



PLAN INTERNATIONAL NEPAL
ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

20
20

THE YEAR 2020: COMMITTED FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Report highlights activities and impact of our work, including COVID-19 Response, for the period covering, July 2019 to June 2020

Plan International Nepal successfully completed its transformation process in 2020. The transformation is designed to help Country Offices rethink its purpose, relevance and effectiveness in a rapidly changing world. As a result, we have changed our strategy and structure to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in our programme delivery. The shift from a community-based child focused, service delivery organisation to a girl-focused, rights-based feminist entity. Our new refreshed Country Strategy has a new vision of 2030 and outlined goal for 2023 setting a target to directly reaching 500,000 girls and 1 million girls indirectly by 2023.

The refreshed Country Strategy stresses the importance of working with accountable and resourced implementing partners; stronger and deeper connections with youth organisations across Nepal and; developing strategic relationships with people, institutions, movements and networks who share similar objectives. Another key area in the refreshed Country Strategy is an affirmation of the Sustainable Development Goal commitment to leave no one behind. The refreshed Country Strategy also gives emphasis on reducing or eliminating child, early and forced marriage through the contribution of each and every theme that we roll out.

Apart from our transformation journey, we continued our programme work putting girls and young women's rights at the centre of all our programme intervention on quality education, developing skills of young people for decent job in tourism sector, empowering young women for their livelihood so that they can lead and decide. Our "Champion of Change" took leadership role in the community to fight against the inequalities that

they face in day to day lives. The positive parenting under our Early Childhood Development programme remained one of the successful initiative that more than 13,000 parents for early stimulation and ending gender stereotype behaviours. Similarly, our protection related programme contributed to reduce gender based violence and discriminatory social norms and practices particularly child, early and forced marriage through strengthening safeguarding mechanism in local and provincial level.

The year was also a year of the pandemic. The unprecedented effect of the COVID 19 virus was felt in all spheres of lives. As a result of our close connection with the communities we work with, we felt it was imperative that we responded to the crisis by supporting vulnerable families with cash; raising awareness; providing health equipment to government health institutions and distribution hygiene kits to the girls and young people. Moreover, we also encouraged young people to raise their voices by developing their capacities as youth reporters to highlight the issues that the youths were encountering during the lockdown.

Our global campaign, Girls Get Equal, launched last year, gathered momentum uniting young people and bringing their issues and worked towards highlighting their issues to stakeholders in various platforms for an equal society stressing the need for equal power, freedom representation in all walks of their life through the use of different forms of art work and innovation.

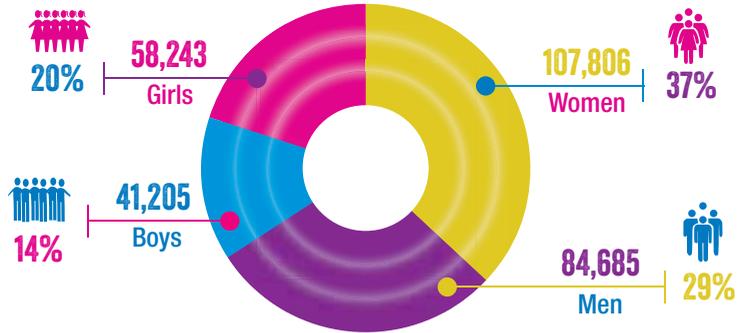
Lastly, we thank all our supporters and development partners for helping us deliver our programme and influencing work in helping girls and young women to become active citizens of Nepal.

KEY FIGURES IN

2020

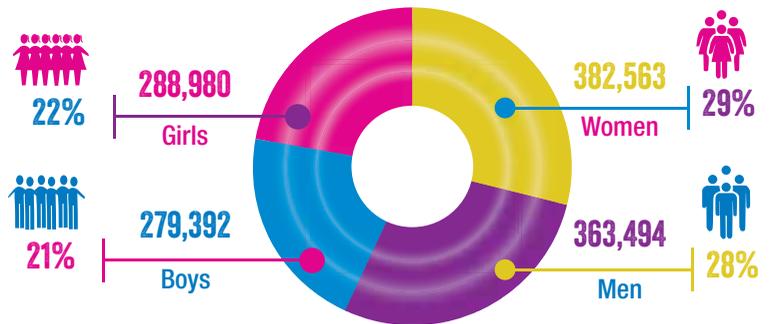
DIRECTLY BENEFITTED PEOPLE

291,939



INDIRECTLY REACHED PEOPLE

1,314,429



392

communities
of 12 districts
covered



3,975

community
members trained
on gender equality



549

partner staff
trained on child
protection



3,022

community
members and
volunteers trained
on child protection



48

development
partners



GIRLS AND BOYS START EQUALLY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

