



# PLAN INTERNATIONAL PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2023/2024

## About Plan International

Plan International is a global independent development and humanitarian organisation. As one of the oldest, largest and most experienced organisations in our field we work alongside children, young people, supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the injustices facing girls and the most marginalised children.

## Introduction

Plan International Australia welcomes the opportunity to make a 2023/2024 pre-budget submission. The 2023/2024 budget is an opportunity for the Australian Government to reiterate its commitment to gender equality and climate justice, and ensure that the Australian Government is taking its place as a responsible global citizen through famine relief and prevention.

We recognise the ongoing struggle for First Nations justice, the long and continuing history of discrimination and disenfranchisement of First Nations people in Australia, and the marginalisation of Indigenous Peoples globally. The principles of gender, climate, economic and racial justice that underpin the recommendations below are inseparable from First Nations justice and we support the call of First Nations people in relation to Voice, Treaty and Truth-telling along with the budget measures that will enable their realisation. We recognise the critical importance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and that Indigenous children, girls in particular, are among the most marginalised and are frequently denied the realisation of their rights. We recognise that in Australia, and globally, First Nations and Indigenous children and young people are leading the fight for justice and systemic change. We stand in solidarity with them and their communities and commit to ongoing learning and to deep and active listening.

In addition to the below, we support the recommendations of the ACFID Budget Submission.

## Recommendations

Plan International recommends that in the 2023/2024 Federal Budget, the Australian Government:

1. Commit to rebuilding the aid budget, by formalising a 10 year budget framework to ensure ODA at .5 per cent of GNI by 2031-22, and as an interim target, to reach .33 per cent by 2026-27.
2. Sets a target that at least 15 per cent of investments which have the principal or significant objective of advancing gender equality identify adolescent girls and young women as the primary beneficiaries by 2030<sup>1</sup>.
3. Uses intersectional gender-responsive budgeting to meet the needs of adolescent girls in the Australian aid budget.
4. Commits \$24 million over three years (2024-2026) to the UN Global Fund Education Cannot Wait.
5. Develops an inter-sectional gender-transformative humanitarian gender policy.

6. Commits \$150 million for immediate famine relief for the worst affected hunger hotspots of the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, with at least \$30 million through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership.
7. Invests in a long-term Global Food Strategy which tackles the root causes of the hunger crisis.
8. Invests in climate resilience and maximise the provision and access to climate finance by:
  - a. Ensuring that Australia's climate financing is available to a wider range of actors and participants, including governments, civil society and communities
  - b. Provide targeted funding for climate adaptation and resilience initiatives led by diverse women and girls by allocating \$300 million over 4 years to the establishment of a new gender-responsive climate adaptation and resilience fund.
  - c. Make an initial financial commitment to the COP27 Loss and Damage Fund.
9. Increases investment in digital development initiatives to support children and young people's rights to be upheld, and increase opportunities of the digital world.
10. Increases investment in social cohesion approaches that address risks to young people and girls, and build community resilience to increased hateful or violent extremism and its harmful impacts.
11. Invest in stronger and more meaningful partnerships through localisation and support to civil society.
  - a. To support this commitment, in line with the approach taken by USAID, open up small grants – outside of the ANCP program – to fund and empower grassroots female and gender diverse run youth-run organisations in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Rebuilding the Australian Aid Budget

Australia's current aid budget settings do not reflect the need in relation to compounding crises: the pandemic has resulted in an increase in poverty, and widening inequality, especially when it comes to gender equality. Children and young people, especially girls, are disproportionately impacted by multidimensional poverty, made worse by an increase in protracted crises, COVID-19 and climate related disasters. We need an aid budget to match the growing need and to ensure that Australia can support peace and prosperity in our region.

We support the calls of ACFID and the sector to rebuild the Australian aid budget.

### Recommendation 1

The Australian Government commits to rebuilding the aid budget, by formalising a 10 year budget framework to ensure ODA at .5 per cent of GNI by 2031-22, and as an interim target, to reach .33 per cent by 2026-27.

