



The charity for girls' equality

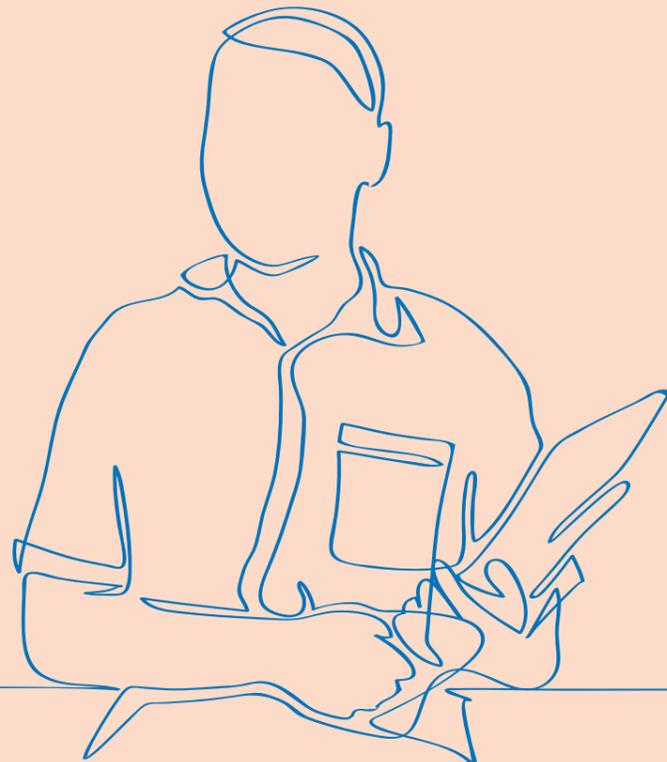
Your investment, your impact, your generosity in action. Thank you.

IMPACT REPORT 2022

**GIRLS EDUCATION
& EMPOWERMENT FUND**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Plan International Australia acknowledge and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Elders past and present 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.



WHY GEEFUND MATTERS

When you help to educate a girl, you're not just training her for a job. You help her take her rightful place as a strong leader and equal decision maker in her family and within her community. You help her become a change maker – that makes you a change maker too.

What is the end result of your investment into girls? The last 12 months has seen courageous and capable girls stepping forward to lead many movements for change. It could be climate change action. Fighting child marriage in Asia. Or law reform to end harmful practices like female genital mutilation in South Sudan.

These girls remain committed and dedicated despite the many challenges they're now facing. This includes the compounding effect of the three Cs – Conflict, Climate and COVID-19 (see page 9).

As a dedicated change maker through your GEEFund investment, you help to:

- ✓ Remove the barriers to girls' education
- ✓ Challenge and change attitudes and behaviours that hold girls back
- ✓ Equip girls with knowledge of their rights
- ✓ Give girls the skills they need to lead and drive change themselves.

The ultimate goal is for every girl, everywhere to be able to pursue her own dreams and to have the power of choice over her own life. It's impossible to put a price on how valuable that is in a girl's life. That makes your GEEFund contribution—and your humanitarian vision—invaluable.

Susanne Legena
CEO,
Plan International Australia



THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH GIRLS

Thank you for your continued investment into the Girls Education & Empowerment Fund. Your compassion and generosity is vital as girls around the world have borne the combined brunt of the pandemic, climate change impacts, extreme weather events, and the emerging famine in the Horn of Africa. Girls are most affected in these crises across a range of issues - allocation of food, physical safety and child marriage. But the most devastating impact is on their education with many girls dropping out of school as livelihoods crashed.

This year has reminded us that women and girls are often hit first and hardest when crisis strikes. That's why your generous and ongoing contribution to GEEFund is critical to help secure the future of girls and their communities. We are truly grateful for your participation and support of campaigns that highlight and support the plight of girls. By making a multi-year pledge, you're part of the long-term solution for girls, with education being one of the most critical focus areas.

