



# FOOD SECURITY AS A MODALITY FOR **CHANGE**

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Abridged Report

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Cover: Sokhat, 13, eats breakfast at her school in Siem Reap, Cambodia  
Current page: Boy plays outside at the new pre-school built with Plan International's support, Myanmar

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## 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Samuon, 13, washing vegetables grown in the school vegetable garden, Cambodia

The Food Security as a Modality for Change study has been a collaborative effort between the Plan International Cambodia, Plan International Central African Republic, Plan International Myanmar, Plan International South Sudan and Plan International Zimbabwe, Plan International Australia (PIA) and Plan International Germany (GNO). The study was led by PIA, and supported financially by PIA and GNO. Plan International Cambodia and Plan International Zimbabwe also contributed significant resources in-kind.

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## 2. INTRODUCTION

Destiny, 5, lives with her grandmother who is HIV positive, Zimbabwe

The Food Security as a Modality for Change study is an attempt to shift the way in which food and cash based projects are designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. The purpose of the Food Security as a Modality for Change study is threefold:

1. [Develop and test a clear theory of change narrative for all future food assistance, nutrition and livelihoods recovery projects;](#)
2. [Document the change Plan is achieving with food and cash based projects; and](#)
3. [Shift from output based/short term results and activities to outcome based/long term results.](#)

It is a process aimed at helping relevant actors understand how food and cash based projects impact communities, beyond just receipt of goods. Using this information as a base relevant actors will be able to shift food and cash based projects from short term, targeted activities, to outcome based programs that fit into a broader strategic framework. The Food Security as a Modality for Change study seeks to support the conceptualisation of a clear narrative for gender transformational change for food and cash based interventions.

The Food Security as a Modality for Change study was conducted from January 2017 to October 2017. A mixed-methods approach was adopted utilising content analyses of relevant documents, household surveys, key informant interviews and participatory focus group discussions. Primary data collection was conducted between March 2017 and May 2017 in Zimbabwe and Cambodia and involved nearly 1,000 women, girls, boys and men.



### 3. FOOD SECURITY AS A MODALITY FOR CHANGE THEORY OF CHANGE

Mother and baby at secret health clinic in vegetable garden, Zimbabwe

The study adopted a Theory of Change approach which involved firstly developing the Food Security as a Modality for Change Theory of Change (Annex 1) and corresponding MEL Framework (Annex 2). Rather than programmatic outcomes in and of themselves, food and cash distributions are framed as one of multiple activities whose collective impact supports the sector goal to 'end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable livelihoods for women, girls, boys and men before, during and after disasters and conflicts'.

It is not expected that individual food and cash based projects will achieve every outcome. It is also not expected that each country will meet every outcome on their own. Rather, this Theory of Change is designed at portfolio level with each country and each project contributing in some way to this broader agenda. This Theory of Change is ambitious in its target and highlights the longer term vision for the food assistance, nutrition and livelihoods recovery portfolio. Data collected as part of the Food Security as a Modality for Change study will act as a baseline, and will support in designing a way forward towards this Theory of Change.

The Food Security as a Modality for Change Theory of Change seeks to put individuals at the centre, supporting an enabling environment for women, girls, boys and men to control their own lives. The agency of individuals is embedded in this Theory of Change, with a specific focus on not only participation, but influence and control of individuals over decisions and decision-making processes. The Food Security as a Modality for Change Theory of Change is transformative in its ambition, seeking to transform attitudes and behaviours, advancing gender equality by challenging the root causes of discrimination. It acknowledges that activities don't occur in a vacuum but rather are part of an intricate network of interventions that collectively contribute to changing attitudes and behaviours.

The Food Security as a Modality for Change Theory of Change is centred around five core objective areas:



**LEARN: Education** - Girls and Boys receive quality education before, during and after disasters and conflicts. Food and cash based projects seek to support girls and boys to attend school and better engage in the classroom through increasing household resources and encouraging parental engagement in their child's education, and through supporting schools to respond to the needs of students.



**LEARN: Economic Empowerment** Women, Girls, Boys and Men are financially independent before, during and after disasters and conflicts. Food and cash based projects seek to increase household resources through direct contributions, or by supporting livelihoods opportunities and improving agricultural practices. In doing so, they support the economic empowerment of women, girls, boys and men to have control of their lives and work.



**LEAD: Women's Empowerment** - Women and Girls have the power to actively participate in their communities and influence change before, during and after disasters and conflicts. As well as encouraging all projects to respond to the individual needs and capabilities of women, girls, boys and men, the Food Security as a Modality for Change approach specifically seeks to promote the empowerment of women and girls at all levels. Food and cash based projects provide women and girls with leadership opportunities, and support women's involvement in decision making within their communities and households.



**THRIVE: Health and Nutrition** - Women, Girls, Boys and Men enjoy good health and nutritional status before, during and after disasters and conflicts. Food and cash based projects seek to increase quantity, quality and diversification of household food consumption. Through the provision of food and cash, and targeted support for children, and pregnant and lactating women, they seek to support women, girls, boys and men to enjoy good health and nutritional status.



**SURVIVE: Disaster Risk Management and Protection** - Women, Girls, Boys and Men are protected, safe and resilient to disasters and conflicts. Food and cash based projects are traditionally required in contexts where agricultural systems or supply chains have broken down, whether by natural disaster or conflict. Acknowledging this, Food Security as a Modality for Change has expanded the LLDT framework to specifically focus on building the individual and collective resilience of governments, communities and women, girls, boys and men to adapt and respond to shocks and stresses.

Within these five core objectives, change has been conceptualised at three distinct levels:

**Government and Policy:**

Food and cash based projects will seek to influence government structures, policy and practice, supporting communities to hold government to account and collaborating with other actors to influence policy change that advances children's rights and equality for girls.

**Community:**

Food and cash based projects will seek to support community structures, processes and leadership to advance children's rights and equality for girls by implementing services, infrastructure and strategies that achieve the best outcomes for their residents. Community has been defined in a broad sense and encompasses collective spaces including schools, villages etc.

**Household and Individual:**

Food and cash based projects will seek to support individuals and households in setting and meeting their priorities. They will also seek to challenge knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of women, girls, boys and men.