We continued to implement Child DREAM project in five districts of Nepal; Makwanpur, Sunsari, Jumla, Bardiya, Sindhuli, with 303 communities of 10 municipalities. The project targeted pregnant women and children below 3 years of age and their caregivers. Positive parenting sessions were held that brought change in skills and knowledge where parents started to demonstrate positive parenting practice in majority of the communities. In ten Municipalities, communities that were trained to facilitate parenting education sessions are now supporting Municipal level positive parenting steering committee.

The trained community people continued to work together in these communities to promote best practices and creating enabling environments for

early age children. Positive parenting education orientation was also provided to the people in the community. Through the home visits, building the capacity of female community health worker as facilitators helped conducting various activities in the communities. Moreover, strong and stable partnerships with the relevant local government bodies have made them to increase investment in ECD. As a result, two municipalities have allocated 1.2 million Nepalese Rupees. We also supported the formation of ECD Caucus in province number 3 and 5 and oriented them on the issue of ECD. The Caucus worked with Plan and its partners to advocate with the local and provincial government including the parliamentary members to allocate budget for home based parenting education.

ACHIEVEMENTS



13,288
people participated
in the positive
parenting education
sessions



5,268
parents and care
taker of children
below 3 years
attended parenting
sessions



244
people were
trained to facilitate
parenting education
session at
municipal level



220
Gender Transformative Early
Childhood Action group in 10
municipalities supporting to
create positive environment
for the nurturing care of
children

GIRLS AND BOYS LEARN EQUALLY PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION



We focussed on creating safe, protective, and gender friendly learning environments for children, especially girls, in coordination with key stakeholders primarily, school management committee, adolescent girls, teachers and local government. Schools in Plan working areas have been supported with teaching-learning resource materials including storybooks for children to develop child library at schools. This effort has helped to also improved their learning abilities as children preferred going to school that were equipped with attractive reading and reference materials. It is reported that there has been 8% increase in attendance rate of children of grade 1 - 3 in Banke and Bardiya districts of Western Nepal.

Our partners reported that there has been reduction of adolescent girls missing out on school during their menstruation. The setup of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and Water, Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) facilities helped to increase the attendance at school before COVID-19 pandemic began. We continued our support on inclusive and disabilities friendly infrastructure in school. The provision of resources classes/schools in the communities for awareness and

teaching children with disabilities has not only helped them but also changed the perception of parents and communities towards children with disabilities.

Advocacy efforts to hold local government accountable to fulfil the agenda of education-for-free and compulsory for all up to basic level have led local governments to develop action plans to enroll all school aged children. We supported to 17 Rural Municipalities to develop local government's education policy. Similarly, 18 Rural/Municipalities of Karnali Province were supported to strengthen Integrated Educational Management Information System(IEMIS) at school, local and district level.

As a response to COVID-19, we developed radio schooling programmes for children, who were staying home, so that they would not miss out on studies during the lock down. The programme was recognized as one of the good initiatives during the pandemic situation. We also supported the development and distribution of self-learning materials for children of pre-primary to grade 3 so that they could continue their studies even when the schools were shut.

ACHIEVEMENTS



3,957

parents and teachers attended various session to strengthen early learning and reading



3,668

(2,813 mothers) were provided orientation on promoting early learning space at home



2,413

girl and boys benefitted from school WASH and menstrual hygiene management programme



1,017

teachers, school management committee members and parents received training on school improvement and inclusive education



280

classrooms of early grade were improved with WASH facilities



RESILIENT GIRLS AND BOYS WASH AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

Plan International Nepal continued working with communities and local government in most of the open defecation free (ODF) communities for promotion of total sanitation to create the demand, promote hygiene behaviour and gender equality. We also supported local governments in preparing WASH plan and strengthening systems for improving monitoring. Water and sanitation users' committees were provided with training on water service management and repair and maintenance for improving the functionality of the facilities.

