

The journey to safer cities

International Day of the Girl:
10 years on

The Global Hunger Crisis

UBUNTU

The magazine of Plan International Australia



Issue 08 — Spring 2022



The charity for
girls' equality

From the CEO

“To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”

This could easily be the tagline of Plan International. It certainly sums up the impact we hope to have in the world. But this statement reaches far beyond the scope of our work alone.

“To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” is Sustainable Development Goal #5, one of 17 interconnected global goals enshrined by the United Nations General Assembly as a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

As the charity for girls equality, Plan International’s work is closely aligned with this principle, but our work to see girls on the global agenda actually began long before SDG #5 was introduced.

In 2011 we campaigned to give girls greater visibility on the world stage. As a result, the UN designated October 11 as International Day of the Girl (IDG), and this year, we celebrated its 10th anniversary. That’s 10 years of amplifying girls’ rights and voices. 10 years of delivering programs and humanitarian responses to create lasting change for girls. And 10 years of striving towards equality for all.

Through your generous support of Plan International’s work, you have contributed to some of this progress. You’ve helped prevent child marriages and supported girls to achieve their dreams through education (read Magreth and Petriker’s stories on pg. 17).

From inspiring a Women’s Safety Charter and \$30 million investment in NSW, to an exciting partnership with L’Oreal Paris, you’ve influenced policy and products that are making cities safer for everyone (more on that on pg. 15).

And you’ve raised funds to help girls protect themselves from harmful practices like female genital mutilation (turn to pg. four for an update on our recent FGM appeal).

But while we celebrated the wins of the past 10 years on International Day of the Girl (pg. five), we cannot ignore the fact that movement in the opposite direction has occurred too. The convergence of COVID-19, conflicts and climate change has caused huge setbacks for gender equality.

We know that girls are affected most in times of food insecurity, and right now, the world is in the grip of the most devastating hunger crisis ever seen, with a famine warning for Somalia issued just last month.



Women and girls account for 70% of the world’s hungry and when food runs low, they are fed last, taken out of school and sometimes forced into child marriage simply so their families can survive.

Our Head of Disaster Risk Management, Berhe Teweldeberhan, was recently in South Sudan, a country with one of the highest levels of food insecurity, and you can read his account of the situation there on pg. nine.

Plan International is responding in some of the worst affected countries, rapidly scaling up programmes and providing life-saving food, emergency cash transfers, and child protection to children and families enduring extreme hunger.

We’re also raising funds through the Emergency Action Alliance, a coalition of 15 Australian humanitarian aid charities, and we’ve been campaigning for increased funding to avert catastrophe through Help Fight Famine. The Australian Government’s recent announcement of a five million dollar contribution to the Horn of Africa was an important first step, however much more is required to save lives and prevent starvation. I encourage you to turn to pg. seven to learn more about the extent of the crisis and how you can help.

Looking back, I just want to say how grateful we are for your support over the past 10 years and beyond – it has been truly vital in the journey to progress girls’ rights through Plan International Australia’s work thus far, and it will be just as important going forward if we are to achieve equality for girls, in their lifetime. When girls are supported to speak up, know their rights and lead, their entire family and community benefits – and they can create a better, more equal world for everyone.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Ubuntu, and feel heartened to know that your support is fuelling progress, and what you read about within these pages wouldn’t have been possible without you. And once you’ve finished reading, perhaps you’d like to pass it on to someone else, to continue growing our movement for change.

Until next time,

Susanne Legena
CEO, Plan International Australia

Contents

News
03

Gender equality: 10 years on
05



The 2022 Global Hunger Crisis 07

A report from South Sudan 09

Supporting South Sudan through the
Girls Education & Empowerment Fund 10



Thank You Week 11



Telling their own stories 13

“

This year has been
the toughest year
ever for girls ... ”

Kenya's drought 14



The journey to safer cities 15



Young women leading
change in Tanzania 17

Acknowledgment of Country:

Plan International Australia acknowledges and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging of this nation. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded and that this land always was and always will be First Nations land. We recognise their ongoing connection to land, waters and community, and we commit to ongoing learning, deep and active listening, and taking action in solidarity.

News



In Mozambique, 11-year-old Amina goes to school without breakfast and says finding food is a daily struggle.

RUNNING ON EMPTY: THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS ON CHILDREN, GIRLS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

A staggering 24,000 people, including 10,000 children are dying of hunger every single day. That's the equivalent of 24 children – a typical Australian school class – dying every 3.5 minutes.

Our latest research report shines a light on the escalating global hunger crisis – its causes, its impacts and most importantly, what we can do to stop it.

Read the full report at:

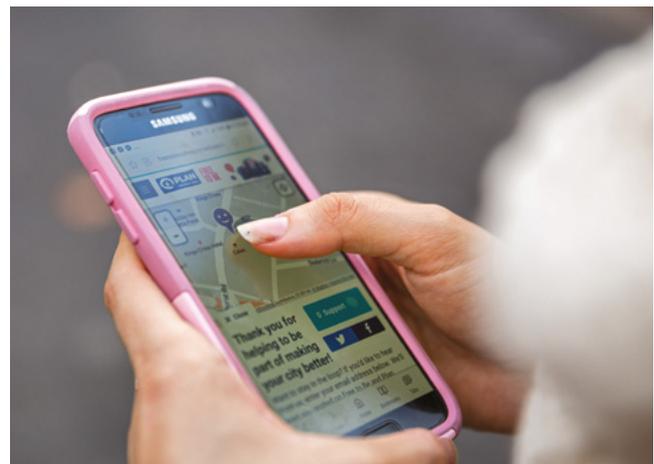


CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP FIGHT FAMINE

Right now, more than 50 million people are on the brink of famine and urgent action is needed to help save lives. We've joined Help Fight Famine, a coalition of community and humanitarian organisations calling on our new federal government to urgently deliver \$150 million to support the world's hungriest countries.

