Ashfia Stated.

.....

Ashfia is known as a champion debater, an active member of the youth forum, a student cabinet leader, and a motivator who resides in Bangladesh's Kurigram district.

Her Grandmother is her best friend and biggest supporter. She encouraged her to get all the degrees and become a magistrate. Whenever she brings trophies, they shed tears. “You see, when

opportunities are created, children from a needy family grab it. This is what the Building Better Futures for Girls (BBGF) project of Plan International Bangladesh is doing to me. There are events after events, discussions, seminars and meeting people from all walks of life who clap for you and show encouragement. I have no time to think about a husband; my studies matter most!”

Ashfia's grandmother mentioned, “never asked for extra money as a child to buy knick-knacks. She would have understood that we had no extra cash in the house. To pay for her educational expenses, she coaches. My granddaughter already received Jayita, a national award in the education category.”

She is preparing for her school final exam and is determined to become a well-known magistrate one day.

Raziya's Inspiring efforts amidst the pandemic

“

Being a sponsored child, I am an ambassador for my community. I ask my family members, friends, and neighbours to stay home, wear a mask when going outside, and wash their hands frequently with soap to stay safe from this deadly virus.” said Raziya.

.....

In the Rangpur division, an adolescent, Raziya, a sponsored child of Plan International Bangladesh and an active member of the Girls Action Team at her school, has emerged as an example of awareness and community service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 7, 2020, when Bangladesh reported its first confirmed COVID-19 cases, Raziya has been on a mission to protect her community. Raziya's awareness about COVID-19 and preventive measures began during Girls Action Team meetings at her

school. With schools closed across Bangladesh, she used her free time to create face masks. Being the daughter of a tailor, Raziya collaborated with her mother to craft masks using leftover cloth from her mother's tailoring business. The impact of Raziya's initiative was visible in her community, where everyone used her homemade masks. Additionally, she actively taught community people proper handwashing tactics. Remarkably, no one in Raziya's community has tested positive for the virus, and she is determined to maintain this success.

Rupali, Raziya's neighbour, praised her efforts and stated, “Raziya has set an example by providing us with face masks. I got a mask free of cost. Poor people in the rural community like us were unaware of the importance of wearing a mask, but Raziya has made it possible with her initiative.”





Noor promoting interactive and engaging learning session

Noor is a facilitator living at the Rohingya Refugee Camp with her husband and two sons. Noor was born in Buthidaung, Myanmar. She studied in Myanmar up to standard eight. Later, she got married to Taher. Taher was a shopkeeper in Myanmar, and Noor was a housewife. Taher went to Malaysia for better income. Noor and her sons lived with her parent. During the influx in 2017, Taher's whole family came to Kutupalang, facing a lot of suffering. Due to the

crisis, Taher came directly to Kutupalang, Cox's Bazar and met with his family. Noor came with her two sons and mother-in-law to Bangladesh in 2019 through the local broker. When she came here, she joined the BRAC learning centre. There were very few females who could read and write in the camp. She got the job quickly and conducted classes for pre-primary learners (aged 3 to 5). She visited the learners' families if they did not come two or more days a week. She worked here for seven months. It wasn't easy to manage the responsibility of doing household work. She did not have any helping hand in the family. She and Taher planned to control the birth of more children.

Noor joined with JPF-3 project of Plan International Bangladesh as an Outreach Tutor (Facilitator). She joined in the middle of the project and received some learning materials from another learning centre. Some of them were damaged and out of work. She did not know how to use the materials in the class. Teaching how to count numbers or calculate addition and subtraction was more difficult. Female learners were not interested in following the class attentively. Sometimes, she used standard items such as leaves, bamboo sticks, empty packets of coffee, soap, etc. It was not sustainable or used for a long time. She could remember the fun games in the class that she played with her classmates in the school in Myanmar. It raised her confidence level in teaching as a good teacher. Noor received new teaching-learning materials in this phase, such as flashcards with pictures, counting charts, alphabet charts, and yearly calendars. She is very much happy using these aids in the class.

“

The learners are more attentive when they see an alphabet card in my hand. They imagine the picture of the opposite side with the letter. It makes the class more active participation of learners and creates competition to learn quickly,” Noor emphasised.

She also applied her experiences and skills in awareness-raising sessions on early and child marriage, trafficking, cleanliness and hygiene and COVID-19 with learners and community people. Noor raises awareness among the block people, and they clean the common toilet regularly on their own. They use enough water for the toilet. Noor never thought that she would be able to do a job and earn money for her family.



Noor raises awareness among the block people, and they clean the common toilet regularly on their own. They use enough water for the toilet. Noor never thought that she would be able to do a job and earn money for her family.



Mim has been supporting the education of marginalized students as a Big Brother Big Sister-BBBS (Volunteer Tutor) since October 2020. She tutors to support 09 (nine) students under the Child Bright to Bookworm-Christmas Calendar Project of Plan International Bangladesh, implemented by SUROVI in Dholpur, Jatrabari, Dhaka.

“

Working as a Big Brother Big Sister-BBBS tutor motivated me to work for marginalised children's development. I want to be a development activist in the future. So, I am working with students at the field level. I am glad I could help the students; otherwise, they would have dropped out by now,” Mim shared.

Mim, teaching marginalized students amidst the pandemic



She has been working with children since her childhood. She always desired to work with children. During the pandemic, many students were out of the light of education. Amidst the pandemic, she was offered to work for marginalized students as a Big Brother Big Sister-BBBS tutor. She provided tutorial support during the school closure period to increase the attention of marginalized students in education and the fear of studying and mitigate learning deficiency. Her students became regular in their studies and consistently submitted school assignments and worksheets. She also informed them of the Coronavirus, hygiene, and child safeguarding issues. She worked significantly to sensitize the parents of the students from stopping their children's education, engaging in child labour and marrying them at an early age. She received basic



training on the Big Brother Big Sister-BBBS learning approach from the CBB-CC project of SUROVI in collaboration with Plan International Bangladesh. She made the learning environment more interactive for students. She took assessments of students every week. After identifying the subject-based learning gap, she supported them with learning materials, lesson plans and teaching techniques.

BBBS learning approach: Big Brother Big Sister-BBBS is a learning approach that includes tutorial support from junior and senior students. BBBS has the main role of mitigating the learning deficiency of marginalized children, which has been created due to school closures in COVID-19.

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Quotes from Our Sponsored Children



“I participated in the ‘Learn Without Fear’ campaign activity and visited Thailand with Plan to perform in a drama on the theme. I also drove Plan’s global campaign “Because I am a Girl” in Spain. These diverse experiences allowed me to speak confidently and dream to stand up for girls and educate them. Today, I see myself as a successful human, not just a girl.”

Shomapti Ray

Government Primary School Teacher
Nilphamari





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“My dream was to walk hand-in-hand with women in our society who are left behind and forgotten. To follow through, I facilitated craftsmanship training for people in my community so they could earn their livelihood. Our organization was originated to market these commodities and help out local craftsmen.”

Rahima Khatun

Co-Founder
RH Shopno Kutir, Lalmonirhat



“With plan, I could work with renowned institutions, donors and organizations such as USAID, ESDO and DALA. However, my true calling came when I received the opportunity to join a theatre group. This led to my consequent affiliation with music now. Today, I am recognised as a respectful member of my society.”

Biplob Bormon

Musician
Lalmonirhat



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“My first job was at Plan International Bangladesh. There, I received training on child journalism from its partner organization, Rupantar. Eventually, I got into journalism and recently joined the role of Upazila representative for the renowned news daily, Manobkantha. I am sending Plan International Bangladesh my sincerest wishes on its 30th Anniversary.”

Farhad Hossain

Upazila Representative
Manobkantha, Hatibandha



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“After passing my HSC exam, I joined as a community volunteer for Plan International Bangladesh and worked with around 300 sponsored children.”

Anamul Haque

Innovation Lead at Youth Learning Centre (YLC),
Nilphamari



“Plan International Bangladesh has allowed me to grow further and develop my skills, knowledge, and inner abilities, which has polished me immensely. Now, without hesitation, I can say that I am proud of myself.”

Amina Khatun

3rd Year Medical Student
Dinajpur



“Plan International Bangladesh equipped me with real-life scenarios and various skill-building workshops, leading me to this path today.”

Dipok Sarker

Field Officer at Rural Reconstruction
Foundation (RRF), Nilphamari





“My friends and I stopped about 15 child marriages. We made everyone in the community aware of the helpline number. Many child marriages were also stopped using this helpline number.”

Deen Islam

Theatre for Development Member
Shyampur

Voices of our Youth





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“My journey as a young volunteer of Plan International had been thrilling, marked by constant empowerment and breaking boundaries. Thank you, Plan International, for being such a great platform for positive change and empowerment.”

Syeda Kanita Maisha

Manager, Business Analyst
Robi Axiata Limited

“My journey started with Plan International Bangladesh for Girls Advocacy Alliance Project in 2019 on International Day of Girls. I was chosen as the representative of Plan Bangladesh. I got the opportunity to take over an American General Secretary Antonio Gutierrez’s position. Unfortunately, due to the delay in visa issues, I could not participate in the Takeover event in the USA. However, the Honourable former Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Mia allowed me to take over his position in our National Parliament. I have graduated after working for 3 years on a Youth Advisory Panel. Plan taught me to be self-reliant. Plan International Bangladesh makes a big contribution to turning around every young person’s life.”

Sadia Sultana Popy

B.A, Department of English, Jahangirnagar University.
Communication Secretary, Physically Challenged
Development Foundation (PDF) Jahangirnagar
University.



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“From a humble beginning as a child leader to now representing Bangladesh in different global spaces, my journey has been shaped by the unwavering support of Plan International Bangladesh. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Plan International Bangladesh for championing children’s and young people’s rights. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, I envision Plan International continuing its journey towards advancing human rights, women empowerment, and child rights with young people at the centre of all decision-making processes. Thank you for believing in youth!”

Safayet Zamil Nowshin

**Lead - Communications & Public Relations
Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network
(CYPAN)**

“Plan International Bangladesh has been instrumental in shaping my journey. From engaging me as a youth activist since 2015 to guiding me as a former Youth Advisory Panel member and youth representative in the country management team, they’ve provided invaluable opportunities. Recently selected for the Youth Task Force, I’m grateful for their support in helping me become a changemaker dedicated to inclusion and diversity.”

Alamgir Kabir

**Activist - Child Rights - Inclusion - Gender - Gender
Equality and Women’s Empowerment**





“The transformation from a child activist to a collaborator with global youth leaders has been a formidable journey, enriched by invaluable guidance and diverse opportunities. Every young individual possesses the potential to effect positive change globally. Plan International’s three-decade legacy exemplifies its pivotal role in nurturing dynamic youth leaders. With unwavering support, they empower us to envision and enact a more inclusive world. I believe in Plan International to continue fostering opportunities for youth and spearheading initiatives that prioritize our collective future.”

Samia Khan Priya

Co-executive Director, KaathPencil
President, Youth Engagement for Sustainability, (YES)
Bangladesh-Dhaka
Global Young Influencer, Plan International

“Plan International Bangladesh embodies more than an organization; it is a sanctuary of emotion for me. From the humble beginnings of a sponsorship child in 2006 and joining as a SOYEE Intern in 2023, my journey with Plan enhanced towards 14 impactful years. Through roles as a sponsored child, child forum member, youth forum member, and youth advisor, I have been fortunate to traverse diverse paths of companionship and growth within this esteemed institution. This journey exemplifies the transformative power of perseverance and mentorship, inspiring me to believe in the boundless potential of individuals to create meaningful change. As I continue to navigate this journey, I am fueled by the belief that every experience, every interaction, shapes us into catalysts for a brighter, more inclusive future.”

Oyachkuruny Khan Akash

Intern- Program Development & Learning (SOYEE), Plan
International Bangladesh
Co-founder- Jagen Bahe
Youth Engagement Coordinator- Noboproghaat Foundation





“The journey of Plan International Bangladesh, filled with dedication to youth voices and gender equality, mirrors the path I’ve walked with Youth For Change Bangladesh in youth advocacy. Their belief in the transformative power of young individuals is the foundation of our shared mission for a more equal society.

Reflecting on Plan International Bangladesh’s 30-year legacy and this moment of celebration, the power of our partnership and collective vision for the future are evident. It’s a vision of empowering young leaders, a vision YFC and I are committed to for meaningful change.

Acknowledging the positive impact over the decades, I am grateful to continue our journey with Plan International Bangladesh.”

Jahir Rayhan

Co-founder & Head of Youth Engagement, Youth For Change Bangladesh Foundation





In 2008, I joined Buff's women's football wing. There was no plan for girls' football then. At the end of 2011, I started working on my responsibility. We found talent with the financial support of Plan International, a non-governmental development organization. Today's Sanjeeda, Krishnara are the result of that talent search.

Mahfuza Akhter Kiron

Head of FIFA Women's Committee and FIFA Council Member



Arjuna, a child rights activist of Nilphamari and speaker at the Oslo Freedom Forum in 2013, received greetings from the Human Rights Foundation of the USA. She received the greetings card on 20th January 2014.

Arjuna

received greetings from the Human Rights Foundation of the USA



Plan Bangladesh is one of the actors among other stakeholders receiving the "Guinness Record Certificate" for the campaign Washing Hands with Soap and Water. In 2009, about 52,970 students washed their hands with water and soap at a time.

Guinness Record Certificate



Since 2005, 22 out of 39 unions in Plan International Bangladesh's coverage areas in the Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Nilphamari and Gazipur districts have been declared as "child marriage free". This is coverage of a total population of 596,653 population, of which 147,400 are girls under 18.

Child Marriage Free Zone



Plan International Bangladesh observed "Child's Rights Week" in 2002

Child's Rights Week Observation



National Disaster Preparedness Day was observed in the Dinajpur district of Bangladesh in 2006 to raise mass awareness among the community.

National Disaster Preparedness Day



In 2004, Sanitation Fair was arranged to uplift the perception of the local community to engage them in improved hygiene and sanitation at Dinajpur district

Sanitation Fair



Tree plantation intervention was held in 1996 first in Jaldhaka, Nilphamari district/programme unit, Khansama, Dinajpur programme unit/district and Chirirbander-Dinajpur programme unit/district with the view of ensuring a convenient environment, strengthening marginalized families.

Tree Plantation



In 1995, Tube Well Installation intervention was held in Khansama Thana of Dinajpur Programme unit to ensure safe drinking water in the locality.

Tube Well Installation



In 1996, it was started in the name of Home-Based Learning Opportunity (HBLO). Later, it was known as Shishu Bikash Kendra (Child Development Center). Initially, this intervention was established in Chirirbander Thana of Dinajpur district/programme unit and later Jaldhaka thana of Nilphamari district/programme unit and Rajendrapur Thana of Gazipur district/programme unit. Shishu Bikash Kendra was applicable for the children aged 3 - 4 years.

Shishu Bikash Kendra



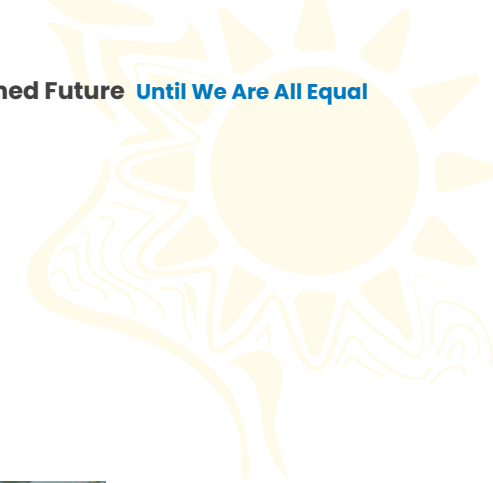


International Day of the Girl

Girl's Takeover is the signature event for the campaign International Day of Girls, where our nominated girls take over an important and influential position of authority like the position of an ambassador, a corporate CEO or a government official for a day. This year, we arranged 8 national-level and 56 local takeovers, during which girls from diverse backgrounds took place. These takeovers boost their confidence and encourage them to amplify their voices to bring a sustainable environment for every girl to grow up. We have seen many examples of these girls working to make a lasting impact on society while motivating other girls along the way.



The CEO of Grameenphone, Yasir Azman introducing Maleka to his office, leading her on her way to take over his role for the day.



Sanjana from Dhaka, a youth club member and community volunteer advocating in front of the Ambassador of Sweden, Alexandra Berg von Linde for girls' rights to foster change in her community.