## 4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Sarah toiling in her fields with her local extension worker, In 2010 she joined Plan Zimbabwe's Food Security project and was selected as a seed farmer, Zimbabwe

The findings ultimately demonstrate that food and cash based interventions have a wide-reaching impact beyond the distribution of food and contribute to influencing change within communities. The findings highlight the importance of integrative programs and the complementarity of project initiatives that focus on different aspects of social and behavioural change, including but not limited to education, economic empowerment and livelihoods, health and nutrition, women's empowerment, and disaster risk management and protection. For example in Cambodia the delivery of school meals was found to be more impactful than if it had been a stand-alone activity because it had integrated WASH activities, developed modules on nutrition and gender for the school curriculum and raised awareness with parents on the importance of schooling and diet diversity. In Zimbabwe it was also found that the impact of food distributions significantly increased when accompanied with comprehensive community mobilisation and consultation efforts and with effective and regular monitoring mechanisms.

The biggest impact of food and cash based projects is evident at the household and individual level. Food and cash based projects have been found to support school attendance rates of boys and girls through the provision of school meals, and through supporting households to meet their basic needs. For instance, boys and girls in Cambodia highlighted how the provision of food significantly improves their concentration in the classroom, and their ability to learn and absorb information. Interviewed students stressed that when they are hungry they cannot

think about anything else but food and highlight that getting food through Plan's school feeding program is motivation for many of them to come to school in the first place.

**"IF NOT HUNGRY WE STUDY HARD AND WE ARE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE MORE"<sup>1</sup>.**

In Zimbabwe where there are no Plan implemented school meals, by supplementing household food and resources through other programs, parents and children highlight how children are more likely to attend school, and participate in the classroom as they are not going to school hungry.

The ongoing food and financial crisis in Zimbabwe has resulted in increased financial pressures, and a reduction in available food, water and overall resources. This added pressure at the household level has caused a lot of negative changes and is a real barrier to children accessing education. The school fees are approximately US\$50 per annum. Without paying this, students are unable to fully participate in the classroom and are denied things like textbooks or are unable to qualify for their certificates.

**"WE BUY FOOD INSTEAD OF PAYING SCHOOL FEES"<sup>2</sup>.**



Sophear, 11, a beneficiary of Plan Cambodia's school feeding programme

**"WHEN WE GO FOR CASUAL LABOUR SOMETIMES WE ASK OUR CHILDREN TO SKIP SCHOOL SO THAT THEY EITHER TAKE CARE OF SIBLINGS OR HERD CATTLE"<sup>3</sup>.**

In Zimbabwe Plan supplements household food and resources through projects including Lean Season Assistance and Food for Assets. Both parents and children highlight how, as a result, they are more able to pay for school fees and children are more likely to go to school.

It was also found that food and cash based projects directly increase individuals' food consumption and knowledge about the importance of good nutrition and food handling. Food projects also contributed to better quality and more diversified diet. The majority of respondents in both Zimbabwe and Cambodia (53% and 80% respectively) self-reported a change in practices in relation to how they ate and handled food. The study showed that in Cambodia, project beneficiaries demonstrate an understanding of the importance of a diversified diet and are much more likely to include different types of food in their diet now as compared to the previous year. In Zimbabwe the biggest change in practice identified by survey respondents is in relation to the food quantity. The amount of food and number of meals consumed has increased as a direct result of Plan's interventions. For instance, a few respondents from Zimbabwe said that with Plan's help they can finally afford three meals a day for their family. Statistical tests showed no correlation between gender, age, education and economic status, or hygiene knowledge, and knowledge and practices around nutrition.

Where Plan does invest in agricultural infrastructure through food and cash projects, and does so well, it is perceived by communities as having a significant impact on their resilience to climatic stresses. Evidence collected suggests that, where successful, investment in food production systems has had a significant positive impact on agricultural systems. Respondents highlighted multiple examples where their general food security and earning capacity has been improved as a direct result of Plan interventions.

**"PLAN INTERNATIONAL MANAGED TO REDUCE THE ISSUE OF FOOD CRISIS THROUGH THE REHABILITATION OF FUNGAI IRRIGATION SCHEME, FISH PONDS WERE CONSTRUCTED AT THE SCHEME AND A SOLAR SYSTEM IS BEING USED TO PUMP WATER TO THE PONDS. THIS HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE BECAUSE IF WE SELL FISH WE GET MONEY FOR PAYING SCHOOL FEES AND BUY MORE FOOD. OUR CHILDREN ARE NO LONGER UNDER-NOURISHED"<sup>4</sup>.**

<sup>1</sup> Girl, FGD, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.

<sup>2</sup> Male, FGD, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.

<sup>3</sup> Male, FGD, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.

<sup>4</sup> Female, FGD, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.

Findings also highlight that Plan is very effective in targeting the needs of the most vulnerable through community consultation processes. The evidence indicates that only 27% of Plan's beneficiaries have enough money to satisfy all of their basic needs while a total of 55% of the non-beneficiary population covered reported enough money to cover their basic needs. This indicates that Plan effectively targets the most vulnerable but, also, that resources provided continue to not meet basic needs. For instance, many respondents reported borrowing money in order to satisfy their basic needs. In Zimbabwe 77% and in Cambodia 63.5% of households borrowed some money in the last year. In Zimbabwe a significant portion of respondents borrowed money for food – around 43% of households.

Another key finding is that food and cash based projects have the potential to be gender transformative and contribute to advancing gender equality by challenging the root causes of discrimination. For example, while food and cash based projects do not actively seek to shift power dynamics between men and women by making women the head of household in distributions, Plan has indirectly promoted women in financial decision-making processes within the household. This influence is enforced through involving women in community consultations, meetings and events through food and cash based projects. The following key Plan activities were highlighted as being particularly influential in shifting attitudes around women's involvement in the public sphere:

**1. Registering women as the head of household in food and cash distributions has contributed to increasing women's participation in the community through shifting perceptions of women, men and community leaders.** Registering women as the head of household means that the commodity, whether it be food or cash, is distributed to the women. As a result of being given such responsibility women are identifying that they have increased confidence levels. Men and women reported that men are recognising the importance of women as contributors to the household which has, in some cases, shifted women's influence within the household.