## Targeting adolescent girls in the Australian aid budget

There are currently an estimated 600 million adolescent girls (aged 10—19 years) in the world, the vast majority of whom – around 90 per cent – live in developing countries, with more than half living in the Asia Pacific region. Adolescent girls and gender diverse young people are agents of change within their communities, countries and globally. With the right enabling environment, they have the potential to drive catalytic progress towards gender equality and poverty alleviation.

However, they are held back from realising their full potential as change leaders because of deep rooted and reinforced gendered norm. They are disproportionately affected by poverty, climate change and hunger. They are at particular risk of gender-based violence, exclusion from education, child, early and forced marriage, early pregnancy and labour exploitation, risk factors that were only heightened by the pandemic<sup>ii</sup>.

Despite unique risks facing adolescent girls, they are consistently overlooked and under-resourced in traditional aid and development programs that are aimed at the gender-neutral category of “children” or the ageless category of “women”, with less than 5 per cent of Australia's aid program directed towards programs that meet their specific needs<sup>iii</sup>.

Funding allocations to program that specifically target adolescent girls have decreased since 2016. In 2016, approximately \$77.6 million was spent on sexual and reproductive health information or services

specifically targeting adolescent girls, however in 2020 this decreased to \$30.01 million. Likewise, despite the rise in gender-based violence (GBV) exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the Asia Pacific region, funding to GBV initiatives with adolescent girls as key beneficiaries decreased from approximately \$59.4 million in 2016 to \$43.65 million in 2020.

Adolescence is a critical time for girls, and can determine the trajectory of the rest of their lives. It is also a period during which gender roles and norms intensify, and therefore ideal for engaging adolescent boys alongside girls to disrupt harmful gender norms and promote gender equality. By focusing on adolescent girls, the Australian Government has the opportunity to work alongside them as powerful change agents to help supercharge our efforts towards gender equality. This should be supported by intersectional gender-responsive budgeting, which is a key mechanism that can help to mainstream these efforts throughout the aid budget.

## Recommendation 2

The Australian Government set a target that at least 15 per cent of investments which have the principal or significant objective of advancing gender equality, identify adolescent girls and young women as the primary beneficiaries by 2030.

## Recommendation 3

The Australian Government uses intersectional gender-responsive budgeting to meet the needs of adolescent girls in the Australian aid budget.

## Education as a catalytic investment – especially in emergencies

Education is a catalytic investment when it comes to alleviating poverty. For girls affected by crises, it is even more important, providing protection, normalcy and a sense of hope for their futures.

However, new estimates from Education Cannot Wait (ECW) show a significant increase in the number of school-aged children affected by crisis globally – from 75 million in 2016 to 222 million in 2022. Approximately 78.2 million are out of school – of these, over 50 per cent are girls. There are a further 120 million in school in crisis situations but not achieving minimum proficiency in mathematics or reading.<sup>iv</sup> Adolescent girls in conflict zones are **90 per cent** more likely than their peers in non-conflict settings to be out of school.<sup>v</sup> Despite this, education in emergencies and protracted crises remains underfunded globally.

This is exacerbated by COVID-19 and the climate crisis. Disasters related to climate change, together with protracted humanitarian crises, continue to push children and young people, particularly girls, out of school. A report by the Malala Fund projected that, in 2021 alone, climate-related events would have prevented approximately four million girls in low- and lower-middle-income countries from completing their education. If current trends continue, by 2025, climate change will be a contributing factor in preventing at least 12.5 million girls each year from completing their educations<sup>vi</sup>.

There is an urgent need to invest in building education resilience to enable safe, equitable and quality education for all children in our region. The education sector cannot be excluded from disaster risk reduction strategies, priorities and investments, especially now, as the damaging impacts of school closure have been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A commitment to the ECW fund is a key avenue through which the Australian Government can support girls affected by crises access a quality and inclusive education. ECW's investment modalities have the capacity to deliver rapidly at scale, whilst also ensuring quality and sustainability. In the past five years, ECW's investments have reached a total of 7 million children and youth in some of the most challenging crisis settings, and an additional 31.2 million through COVID-19 interventions. With an increase in focus on climate change as a key part of education in emergencies and protracted crises,<sup>vii</sup> including a regional focus on the Asia Pacific, it is an opportune time to recommit funding to ECW to ensure that all children, especially girls, can access quality, inclusive and safe education in crises.