Join us by writing to your MP now.

Together we can make a difference.
Together we can **#HelpFightFamine**



SAFER CITIES FOR ALL

Our Safer Cities work has evolved in amazing ways over the past five years and has culminated in a number of wins – from inspiring a Women's Safety Charter and \$30 million investment in NSW, to an exciting partnership with L'Oreal Paris.

Turn to page 13 to learn more about the work and research we've done so far to create cities and spaces where everyone can feel safe.



Farha, 15, Egypt.

TAX APPEAL REPORT BACK

Thank you to all of the generous supporters that contributed to our tax appeal this year – one of our best ever fundraising appeals! Together, your support generated an incredible \$391,800 in donations to help end female genital mutilation (FGM).

Your support could help train maternal nurses to educate new mothers about the dangers of having their daughters cut, support child protection agencies to keep girls safe from this harmful practice and provide medical care and counselling to FGM survivors.

15-year-old Farha from Egypt, recently attended our Champions of Change training, to learn about the dangers of FGM and how to speak up about her rights.

“After taking part in programmes about sexual and reproductive health and rights, I have proof that genital mutilation is harmful. I explain all this to my family and friends. In this way, I have prevented three cases of female genital mutilation in my community,” shares Farha proudly.

We will continue to keep you updated on our work in this important space.



Facilitators lead a music session at a refugee centre in Bucharest Romania, where Plan International is working with a local partner to deliver child protection, mental health and psychosocial support services alongside sport, art and craft and music activities for children.

OUR UKRAINE RESPONSE

Plan International continues to work with partner organisations across Poland, Romania and Moldova to support refugee children from Ukraine and their families as they rebuild their lives and settle into a new country. We are also collaborating with civil society and humanitarian agencies to support and strengthen their work in Ukraine.

Child protection, mental health and psychosocial support, education and cash and voucher assistance are our priorities, alongside preparing for harsh winter conditions.

Our response in numbers:

To date, we have reached at least 154,929 people with critical support in Poland, Romania and Moldova.

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE:

- Distributed **8,427** food kits to Ukrainian refugees and host families in Moldova, reaching **31,378** individuals.
- Reached more than **1,200** children in Romania with education in emergencies programmes.
- Provided **450** women with information on rights, legal aid, documentation or support to find housing in Poland.
- Trained **2,769** teachers in Poland to teach Ukrainian children Polish as a foreign language.
- Provided mental health, psychosocial and legal support to **191** children and **112** adults in Poland.

Gender equality: 10 years of progress

This year marked 10 years of International Day of the Girl.

Every year on October 11, the world recognises the unique challenges that girls face globally and celebrates their enormous potential to bring about change.

Today we're looking back at some of the incredible progress we've seen over the past 10 years when it comes to progressing gender equality both in Australia and around the globe.



Over the past 10 years, the proportion of young women forced into child marriage decreased by 15% and progress has been significant in regions previously marked by high levels of child marriage.

The global adolescent birth rate amongst girls aged 15–19 dropped from 47 to 41.2 births per 1,000 between 2012 to 2020.

In 2017 the #MeToo hashtag went viral, sparking the anti-sexual harassment movement and uncovering the magnitude of sexual violence as an issue. The movement paved the way for victims of sexual violence, regardless of gender, to come forward, share their stories and hold their perpetrators to account.

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

In 2010, Julia Gillard became Australia's 27th Prime Minister and the first woman to hold office. In 2012, she set Australian politics on fire and made world news with her unforgettable misogyny speech, giving words to the fury and frustration of many Australians.

Around the globe, we've seen gender gaps in enrolment and attendance decline, which means fewer girls are out of school. UNESCO notes secondary school enrollment for females increased from 72% in 2012 to 76% in 2020.



Girls, young women and gender diverse young people have played an enormous role in spearheading the movement to end climate change – from Greta Thunberg catalysing the global School Strike 4 Climate in 2018, to First Nations activists like Bundjalung woman, Amelia Telford, and Gudanji Wakaja woman, Rikki Dank leading activism and advocating for First Nations voices to be heard here in Australia.





The number of female youths aged 15–24 years who are illiterate almost halved between 1995 and 2018, going from 100 million in 1995 to 56 million in 2018.

In March 2020 a new Women’s Safety Charter was announced, inspired by Plan International’s Safer Cities work. The Charter is designed to guide efforts by city-makers and government organisations to make Greater Sydney a safer place for girls and women.



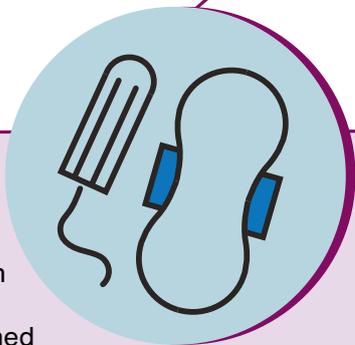
In July 2022, the NSW Government announced a \$30 million investment into 10 pilot projects to co-design parts of the city with girls and women and address street harassment.

From Brittany Higgins, to Grace Tame, we saw powerful voices against sexual abuse and assault emerge in Australia between 2020 and 2022, leading to increased awareness and some reform.



Representation in Parliament is an indicator of progress on gender equality in Australia and following the May 2022 election we welcomed the most diverse Parliament, including a record number of women. We also saw the highest numbers of Parliamentarians from First Nations and Asian backgrounds elected but, there is still a way to go in our Parliament truly reflecting Australia’s multicultural society.

After 20 years of campaigning, the Australian Government finally abolished GST on tampons and sanitary pads in 2019, and in 2020, the Victorian Government announced free period products in all public schools in Victoria. These are both important steps in addressing period poverty and the gendered impacts of Australia’s tax and welfare system.



Participation in early childhood pre-school programmes increased from 65% in 2010 to 73% in 2019, with gender parity achieved in every region.

In 2022 we saw the introduction of mandated consent and respectful relationships education, from foundation to year 10 in all Australian schools.

The 2022 Global Hunger Crisis

Conflict, COVID-19, climate shocks, and now the situation in Ukraine, have converged to create the perfect storm for an unprecedented global hunger crisis.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



828 MILLION
people are experiencing
hunger* in our world.

Those facing acute food
insecurity** has soared –
from 135 million to
345 MILLION
since 2019.



50 million people in
45 COUNTRIES
are now on the verge of famine.



10,000 CHILDREN
are already dying of
hunger every day.

If the world doesn't massively scale up its response, the result will be global destabilisation, starvation, and mass migration on an unprecedented scale.

WHAT DOES FAMINE ACTUALLY MEAN?

Famine declarations are extreme historical events declared in areas where at least one-in-five households are experiencing extreme deprivation of food and catastrophic levels of child malnutrition, starvation and death.

By the time a famine is declared, countries are already facing widespread malnutrition, starvation and death.

TOP 5 AT-RISK COUNTRIES

882,000 people are already facing famine conditions of starvation and death (IPC Phase 5) across parts of:



Ethiopia



Somalia



Yemen



South Sudan



Afghanistan

Source: IPC data as of 23 Aug

MEASURING FOOD INSECURITY

The integrated food security phase classification (IPC) describes the severity of food emergencies.

The IPC grades crises in five levels:

Level one:
Food Security

Level two:
Food Insecurity

Level three:
Acute Food and
Livelihood Crisis*

Level four:
Humanitarian Emergency†

Level five:
Famine^

RECENT FAMINES

Famine has only been declared twice this century – in Somalia in 2011 where action was far too slow, and in parts of South Sudan in 2017 where a much faster humanitarian response was deployed.

Somalia 2011

CAUSES:
Prolonged drought and conflict.

IMPACT:
260,000 deaths by Feb 2012,
half of them children.

RESPONSE:
By the time a famine had been declared, more than 100,000 people had already died.

CONTRIBUTION:
Australia contributed \$112m
(\$135 in real terms) to the Horn
of Africa crisis in 2011 and was
in the top five country donors.

* Chronic hunger is when a person is unable to consume enough food over an extended period to maintain a normal life

** Acute food insecurity is when a person's inability to consume adequate food puts their lives or livelihoods in immediate danger

WHAT IS DRIVING THIS CRISIS?

Conflict

60% of people experiencing hunger currently live in conflict zones. Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan depend on Russia and Ukraine for 40-90 per cent of food supplies.

COVID-19

Hunger has increased by about 150 million people since the beginning of the pandemic.

Reduced household incomes, disrupted supply chains, increased prices, and depleted government resources have contributed to this.

Climate change

The Horn of Africa is experiencing its worst drought in 40 years with four consecutive failed rainy seasons.

Climate change destroys crops and livelihoods and undermines people's ability to feed themselves.

COSTS OF INACTION

Human Security

Starvation and death

One person is dying every 48 seconds in drought-ravaged Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Child malnutrition

Leads to major impacts on development and cognitive function.

Child marriage

Famine increases the risk of girls being forced into early marriages and child labour. "Four million girls in South Sudan have been affected by early or forced marriage so far in 2022 – an increase from 2.7 million in 2021.

Discrimination

People with disabilities, women, chronically ill, elderly, child-headed households and minority groups are at greater risk of food insecurity due to issues of access and discrimination.

National Security

Political upheaval and revolt

History has repeatedly shown that mass hunger leads to political instability. For example, rising food prices directly contributed to the social unrest which sparked the Arab Spring (2010).

Mass displacement

Food shortages render normal life insupportable and often leads to internal displacement or refugee emergencies.

Debt-trap vulnerability

Governments who exhausted their resources fighting COVID-19 and now face rising food insecurity are becoming increasingly vulnerable to debt-trap diplomacy.



Sara, 35, Ethiopia, with her youngest daughter Lelo who was found to be severely malnourished.

HOW WE CAN RESPOND

Write to your MP

We are calling on the Australian Government to:

Commit to an urgent \$150 million Famine Prevention Package to avert catastrophe in the worst-affected hunger hotspots in the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen.

Tackle the root causes of the global hunger crisis through investing long-term in a targeted Global Food Security Strategy starting with \$200m of additional funding each year for the next 3-years.

Strengthen the resilience of the Asia Pacific region to climate change, disasters, and economic shocks by rebuilding Australia's development assistance.

Acting now will

- Save lives where hunger is worst
- Demonstrate Australia is a good international citizen
- Display our immense agricultural expertise

WRITE TO YOUR MP:

planau.me/bptv6d

Donate

The scale and severity of this crisis is growing but you can help by making a donation.

Plan International is already responding in some of the worst affected locations, to ensure those most at risk are supported.

Your donation can help provide life-saving food, emergency cash transfers and child protection to children and families enduring hunger.

Any donation you make today will be multiplied by 15 times, thanks to our partnership with the World Food Programme.

DONATE NOW:

planau.me/appeal-ubuntu

THE MESSAGE

IS SIMPLE –

ACT NOW, SAVE LIVES

A report from South Sudan



Via Berhe Tewoldeberhan

Head of Disaster Risk Management and Senior Food Security/Livelihood Recovery Program Manager



Women wait in line for food distribution in Rumbek, South Sudan.

I just returned from two weeks in southern Sudan. I knew this place in the early '90s and I could compare the situations of both periods. In South Sudan I found the whole country is really suffering from food insecurity and food shortages all over. Even in places like the capital of Juba where it's supposed to be better, food insecurity is extremely grave.

I have seen people looking for food in garbage. Unemployment is high but even the ones who are currently employed are really suffering. They struggle to have one meal a day because of the high prices so you can imagine the ones who are not employed, how they are suffering.

This hunger crisis is compounded by unprecedented drought conditions caused by climate change, the conflict that has been going on there and the recent incidences of COVID-19. You can't even say it's in one place, it's the whole country. From Juba I also travelled to Rumbek, about a seven or eight hour drive. The number of children dying from hunger is high and the effect of hunger on girls and children is quite significant, beyond what we witnessed before.

There was one situation in South Sudan back in 1992 that will always stay with me. It was a pivotal moment in my career. Due to escalating violence and a number of humanitarian workers being killed while on deployment, all aid groups including the UN were forced to withdraw from communities of internally displaced people we were assisting and leave the country until the situation became a bit safer.

It took two weeks for us to get back to these villages, and we knew it would be bad when we got back because we knew that without aid, these people literally had no food. But even with that knowledge, when we did take that convoy back in, I was shocked, it was unlike anything I had witnessed before.

Most of the women were dressed in black – they were in mourning. When I asked them what happened, it turned out most of their children had died of starvation. Up to 50 children had died in those two weeks, just in that community. It was shattering, devastating. We had to start distributing food immediately.

The difference between now and then is that in the 1990s there were enough global food supplies to provide for these people – the issues were really around access to communities. But now, in 2022, the food crisis is compounded with climate change, with the economic fall-out from COVID-19, with many wars and internal conflict, and the situation in Ukraine of course.

Global food supplies are a very big issue, I have never really seen anything like this before and it is hugely worrying. If we don't intervene and act now, we are going to see a lot more deaths of children and vulnerable people.

What lesson can we draw on from that crisis in the '90s? That we need to act now, before it's too late, before this happens again. When it reaches this stage, we must start saving lives as early as possible.

Supporting South Sudan through the Girls Education & Empowerment Fund

This year, the Girls Education & Empowerment Fund (GEEFund) is supporting the response to the growing hunger crisis in South Sudan.

When hunger strikes, girls often eat last, and eat less. Girls are more likely to be pulled from school when food is scarce, and when families are forced to make desperate choices, girls are more likely to end up in early or forced marriage. Pregnant and lactating women in particular are among the most vulnerable groups in a hunger crisis, as acute malnutrition poses a significant risk to the life of the mother and her child.

The effects of this crisis will be felt by an entire generation of children, which is why GEEFund is supporting interventions that target those most vulnerable to the devastating impacts of malnutrition.

In South Sudan, GEEFund has partnered with World Food Programme to support targeted feeding programs that focus on the most urgent cases of malnutrition among children under the age of five, as well as pregnant and lactating women.

Children and women are screened for signs of malnutrition, and those identified as being acutely malnourished enter the feeding program and are urgently provided with corn soy blends and ready-to-use supplementary foods to improve their nutrition. These children and women remain in the feeding program until they have recovered from malnutrition, after which they continue to be monitored throughout the duration of the intervention.

Girls and children deserve the best start in life possible, and shouldn't have their futures taken away by this crisis. Helping mothers and children to survive and thrive supports healthy

early childhood development, and sets a child up for future education and reaching their full potential.

WHAT IS GEEFUND?

The Girls Education & Empowerment Fund (GEEFund) is a multi-year giving initiative that can supercharge investment to tackle the six key barriers that prevent girls from receiving an education and reaching their full potential. GEEFund is designed to empower an entire generation of girls to finish school and pursue the life they choose.

Supporters of GEEFund make a multi-year pledge starting at \$5,000 over five years. This investment is then used to leverage further funding in the form of multi-year grants from our institutional partners, such as the World Food Programme and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, effectively multiplying their impact. GEEFund is a long-term giving initiative designed to support an entire generation of girls, helping them create transformative change in their communities. Find out more online by visiting planau.me/girlseducation

HOW ARE YOU CREATING IMPACT?

We understand how important it is for you to understand how your support is having a tangible impact on the lives of girls, boys, and their families.

In early February, Plan International Australia will be hosting a comprehensive impact-focused webinar that will go into more detail about our programs, and how your support is having a direct impact on the girls and communities we serve. Keep an eye out for information about this unique event – it will be landing in your inbox over the coming months.



BARRIER 1

Stunted Early Childhood Development



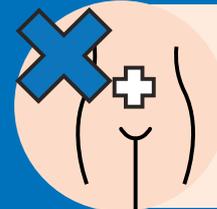
BARRIER 2

Poor Access to Clean Water & Sanitation



BARRIER 3

Gender-based Violence & Child Marriage



BARRIER 4

Lack of Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights



BARRIER 5

Poverty & Economic Hardship



BARRIER 6

Crises & Emergencies

Thank You Week

Supporters like you have played a critical role in making our work possible this year, allowing us to reach 50.8 million children, across 75 countries in the process.

We celebrated Thank You week at Plan International Australia in August, and to share the love, we got to know some of our incredible supporters a little better. We'd like you to meet them!



MATTHEW

- Supporter of 50 years
- Former Senior Manager and Fundraising Consultant
- Loves cooking and giving history presentations at aged care facilities

Matthew first started supporting Plan International as a commerce student in his early 20s. In the 50 years since, he has volunteered, donated, created a special bequest for our work, and even met his wife Elizabeth while hosting a fundraiser for the organisation 40 years ago.

“ I have always sponsored a child in Indonesia – my father, Wally was born in Surabaya, Java, in 1910, the eldest of three children. I think I was just trying to identify more with my father, and also the fact of Indonesia being comparatively close to Australia, as you see, from the other countries which Plan supports. I am pleased that Plan is still working in Indonesia.”

Growing up, Sharmila was very aware of cultural beliefs around sons being valued over daughters but feels fortunate to never have experienced that in her own family. She draws hope from the young people of today for their open-mindedness, passion and unwavering commitment to challenging norms.

- Supporter of eight years
- General Practitioner
- Passionate about women's health, rights and education
- Pledger to the Girls Education & Empowerment Fund



SHARMILA

“I'm very conscious of the fact that I've been given a lot of opportunities that I wish for everybody and every girl to have. Having a daughter myself, like every mother I know, every mother around the world, wants the same things for their daughters. I see a lot of hope and positivity in what Plan does. I see that a lot of the work they do is from the ground up – it's building communities, it's changing things at the coal face. Not just for one person, but for entire communities and for generations to come.

”

Lai Yin volunteers in the Plan International Australia office three days a week, and has sponsored children for the past 30 years with a group of friends. She recognises the importance of volunteers and attributes her interest and involvement to her biggest influence, her father, a man who believed in justice, fairness and equality for all.

- Volunteer of seven years, child sponsor of 30 years
- Former Account Manager
- Loves art, pottery, gardening and sci-fi films

“I personally feel that we should give something back to society if we can. I have some spare time and love volunteering at Plan. The organisation is progressive, cohesive, inclusive and fun. I love and embrace the vibrant, interesting and different ethnicities within Plan. It is very apparent that staff and volunteers care and respect each other.



LAI YIN



BETHANY

- Equality Leader and supporter of 10 years.
- Math teacher
- Passionate about girls education

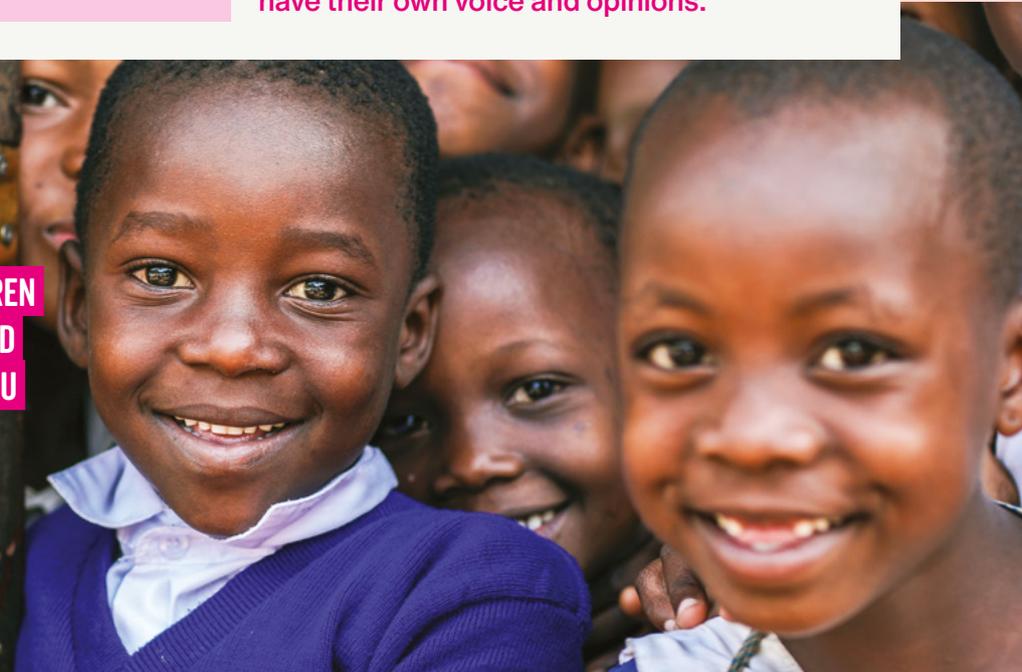
Growing up in an all female household with her single mum and sister, Bethany was always told she could be anything she wanted. Now, as a maths teacher, she instils the same message in her students, and has seen girls' confidence and sense of self blossom through this approach to education.



Education can change your entire position in society. I feel like a lot of the time, particularly in a family unit, educating girls tends to elevate the family out of poverty. In the classroom, when I see girls realise that they have a voice and break out of that really quiet position it's one of the massive joys of teaching – seeing those girls realise that, 'No, I can actually do this', when so often in society, they're told to just be quiet, stay to the side, and just be a good little person rather than have their own voice and opinions.”

NO MATTER HOW YOU CHOOSE TO SUPPORT US, YOU ARE HELPING CREATE REAL CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND GIRLS ACROSS THE GLOBE AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE YOU ON THIS JOURNEY WITH US.

THANK YOU!



Telling their own stories:

A new wave of citizen journalists

We invite you to take a virtual journey to visit some of the communities where Plan International works, led by young people who have completed mobile journalism training.

We believe young people are the experts of their own experience and their voices and ideas play an essential role in shaping Plan International's work, from informing our advocacy recommendations to governments, to guiding our program activities and our emergency response plans during crises.

Initially developed by Plan International Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan

(2013), the Youth Reporter Project is one way we empower young people to tell their own stories and raise their voices about the issues that matter to them and to their communities.

The project provides mobile journalism (mo-jo) training for young people aged 13 to 24, allowing participants to capture and produce digital stories and news reports using smartphones.

The youth-friendly training toolkit has been utilised in a number of countries where Plan International works, and its five modules provide guidance around the many aspects of reporting, from the theoretical (ethics and principles of journalism) to the practical (equipment, photography, script writing, editing and writing for social media).

Following training, participants are equipped with the skills and knowledge to put their learnings into practice as young citizen journalists, media literacy advocates, and change agents in their communities.

DID YOU KNOW THE WELCOME VIDEOS YOU RECEIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR CHILD SPONSORSHIP JOURNEY WERE PRODUCED BY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR MO-JO TRAINING?



Jeneba, 14

SIERRA LEONE



Shejuti, 12

BANGLADESH



Luyen, 15

VIETNAM



TANZANIA

January, 9



INDONESIA

Fransiska



The high price of Kenya's drought

Earlier this year the drought in Kenya, compounded by COVID-19 and previous lack of rain, was declared a national disaster by the Kenyan government.

Kilifi County was named as one of the worst affected communities, and The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) has predicted the situation will continue to worsen, with lower than usual rain expected in the October to December period.

The lack of pasture has killed thousands of livestock and left an estimated 2.1 million Kenyans grappling with hunger and water scarcity, an issue which affects girls and women disproportionately. In times of food insecurity girls often eat last and are at greater risk of being taken out of school and forced into child marriage, to ease the financial burden on their families.

In 15-year-old Halima's rural village in Kilifi, many girls and women are struggling to cope with the drought, "I can only wash once a week because there is no water in my area," shares Halima.

"As a girl this is affecting my health and hygiene."

Some girls are resorting to extreme survival tactics, selling sex for food or money. "This year has been the toughest year ever for girls as the lack of water and food makes some girls offer sexual activities in exchange for sanitary pads, food and clean water," explains Halima.

Girls as young as 11 or 12 years are being exploited by older men in exchange for food, water or money. Predatory boda boda (motorcycle taxi) riders prey on vulnerable young girls, offering them money in exchange for sex. Teenage girls are particularly at risk, as they lack the knowledge to protect themselves, often ending up pregnant or contracting sexually transmitted infections.

The head teacher at Halima's school has also noticed a reduction in girls' attendance, with many dropping out all together. "Girls are staying

away from school to look for money to feed their families," they explain. "Some parents are using their girls to look for food and clean water. A good number of girls have dropped out of school and while others are in school physically, mentally they are at home. This disaster is causing them to perform poorly in their studies."

Plan International is responding to the crisis in five of the worst affected countries. We are distributing food parcels to those most in need and supporting school feeding programmes so that children can have at least one nutritious meal at school each day and be encouraged to stay in school, where they are safe and can continue their education.

Despite the many challenges facing girls at this time, Halima is optimistic about her future. "When I finish school, I would like to become a doctor so that I can help my community and treat people with diseases," she says.

Like so many girls, Halima has dreams for her future. Help her hold on to them by donating to our appeal.



"This year has been the toughest year ever for girls as the lack of water and food makes some girls offer sexual activities in exchange for sanitary pads, food and clean water.

- Halima, 15, Kilifi, Kenya



The journey to safer cities

It shouldn't be revolutionary that cities are designed to be safe and free of harassment. Or that half the population might be considered in their design. **But it is.**

Plan International has been working to change that through our Safer Cities work, both here in Australia and around the globe. In Australia, we've had a number of wins along the way, many of them stemming from our Free to Be campaign.

This kind of progress doesn't happen overnight, so let's take a look back at some of the key moments in our journey towards building safer cities for everyone.



FREE TO BE

2016

A collaboration with CrowdSpot, Monash University's XYX Lab and young women, Free to Be began as an app designed to capture the lived experiences of girls and young women across cities, with methodology drawing from our Safer Cities work internationally.

An interactive map invited girls and women to drop pins on locations they love, avoid,

feel safe in and those that can be improved. Following a pilot in Melbourne in 2016, we rolled out an improved version of the crowd-mapping tool in Delhi, Kampala, Lima, Madrid and Sydney.

Thousands of girls and young women shared their stories of harassment and violence for the first time, providing a never-before seen glimpse of what they experience in their cities and the impact this has on their lives.

UNSAFE IN THE CITY REPORT

2018

Drawing on the data and research collected through Free to Be, our 2018 Unsafe in the City report revealed relentless sexist and sexual harassment and abuse – and called for specific actions to allow girls and young women to live without experiencing fear or discrimination on our streets.