We continued to promote participation and leadership of women in WASH activities at households and communities. Facilitation for formation and reformation of local government led WASH coordination committees (WASH CC) in hamlets, wards, rural municipalities and municipalities was helpful. Schools were also

supported to form and reform school WASH CC. Local level WASH CCs have started raising their voice and influencing to ward offices and municipalities to allocate adequate fund for WASH programme in communities and schools on the basis of evidence based planning.

Social behaviour change communication (SBCC) sessions were conducted among the groups of people at various clusters which resulted in realization and adoption of good hygiene behaviours. School WASH and MHM programme were implemented in schools following government's approach. Software elements like sanitation and hygiene including menstrual hygiene promotion, attitudinal change and breaking the silence around menstruation were implemented, and supported for new construction and improvement of child,

gender and disability friendly WASH and MHM facilities in the schools.

One of our priorities was to work for reducing risks associated with multi hazards and climate change. The schools and communities were equipped with first responder kits for the benefit of the people during disasters. With enhanced capacities and small scale structural mitigation works like construction of bio-engineering retaining walls, gabion embankments, culverts and small bridges, the resilience of the community people were strengthened. In addition, we collaborated with various development partners to strengthening DRM institutional set-ups at local level and localization of policies, strategies and guidelines. We continued to support and facilitated for formation and reformation of local government led local disaster and climate resilience committees (LDCRC) and school disaster management committees (SDMCs). The SDMCs and children in the schools have demonstrated to be resilient towards disasters by carrying out various extracurricular activities like mock drills, vulnerability, hazards and capacity assessment, first aid, evacuation planning etc. To respond the covid crisis, we focussed to raise awareness on hand

washing, setting up hand washing station at public places and ask government to consider the needs of adolescents girls and boys.



ACHIEVEMENTS



2,469

people belonging to 19 WASH Committees formed to promote health and hygiene behaviour



2,448

WASH committee members were provided skills and awareness for better sanitation at community and individual level



273

people were oriented on disaster risk reduction and climate change



190

young people (160 boys, 30 girls) were developed as Champion of Change for WASH and MHM promotion



GIRLS PROTECT CHILD PROTECTION

Our safeguarding initiative aims to reduce gender based violence and discriminatory social norms and practices, particularly child marriage, through strengthening child protection mechanisms at local, provincial and federal levels. To do so, we supported in the formation of Child Rights Committees and helped develop action plan against violence against children. A total of 34 local governments and 160 wards have formed Child Rights Committees at local level for planning, budgeting and taking initiatives of safeguarding of children and young people. Among them, capacity building on child rights and importance of child protection was provided to 32 local governments and 128 wards. As a result, 10 additional local governments were in the process of endorsing child protection policy.

There is an increased trends of allocating budget by local government for safeguarding related programmes. Last year, 32 local governments have allocated budget to end child marriage at the local level. This budget commitment for fiscal

year 2020 is 7.8 million Nepalese Rupees which covers Plan International Nepal's working areas.

Four local governments had come up with local policy against human trafficking where three local governments had prepared action plan and allocated more than 800 thousand Nepalese Rupees to combat human trafficking.

Commitment and engagement of parents, community leaders, inter-religious leaders, children and adolescent girls and boys are increasing to change social and gender norms to reduce gender based violence and discriminatory practices.

In collaboration with CZOP and NACG including National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), we worked collaboratively for the preparation of CSO version of UPR Report. The report highlights various child protection issues including child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), child labour, traditional harmful practices, such as, *Chhaupadi* and its impact upon girls.

We supported to build the capacity of youths on preventing and protecting them from violence

including child marriage, *Chhaupadi*, protection from online abuse and trafficking. Children who took part in our training also had taken actions to prevent the incidents of violence like child marriage and trafficking. As a result, they were able to prevent 22 cases of early marriage and 21 trafficking incidents. We continued to help such incidents by providing support for the survivors from the violence.

Schools in our working areas received orientation on child protection who later able to draft their policy for safeguarding of children and young people. Our manual- Sticks and Stones helped them a lot in drafting the policy. The training to teachers on child protection remained the most helpful.

