

Unlocking development investment for adolescent girls

Policy briefing contract Terms of Reference

About Plan

Plan International Australia (PIA) is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We believe in the power and potential of every child but know this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion, and discrimination. And it is girls who are most affected.

Find out more about PIA's work [here](#).

Background and rationale

Plan International Australia has a focus on children and particularly girls' equality. Over a long period, with allies, Plan has undertaken advocacy to the Australian government for a greater focus on adolescent girls within its overseas development assistance.

There is compelling evidence about the extent to which adolescent girls as a cohort are left out of or inadequately reached through interventions that target either children or women more broadly, and about the particular needs, risks and opportunities of adolescent girls related to their individual development outcomes, those of their families and communities. [Plan's own research](#) identified that only 5% of Australia's official development assistance has a focus on adolescent girls.

The growing impacts of the climate crisis, global aid cuts and the rise of organised anti-rights movements in the Asia Pacific and beyond are further impacts girls' abilities to make their own choices and realise their rights.

Despite this, Australia's development assistance remains largely blind to the particular needs and opportunities of a focus on adolescent girls. Adolescent girls are not identified as a priority cohort in Australia's development policy and strategy framework – incorporating the International Development Policy, the Humanitarian Policy, the International Gender Equality Strategy (IGES), the International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy (IDEARS). There is no child and youth strategy in the development program, nor a children and youth focal point, not specific targets regarding the portion of funding that targets this cohort.

Context

In April 2026, Australia will host the Women Deliver conference, on gender quality with a focus on body autonomy and adolescent girls. In the lead up to this conference, Plan is working with colleagues across the sector to call for a range of commitments and investments from the Australian government and Australian philanthropy. One of these is a proposed landmark investment in adolescent girls across the Asia Pacific region, the Girls Resilient Futures Fund.

The proposed fund would enable targeted support for adolescent girls in line with the priorities outlined in the IGES with a strong focus on the growing impacts of climate change in the region.

To support advocacy towards that goal, Plan is seeking support to develop a briefing paper that presents a compelling case for the value and necessity specific investment in adolescent girls in the Asia Pacific region.

Contract deliverable

A compelling, evidence based public briefing paper that presents a clear and compelling case for targeted investment in adolescent girls as part of making progress towards the sustainable development goals and achieving Australia's development priorities.

The report should:

- Draw on existing evidence and research to describe:
 - the particular experiences and needs of adolescent girls,
 - the real and opportunity costs of overlooking adolescent girls in development efforts
 - positive examples of when targeted investment in adolescent girls has resulted in positive outcomes
- Make a strong case for how targeted investment in adolescent girls would support the achievement of Australia's development priorities, with a particular focus on achieving the ambition of the IGES but also connecting with IDEARS.

Key audiences

1. **Policy and decision makers in government and philanthropic entities**, to guide commitment to the Girls Resilient Fund and more broadly, funding and policy towards adolescent girls across portfolios.



Until we are all equal

2. **Development sector program designers and implementors**, to strengthen consideration and integration of adolescent girls in program design and delivery.

Project stages

1. Inception meeting to discuss proposal submitted as part of application
2. Project plan finalised and approved
3. Check in meeting to discuss desk research findings and proposed approach
4. Draft report submitted, feedback provided
5. Final report submitted

Timeline

Delivery of final report by 12 December 2025

Budget & payment

- Estimated 7-8 days of work
- Budget available \$8,500
- Payment of 30% on project plan approval, balance of 70% on receipt of final report

Key requirements

The consultant should demonstrate:

- Demonstrated skills and research and analysis in the development context
- Knowledge and understanding of gender equality and human rights policy
- Demonstrated strong persuasive writing skills
- Knowledge and experience working in the Asia Pacific context

Application process

Interested applicants should submit one PDF document that includes:

- A proposal on approach to the work demonstrating understanding of the brief, a plan and timeline for completion of the work within budget and timeframe
- CV highlighting relevant skills and experience