I continue to strongly believe in the power of girls to create a better world for themselves and the community around them. It's a privilege for me to collaborate with dedicated donors like you in supporting girls to realise this power in a meaningful, efficient and sustainable way.

Sally Treeby
Board Chair,
Plan International Australia

YOUR GENEROSITY AT A GLANCE

53

committed donors

\$2,301,080

pledged for the next 5 years

\$4,750,367

received by leveraging your gifts in 2022

143,186

girls and families impacted

7x
Leverage rate!

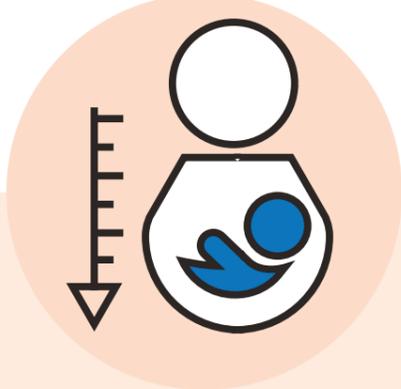
HOW YOUR IMPACT IS AMPLIFIED

Thank you for your commitment to the Girls Education & Empowerment Fund. Together with Plan International and the communities we work with, you're helping to educate girls and stop poverty.

The Fund is designed to drive change not only for the short-term but for future generations. So girls can choose the lives they want to live. It works like this:



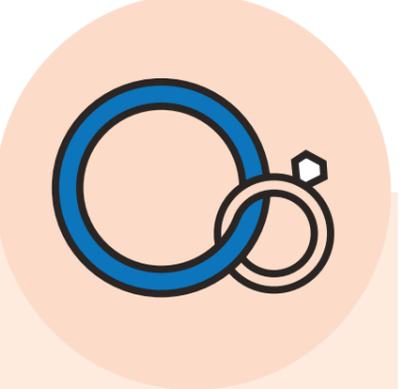
YOU'RE HELPING BREAK DOWN BARRIERS



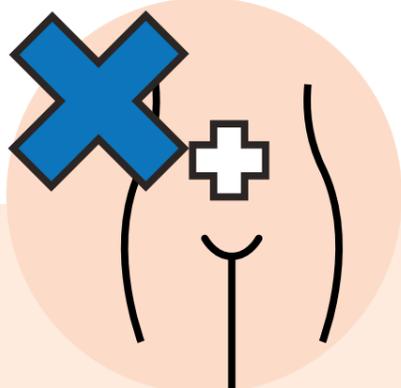
BARRIER 1
Stunted Early Childhood Development



BARRIER 2
Poor Access to Clean Water & Sanitation



BARRIER 3
Gender-based Violence & Child Marriage



BARRIER 4
Lack of Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights



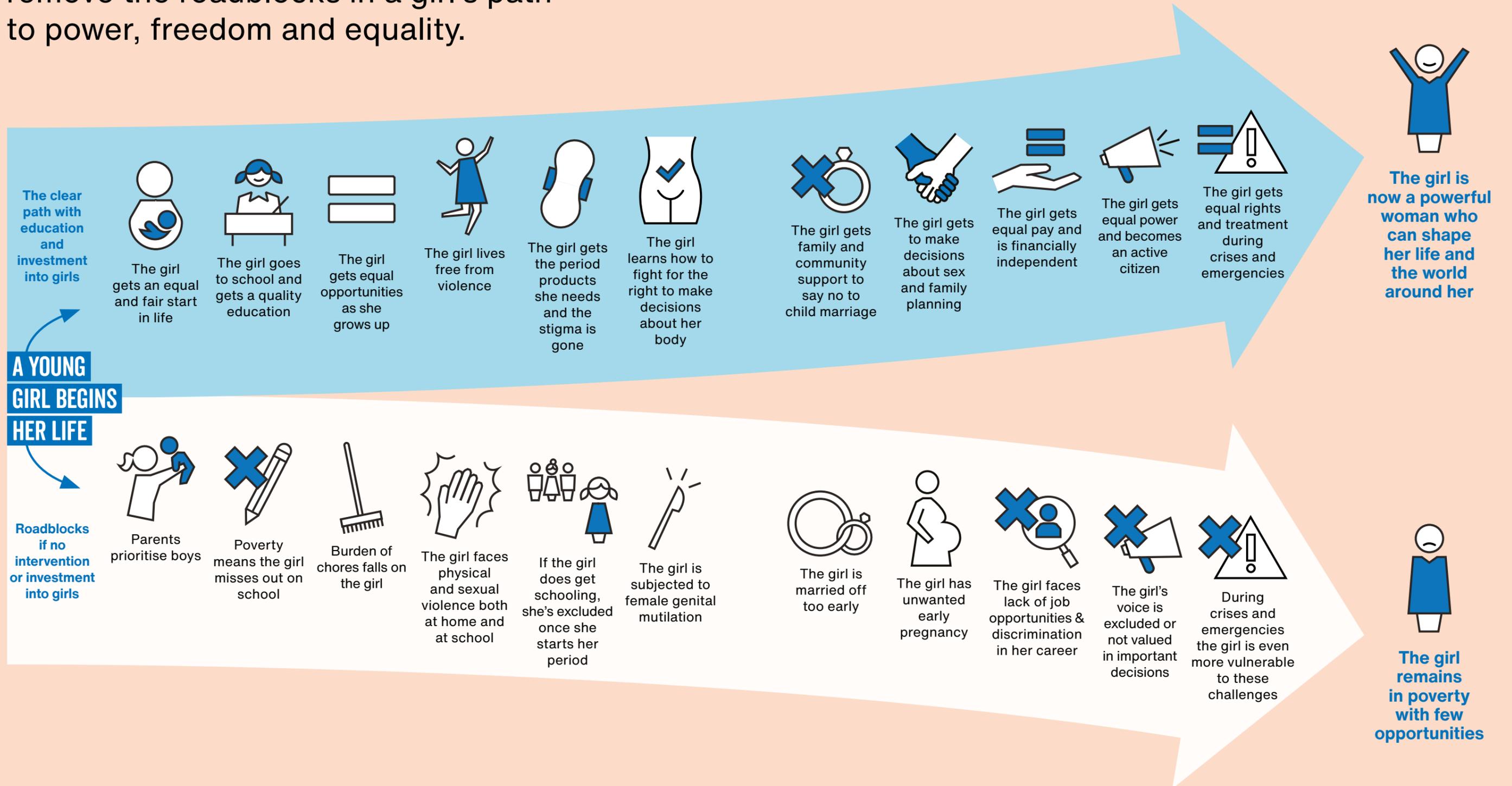
BARRIER 5
Poverty & Economic Hardship



BARRIER 6
Crises & Emergencies

THE LIFE JOURNEY OF A GIRL

See the difference you make when you remove the roadblocks in a girl's path to power, freedom and equality.



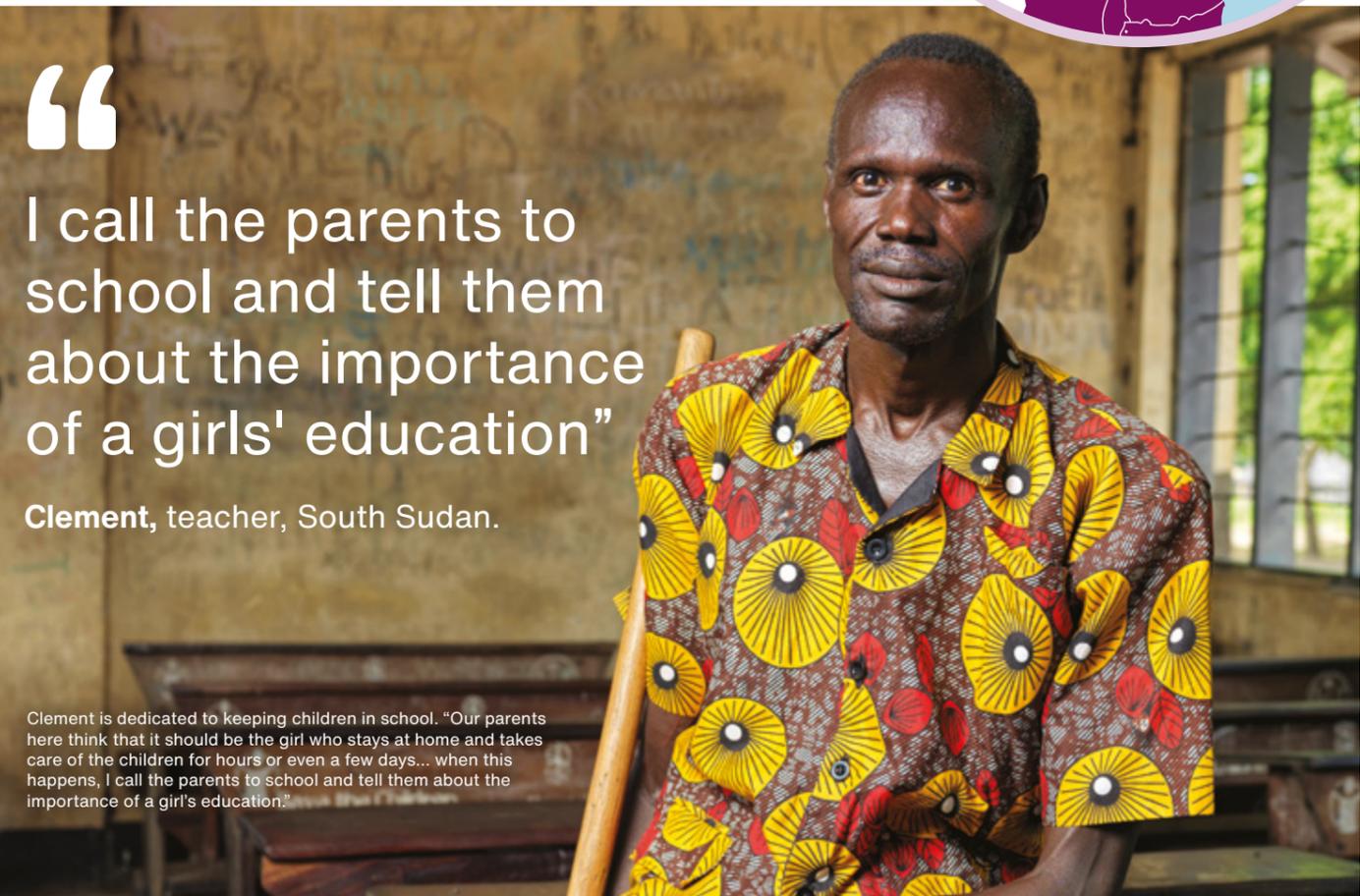
A YOUNG GIRL BEGINS HER LIFE

CRISES & EMERGENCIES

Your support is helping
SAVE LIVES OF FAMILIES FACING STARVATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

WHAT YOU'VE HELPED ACHIEVE

	Children under 5	Pregnant or lactating women
Life-saving checks to diagnose those most at risk of acute malnutrition	57,266	47,377
Targeted feeding supplements given to stop deaths from hunger	7,867	7,769
Lives saved – people recovered with follow-up checks to keep them healthy	2,900	2,354



“
I call the parents to school and tell them about the importance of a girls' education”

Clement, teacher, South Sudan.

Clement is dedicated to keeping children in school. "Our parents here think that it should be the girl who stays at home and takes care of the children for hours or even a few days... when this happens, I call the parents to school and tell them about the importance of a girl's education."

CRISES & EMERGENCIES

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to fighting the Hunger Crisis in South Sudan

THE PROBLEM YOU'RE HELPING TO SOLVE

The choice between helping the hungry and the starving is a terrible one to face and it's a harsh reality during the current food emergency.

But when it's a choice between feeding boys and girls, there should be equal rights to food. Yet girls are still at risk of being fed last and least—and of being pulled first from school.

Causes of the Food Crisis

These three C's have combined to create an escalating food crisis across Horn of Africa. Drastic numbers of children and families' lives are at stake.

<p>CONFLICT</p> <p>Armed conflict and civil wars have driven people off their lands and left them unable to grow crops. The war in Ukraine also means food prices have skyrocketed.</p>	+	<p>CLIMATE</p> <p>Even if people can get safe access to their land, climate change has led to record-breaking droughts and floods. Crops fail, leaving families without food to eat or sell.</p>	+	<p>COVID-19</p> <p>The pandemic led to economic instability for many families. Shops and markets closed, leaving them without the means to sell their produce or earn a living.</p>
=				
10,000 children dying per day		50+ million people on the brink of famine		60% of the world's hungry are girls



Life-saving food for infants... thank you

Diagnosed with malnutrition, Kaka's sons were referred to one of Plan International's nutrition centres in Pibor.

"I had lost all hope before reaching the centre," she recalls. After a month of treatment and the provision of supplementary food sachets, her children are now much better. "It brought me a real happiness. Now both children are happy and play together," Kaka says. "When they smile, it makes me happy."

Your support through GEEFund matters to mums like Kaka and her children.

CRISES & EMERGENCIES

South Sudan Hunger Crisis: comprehensive response

YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Together with our hardworking partners, including the World Food Programme, and your compassion as humanitarians, we are fighting hunger in a way that ensures girls, women and mothers don't miss out. Plan International is rolling out a comprehensive response to the hunger crisis as outlined below. This includes the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program funded specifically through GEEFund donors like you.

Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programs

This targets the most urgent cases among children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. They receive nutritional supplements intended to stop life-threatening acute malnutrition. This vital program is delivered alongside general food distribution, ensuring everyone in the household is fed, so pregnant and lactating women don't need to share their life-saving supplements with other family members.

Women & children impacted:

15,636

(also see figures on page eight.)

Funded via GEEFund donors - thank you.



General Food Distribution

Food parcels for a family to survive for a month. Items can include fortified rice, sorghum, oil, salt, veggies, canned meat or fish. Parcels are distributed at safe points where women can pick up their rations despite ongoing conflicts. Staff also educate families about child rights and girls having the same needs for food as boys.

People fed:

OVER 130,000



School Feeding

Children receive one warm school meal per day. This helps families to make their own rations stretch further. It encourages them to keep their children in school, especially girls who are often the first to be pulled from classes and are at risk of child marriage when food is scarce.

Children fed (across 51 schools):

73,000



Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programs

This provides extra nutrition on top of the general food parcels. It's specifically for at risk groups such as children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Women & children impacted:

32,797

As you read this, more children and families are receiving life-saving food. *Thank you.*

CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

Your support is helping PROVIDE LIFE-CHANGING WATER TRANSFORMATIONS FOR GIRLS IN LAOS

Progress since 2021 Impact Report: 76% participation rate - up from 60%

WHAT YOU'VE HELPED ACHIEVE

A 76% participation rate in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities in Saravan and Oudomxay, up from 60% in the previous year. A detailed breakdown is below:



Thank you for providing clean water

The burden of the lack of clean water falls squarely on girls. Many spend hours each day collecting water from far away streams or creeks. At the same time, they lack period products and privacy in school toilets. These factors combine to stop girls from going to school.

Through your GEEFund support:

- New water systems so girls can collect water faster and still have time for their education.
- New toilets and latrines leading to many villages now being declared open defecation free.
- Menstrual hygiene education and products so periods don't stop girls going to school.



As a mum of three, Swei says the clean water system makes it much easier to manage her periods each month.

For Juam, 14, it saves her 10 trips a day to the creek to collect water - leaving her more time to attend class and play with her friends.