**“WHEN I USED TO GO HOME WITH SOME CASH MY HUSBAND WOULD SAY THAT I GOT IT FROM A BOYFRIEND AND THAT WOULD FIRE AN ARGUMENT. NOW HE PREFERS WE PLAN TOGETHER AND THAT NEVER USED TO HAPPEN UNTIL MY NAME WAS REGISTERED IN THE PLAN PROGRAMME. I HAVE HOPE THAT EVEN WHEN IT ENDS MY HUSBAND WOULD HAVE REALISED I CAN DO A GOOD JOB OF BUDGETING FOR OUR FAMILY”<sup>5</sup>.**

**2. Community consultations specifically for the implementation of the program have contributed to increasing women's participation in the community as, coupled with the fact that women are registered as heads of household and therefore required to attend, community consultations provide an opportunity for women to engage in development activities.** It was also noted that as these meetings would result in a tangible benefit for participants (food or cash), participation was encouraged and women were more likely to attend.

**“OUR MEN REFUSE US PERMISSION TO GO TO EVERY OTHER MEETING WHERE THEY FEEL IT'S NOT BENEFICIAL TO OUR FAMILY. THEY ALLOW US MEETINGS LIKE THESE OF PLAN OR FOR OUR VSLAS AS THEY SAY THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY WE ARE GETTING SOMETHING”<sup>6</sup>.**

The evidence suggests that these programs provide a good entry into communities as people are more likely to want to participate when they are 'getting something'.

**3. Awareness raising around rights, gender equality and women's empowerment by Plan and other NGOs was cited in Cambodia and Zimbabwe as a contributing factor to the shift in public perceptions around women's participation in the community.** Interestingly, Plan's food and cash based projects through WFP heavily rely on the Public Address Messaging as a key activity in promoting a women's empowerment outcome. However this Public Address Messaging was not mentioned by the project beneficiaries themselves as an activity that contributed to the shift in perceptions around gender inequality or women's empowerment. Rather, specific activities (usually done in interventions outside of the food and cash based projects) aimed at educating women and men about rights, legal frameworks, gender inequality and women's empowerment were cited as being influential contributors for change.

Ultimately the study confirmed that women's first priority continues to be the household, and their engagement at community level is contingent on their satisfying all household needs. While women continue to do the majority of the work, their husbands are the main decision makers in the home. The findings suggest that while food and cash based projects don't challenge this imbalance at household level, they do support in reducing the burden for women who tend to be responsible for sourcing food.

<sup>5</sup> Female, FGD, Chirumanzu, Zimbabwe.

<sup>6</sup> Female, FGD, Chirumanzu, Zimbabwe



Mother share a laugh at nutrition support group in Karchin state, Myanmar

Another finding is that there appears to be genuine misunderstanding between men and women about what the terms 'gender inequality' and 'discrimination' actually mean. There are significant differences in the way that men and women discussed gender. While men tended to discuss gender within an abstract institutional framework, citing laws and policies, women emphasised personal experiences. Men tended to discuss gender in more abstract terms related to principles of gender equality.

**“GENDER BIAS IS NOW LIMITED – THERE IS GENDER SENSITIVITY AND EQUALITY”<sup>7</sup>.**

**“I FEEL THINGS HAVE CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE GENDER EQUALITY LAWS”<sup>8</sup>.**

In contrast, women were more likely to cite their personal experiences when asked about gender inequality rather than referencing national laws or gender equality concepts. Women also often reflected on the gaps between legal protections and the reality of individual experiences.

**“MY HUSBAND RESPECTS ME IF HE IS NOT DRUNK. IF HE IS DRUNK HE IS VIOLENT”<sup>9</sup>.**

**“IN PRINCIPLE THE GOVERNMENT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION GENDER, HOWEVER IN PRACTICE IT IS NOT ALWAYS THERE AND THE VULNERABILITIES OF WOMEN STILL REMAIN”<sup>10</sup>.**

Despite these more positive impacts at household level, the study has found that due to the siloed nature of food and cash based projects there is very little done on linking these projects with advocacy initiatives at government level. Across projects, Plan is ultimately seen as supporting the government in delivering their strategic priorities by acting as a link between government and communities. Despite clear policy issues, there was little evidence to suggest that Plan uses their position with government to influence changes in policy across education, health and nutrition, women's empowerment, economic empowerment, disaster risk management or child protection.

The impact of Plan interventions was also limited at community level. For example, the study found that girls and boys are not systematically engaged in decisions and decision-making processes or governance bodies. With regard to female representation at community level, while there are positive examples of women in decision making or leadership positions, women continue to face barriers and tend to be limited to topics considered 'women's issues' most notably food and education. Evidence suggests that while women are increasingly able to influence community decisions, the decision makers are overwhelmingly men. People living with a disability were also found to be under-represented and inconsistently considered in food and cash based projects.

Finally the study also identified gaps in terms of how food and cash based projects have been designed, monitored and evaluated. More often than not situational analyses did not include gender and inclusion considerations and were not informed by comprehensive analyses of existing child protection mechanisms at the community level. Also, the study found that due to the nature of food and cash based projects, their sheer size and the effort involved in implementation, most projects limit themselves to the minimum contractual reporting requirements from the donor which tends to be focussed at output level and as a result, fails to capture the broader impact of these projects.

<sup>7</sup> Male, FGD, Chengwena, Zimbabwe.

<sup>8</sup> Male, FGD, CA Gibbs Primary School, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.

<sup>9</sup> Female, FGD, Chroy Primary School, Cambodia.

<sup>10</sup> Male, Interview, Departments of Social Services, Chirumanzu Zimbabwe.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite these positive impacts of food and cash based interventions, the study found that the way these types of projects are treated, as isolated grants just responding to the donor requirements, means that impacts beyond the distribution and receipt of food aren't properly recognised and reported. On top of that, by not conceptualising these interventions within the broader framework there are significant opportunities missed to capitalise on the potential these projects offer as entry points into communities and to better achieve these broader impacts in health and nutrition, women's empowerment, education, disaster risk management and protection, and economic empowerment and livelihoods.