Swapna delivering her statement at the Bay of Bengal Conversation after her Takeover at the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka, escorted by the Canadian Ambassador to Bangladesh Lilly Nichols.





HSC candidate Taslima exchanging presents with the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Sarah Cooke while adopting the role of British High Commissioner for IDG.



Shampa, an 11th grade student engaged in a friendly hand shake with Charles Whitley during her temporary reign as the European Union Ambassador.



Dholpur resident Priti welcoming the Dutch Ambassador Irma van Dueren to her neighbourhood during the ambassador's visit to her to Dholpur for IDG.



17-year-old Nupur, a promising young leader from Dhaka receiving gifts from Zaved Akhtar, the Chairman and Managing Director of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. on the day of her takeover of the company as CEO.



On 11th October 2019, Farzana, a youth activist from Bangladesh, took over the role of the Crown Princess of Denmark Mary Elizabeth.



Baishakhi, a young activist from the Dholpur area in Dhaka, took over the Royal Norwegian Embassy to celebrate the International Day of the Girls in 2022.

International Day of the Girl local level takeover

Shoroshi and Antora joined our #GirlsTakeover campaign to celebrate International Day of the Girl 2023!

Shoroshi symbolically took over the role of the Superintendent of Police of Kurigram, and Antora became the Deputy Director of the Department of Women Affairs in Rangpur for a day.

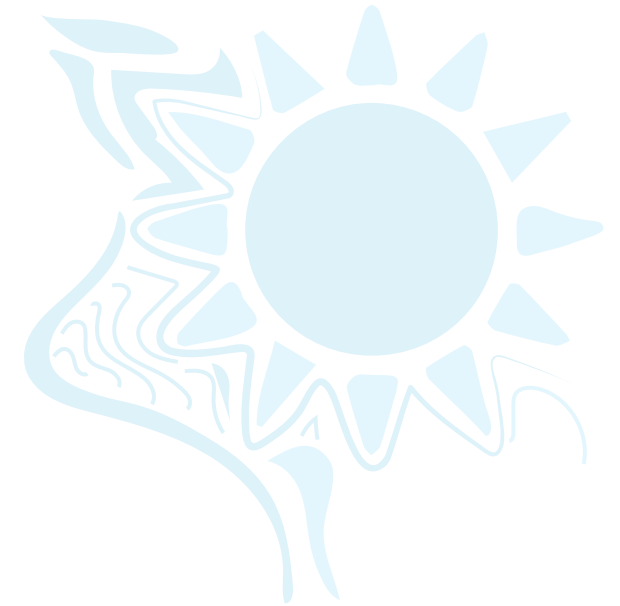
During the takeover, they learned about the responsibilities of the respective roles and expressed their suggestions and opinions to improve the situation of girls' rights within their communities.



Shoroshi symbolically took over the role of the Superintendent of Police of Kurigram for a day.



Antora became the Deputy Director of the Department of Women Affairs in Rangpur for a day.



16 Days of Activism

Surrounding 16 Days of Activism, Plan International Bangladesh organized a roundtable dialogue session on 30th November 2023, where ambassadors from Canada, Sweden, the British High Commissioner and the CEO of Grameenphone participated with our IDG takeover participants and discussed various issues on GBV and related investment.

The purpose of this dialogue session was to celebrate girls' incredible potential and amplify voices to protect and support young girl activists. Also, to learn practical experiences from the girls to create an impact and reinforce the rights of girl children with an urge to increase investments for girls nationally and globally.



Plan International Bangladesh organized a roundtable dialogue session on 30th November 2023.



Ambassadors from Canada, Sweden, the British High Commissioner and the CEO of Grameenphone participated in the roundtable dialogue with our IDG takeover participants.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) for Plan International this year delved into the #FutureGirlsWant. Collection and dispersion of stories of the future that girls envision marked the onset of IWD for Plan Bangladesh. 10 different wants and wishes from 10 different individuals from diverse backgrounds and walks of life were promoted and advocated to accumulate into a larger voice to build a secure, just and equal #FutureGirlsWant.