STUNTED EARLY CHILDHOOD

Your support is helping
GIRLS IN MYANMAR GET EQUAL PRIORITY FROM INFANCY

WHAT YOU'VE HELPED ACHIEVE

<p>527</p> <p>parents learned about child development and girls' rights.</p>	<p>784</p> <p>children and their parents took part in cooking and nutrition workshops.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>playgroups received books and play equipment so children can start developing key skills.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>villages surveyed families and found positive changes towards parenting and girls' rights.</p>
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TOTAL PEOPLE YOU'VE IMPACTED: 3,160

Through your GEEFund support:

- ✔ **Girls know their rights** and get equal opportunities as families learn daughters and sons should be treated the same.
- ✔ **Parents learn tips, attitudes and behaviours** to provide the best nutrition and care for their children during the crucial early learning years.
- ✔ **Higher primary school completion rates** as all children get early learning opportunities such as attending playgroups and preschools.

THE PROBLEM YOU'RE HELPING TO SOLVE

If you're a girl in Rakhine state, Myanmar, then poverty, conflict and malnutrition all lead to you missing out. Whether it's your fair share of food, going to school or future opportunities, the problem starts in early childhood as parents favour your brothers. They prefer you to remain home and help with household chores and caring for your siblings or extended family. As a girl, you're robbed of the chance to attend school with flow-on effects for your future prospects.

YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Plan International runs the following activities to stop stunted early childhood in its tracks:

- ✔ **Parenting Under Pressure (PUP) workshops** to teach parents about child development, gender equality and child rights to change attitudes and norms.
- ✔ **Community playgroups** to encourage early learning in children under five.
- ✔ **Workshops and cooking demonstrations** to improve parents' knowledge of infant and young child feeding so they grow up strong and healthy.
- ✔ **Child protection training** for children and adults.

STUNTED EARLY CHILDHOOD



A mother says thank you!
 "I am Daw Ma Yay Chay. I am from a poor family and didn't have good education in my childhood... After going to preschool, my son not only became better behaved, he also learned to share and play together with other children. He also knows the names of animals, colours and shapes."



From gender bias to equality
 "I am Abu May (pictured in centre) and I have four children. I didn't know how to care for my children's physical and emotional development... I supported and gave more opportunities to my son than my daughters. Now I am one of the members of Parenting Under Pressure. I have learned to be more focused on gender balance and have equal opportunity between my son and daughters."



This girl knows her rights
 From Ma Nilar Than, 13, a child protection group member: "I have learned about rights related to children - the right to survival, right to develop, right to participate and right to protection. I have become more empathetic and learned to respect other children. I play with disabled children in a way that they are able to join in."



A dad learns positive parenting
 U Kyaw Kyaw Win, 36, child protection group leader and father says: "I previously didn't even know the age limit of a child - that under 18s are children. Now I avoid beating, yelling and neglecting the needs of my children, arguing in front of them and asking them to buy betel and cigarettes. I am always careful to explain until they understand and show them respect."

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Your support is helping
CREATE FREEDOM FROM HARASSMENT FOR GIRLS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

WHAT YOU'VE HELPED ACHIEVE

Girl-friendly policies to benefit the 90% of girls in Honiara who report feeling unsafe.

317

youth took part in the Champions of Change program to combat gender-based violence.

50

parents and caregivers took part in anti-sexual harassment dialogues.

180

youth took part in girl-led events to champion the rights of girls.

Your support is helping change policies and attitudes in the Solomon Islands, creating a safer and more equal future for thousands of girls.

Through your GEEFund support:

- ✓ Safer public transport and city spaces so girls can move around their city without fear of harassment or violence.
- ✓ Changed attitudes towards sexual harassment of girls and promotion of gender equality.
- ✓ Girls and boys have an equal voice in decisions that affect them to help overcome discrimination.

THE PROBLEM YOU'RE HELPING TO SOLVE

Cities can be scary places when you're a girl. Poor design of buildings create unsafe spaces where you can be attacked. Inadequate lighting and policing levels at public transport hubs and other services leave you fearing potential harassment. Then add into the mix discrimination against girls, harmful social and cultural attitudes against girls, and the acceptance of violence against women and girls. It's no wonder girls feel unsafe in their own communities and cities.

YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Plan International runs the following activities to combat gender-based violence:

- ✓ Collaboration to create safer urban spaces between Honiara City Council and local girls.
- ✓ Champions of Change (CoC) workshops for young people to challenge gender norms and attitudes towards gendered violence.
- ✓ Girl-led activities that support elimination of violence against girls and women.
- ✓ Intergenerational sexual harassment dialogues (as part of CoC activities) for parents and caregivers to fight the root causes of the problem.
- ✓ Training government and police to fight discrimination and gendered violence.
- ✓ Work with public transport authorities to support girls' safety while travelling.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Monica, 19 (left), Neslyn, 20 (right) with their mother Wendy, 44, outside their home near Honiara.

From risk to real change for girls

Sisters Neslyn, 20, and Monica, 19, want to walk down the street or catch a bus without being harassed or attacked. This is a very real concern for these young women given the rape of their aunt on the path to and from the city centre of Honiara. That's why they're calling for practical action to make their city safer for all girls. This includes more street lights and police patrols. Also, police need training to change attitudes and behaviour so they take street harassment and assault more seriously.



Girls take active role in solutions

Both girls are active in advocacy efforts to combat violence against women such as Plan International's safety walks. Led by girls, the purpose of these walks is to identify safety risks and dangers for women. Local government officials and authorities also take part to hear first-hand from the girls, then work with them to develop action plans. Neslyn also believes the Prime Minister should allow girls a more active say about women's safety. "Now, they only talk to adults, but they don't listen to girls. But girls have more ideas that they don't expect and we have the right to talk to members of Parliament."

No girl should have to live in fear of violence

Neslyn feels especially anxious at the local bus stop. "Sometimes when I'm going into town and come back late this place is unsafe for me. At the weekends, boys drinking alcohol call out abusive names to girls. When I'm dropped off from the bus, some people shout names at me and I feel hurt."

POVERTY & ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

Your support is helping
GIRLS IN VIETNAM PURSUE THEIR DREAMS AND FUTURE CAREERS

WHAT YOU'VE HELPED ACHIEVE

19,276

girls began career planning with advice on future jobs pathways and skills needed to succeed.

79

rural youth received seed grants and advice to set up micro businesses so they can earn their own living.

64

youth clubs at 49 schools learned about workplace barriers for women and girls.

2,789

parents learned how girls have equal rights to schooling and leadership opportunities.

TOTAL PEOPLE YOU'VE IMPACTED: 46,110

Through your GEEFund support:

- ✔ Girls act as drivers of change in their own lives and stand up for their rights to education, earn their own income, be leaders and refuse child marriage.
- ✔ Girls are equipped to pursue careers and fulfil their dreams by making informed decisions about future jobs or receiving business development aid.
- ✔ Families help rather than hinder girls' participation at school and future financial and leadership prospects.

THE PROBLEM YOU'RE HELPING TO SOLVE

Poverty in Vietnam leads to disastrous consequences for children, especially ethnic minority girls. Many are at risk of child marriage when families can't afford to feed their daughters. Or they end up missing out on an education because they must stay home to collect water, do chores or care for other children. Meanwhile, boys can end up as exploited child labourers. You help us take action to keep children in school and forge viable careers or income opportunities.

YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Plan International runs the following activities to combat poverty and economic hardship:

- ✔ **Careers guidance provided** to all girls and boys from grades 6-9 by specially trained teachers to prepare them for the future jobs market.
- ✔ **Girls trained in child rights and life skills** relating to careers, the risk of child marriage, gender-based violence and career guidance.
- ✔ **Small business grants** provided to youth groups.
- ✔ **Parents and teachers trained** to understand the dangers of child marriage, the importance of educating girls and how to support girls to develop careers and become leaders.
- ✔ **Workshops to link girls** into government youth employment programs.