The Food Security as a Modality for Change study has made seven core recommendations outlined below. These recommendations are not to be considered in isolation and rather, are designed to provide a consistent approach for a way forward for country offices. Ultimately the onus is on implementing partners and donors to contextualise these seven recommendations to their respective contexts, using the information and findings outlined in this report as a baseline and guidance as to what works, where the gaps and missed opportunities are, and what relevant actors can do better.

### 1. DESIGNING FOOD AND CASH BASED PROJECTS INTO A BROADER FRAMEWORK

It is recommended that there is a shift in the way food and cash based projects are conceptualised, designed and implemented so that individual projects are seen as contributing to a broader Country Food Security Program that sits within the Food Security as a Modality for Change Theory of Change, as well as the Country Strategic Plans. Food and cash distributions should ideally no longer be done as stand-alone activities to avoid fostering a culture of dependency. Rather than programmatic outcomes in and of themselves, food and cash distributions are framed as one of multiple, integrated activities as part of a broader program. This approach champions integrative programming where activities across the Food Security as a Modality for Change Theory of Change's five core objective areas better promote the sector goal of 'ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable livelihoods for women, girls, boys and men before, during and after disasters and conflicts.'

Rather than stand-alone activities, food and cash based projects should be integrated into a broader, multi-year Country Food Security Program that specifically references the outcomes from the Food Security as a Modality for Change Theory of Change. This program should seek to

be well connected to other programs and thematic areas and closely align with the relevant actor's Country Strategic Plan, and where possible the WFP Country Strategic Plan. When conducting the Country Situational Analysis, actors should ensure they integrate a gender analysis at the three Food Security as a Modality of Change levels of government and policy, community, and household and individual. The Country Food Security Program should also ensure it has its own Advocacy Strategy that speaks to the sector and country's influencing objectives. Measuring results for the Country Food Security Program and Advocacy Strategy should be integrated into the Country Food Security Program MEL Framework. Where possible, this MEL Framework should specifically reference outcome and output indicators from the Food Security as a Modality for Change MEL Framework to support aggregation across projects, programs and countries.

All subsequent donor funded grant projects should seek to fit within this broader Country Food Security Program, Advocacy Strategy and MEL Framework. While WFP is a major donor in this portfolio, actors should not see this Country Food Security Program as exclusive to WFP, but rather should explore how other donors (FAO, UNICEF etc.) could be integrated to support the broader program goals. When designing donor funded grant projects:

1. Outcomes and outputs should draw from the Country Food Security Program.
2. In addition to the minimum donor required activities, integrate complementary activities that better achieve the broader outcomes and objectives in the Country Food Security Program.
3. Where possible, advocate with the donor to fund these complementary activities; where not possible, negotiate other funding sources including match and sponsorship.

### 2. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AS ONE OF THE CORE AREAS OF FOCUS

The study found that, to varying degrees and in different ways, food and cash based projects do contribute to this global agenda. Of course this could be done better, however in a period where the sector is trying to conceptualise how to operationalise a gender transformative agenda, the Food Security as a Modality for Change approach presents a way of mainstreaming gender transformative ambitions into the food assistance, nutrition and livelihoods recovery portfolio. Priority should be placed on up-skilling and training field staff around gender

equality so that they are better able to promote this agenda, as well as identify issues in their direct engagement with communities. By developing a Country Food Security Program with a focus on not only meeting the needs of women, girls, boys and men, but also challenging underlying barriers to equality, individual projects that sit underneath this will be required to contribute to this objective through shifting ways of working and integrating complementary activities.

### 3. ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

It is recommended that the Country Food Security Program and corresponding MEL Framework and Advocacy Strategy also seriously consider the inclusion of, and specifically accessibility for, people living with a disability. The report highlights how this issue is inconsistently considered across country offices, with significant gaps identified in the accessibility of food and cash based projects for people living with a disability. Informed by the Country Situational Analysis, relevant actors should seek to actively remove barriers to participation and engagement for people living with a disability in food and cash based projects. Whether that be through up-skilling staff, community leaders and caregivers on the unique needs of people living with a disability, to considering physical barriers in project designs. For example ensuring that the physical accessibility needs of people living with a disability are considered when determining distribution sites, or feedback mechanism sites. And then when sites can't be fully accessible for practical reasons, considering alternative distribution or feedback models for people living with a disability. Of course any and all strategies to support inclusion should be conceptualised, vetted and designed in consultation with people living with a disability, their caregivers and service providers.

### 4. INTEGRATING CHILD PROTECTION AS A MINIMUM STANDARD

Due to the implications of food and cash based projects, the injection of resources into vulnerable communities and the nature of mass distributions, there is an increased risk to children who are especially vulnerable. No matter the country or operational context, all food and cash based projects should seek to mitigate this increased risk by:

1. Mainstreaming child protection into projects with a particular focus on where and how resources are distributed, as well as ensuring meaningful consultation with children;
2. Ensuring referral and case management mechanisms are in place to deal with any identified cases or concerns.

It is understood that food and cash based projects don't operate in a vacuum, and that child protection and case management mechanisms are in place as a part of broader programs and activities. When designing food and cash based projects it is expected that staff conduct an assessment of existing services and activities. Where actors move into a new area of operation, or it is identified that there are no other services providing child protection and case management support, it is recommended that this be built into the project design and budgeted for appropriately.

### 5. CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE COUNTRY SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Ensuring a comprehensive situational analysis is an integral step in designing any program. When doing a Country Situational Analysis for the Country Food Security Program and Advocacy Strategy, relevant actors should look to the Food Security as a Modality for Change Theory of Change and in particular the three levels of engagement - government and policy, community, and household and individual. Gathering data at each level will support in the identification of key stakeholders, gaps and strengths, and in the development of advocacy and programming priorities. At each level, actors should seek to integrate a gender analysis into this process. Actors should also ensure the systematic engagement of the community, beyond community leadership, and in particular engage boys and girls in these needs identification and prioritisation processes. The findings of this Food Security as a Modality for Change study contributes towards a baseline portfolio situational analysis. The tools provided in Annexes 2 – 7 can be adapted and applied in different country contexts to inform Country Situational Analyses.