Our Prevention, Tracking, Education and Transformation (ProTEcT) programme has contributed in raising awareness and changing

behaviours to stop and minimise the human trafficking especially girls trafficking in three districts; Sunsari, Makwanpur and Banke. The programme helped the stakeholders to understand the existing knowledge, awareness on the issue of trafficking and safe migration once a comprehensive social behaviour change communications strategy was implemented with the focus on engaging its target group. In some areas, the local groups have developed plan of actions to take initiative against the human trafficking and allocated financial resources.

Information booth in the border area was established to provide vital information on trafficking and rescue the trafficking suspected cases. We continued our influencing activities to raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking through meeting and lobbying with private transport companies on their role to report suspected cases of trafficking.

ACHIEVEMENTS



4,270

people (2,311 female) took part in the orientation against gender based violence and online abuse



1,468

students were provided orientation on child protection



1,159

people were supported to strengthen the capacity on community based protection mechanism



1,154

people were provided skills and knowledge on safeguarding and reporting mechanism against child rights violation



57

schools had developed their own child protection policy



32

local governments have allocated budget to end child, early and forced marriage

End Child Marriage

17

local governments endorsed the strategy to end child marriage



GIRLS AGENCY

GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Girls Agency and Youth Empowerment programme was implemented in seven districts to support adolescent girls and young women to lead change and have control over their bodies and make informed decision about their lives. Adolescents and youths among the age of (10-24) were engaged in Plan's Champions of Change (CoC) curriculum which is a comprehensive life skill based curriculum to inform, aware and capacitate adolescent and young people to become active and responsible citizens. Representatives from champions of change formed youth networks at community level who are supported to engage in joint actions. These youth also built and strengthened the foundational capacity among adolescents

and youths to understand and act to combat harmful social norms and issues around inequalities. Young girls in the community are motivated to end early and forced child marriage. For example, young women networks in Sindhuli district have succeeded to stop 17 child marriages. Engagement with the municipal government for collaboration and coordinated efforts have been strengthened. The local governments have committed to develop child and youth participation guidelines.

Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) project implemented in 12 municipalities have been successful in advocating for the development of strategy to reduce gender based violence

and action plan to end child marriage. Out of 12, five municipalities have endorsed the strategy and seven are on the pipeline for the endorsement.

Skills and knowledge are important for young people to get opportunities in the labour market. We have been implementing Skills & Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (SOYEE) project in Pokhara; a touristic place; with the objective of imparting quality skills and knowledge to vulnerable young women in non-traditional occupations such as trekking guide and occupations in the hospitality sector. Our work with the private sector has set an example to engage young women in various occupations so that they become ready to grab opportunities to get the jobs. Last year, we also engaged with the private sector employers (individual and associations) on labor law and to understand the importance of gender equality that has inspired them to improve gender-sensitive and responsive enabling environment at workplace. We collaborated with Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) and Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN) to form a partnership to create decent opportunities for young women.

Similarly, through the GAA project we supported in the development of policies



on child protection, gender equality, ethical recruitment and decent work for TAAN which they have endorsed. Similarly, our Young Women Empowerment Project (YWEP) supported to 30 young women organizations and 18 women cooperatives for their institutional development through training and helping them in the development of strategic plans. As an outcome, 18 cooperatives were able to draft their strategic plan and six of them have endorsed it.

We continued to provide information around sexual and reproductive health rights to adolescent and young people and identifying key barriers to realizing the sexual and reproductive health rights. Through our initiation, youths were engaged in the development of checklist for monitoring of adolescent friendly health services of local level health facilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS



2,255
adolescent and youths from age 10-24 participated in champion of change



2,008
young girls attended life skill training and built their confidence



1,067
people trained on evidence based advocacy



18
cooperatives were able to draft their strategic plan and 6 of them have endorsed it



12
municipalities developed strategy to reduce gender based violence and action plan to end child marriage



GLOBAL YOUTH-LED GIRLS GET EQUAL CAMPAIGN

Girls Get Equal is a campaign for girls' power, voice and leadership. Its vision is a world where girls and young women, in all their diversity, are equally able to make decisions about their own lives and shape the world around them.

For girls and young women to lead change themselves, we need to work together to engage power-holders to make sure girls have equal power to take part in all decisions that affect their lives, equal freedom to speak up in public and online without fear of violence and harassment, and equal representation with an aim to end the promotion of harmful gender stereotypes that hold girls back.

The onset of the COVID-19 global health crisis in 2020 was unprecedented. It has further impacted girls who continue to be disadvantaged in every aspect of their lives. It is more important than ever to amplify girls' voices and strengthen their leadership, so we can re-build a better world for girls.

Despite several unforeseen challenges, that the pandemic had brought about in early 2020, Girls Get Equal was creative, innovative, and successful to engage, influence and be impactful. We continued to work in new and exciting ways with girls and young people to bring the campaign to life, supporting them to lead the campaigns in their communities.

INITIATIVES TAKEN TO PROMOTE GIRLS ISSUES AND VOICES;

- 235 girls created art work around the issues of inequalities
- 154 art work were exhibited at national level created by 235 girls around the issues of inequalities
- 2,800 people took part in the exhibition at both level
- Nearly 100,000 people were reach through social media messaging
- Launched "The State of the World's Girls Report 2019 #RewriteHerStory during Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival
 1. Organized a panel discussion with young filmmakers, female actors, feminist activists and film critics with participation of 100 young people on "Equal representation of girls and women in Nepali media and entertainment-#rewriteherstory.
 2. Co-sponsored a film made by young female filmmaker- "I am BelMaya," 350 people attended the screening of the film.
 3. Placed "Girls Get Equal" exhibition booth in the event
- 43 young girls participated in the consultation on #RewriteHerStory calling for drastic change in the way girls are portrayed by the world's storytellers and to stop the promotion of harmful stereotypes that hold girls back.
- Voices of 180 girls collected how COVID-19 was impacting their lives so that the power holders could be made aware and take action to support them.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

HOW WE SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES IN NEPAL

Nepal couldn't remain unscathed as the COVID-19 pandemic surged across the world impacting the most vulnerable people that included girls, young women and their families. As part of our response, we targeted the most vulnerable families, daily wages workers who had lost their livelihoods and were finding it difficult to make ends meet. Along with this we also launched an awareness raising activities making people to follow safety protocols against the COVID-19 virus. Moreover, we provided non-food items, health and hygiene materials to the community, we coordinated with the local and provincial government to curtail outbreak of the virus. Schooling through radios were launched in our working areas through community radios.

Similarly, self-learning materials were developed and distributed so that children would not be out of touch with their learning as schools were shut for long intervals. Trainings were also imparted to young people so that they could write stories to highlight the issues through social media, especially raising concerns around the abuse and discrimination they faced during the COVID-19 crisis.

We coordinated with government, local, provincial and federal, and continued to take part in the cluster meetings to share the work that we were engaged in.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS TILL THE END OF JUNE 2020

- 10,840 vulnerable families including 4,165 sponsored children's family (38%) have received cash support amounting Euro 224,880 out of which sponsored families received Euro 86,404.
- A total of 15,024 seasonal migrant workers (2,151 female, 12,127 male and 746 children) were served with ready to eat meal pack with basic hygiene materials like soap and face mask for individual.
- Handed over the medical supplies to the government of Nepal, worth NPR 6,056,201.50 (Euro 46,127) through a joint procurement.
- 23 temporary contactless handwashing stations were set up providing with soaps and water supply at quarantine centres and public places.
- 1,770 parents (386 male and 1,384 female) were consulted through phone call to discuss on their child's well-being and shared message on early child development and the tips of keeping children safe and protected.
- Learning and playing materials were provided in 24 quarantines centres in Jumla, Kalikot and Dolpa.
- 201 youths were provided sexual and reproductive health rights orientation through cell phone in Bardiya.
- 500 vulnerable women and girls were supported with hygiene materials (Bathing soap and detergent, sanitary pads, undergarments and comb) in the quarantine centres.
- Distributed flyers and flex with government approved messages, broadcasting of radios messages on hygiene behaviour promotion to prevent and control COVID-19.



SPONSORSHIP

Child sponsorship is a means of connecting children and their sponsors. Plan International generates fund to bring lasting positive impacts in the lives of girls and children through sponsorships. In 2020 there were 38,587 children sponsored through Plan International in Nepal. A total of 20 sponsors from different countries visited the sponsored children and families for assessing impact of their support and Plan International Nepal's programmes before Covid-19 crisis. Similarly, group of sponsors from Netherlands visited Plan's programmes in Nepal. A total of 56,516 communication documents were produced, processed and sent to sponsors on behalf of sponsored child and their families. Sponsored children participated in different programme activities that also included Art is Power initiative to express the issues of inequalities they face in their daily lives.