## Recommendation 4

The Australian Government commits \$24 million over three years (2024-2026) to the UN Global Fund Education Cannot Wait.

## Gender-responsive Australian humanitarian policy and budget

The impacts of humanitarian emergencies on women, adolescent girls and gender diverse people are both disproportionate and unique, distinct from those affecting younger children, boys and men,<sup>viii</sup> These include: child, early and forced marriage; early pregnancy<sup>ix</sup>, which carries higher risks of maternal mortality and morbidity<sup>x</sup>; intimate partner violence, including marital rape<sup>xi</sup>; survival sex<sup>xii</sup>; sexual exploitation and abuse; period poverty; large-scale withdrawal from education; increased sexual violence within the family, the community and by armed groups; reduced access to resources and life-saving support due to lack of childcare; sexual violence while collecting water and firewood; and inequitable intra-household distribution of aid.<sup>xiii</sup>

The Humanitarian Charter<sup>xiv</sup> and the Core Humanitarian Standard<sup>xv</sup> require that humanitarian assistance be equally accessible to, benefit, protect and enable the participation of all those in need. However, these principles are not currently reflected in Australia's humanitarian policy. While Australia's aid policy requires that 80 per cent of development investments effectively address gender equality in their implementation, there is no comparable policy for humanitarian assistance. Australia's current approach to humanitarian policy and funding is gender-insensitive and does not explicitly address the disproportionate and unique impacts of emergencies on women, adolescent girls and gender diverse people. This is both out of step and a missed opportunity for Australia to be seen as a global leader.

Australia's development of an inter-sectional gender-responsive humanitarian policy (with associated targets and indicators) will help to ensure that the particular needs, capacities and priorities of crisis-affected women, adolescent girls and gender diverse people are recognised and addressed. It will afford women, adolescent girls and gender diverse people better protection, increased access to assistance and self-reliance and promote transformative change. It will also lead to better quality and more effective humanitarian outcomes, feeding into the humanitarian—development nexus by tackling pre-existing inequalities as well as the specific impacts of the crisis.

## Recommendation 5

The Australian Government develops an inter-sectional gender-transformative humanitarian gender policy.

## Famine relief and long-term anticipatory action

There are currently 50 million people across 45 countries on the brink of starvation, more than 26 million do not have enough food to eat, and global food insecurity means that over 800 million are going hungry. This is disproportionately affecting women and girls, who make up over 70 per cent of the world's hungry. Hunger levels in Somalia are at crisis point, with more than 513,000 children at the risk of dying from severe acute malnutrition, a significant increase from the 2011 famine.

Conflict, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and an increase in extreme weather events due to climate change are resulting in a food emergency that requires immediate action<sup>xvi</sup>. The hunger crisis has also created a shadow gender-based violence crisis, driving an increase in child marriage and related forms of violence against adolescent girls. While one in five girls globally are married before the age of 18, the prevalence in the Horn of Africa is among the world's highest, averaging 40% before the current emergency<sup>xvii</sup>. Families' efforts to reduce the number of mouths to feed, secure access to food and raise capital have seen child marriage rates double and, in some cases, triple, in affected communities.<sup>xviii</sup>

There is an urgent need for immediate famine relief and the Australian Government must act.

Plan International also urges the Australian Government to consider an activation of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership as part of its response. Complementary to the World Food Programme and the

Emergency Alliance Action, the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) is particularly well placed to respond to the hunger crisis. AHP agencies have decades of experience in responding to humanitarian crises, working efficiently to deliver impact at speed and scale and have extensive and established networks in the Horn of Africa. AHP agencies are particularly well placed to address the impact of and avert the realization of famine in specific locations such as South Sudan, Somalia and Lebanon.