### 6. CONCEPTUALISING A COUNTRY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM ADVOCACY STRATEGY

In order to strengthen advocacy across the five core objective areas, it is recommended that advocacy is central to program planning and design, and is built in as a separate stream of work with a clear implementation plan and resourcing. As a part of the Country Food Security Program, a complementary Advocacy Strategy should be developed that speaks to the sector and country's influencing objectives.



Woman prepares meal for her daughters at their home in Epworth slum, Zimbabwe

Under each of the five core objective areas, relevant actors should identify one clear change goal and develop an advocacy strategy around each of the specific goals. Narrowing down the goal will increase the impact of advocacy and ensure that advocacy related activities are focussed and strategic. Identifying the change goal under each of the five objectives will require offices to:

1. Map the range of advocacy issues that exist as part of the Country Situational Analysis
2. Map the relevant stakeholder involved in creating change.
  - a. This can assist in determining the key individuals in government and donors such as WFP, that will make the final decision to change law, policy or practice, and the individuals and organisations who have influence and can put pressure on the final decision maker.
  - b. This can also be useful in identifying partners and allies that relevant actors can work with to influence change. This should include not only partners and allies in-country, but also regional and global partners (such as the Plan International federation, global coalitions etc.)

3. Meaningfully consult with communities and leadership at all levels and determine a change goal that will create benefit for them.
4. Prioritise advocacy issues in order to identify the single change goal for that core objective area. When prioritising advocacy issues, actors may consider:
  - Conducting an Impact vs. Resources graph analysis to determine what is feasible within resource parameters. This exercise is also valuable in identifying whether additional resources are necessary to carry out activities that are high impact and will yield the greatest results.
  - Opportunities that may not be specifically identified at country level, but where the food security sector could be especially influential.

An advocacy strategy should include the activities that will engage and persuade not only the final decision maker but the individuals and organisations that have influence over the decision maker. Advocacy activities are wide ranging and include:

- Relationship building with key stakeholders & decision makers
- Meetings with decision makers
- Workshops and conferences to build support for change amongst allies and influencers
- Coalition building and joint advocacy with allies and partners (nationally, regionally and globally)
- Use of international and regional human rights instruments (such as CRC and CEDAW)
- Supporting communities and young people to advocate for change
- Publishing articles, blog posts
- Social media
- Public campaigning – circulating a petition, letter writing etc.

It is recommended that relevant actors also develop an evidence base that will support their advocacy efforts. This will need to be built into program activities and will be a piece of work to collect the information that is needed to engage and persuade decision makers. In addition to data, program evaluations, independent research and reports, and comparative examples, ideally an evidence base should include the experiences of girls and boys, and young people (and other affected community members).

## 7. INTEGRATING A COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING PROCESS AND APPROACH

Relevant actors need to adjust their approach to the monitoring of food and cash based projects, and shift from output based/short term results and activities to outcome based/long term results that have a broader impact, beyond just the distribution and receipt of food. In order to adequately track the impact of interventions projects need to integrate comprehensive MEL standards and strategies into the design, implementation and reporting processes at both the country and individual project level.

At the country level, relevant actors should design a Country Food Security Program MEL Framework that draws from:

1. Country Food Security Program
2. Food Security as a Modality for Change MEL Framework
3. Country Food Security Advocacy Strategy ensuring specific indicators regarding engagement and change.

There should be investment in periodic evaluations to assess the impact against the Country Food Security Program. It is recommended that there also be an investment into case studies across different contexts in terms of how food and cash based projects are implemented (for example the Food and Nutrition Unit in the Central African Republic etc.) to reflect and share experiences and learnings between country offices and programs.

At individual project level it is recommended that all food and cash based interventions, at a minimum:

1. Design the individual donor funded grant projects within the Country Food Security Program, referencing the relevant outcomes and how the project contributes to this broader framework
2. Develop a corresponding project MEL framework that references the appropriate outcome and output indicators within the Country Food Security Program MEL Framework, as well as integrating priorities within a donor strategic results framework
3. Adequately budget for comprehensive and regular monitoring of both output level and outcome level indicators
4. Post distribution monitoring is integrated in all food and cash based projects
5. Supplement any donor minimum reporting requirements with the additional outcome level data collection and analysis.



Sokhat, 13, eats breakfast at her school in Siem Reap, Cambodia



## 6. CONCLUSION

Boy eats a snack provided to him at a day care centre in Eastern Equatorial state

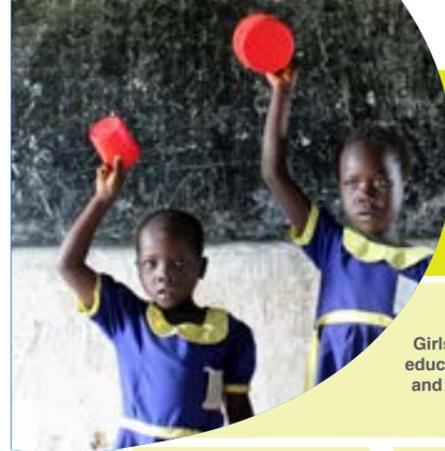
In conclusion, the Food Security as a Modality for Change study, both in terms of process and findings, supported in the development of an understanding of how food and cash based projects impact communities, beyond just receipt of goods, and the different experiences of women, girls, boys and men. Using this information as a base, relevant actors are better equipped to start shifting food and cash based projects from short term, targeted activities, to outcome based programs that fit into a broader strategic framework. Food Security as a Modality for Change as a programmatic approach conceptualises a clear narrative for gender transformational change for food and cash based interventions that clearly speaks to the sector goal of 'ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable livelihoods for women, girls, boys and men before, during and after disasters and conflicts'.

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>WOMEN, GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN LIVE IN A JUST WORLD THAT ADVANCES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND EQUALITY FOR GIRLS</b>					
<b>PLAN INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL STRATEGY</b>	<b>LEARN</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>THRIVE</b>			
	Vulnerable and excluded children, particularly girls, receive the education and skills they need to succeed in life and make a decent living.	Vulnerable and excluded children, particularly girls, participate in and influence the social, economic and political decisions that matter to them.	Vulnerable and excluded children, particularly girls, grow up equally valued and cared for, free from discrimination, violence and fear.			
<b>PLAN INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC RESULTS</b>	Vulnerable and excluded children, particularly girls, access and complete inclusive, quality education from pre-primary to secondary.	Vulnerable and excluded children and young people, and particularly girls and young women are active citizens.	Young vulnerable and excluded children receive the care and support that they need from their families and communities to survive, grow healthily and develop to their full potential free from gender bias.			
	Vulnerable and excluded young people, particularly young women, acquire skills for work and access decent employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.					

**SECTOR GOAL**

**END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR WOMEN, GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>LEARN</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>THRIVE</b>	<b>SURVIVE*</b>		
	<b>Education</b>	<b>Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods</b>	<b>Women's Empowerment</b>	<b>Health and Nutrition</b>	<b>Disaster Risk Management and Protection</b>	
<b>GOVERNMENT AND POLICY</b>	Girls and Boys receive education before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Households are financially independent before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women and Girls have the power to actively participate in their communities and influence decisions before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women, Girls, Boys and Men enjoy good health and nutritional status before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women, Girls, Boys and Men are protected, safe and resilient to disasters and conflicts	
	Responsible Government actors are engaged and committed to the provision of quality education	Responsible Government actors are engaged and committed to economically empowering community members	Functioning and robust law enforcement and legal systems that upholds rights, especially the rights of women and girls before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Responsible Government actors are engaged and committed to good health and nutritional status for all community members	Girls and Boys protection needs are mainstreamed throughout national strategies and responses	Responsible Government actors have enabled gender transformational national disaster management systems
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Girls and Boys engage, participate and influence decisions concerning their education before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Gender transformational and inclusive social protection safety nets are established and functioning	Women and Girls engage in community affairs of their interest before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Girls and Boys engage, participate and influence decisions concerning their health and nutritional status before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Girls and Boys engage, participate and influence decisions concerning preparedness, response and recovery efforts	
	Comprehensive community networks and groups concerning education are established and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Food production systems are sustainable with gender transformational and resilient agricultural practices before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women and Girls engage in decision making at community level before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Gender transformational health care services and referral systems are enabled and operating before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Gender transformational local infrastructure is enabled and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts, for example roads, irrigation systems, WASH facilities etc.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL</b>	Gender transformational and inclusive school infrastructure is enabled and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts, for example WASH facilities, school gardens etc.	Local markets and supply chains are enabled and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women and Girls engage, participate and influence decision making at community level before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Gender transformational WASH infrastructure is enabled and functioning during and after disasters and conflicts	Community level inclusive and gender transformational response plans, both disaster management and child protection, are enabled and functioning	
	Girls and Boys access education before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Households have increased resources before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have an equitable distribution of labour in the household before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have sufficient quality and nutritious food before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have the skills, knowledge, and competency's to identify, prevent and respond to protection risks.	
	Girls and Boys actively participate in their learning before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have equitable decision making power over household resources before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have an equitable distribution of resources in the household before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have increased knowledge of nutrition and hygiene	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have sufficient resources to meet their individual needs before, during and after disasters and conflicts.	
	Caregivers actively engage in their children's education before, during and after disasters and conflicts				Women, Girls, Boys and Men have sufficient resources to meet their individual needs before, during and after disasters and conflicts.	



**LEARN**

**Education**

<b>GOVERNMENT AND POLICY</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Objective Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Data Collection Tool*</b>
	Girls and Boys receive education before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Attendance rate for girls, boys and people with disability Drop out rate	Government Representative - Education Department	Interview Analysis of Administrative Data
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Outcome Indicator</b>	<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Data Collection tool</b>
	Responsible Government actors are engaged and committed to the provision of quality education	Increase in budget allocation towards education Existence/Change of policies addressing education	Increased interest in education at national level for example through national conferences addressing the topic # and type of our activities aimed at policy change and/or an increase in budget	Interview Analysis of Administrative Data
<b>HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL</b>	Girls and Boys engage, participate and influence decisions concerning their education before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Evidence of girls and boys being involved in decision making concerning their education	Evidence that programme decisions are based on full participation of all targeted people Evidence of girls and boys attending and engaging in community meetings	Interview
	Comprehensive community networks and groups concerning education are established and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Frequency and quality of engagement of CBOs and CSOs with relevant decision makers Examples of women in leaderships positions.	# and types of CSO and CBO (Parent associations etc.) participating in decision making processes aimed at children education # of CBOs and CSOs led by women	Interview
<b>HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL</b>	Gender transformational and inclusive school infrastructure is enabled and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts, for example WASH facilities, school gardens etc.	% of universally accessible toilets separated for girls and boys with menstrual hygiene considerations % of schools with adequate handwashing facilities (with soap and without soap) Examples of formal and informal learning environments that are considered safe for boys and girls.	Creation of school infrastructure is the result of comprehensive gender analyses	Interview FGD Sanitation Facilities Audit
	Girls and Boys access education before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Attendance rate for children, disaggregated by gender and disability Primary school dropout rate Evidence of teachers and school administrative staff with increased understanding of disability & gender inclusion concepts	Evidence of impact/type of enrolment campaigns conducted Evidence of impact/type of training on teaching methodology provided to teachers Evidence of impact/type of teaching and learning materials provided Evidence of training on disability & gender inclusion concepts provided to teachers and school administrative staff	FGD Interview Analysis of Government Data
<b>HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL</b>	Girls and Boys actively participate in their learning before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Increase in the level of students', especially girls and student with a disability, engagement in classroom	Knowledge and level of understanding of teachers and students about importance of students participation Availability of inclusive methodology and tools Evidence of impact of students receiving school meals, take-home rations and cash scholarship	FGD
	Caregivers actively engage in their children's education before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Increase in caregiver engagement with school activities	Evidence of impact of support in homework Evidence of impact of financial/in-kind supports to child's education Evidence of impact of school meeting participated by the parents	FGD

\*Data Collection Tools have been specifically developed to inform this MEL Framework. Please refer to the Food Security as a Modality for Change Report for tool summaries and templates. Pictured: Girls play with educational toys at ECD centre supported by Plan International in South Sudan.