Our Significant Campaigns



Girls Get Equal is a global campaign, started in 2018 demanding equal power, freedom and representation for girls and young women. It aims to ensure every girl and young woman has power over her own life and can shape the world around her. A world free from discrimination, harassment and violence. A world where you see and hear girls equally in the corridors of power, at decision-making tables, in boardrooms, in the media. A world that values girls, and where girls value themselves.



Storming the Norms is one of those preeminent campaigns of Asia Pacific Region of Plan that aims to influence youth against child early forced marriage, promote gender equality and empowerment. We want a society where girls transition into adulthood in societies which protect their rights, invest in their development and wellbeing, promote their self-determination and foster gender equality.



Challenge the fear of violence- Plan International Bangladesh identify 'Fear of Violence' as the national influencing priority. This campaign challenges 'Fear of Violence' through expanding partnerships from the local to global sphere, engaging key stakeholders, including young people, policymakers and civil society organisations.



The Free to Be Online campaign continues to shine a light on the harassment and abuse girls and young women face on social media so as not to silence their voices and build a barrier to their leadership.



Plan International Bangladesh, in commemoration of International Day of the Girl, held a three-day summit to encourage young people, especially girls and women aged 15 to 24, to realize their potential as leaders of tomorrow. Plan International Bangladesh's Girls' Summit brought together influential youth icons from various fields to inspire and empower young women to become informed and active citizens who take ownership of their own lives and futures.



Child Early and Forced Marriage

Eliminating Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) is a campaign thematic priority for Plan International. At Plan Bangladesh, all campaign activities call for the incorporation of CEFM alleviation objectives and goals.

Plan International Bangladesh launched a collection of testimonies titled "Louder than Words". The testimonies reflect girls' and boys' activism in collaboration with Plan International in tackling and challenging root-causes of CEFM to prevent this harmful practice and achieve girls' empowerment and equality.

These testimonies promote, celebrate and highlight the regional efforts to prevent and end CEFM that has evolved into a regional initiative called 'Time to Act!'

Beat the clock



Together, we won't stop until we are all equal.

It will take another 131 years to achieve gender equality, according to experts. That's five more generations of girls facing an unequal world. With progress on equality stalled and reversing in some parts of the world, it may take even longer.

But we know there's hope.

Girls, in all their diversity, are calling for support from all of us to change track and speed up progress, to beat the clock and achieve gender equality.

All around the world, more young people are engaging in activism and advocacy, organising and building movements for gender and social justice. They are driving transformative change for and with their communities.

Girls are campaigning on issues that impact them the most, from sexual and reproductive health and rights, to inequality and gender-based violence, and to climate change and the lack of youth voices in decision-making. They speak up for themselves, their futures and for those around them who are suffering discrimination and unable to raise their own voices.

We stand for this world-wide campaign which aims to accelerate the journey to gender equality and #BeatTheClock.

Our Partners



Our Partners

Our Donors



Towards a Planned Future Until We Are All Equal

Our Donors

 <p>Australian Aid</p>	 <p>AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION</p>	 <p>In partnership with Canada</p>	 <p>Cooperación Española</p>	 <p>EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT The global fund for education in emergencies</p>
 <p>European Commission</p>	 <p>Funded by the European Union</p>	 <p>Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</p>	 <p>german humanitarian assistance DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEITUNG</p>	 <p>JAPAN PLATFORM</p>
 <p>Kingdom of the Netherlands</p>	 <p>Norad</p>	 <p>Radiohjälpen 90 1950-6</p>	 <p>Sida SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY</p>	 <p>SESAME WORKSHOP</p>
 <p>UDENRIGSMINISTERIET Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark</p>	 <p>UNFPA</p>	 <p>unicef</p>	 <p>UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency</p>	 <p>USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE</p>

Our published supplementary on National Girl Child Day 2023



জাতীয় কন্যাশিশু দিবস ২০২৩
 বিনিয়োগে অগ্রাধিকার, কন্যাশিশুর অধিকার

অপার সন্তানবান পায়রা
 মল্লিকারত্না দেবী

শিশু মন্ত্রণালয়

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
 জাতীয় কন্যাশিশু অ্যাডভোকেসি ফোরাম, গ্রান্ড ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ ও এডুকো বাংলাদেশ

PLAN

eduko