POVERTY & ECONOMIC HARDSHIP



Changed attitudes to girls' education

Mai from Vietnam got married when she was just 17. Now 21, she has two toddler girls and is expecting her third child. She wants her daughters' futures to be different.

"I had to drop out of school early as my husband's parents didn't want me to continue studying. When I was elected leader of my village's women's group, I learned about youth issues and gender equality. For the first time in years, I have a goal. I want to make a contribution, even a small one, to change the future of my two daughters. I will try my best to send them to school, teach them to dream and grow wings to fly."

Your support is helping
PROVIDE NUTRITION AND LIVELIHOODS FOR GIRLS IN ZIMBABWE

Progress since 2021 Impact Report: **DOUBLE** the number of people impacted

WHAT YOU'VE HELPED ACHIEVE

TOTAL PEOPLE YOU'VE IMPACTED: 50,125 (vs. 25,000 last year)

Soaring food prices, crop failures and livelihoods hit by COVID-19 lockdowns means Zimbabwe families continue to struggle to feed their families. On top of food vouchers so parents can maintain proper meals and nutrition for children, you're also helping with:

- ✔ **Food assistance baskets** in the lean seasons.
- ✔ **Nutrition workshops** to show families how to feed children a balanced diet to prevent malnutrition.
- ✔ **Training** on how to set up urban backyard gardens.
- ✔ **Savings groups** to encourage self-sustaining income sources.



Sandra, a single mum of four children, watched her children sleep on empty stomachs when lockdowns killed her hairdressing business. "After I attended all the Plan workshops and training, I have managed to build my own vending space and I am now selling a variety of stuff including weaves and wigs."

LACK OF SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

Your support is helping
EMPOWER GIRLS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO MAKE CHOICES ABOUT THEIR BODIES & LIVES

WHAT YOU'VE HELPED ACHIEVE

168

youth get accurate advice about sex, contraception, STDs and where to get help.

176

young women and men learn about domestic violence and healthy relationships.

24

young women's savings and loans groups trained and mentored in financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

TOTAL PEOPLE YOU'VE IMPACTED: 4,459

Through your GEEFund support:

- ✓ Young people say they're more likely to make better informed choices related to sex, pregnancy and future life and livelihood goals.
- ✓ Young women report their husbands are more supportive and open to sharing household decision-making.
- ✓ Positive shift in family violence attitudes, making homes safer for women and helping girls to escape domestic violence.

THE PROBLEM YOU'RE HELPING TO SOLVE

In Bougainville, girls lack information about sexual and reproductive services leading to many unplanned pregnancies. They have limited say in family decisions and domestic violence is common.



You're breaking down gender stereotypes

Graceianne and her husband share decision-making between them. Together, they've chosen to only have children when they're financially stable enough to support them. But she expresses concern about other women who are controlled by their husbands. "Men can be so possessive and violent. Women can't speak up against their husbands for fear they will be beaten up. It is a big challenge for women to live in a male-dominant society, but after attending training on gender and human rights, I have realised that men and women have the same rights."

Progress since 2021 Impact Report: 900 youth and adults educated so far!

FUTURE GOALS – WILL YOU JOIN US?



When you invest in the Girls Education & Empowerment Fund, together we break down the barriers that stop girls from reaching their full potential.

We are aiming to double the impact of this life-changing fund, by supporting over a quarter of a million girls to become powerful women that change the world.

With your help, we want to:

1. Expand our reach and invite more Australians to join us in this movement.
2. Continue leveraging your contributions for greater impact each year.
3. Deepen our impact in communities to create lasting change.

Thank you for transforming the lives of girls for generations to come.

Because a better now for her, means a better future for everyone.

To make a further contribution to the Girls Education & Empowerment Fund, scan the QR code here:



Halima, 15, and her friends stand in the doorway of their school in Kenya.



The charity for
girls' equality

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