

IAP Report 2017, Call for Evidence and Contributions

Submission from Plan International

Plan International, Inc. is an independent development and humanitarian organisation founded in 1937 that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We strive for a just world, working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners. We are active in more than 70 countries.

To fulfil the promise of the 2030 Global Goals, Plan International's five-year Global Strategy is designed to deliver significant change for girls and boys, putting a special emphasis on gender equality. Our ambition is to work beside girls, and take action together so 100 million girls learn, lead, decide and thrive.

Plan International welcomes the call for evidence. Please find below some select information based on Plan International's work. Further details and evidence can be provided upon request.

1) Effective Accountability Mechanisms at all levels, with a Focus on Adolescents

Accountability:

- Plan International has been using the Community Score Card (CSC) to improve the quality of services, including in health and sexual health, education, protection, water and sanitation. The CSC help to reach three objectives: children and youth participation; improvement of state and CSO actors' accountability; strengthening communities and parents' social engagement and responsibility.¹

This methodology is being used by Plan International in Ghana for the Young Voices Project, which aims to contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality and improve SRHR.²

Plan International, together with CERG, is developing plans to scale up a child-sensitive, gender equitable and inclusive scorecards approach to address challenges of participation of girls and excluded groups. Plan International has also been developing a youth friendly services tool and youth score cards as a way to assess ASRH services "friendliness".

Plan International Togo also uses the "Community Chart" approach to protect adolescent girls from harmful norms and practices related to sexual rights. Through this approach and during community fora, harmful norms and practices are identified and a reflection on the consequences of those on girls' life takes place. Afterwards, the group identifies "new social norms", set up prohibitions and sanctions toward those who will contravene the new norms. This is helping to tackle sexual assaults against girls, unwanted pregnancy and other related problems and also reinforces communities' responsibility.

- Plan International UK's 'Action2020' is an adolescent-led Family Planning accountability programme aimed to contribute to the achievement of the global goal of reaching 120 million women and girls with voluntary family planning by holding governments to account for their FP2020 commitments.³

- Plan International UK works in Brazil, India and Kenya with AstraZeneca on their Young Health Programme,⁴ a multi-country youth initiative focused on tackling risk behaviours and primary prevention, and empowering young people to identify their health needs. The programme deals with, among others, the impact of media and advertising on gendered attitudes to health. Learning from programme implementation in India and Kenya highlights that boys face pressure to comply with prevailing norms of masculinity, which can drive them to risk behaviours such as alcohol use or unprotected sexual activities. Further information and learnings can be shared upon request.

- The impact of social media and experiences of gender-based harassment online and in the digital space in the UK has also been explored by Plan International.⁵

Legal and Policy Reforms:

Since 2014, there have been a number of positive developments for which Plan International campaigned, for example:

¹ See Annex 1 attached with submission.

² Plan International, "[Ghana: Youth take the lead in addressing poor health services](#)".

³ Lessons on Family Planning Accountability Programming Action 2020 Programme (2015) paper available to download [here](#).

⁴ For more information please see <https://www.younghealthprogrammehp.com/>

⁵ Plan International UK and Russel et al, [The State of Girls' Rights in the UK](#), (2016).

- UK: Children and Social Work Bill on 1 March 2017 (Obligatory CSE)
- Malawi: Marriage Act in 2015 (minimum age of marriage 18)
- Guatemala: Reform of the Civil Code (Decreto 8-2015) (minimum age of marriage 18)

2) Large-scale Programmes & Investments for Adolescent Health and Beyond at national, provincial and district levels, including cross-sectoral national strategies and investment frameworks

- Plan International Canada's multi-country initiative (Bangladesh, Ghana, Haiti, Nigeria and Senegal), SHOW (Strengthening Health Outcomes for Women and Children) and the Bauchi Opportunities for Responsive Neonatal and Maternal Health (BORN) projects seek to contribute to the reduction of maternal and child mortality, with a focus on the most marginalized women and adolescence, and their children. At baseline, research was done to better understand gender responsiveness and adolescent friendliness of health services, assess health facility and review supply of services geared towards adolescents, using innovative methodology and indicators.

3) Resource Flows for Adolescent Health & Rights

Plan International's Regional Office of the Americas has carried out a study in Central America analyzing national budgets based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the quality elements of public expenditure mentioned in General Comment No. 19 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Results from analysis of *executed* (not planned) government budgets from 2007 to 2013 tell us that, with the exception of Costa Rica, the Governments of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama) invest less than \$ 1 per day in Girls, Children and Adolescents to cover all their rights.⁶

4) More broadly, recent examples of promising monitoring and accountability initiatives

Plan International is a key partner on the "[Equal Measures 2030 initiative](#)", alongside several global partners from the non-profit, research and private sectors, who are combining strengths and global reach to create a trusted, independent annual assessment of Sustainable Development Goals implementation for girls and women over the fifteen-year lifespan of the Goals. Using existing and new quantitative and qualitative data we will monitor strategically chosen gender-related SDG indicators to track the progress being made for girls and women across key lifecycle stages.

Plan International will also use the human rights monitoring mechanisms, in particular the Universal Periodic Review, the CRC and CEDAW, to hold States to account for their SDG commitments, including on goals 3, 5 and 16.

⁶ Plan International and Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies Central America [Regional analysis on investment in children and adolescents 2010-2013](#) (2015)