Following the release of this report on International Day of the Girl in 2018, Plan International Youth Activists spent time advocating with the Greater Sydney Commission, NSW transport authorities, and other organisations to implement the recommendations.

WOMEN'S SAFETY CHARTER

2020

In March 2020, spurred on by the Unsafe in the City report, a new Women's Safety Charter was launched in Sydney, by the Greater Sydney Commission in collaboration with Transport for NSW and the Committee for Sydney.

Designed to guide efforts by city-makers and government organisations to make Greater Sydney a safer place for girls and women, the charter had a focus on improving reporting processes, and establishing mechanisms for ongoing data collection to build understanding of the issue.

Directly after the Charter launch, Transport for NSW threw their weight behind it by announcing the 'Safety After Dark' Innovation Challenge to

find new and effective ways to combat the problem of harassment on public transport.

\$30 MILLION FOR SAFER CITIES IN NSW

2022

In June 2022, the NSW government announced a \$30 million commitment to stopping street harassment, the largest win of our Free to Be research so far. As a result, public spaces, parklands and public transport in NSW will undergo a safety overhaul in consultation with girls and young women.

The announcement was a response to decades of survivor’s advocacy, girls and young women’s calls to action and fuelled by research from Plan International Australia (Free to Be, 2018) on how safe girls and young women feel as they move around cities.

STOPIT BY VICTORIA POLICE

2022

In July 2022, Victoria Police launched STOPIT, a new text-based tool making it easier to report unwanted sexual behaviour on public transport – a prevalent and underreported crime.



Australian model and StandUp ambassador, Maria Thattil. The training program introduces participants to the 5D’s of bystander intervention: distract, delegate, document, delay and direct.

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH L’ORÉAL PARIS - STANDING UP AGAINST STREET HARASSMENT

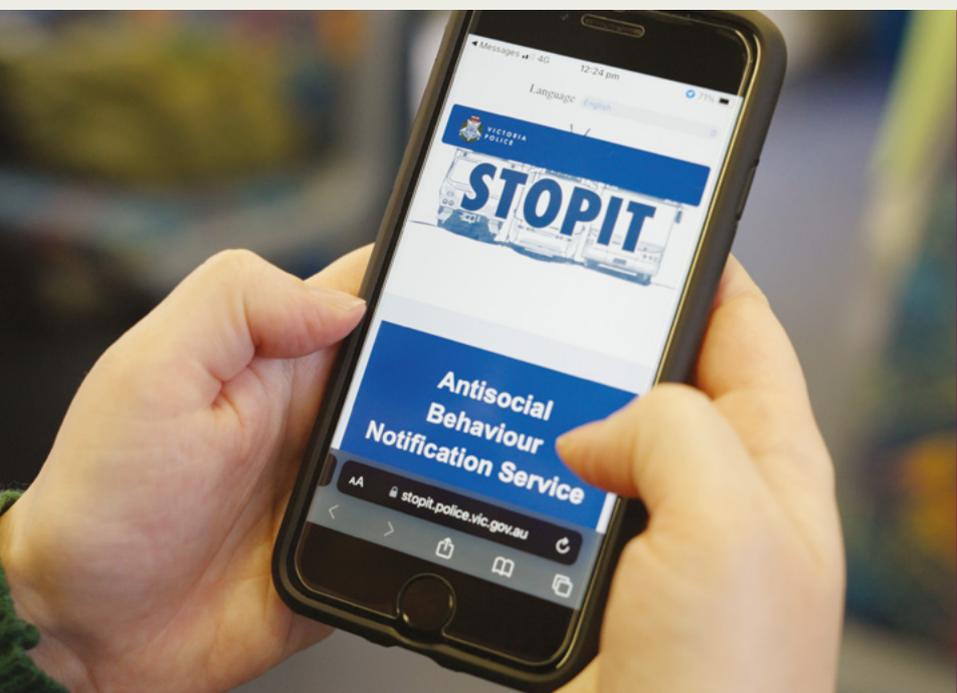
2022

Our most recent efforts to create safer cities for young women and gender diverse people comes in the form of an exciting new partnership with L’Oréal Paris.

Featuring a powerful interactive training delivered by our Youth Activists, the Stand Up Against Street Harassment campaign offers a proven methodology – the 5D’s – to help people to safely intervene if they witness or experience street harassment.

The hour-long online training session is free, and available for all Australians to undertake! It’s a powerful tool for all staff and the feedback has been extremely positive around it providing practical, simple actions to help others when you see street harassment occurring.

Learn more and sign your workplace up now:



Young women leading change in Tanzania

“I’m very happy that I was able to achieve my dreams of being a doctor. So thank you so much Plan International, I am so proud of being one of the sponsor children.”

26-year-old Magreth is a doctor and 27-year-old Petrider is a youth and gender equality advocate. Both women grew up in Tanzania, and have been supported by Plan International at different times during their lives. Today, in their own spheres of influence, they are working to tackle issues – like child marriage – that are impacting girls in their communities, and empowering other young women to know their rights and reach their potential.



MEET MAGRETH

Sponsored through Plan International from the age of three, 26-year-old Magreth is now a medical doctor and intern in Tanzania.

She is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health and works as a junior researcher, leader, gender equality and public health advocate. Magreth also works part-time as a content creator and presenter on a radio station and writes and produces health-related content.