Alongside immediate famine relief, there is a need for investment in a long-term Global Food Strategy which tackles the root cause of the hunger crisis. Substantial investment in prevention, preparedness, child-centred adaptation and anticipatory action is required, and a long-term Global Food Strategy<sup>xix</sup> could:

- Support local food production and protect the most vulnerable from famine, including girls and children
- Fund local actors to ensure that anticipatory and preparatory action is targeted and effective.
- Adopt a child rights-based approach to trade agreements and aid policy, to ensure that the needs and rights of children are upheld in all of Australia's foreign policy, including but not limited to aid policy, and ensure that children receive the food they need to grow, learn and thrive.
- Draw upon Australia's expertise in agricultural innovation systems and help equip other countries with the tools to adapt their farming practices

### **Recommendation 6**

The Australian Government commits \$150 million for immediate famine relief for the worst affected hunger hotspots of the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen, with at least \$30 million of this allocated to the Australian Humanitarian Partnership.

### **Recommendation 7**

The Australian Government invests in a long-term Global Food Strategy which tackles the root causes of the hunger crisis.

## **Climate Change as a Cross-Cutting and Intergenerational Justice Issue**

### **Gender responsive climate adaptation and resilience fund**

Climate change is one of the greatest threat facing humanity. Its impacts are intensifying gender inequalities, particularly for the most marginalised girls, young women and gender diverse young people who have contributed the least to the crisis.

An estimated 1 billion children – nearly half the world's 2.2 billion children – live in one of the 33 countries classified as “extremely high-risk” for climate and environmental shocks, with a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services and wider climate resilience measures<sup>xx</sup>. Among these countries are Bangladesh – home to the world's largest refugee camp, and Myanmar – which is beset by a military coup, ethnic conflict and widespread internal displacement. The 34<sup>th</sup> country is Papua New Guinea – one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman or a girl.

Despite this, girls and young women are stepping up to lead the climate response and they consistently tell us that they want to be part of climate solutions that will help their communities and the world. Australia has a unique role to play in fostering gender-responsive and inclusive approaches that drive effective responses for the most marginalised and climate-affected populations.

Initiatives that support women and girls' technical and leadership skills in climate resilience and adaptation are critical in ensuring that these approaches are responsive to the intersectional needs of diverse women and girls. An allocation of \$300 million over four years for a gender-responsive climate adaptation and resilience fund would enable diverse young women and girls from affected communities and their networks and organisations to drive integrated and gender-responsive climate solutions.

## Loss and Damage

A commitment to a loss and damage fund at COP27 was an important step in ensuring climate justice for our region and globally. Climate change, and associated loss and damage, is disrupting girls' daily lives and futures<sup>xxi</sup> and is the greatest intergenerational injustice facing young people today.

The impacts of loss and damage are experienced in children's and young people's everyday lives as growing inequality; hunger and food insecurity; reduced access to education and health services; the present-day erosion of livelihoods; increased gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage; and loss of loved ones, with the most marginalised likely in rural areas who are also more likely to be dependent on agriculture.

By 2030, the financial cost of loss and damage for developing countries is estimated at between \$290–580 billion (USD) annually and, by 2050, it is estimated to reach \$1–1.8 trillion (USD) annually. This scale of loss and damage must be a key part of how Australia engages with the region over the next decade.

A financial commitment to the Loss and Damage Fund as part of the 2023/2024 budget is a key way the Australian Government can demonstrate both its commitment to climate action and to addressing the concerns of our Pacific neighbours.

All of Australia's climate financing needs to be available to a wide range of actors and participants, including governments, civil society and community, and this should be considered in how both of these funds are implemented.

### Recommendation 8

The Australian Government invests in climate resilience and maximises the provision and access to climate finance by:

- (a) Ensuring that Australia's climate financing is available to a wide range of actors and participants, including governments, civil society and communities
- (b) Provide targeted funding for climate adaptation and resilience initiatives led by diverse women and girls by allocating \$300 million over 4 years to the establishment of a new gender-responsive climate adaptation and resilience fund.
- (c) Make an initial financial commitment to the COP27 Loss and Damage Fund.