# LEARN

## Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods



<b>Objective</b>	<b>Objective Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Data Collection Tool*</b>
Households are financially independent before, during and after disasters and conflicts	% of households with positive/sustained cash flow before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Households	Survey

	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Output Indicator	Source	Data Collection tool
<b>GOVERNMENT AND POLICY</b>	Responsible Government actors are engaged and committed to economically empowering community members	Increase in budget allocation towards household level economic empowerment Existence/Change of policies addressing household level economic empowerment	Increased interest in education at national level for example through national conferences addressing the topic # and type of our activities aimed at policy change and/or an increase in budget	Government Representative - Finance/Business/Social Services Department	Interview
	Gender transformational and inclusive social protection safety nets are established and functioning	Availability and use of social protection mechanisms by the most vulnerable Evidence of gender sensitive child-protection systems and community-based mechanisms	Creation of social protection mechanisms is a result of comprehensive gender and child protection analyses. Specific social protection mechanisms designed to meet the needs of people with a disability	Government Representative - Social Services Department Plan Staff - Livelihoods Specialist, Food Program Manager	Interview
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Food production systems are sustainable with gender transformational and resilient agricultural practices before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Level of sustainability of the local food production practices	Food production practices are informed by a comprehensive gender analyses Evidence of climate change adaptation in food production and agricultural practices	Agricultural Specialist Plan Staff - Agriculture Specialist, Food Program Manager	Interview
	Local markets and supply chains are enabled and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Satisfaction of local population with the local markets	Availability, diversity and pricing of the basic products at the local market	Households	Survey
<b>HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL</b>	Households have increased resources before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Evidence of sustainable increased and diversified resources in local HHs Evidence of households not using negative coping strategies	% of beneficiaries of distributions who reported that their safety and wellbeing was compromised by food and cash distribution % of beneficiaries who have had to borrow money or sell productive assets in order to meet basic needs	Plan Staff - DRM Specialist, Food Program Manager, Livelihoods Specialist Household	Interview Survey
	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have equitable decision-making power over household resources before, during and after disasters and conflicts	% children and women reportedly making decisions concerning resources within their household Evidence of positive change in family practices in the direction of equitable decision making.	Evidence of project activities addressing equitable decision making within household	Households	FGD

\*Data Collection Tools have been specifically developed to inform this MEL Framework. Please refer to the Food Security as a Modality for Change Report for tool summaries and templates.  
 Pictured: Woman shows off the seeds she has just received from Plan International, South Sudan.



# LEAD

## Women's Empowerment



<b>Objective</b>	<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Data Collection Tool*</b>
Women and Girls have the power to actively participate in their communities and influence decisions before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women and Girls are aware of their rights Women and Girls have increased decision making power within their households and communities	Women's Groups Women and Men Boys and Girls	Interview FGD

	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Output Indicator	Source	Data Collection tool
<b>GOVERNMENT AND POLICY</b>	Functioning and robust law enforcement and legal systems that uphold rights, especially the rights of women and girls before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Status, effectiveness, and nature of policy change that supports women's rights	Increased national and provincial government budget allocation for programs to address gender inequality New or improved policy addressing gender-based violence and discrimination or women's employment and inheritance rights	Plan Staff - Gender Specialist Government Representative - Women's Affairs Department Women's Groups	Interview
	Women and Girls engage in community affairs of their interest before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Evidence of girls and women participating in our project report that their voice has been listened to at community level in relation to affairs of their interest	Evidence of recognition and reflection around gender discriminatory cultural practices Evidence of women participating in community activities (clubs, CBOs, networks, local gov. Evidence of actions initiated by girls and women.	Men and Women Women's Groups Community Leaders	FGD Interview
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Women and Girls engage, participate and influence decision making at community level before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Change in the acceptance of women's leadership by a community and cultural, customary and religious leaders % of community leaders that are more inclusive of women and girls in decision making Evidence of decisions that have been influenced by girls	# of community committees led by women Female ratio in community governance bodies # and type of activities aimed at increasing women's participation in decision making	Men and Women Women's Groups Community Leaders	FGD Interview
	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have an equitable distribution of labour in the household before, during and after disasters and conflicts	% of girls and women reporting positive shift in the distribution of labour as a consequence of our project	Evidence of positive change in family practices in the direction of equitable distribution of labour	Men and Women Women's Groups	FGD Interview
<b>HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL</b>	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have an equitable distribution of resources in the household before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Women having greater income and acceptance of this by men Women's access to and control over resources Distribution of NFIs specific to males and females at different ages	Evidence of positive change in family practices in the direction of distribution of resources % of child-headed households and unaccompanied and separated children registered for distribution	Men and Women Plan Staff - Gender Specialist Women's Groups	FGD Interview

\*Data Collection Tools have been specifically developed to inform this MEL Framework. Please refer to the Food Security as a Modality for Change Report for tool summaries and templates.  
 Pictured: Len (19) cooking a chicken stir-fry at a five star hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia, where she works as a full time cook



# THRIVE

Health and Nutrition



Objective	Objective Indicator	Source	Data Collection Tool*
Women, Girls, Boys and Men enjoy good health and nutritional status before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Exclusive breastfeeding rate in children <6 months Rates of malnutrition and stunting	Government Representative - Health Department/Social Services Household	Interview Analysis of Administrative Data Survey (if administrative data is not appropriate)