She loves working with children and adolescents, being creative, grasping new ideas, and wants to lead a life that inspires others.

“Tanzania is one of those countries with a high prevalence of child marriage. Approximately two out of five young girls become married before they reach the age of 18 years, it’s a very big problem here. A lot of factors contribute to this high number of child marriage in our community. Among them is unequal education and opportunities between girls and boys, and also the extreme poverty [faced by the] majority of families. Marriage [becomes a way] to relieve financial hardships because when they marry their child [parents] get a dowry, but also they are no longer taking care of that child so it’s somehow a relief to that family.

“

That's why we empower girls. We are more beyond getting married. [If they] look beyond getting married they can become great. They can take initiative to fight for their future.

“I see myself as a lucky person being enrolled in that program (child sponsorship) since I was very young. It was a very nice experience getting to know how other people [sponsors] who live far away from my community conduct their daily life, because we are sharing letters and photos. I experienced a lot of opportunities with Plan International because as a sponsored child I was involved in loads of activities which made me realise that I have other talents.

“This [sponsorship] program made sure that I got school fees and other school materials so I was able to conduct my studies without stress. This made me [able] to focus more on my career and I’m very happy that I was able to achieve my dreams of being a doctor. So thank you so much Plan International, I am so proud of being one of the sponsor children.”



27-year-old Petrider is a youth and gender equality advocate in Tanzania and has served on a number of advisory councils and boards, to progress the rights of girls and young people.

Petrider was a co-founder of Plan International's Youth For Change program in 2014 and was a pioneer of our Youth Takeover initiatives.

She holds a BA in International Relations, a Post-Graduate degree in Economic Diplomacy and was awarded A Commonwealth Point of Light Award for her voluntary work to campaign to end gender-based violence in the commonwealth.

"I work as a girls rights advocate. A lot of work centres around youth and girls rights and adversity. I'm really passionate about the protection of girls rights.

"The majority of young girls are not educated on their rights. Young girls can really not know that they are not supposed to be married at a young age or that they are not supposed to be sexually abused because they do not have that access to know their rights. Once we have more interventions to ensure that young girls know their rights and are able to successfully advocate more for their rights, we have that protection mechanism for young girls.

"I was the co-founder of Youth for Change. We engaged different young people from the United Kingdom, Bangladesh and Ethiopia in a movement which advocates to end child marriage and gender-based violence. This is led by Plan International. We really work to advocate for policy changes and this is especially in line with ending child marriage and ending female genital mutilation.

"We have reached over 200 young people throughout Tanzania and in several instances we have cases where we have survivors of child marriage and female genital mutilation advocating for their rights and protecting, but also calling

You might recognise Magreth and Petrider from our special online Thank You Week event earlier this year, when supporters had the opportunity to connect with these inspiring young women. If you missed it, you can watch a recap at youtu.be/rvH09sDatml.



Gabriel:

Very humbling and inspiring to see these talented people and their involvement in Plan.



Diana:

These are amazing young women...So inspiring and great role models. Youth can and will move the world!



Robert

Wonderful work that Plan is doing – so proud to have supported Plan over the years.



Garry:

Inspiring women... the world needs more of these leaders.

for different systems and policy makers at the government level to join in the movement and protect young girls.

"I currently serve as a youth advisory board member for the United Nations Human Rights office which is a part of making the United Nations more inclusive. We work to promote children's rights, especially in conflict and vulnerable communities. Children that are affected by climate change, children that are affected by civil wars, children that are affected by gender based violence.. All those are some of the issues that we are working on to ensure that young people have access to their rights."

Partnerships that can change the world

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact our friendly partnerships team at partnerships@plan.org.au

A better now for her.
A better future for everyone.

This is what we stand for – and you can too.

We know from more than 85 years of experience that girls' rights and gender equality are crucial to realising human rights for everyone.

But here's the thing: We can't do it alone. We need partners who are just as passionate as we are about creating a just world for children and equality for girls.

A corporate partnership with Plan International can transform your business and create a lasting, positive impact in the world.

It can also be a powerful opportunity to demonstrate your values, to leverage and connect with strongly aligned target audiences and to provide meaningful engagement for your staff, customers and consumers.



Ubuntu Issue 08, Spring 2022.

Ubuntu is the magazine of Plan International Australia.
Plan International Australia | Address: 18/60 City Road,
Southbank, Melbourne VIC 3006
Phone: 13 75 26 | Fax: 03 9670 1130 | Email: info@plan.org.au
Web: www.plan.org.au | ABN 49 004 875 807

To support Plan International visit www.plan.org.au. Donations to Plan International of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Plan International Australia. ©2022. All material in Ubuntu is under copyright; however, articles and photographs may be reproduced with permission from Plan International Australia. Plan International Australia is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct and is a trusted recipient of funding from the Australian Government.

Find out more:

CHILD PROTECTION plan.org.au/privacy-policy/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-policy

FEEDBACK plan.org.au/privacy-policy/feedback-and-complaints

Ubuntu is a Zulu word that means 'I am a person through other people. My humanity is tied to yours.' There is no word in English that encompasses this sentiment of interconnectedness. In the modern world we too often see ourselves as individuals but Ubuntu reminds us that we are part of a greater whole. What we do affects others, and when we do well, the ripples are felt by all of humanity. Our work with girls and with all children is, first and foremost, for them, but it is also for the good of all human beings. Together, we bring about change that benefits all humankind and that is the spirit of Ubuntu, for we cannot be human alone.



The charity for
girls' equality