## Investing in digital development initiatives to uphold children and young people's rights

It is estimated that globally 1 in 3 internet users are children under the age of 18, and that of young people aged 15 – 24, 71% are online compared with 48% of the total population<sup>xxii</sup>. This number is even higher in the global South, with numbers set to increase<sup>xxiii</sup>. There are significant social wellbeing benefits of increasing digitisation: it is game changing for young women and girls, transforming their right to birth registration, education, health care, political participation and livelihoods. However, it also makes them more susceptible to harm both offline and online<sup>xxiv</sup>. Both the opportunities and the risks associated with digitisation need to be managed in Australia's aid program.

The leadership of the Australian Government to establish the E-Safety Commissioner and the resulting partnership with the Fiji Online Safety Commission, as well as the Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program, and this kind of institutional development should be part of a wider digital development strategy in Australia's aid program. The 2023/2024 Federal budget should include investment to increase similar acts of cooperation across the region, to continue to foster the growth of regional and shared commitments to online safety and protection, as well as capitalising on the opportunities presented by the digital work.

### Recommendation 9

The Australian Government increases investment in digital development initiatives to support children and young people's rights to be upheld, and increase opportunities of the digital world.

## Increasing investment in social cohesion to prevent and build community resilience to violent or hateful extremism

There is a clear and pressing need to increase investment in social cohesion initiatives, particularly community-based prevention approaches that address the risks of violent and hateful extremism (VHE) to marginalised groups such as girls and young women.

Hateful extremism is the incitement of hatred, hate speech and hate acts, and the use or threat of violence, by extremist social movements seeking to bring about political and societal change in the name of certain ideological ends. Comparatively, violent extremism is often an episodic event<sup>xxv</sup>. Adolescence is a critical time in preventing VHE, as it is often characterised as a 'liminal time of flux, weakened social controls of networks, and impressionability as individual seeks relationships and a sense of belonging<sup>xxvi</sup>', that can make adolescents more susceptible to VHE. Conversely, it can also be a time when adolescents can take a lead role in nurturing peace within their communities.

There is a link between VHE and gender, and prevention activities can also help to ensure that 'women, girls and other groups whose voices are currently marginalised live in environments that allow them to participate fully in governance and decision-making about their lives and that of their communities'. Community engagement strategies that focus on opening space for dialogue to overcome prejudice and discrimination, interfaith or intra-faith dialogues and dialogues between different ethnic communities and social groups, and building capacity in critical thinking, digital literacy and evaluating the trustworthiness of different sources of information can all form part of VHE prevention activities, based on community needs and context<sup>xxvii</sup>.

It is essential that the Australian Government increase its investment in prevention programs that involve holistic, community-based approaches that strengthen social cohesion, resilience, peacebuilding, and socioeconomic opportunity, whilst addressing inequality, marginalisation, discrimination, and human rights.

### Recommendation 10

The Australian Government increases investment in social cohesion approaches that address risks to young women and girls, and build community resilience to increased extremism and its harmful impacts.

## Stronger and more meaningful partnerships through localisation and support to civil society

### Localisation

The 2023/2024 budget presents an opportunity for DFAT to further progress its localisation agenda, to form deeper and stronger relationships with partners. It will require high-level policy intent; changes to procurement processes which enable inclusive access for local organisations; a review and change in risk and compliance approaches, and investment in local civil society strengthening, to progress genuine partnership with local actors through the shifting of power, decision-making and resources in order to wrap around the strengths of communities and those who are best placed to respond, and in many cases already doing so, but at the margins of sources of power and resources. This should be underpinned by a decolonised, gender-based and lifecycle approach that shifts power and values locally led knowledge and solutions.

To support localisation, the Australian Government can:

- Articulate aid localisation as a chief priority in the new development policy and drives this through clear policy settings, funding targets and the identification of departmental capabilities and culture required to drive this agenda.
- Explicitly commit to Pacific Policy Frameworks, such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.
- Direct resources towards robust and independent civil society across the Pacific to protect the rights of children, women, and people with disabilities, and to strengthen democracy and

transparency; Tender, and procure the services of local civil society partners in a way which enables and supports their access to DFAT funding opportunities.

- Establish a Pacific Partners Fund to build the capacity of local actors across the Pacific to address the root causes of poverty and inequality; and to progress CCA.
- Commit to a progressive increase in funding to local organisations, to reach 25% of DFATs aid budget.
- Formalise frameworks to include diverse local voices into DFAT's planning, policy development and decision making (clear pathway for dialogue and advice with local actors) i.e., a strategy for regular engagement with regional civil society actors.
- Simplify DFAT's compliance requirements, at least for new partners or grassroots local organisations, including youth led and women's rights organizations. This would require DFATs to increase its risk appetite to ensure that the proportionate and appropriate safeguards in place, but also enable community led development and humanitarian work.
- Review key reporting mechanisms and performance indicators with a view to locally led co-creation to ensure frameworks are context and culturally appropriate and provide a better balance of accountability between Australia and its partners, and moving to a decolonised system that holds Australia accountable to local actors.
- Commit to accountability to children and young people, through specific mechanisms for children and young people, and youth led CSOs, to evaluate, review and provide feedback on the effectiveness of the development policy and program.

### **Supporting young women and gender diverse young people's leadership in our region**

Young women and gender diverse young people are extraordinary leaders and change-makers. From gender equality to climate justice to the spectrum of issues in between, we see them leading movements for change. Yet whilst they have both the ability and passion to create change, they often do not have equal opportunities, power or privilege to become leaders, or engage in political processes. More often, young women and gender diverse young people are engaging in informal and grassroots networks to drive change, especially around climate action.

Plan International's report [Rising Tides](#) mapped youth-led and supported groups across nine countries, and found that invariably these groups are boldly advocating for renewable energy, reforestation, ecosystem protection, better waste management, resilient infrastructure and social systems that are more responsive to the needs of everyone. These groups also highlight the intersection between climate resilience and inclusive education, sanitation and other essential services.

However, it also found that youth-led groups are rarely seen as equal partners and suffer from structural obstacles such as a lack of access to resources, a lack of funding and other structural barriers such as shrinking civil space and patriarchal and hierarchal cultural norms.

This finding was echoed in a collaborative youth led project across Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia – [Voices for Change](#), which found that young women and gender diverse young people want to be engaged by decision makers, but are excluded from formal political spaces or are discouraged from participating due to a lack of transparency and accountability and a lack of diversity of representation.

Both reports recommend supporting youth led movements and networks in the region, especially working with and for young women and gender diverse young people. Current DFAT compliance requirements often exclude youth led networks, as the administrative and resourcing burden is unrealistic.

In line with DFAT's commitment to localisation, flexible funding should be made available in the aid budget to support these youth-led networks, which will both support youth leadership in our region, as well as progress on gender and climate justice.

### **Recommendation 11**

The Australian Government invests in stronger and more meaningful partnerships through localisation and support to civil society.

- (a) To support this commitment, open up small grants to fund and empower grassroots female and gender diverse run youth-run organisations in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Contact

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## Endnotes

<sup>i</sup> Based on recent figures, 45 per cent of Australia's aid budget goes towards programs which have gender equality as a principal or significant objective. With less than 5% of current investments directed towards adolescent girls but almost 14% of potential investments, formalising a target of 15% would make adolescent girls visible and allow more ambition into the future.

<sup>ii</sup> UN Women (2020) From Insight to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19, retrieved from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-COVID-19-en.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.plan.org.au/publications/girls-to-the-front-time-for-foreign-aid-to-see-adolescent-girls/>

<sup>iv</sup> Education Cannot Wait, 2022, Global Estimates: Number of crisis-affected children and adolescents in need of education support, retrieved from: [https://www.educationcannotwait.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ecw\\_globalestimatesstudy\\_june2022.pdf](https://www.educationcannotwait.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ecw_globalestimatesstudy_june2022.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHO-2021-Abridged-EN.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> Malala Fund, 2020, A greener, fairer future: Why leaders need to invest in climate and girls' education, available at:

<https://www.ungei.org/publication/greener-fairer-future#:~:text=Malala%20Fund's%20new%20report%2C%20A.continue%2C%20by%202025>