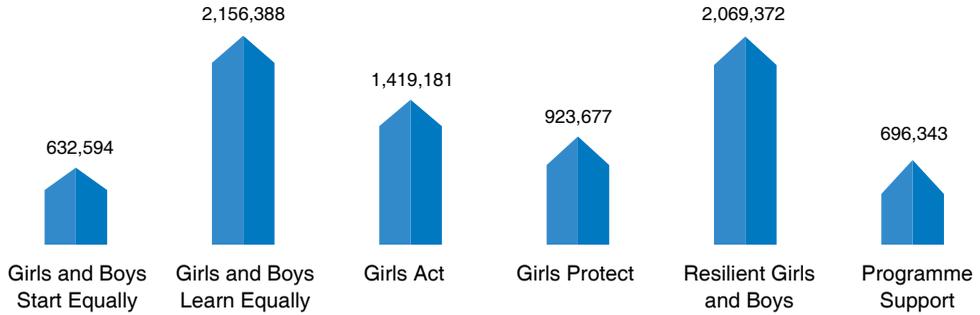
OUR WORKING AREAS IN NEPAL



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2020

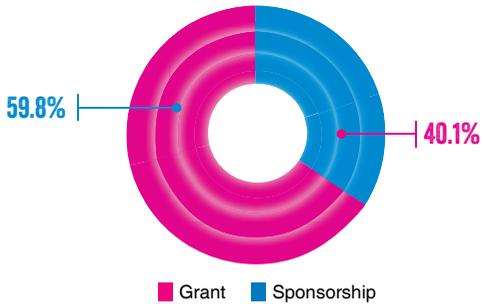
July 2019 to June 2020

Expenditure Details in €

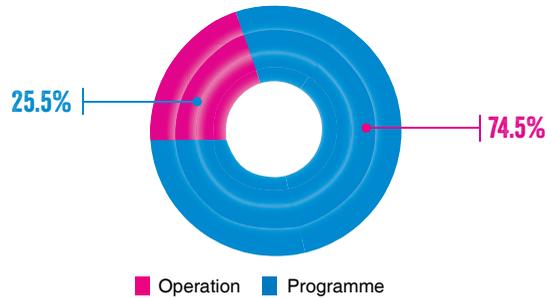


Grand Total: € 7,897,555

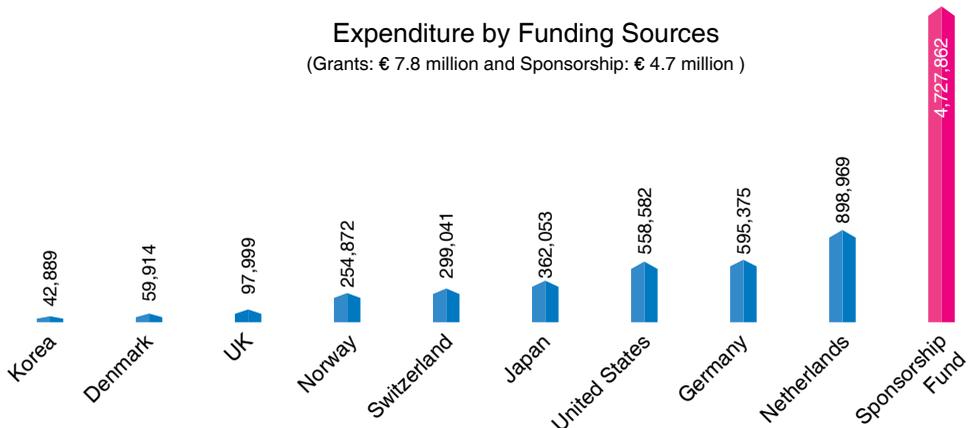
Funding Sources (Total Expenditure € 7.8 million)



Programme Vs Operation Cost (Total Expenditure € 7.8 million)



Expenditure by Funding Sources (Grants: € 7.8 million and Sponsorship: € 4.7 million)



ABOUT PLAN INTERNATIONAL NEPAL

Plan International Nepal is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls.

We operated programmes through development partners in 12 districts in cooperation with government, civil society organisations and schools.

VISION 2030

An inclusive, just and safe society where all girls and young women enjoy their rights and live in freedom.

GOAL

Girls and young women in all of their diversity reach their full potential as equal and active citizens.

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