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Output Indicator	Source	Data Collection tool
	Responsible Government actors are engaged and committed to good health and nutritional status for all community members	Increase in budget allocation towards health and nutrition Existence/Change of policies addressing quality health and nutrition	Increased interest in health and nutrition at national level for example through national conferences addressing the topic # and type of our activities aimed at policy change and/or an increase in budget	Plan Staff - Health/Nutrition Specialist Government Representative - Health /Social Services Department	Interview Analysis of Administrative Data
COMMUNITY	Girls and Boys engage, participate and influence decisions concerning their health and nutritional status before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Evidence of girls and boys being involved in decision making concerning their health and diet.	Evidence that programme decisions are based on full participation of all targeted people. Evidence of girls and boys attending and engaging in community meetings.	Men and Women Boys and Girls Plan Staff - Health/ Nutrition Specialist Government Representative - Health/Social Services Department	FGD Interview
	Gender transformational health care services and referral systems are enabled and operating before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Evidence of referrals from health hazards caused by food that have resulted in positive treatment.	% of Health centre staff who demonstrate skills to provide clean, safe, child friendly and respectful care (both in a facility and in a community) % of health facilities that provide clean, safe, respectful care	Plan Staff - Health/ Nutrition Specialist Health Facility Representative Households	Interview Survey
	Gender transformational WASH infrastructure is enabled and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Access to drinking water source Caregivers and children have access to hand-washing facilities with soap and improved latrines	% budget allocated to WASH access and infrastructure improvements Functionality of latrines and water points % hand-washing facilities with soap WASH infrastructure has been informed by a comprehensive situational and gender analysis	Project Data Plan Staff - WASH Specialist Households	Analysis of Project Data Interview Survey Sanitation Facilities Audit
HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have sufficient quality and nutritious food before, during and after disasters and conflicts	Adequate access to a range of foods, including a staple (cereal or tuber), pulses (or animal products) and fat sources, and additional nutrients (niacin, thiamine, riboflavin, vitamin A, iron and iodine) that together meet nutritional requirements. Availability of food for consumption for example quantity, size and frequency of meals	# of beneficiaries reached in food and cash distributions Diversity of foods produced on home gardens/farm All recipients receive food that is 'fit for purpose': for safety, food should not pose a risk to health; for quality, food should match quality specifications and be nutritious Evidence that programme design takes into account access to water, cooking fuel and food processing equipment	Households Plan Staff - Food Program Manager Project Data	Survey Interview Analysis of Project Data
	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have increased knowledge of nutrition and hygiene	Evidence of knowledge, attitudes and practices around nutrition, food handling and hazards, and hygiene	All relevant staff trained on food handling and hazards from improper practices Evidence of changed behaviour in regard to the good hygiene and food quality. Caregivers and children wash hands at critical times and use improved latrines	Households Boys and Girls Plan Staff - Food Program Manager, Health/Nutrition Specialist	Survey FGD Interview

\*Data Collection Tools have been specifically developed to inform this MEL Framework. Please refer to the Food Security as a Modality for Change Report for tool summaries and templates.  
Pictured: Baby's arm measurement taken at health station in Amihara Region, Ethiopia.



# SURVIVE

Education



Objective	Objective Indicator	Source	Data Collection Tool*
Women, Girls, Boys and Men are protected, safe and resilient to disasters and conflicts	Evidence of incidents where children were at risk that were not addressed Women, Girls, Boys and Men are aware of their capacity and rights	Project Data/Child Protection Reporting System Plan Staff Case Workers/ Case Managers Men and Women Boys and Girls	Analysis of Project Data/ Child Protection Reporting System KII FGD

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Output Indicator	Source	Data Collection tool
	Girls and Boys protection needs are mainstreamed throughout national strategies and responses	The structure and participants of coordination forums supports equal gender representation and the rights of children	Evidence of child-focused organisations represented at cluster coordination forums	Plan Staff - Child Protection Specialist Relevant Cluster Representative	Interview
COMMUNITY	Responsible Government actors have enabled gender transformational national disaster management systems	Budget allocated for national disaster management systems Evidence of responsiveness of national disaster management systems to the individual needs of women, girls, boys and men	National Disaster Management systems are informed by gender analysis and broader stakeholder analysis	Government Representative - NDMO Relevant Cluster Representative Plan Staff - DRM Specialist	Interview
	Girls and Boys engage, participate and influence decisions concerning preparedness, response and recovery efforts	Targeting mechanisms are agreed among the disaster-affected population.	Established mechanisms for consultation with disaster affected populations Accountability monitoring tracks all the beneficiaries' complaints received and resolved.	Plan Staff - Child Protection Specialist Relevant Cluster Representative	Interview
	Gender transformational local infrastructure is enabled and functioning before, during and after disasters and conflicts, for example roads, irrigation systems, WASH facilities etc.	Level of satisfaction of local population with regard to infrastructure Quality, functionality and accessibility of local infrastructure	Intervention is informed by comprehensive situational and gender analysis	Households Plan Staff - WASH Specialist, Agricultural Specialist Relevant Cluster Representative	Interview Focus Group Discussion Sanitation Facilities Audit
HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL	Community level inclusive and gender transformational response plans, both disaster management and child protection, are enabled and functioning	Disaster management and child protection response plans are inclusive and gender transformational. Disaster management and child protection response plans have been successfully used and/or tested.	Disaster management and child protection response systems are informed by gender analyses.	Plan Staff - Child Protection Specialist/DRM Specialist Relevant Cluster Representative Government Representative - NDMO	Interview
	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have the skills, knowledge, and competencies to identify, prevent and respond to protection risks.	Evidence of women, girls, boys and men activating appropriate child protection mechanisms to prevent and respond to protection risks.	Evidence of increased knowledge and competency of women, girls, boys and men to identify, prevent and respond to protection risks.  Response/distribution is aligned with key CHS: All the disaster-affected people in need of food security responses receive assistance that meets their primary needs, prevents erosion of their assets, gives them choice and promotes their dignity. Existence of relevant alternative distribution models for people with reduced mobility. Recipients should not have to walk more than 10 kilometres to the distribution site, e.g. no more than a four-hour walk Presence of ration cards, banners and/or signposts specifying the food rations during distributions.	Men and Women Plan Staff - Child Protection Specialist Service Providers - Case Workers	FGD Interview
	Women, Girls, Boys and Men have sufficient resources to meet their individual needs before, during and after disasters and conflicts.	Evidence of households not using negative coping strategies		Households Plan Staff - DRM Specialist, Food Program Manager	Survey Interview

\*Data Collection Tools have been specifically developed to inform this MEL Framework. Please refer to the Food Security as a Modality for Change Report for tool summaries and templates.  
Pictured: Boy brushes his teeth with toothbrush from hygiene kit distributed by Plan International, Bangladesh.

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