<sup>vii</sup> Education Cannot Wait Strategic Plan 2023-2026, p. 22

<sup>viii</sup> UN Women (2020) From Insight to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19, retrieved from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-COVID-19-en.pdf>

See also: Plan International (2018): Half a Billion Reasons, retrieved from: <https://www.plan.org.au/publications/half-a-billion-reasons/>; and Plan International (2022): Running on Empty, retrieved from: <https://www.plan.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Running-on-empty-GlobalHungerCrisis.pdf>

<sup>ix</sup> New data reveals that 45 per cent of first-time adolescent mothers (aged 10—19) are children themselves — that is, 17 years and younger and that the majority of first births to girls under the age of 18 occur within a marriage or union. See UNFPA (2022): State of the World Population 2022: Seeing the unseen—The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy, retrieved from [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN\\_SWP22%20report\\_0.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN_SWP22%20report_0.pdf)

<sup>x</sup> Complications during pregnancy and childbirth has become the leading global cause of death among 15–19-year-old females. See World Health Organisation, retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-pregnancy> Globally, girls aged 15—19 are twice as likely to die during delivery than women in their 20s, while girls aged 10—14 are five times more likely to die during childbirth than women in their 20s. See UNFPA (2012): Giving birth should not be a matter of life and death, retrieved from <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/EN-SRH%20fact%20sheet-LifeandDeath.pdf>

<sup>xi</sup> Plan International (2020): Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Unions Policy Brief, retrieved at [https://plan-international.org/uploads/2022/02/glo-cefmu\\_policy\\_brief-final-io-eng-jan21-1.pdf](https://plan-international.org/uploads/2022/02/glo-cefmu_policy_brief-final-io-eng-jan21-1.pdf); ECPAT and Plan International (2015) Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage, retrieved from [https://plan-international.org/uploads/2022/01/child\\_marriage\\_and\\_csec\\_thematic\\_report\\_plan\\_international\\_and\\_ecpat.pdf](https://plan-international.org/uploads/2022/01/child_marriage_and_csec_thematic_report_plan_international_and_ecpat.pdf)

<sup>xii</sup> K Patel *et al* (2022): A systematic review of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) during humanitarian crises and/or emergencies in low- and middle-income countries in *Frontiers in Public Health*, Vol.10, retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9555566/>; Timothy Williams *et al* (2018): "It isn't that we're prostitutes": Child protection and sexual exploitation of adolescent girls within and beyond refugee camps in Rwanda in *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol.86, 158-166

<sup>xiii</sup> IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook 2018

<sup>xiv</sup> Sphere Project (2018): Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, at <https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/the-humanitarian-charter.pdf>

<sup>xv</sup> CHS Alliance, Group URD and Sphere Project (2014): Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability, at <https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/files/files/Core%20Humanitarian%20Standard%20-%20English.pdf>

<sup>xvi</sup> Help Fight Famine campaign, 20202, The Global Food Solution: conflict and climate proofing world supply.

<sup>xvii</sup> <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/atlas/>

<sup>xviii</sup> <https://www.plan.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Running-on-empty-GlobalHungerCrisis.pdf>  
<https://plan-international.org/uploads/sites/26/2022/10/POLICY-BRIEF-A-GENDERED-IMPACT-OF-THE-HUNGER-AND-DROUGHT-CRISIS-IN-THE-HORN-OF-AFRICA.pdf>  
<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Understanding-Child-Marriage-Food-Insecure-Communities-Zimbabwe.pdf>  
<https://www.plan.org.au/publications/food-security-as-a-modality-for-change/>

<sup>xix</sup> Help Fight Famine campaign, 20202, The Global Food Solution: conflict and climate proofing world supply.

<sup>xx</sup> UNICEF (2021) The climate crisis is a child rights crisis

<sup>xxi</sup> Plan International (2021) Adolescent Girls in the Climate Crisis: Voices from Zambia and Zimbabwe, retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org/publications/adolescent-girls-in-the-climate-crisis-voices-from-zambia-and-zimbabwe/#download-options>

<sup>xxii</sup> UNICEF (2019) Growing up in a connected world. Florence: UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti.

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