# GIRLS STANDING STRONG

# CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE

We strive for a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls.

#### Our ambition for 2027:

- A world where all girls know and exercise their rights and live the life they choose.
- A network of supporters, communities, staff, partners, and donors, all supporting girls and young women to stand strong
  as they learn, lead, decide, and thrive.
- Global change through breaking down the barriers and discrimination girls and young women currently face every minute, every hour, every day.

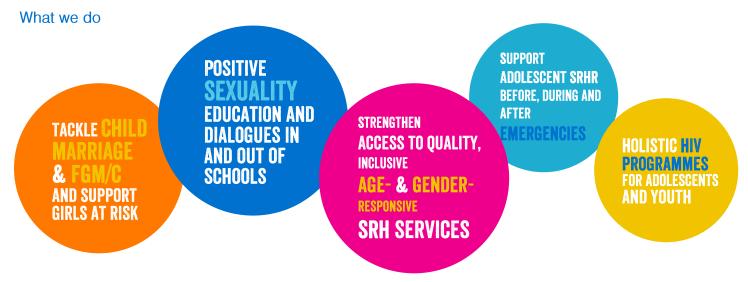
Plan International will work, alongside partners, boys, men, and local communities, to support girls in all circumstances, especially in fragile contexts, fighting injustice or facing crisis. When girls thrive in a more equal world, we are all stronger for it.

Plan International is a multi-sectoral organisation focused on supporting girls in their communities to learn, lead, decide and thrive. At ICFP 2022, we are proud to shine a spotlight on our SRHR learning and progress.

## OUR WORK ON SRHR

#### What we want

Children, adolescents and young people in all their diversity have control of their lives and bodies, and can make decisions about their sexuality, free from discrimination, coercion or violence. This includes whether, when and with whom to have sex, marry and have a child.



In addition, Plan International invests in internal transformation across all levels of the organisation, and with our partners, on values and attitudes related to SRHR, to ensure the quality and consistency of approaches and messages.

#### Gender-transformative SRHR programme and influencing

In Plan International, we believe that there are six elements which can help us to gradually achieve gender transformative programming and influencing. They are:

- 1. Addressing gender norms throughout the life-course.
- 2. Strengthening girls' and young women's agency.
- 3. Advancing both the condition and position of girls, young women, and women.
- 4. Working with boys, young men, and men to embrace gender equality and exercise positive and diverse masculinities.
- 5. Responding to the needs and interests of girls and boys in all their diversity.
- 6. Fostering an enabling environment for gender equality and girls' rights





### Snapshots from the past year

In 2021-22, Plan International country offices across the world reported over 65 million EUR in programme expenditures on SRHR. Our fastest growing area of spend in on SRHR in emergencies.

Comprehensive sexuality education is a foundational component of our work, with programming and influencing taking place in all the regions where we work. Our holistic approach emphasises strengthening content, delivery and an enabling environment. In 2022, we launched operational research from El Salvador, Laos and Zimbabwe by Torchlight Initiative. We piloted CSE with parents and caregivers in Bangladesh, which is being tested in multiple other countries in 2023.

Strengthening access to age- and gender-responsive SRH services continues to a top priority for offices across the world. Programmes promote service uptake and address barriers that adolescents and young people face, as well as strengthens health systems to improve service quality. A key strategy is to build capacity of health workers to deliver services that are inclusive, and age- and gender-responsive.

Plan International's work around harmful practices (CEFMU and FGM/C in particular), is underpinned by multi-sector and multi-level approaches and responses, with a focus on prevention. In 2022, we endorsed the <u>Girls' Sexuality and CEFMU Conceptual Framework</u>.

In the last year, Plan International has supported SRHR in Emergencies responses in several humanitarain contexts, including the Ukraine crisis, the hunger crisis in e.g. South Sudan and Haiti, in the typhoon response in Philippines and in the refugee response in Bangladesh.

We continue to contribute to the evidence-base for positive and holistic approaches to adolescent sexuality. Research conducted with Karolinska Institute, Ghent University and Rutgers presented findings from Ecuador and Uganda on young peoples' voices on sexual wellbeing and consent Say it Out Loud: Sexual Wellbeing Matters.

### Our global advocacy objectives:

SRHR GOAL: Girls and young women in all their diversity are able to have control over their own bodies, enjoy positive sexual experiences and realise the full extent of their sexual and reproductive health and rights free from discrimination, coercion or violence, both in development and humanitarian settings.

**CEFMU GOAL:** Significant progress is made towards preventing and reducing child, early and forced marriages and unions (CEFMU) and realising the right of all girls and young women to freely decide if, when and to whom they should marry across both development and humanitarian contexts. Married girls and young women as well as those at risk of CEFMU will have access to the services and opportunities needed to make decisions about their lives and to thrive.

Our global partners include:















