

Plan International Switzerland




The Girls' Rights Organisation

# Annual Report 2024

Our project work  
from July 2023  
to June 2024





“Today’s decisions  
are affecting  
us all, especially  
us young  
people.”

Elma (19), #GirlsTakeover participant 2023

## Imprint

### Annual Report 2024

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# Dear Supporters, Partners, and Friends,

2024 was undoubtedly a year marked by challenges; but it was also a year full of hope and collective action as we worked to further children’s rights and gender equality. Over the past year, we have reached millions of children through education, protection, and emergency response programs. From responding to climate-induced disasters to championing girls’ education, our work has left a lasting impact in vulnerable communities.

We have  
reached millions of  
children through  
education, protection,  
and emergency  
response programs.

Despite ongoing conflicts and natural disasters, our partnerships and dedicated local teams enabled us to deliver hope for the most vulnerable, in particular girls. Plan International has carried out **87 disaster relief missions** worldwide, ranging from local operations to large-scale national and regional emergencies. Crises disproportionately affect girls and young women, widening the gender gap and exacerbating existing inequalities. In times of emergency, adolescent girls are more likely to drop out of school, face violence and discrimination, marry early, experience early pregnancies, and lose their livelihoods. These challenges, rooted in gender inequality and discrimination, prevent girls from realizing their full potential. In short, disasters place significant barriers in their path to a brighter future.

As an independent humanitarian and development organization dedicated to girls’ rights and gender equality, our efforts to protect and empower girls and young women were more crucial than ever over the past year. Last year, we launched several new projects focused on education and protection, through strengthened long-standing partnerships and exciting new opportunities. These collaborations enabled us to deliver high-quality programs in multiple countries across several regions, reaching those who need it most.

In 2024, with your support, we increased the amount of funding we raised for our projects by **13.3 per cent**, totalling **CHF 8.5 million**. **84 per cent** of this went directly into our project work.

Let yourself get inspired by the work showcased on the following pages, such as our education programme in Brazil or our humanitarian work in crisis situations.

Our success would not have been possible without you – our supporters, partners, and friends. We are **deeply grateful for your trust and generosity** and proud to have you by our side as we strive for a just world where girls and young women can live free from violence, oppression, and exploitation, empowering them to unlock their full potential.

Cordially,



**Elizabeth Kiewisch** **Hillechien van der Klaauw** **Jochen Stark**

*Co-Directors, Plan International Switzerland*



**To protect,  
educate and  
empower  
girls world-  
wide**

## Plan International Switzerland

Plan International Switzerland is an independent Non-Profit-Organisation and part of the global Plan International network. Since its foundation in 2006, Plan International Switzerland is working to advance gender equality and children's rights in different parts of the world. Our programmes create the conditions for adolescent girls and young adults to be educated, protected and economically empowered.

## Transparent and audited

Plan International is a member of Accountable Now, a cross-sector platform for civil society organizations working internationally. Together, we commit to being transparent, responsive to stakeholders and focused on delivering impact. We signed [the twelve commitments](#) of the Global Standard for CSO Accountability, respect the human rights and work ethically, professionally and independently.



**What Plan  
International  
has achieved  
globally in  
2024**

Numbers: Plan International Global Hub,  
Finanzjahr 2023/2024

Active in  
**83**  
countries

Inclusive and quality  
education for over  
**17.7m**  
girls, boys, young adults

Improved sexual and  
reproductive health for  
**5.7m**  
girls

Reached over  
**43 m**  
children worldwide

Inclusive and quality  
education for over  
**5.2 m**  
girls

Better start in life  
for over  
**8.5 m**  
girls

■ **Countries  
in which Plan  
International  
is active**

■ **Project countries  
of Plan International  
Switzerland**

- Brazil
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Laos
- Lebanon
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Philippines
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe

● **Plan International  
Global Hub, Woking,  
United Kingdom**

● **Regional Offices**

- Bangkok, Thailand
- Dakar, Senegal
- Nairobi, Kenya
- Panama City, Panama

● **Advocacy Offices**

- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Brussels, Belgium
- Geneva, Switzerland
- New York, USA



## Future Leaders

YEE Protection

### Project description

This project aims to improve the leadership skills and social cohesion of Syrian refugees and Egyptian host communities. Young women and men develop their leadership skills to promote gender equality and combat gender discriminatory social norms and support their peers to advocate for these issues. This in turn will lead to increased interaction between Syrians and Egyptians, which they can use to address issues they both face in their communities.

Another aim of the project is for children and young people, with the support of their parents, to take protective measures, have access to prevention and response information and services, and support and promote non-violent behaviour.

### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
May 2022 – December 2023

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
**550** young women and men (approximately 30 % of whom are Egyptians at risk, approximately 70 % Syrian refugees; **300** young people aged 18 – 24, of whom at least 50 % are women; **250** parents and adults (at least 50 % women)

**ACHIEVEMENTS**  
✓ Activities effectively promoted leadership skills among youth, facilitated gender equality discussions, and empowered young leaders.

- ✓ Psychosocial support sessions provided valuable insights, improved group cohesion, and successfully reached more participants than anticipated.
- ✓ Surpassed targets for project participants in most activities.
- ✓ Enhanced parent-child relationships, awareness on child protection, and gender equality through sports integration events.
- ✓ Utilized social media campaigns to advocate for youth leadership and social cohesion.
- ✓ Enabled youth to voice their needs, demands, and solutions to policymakers in networking meetings.

## Africa

# Project overview

July 2023 – June 2024

Plan International Switzerland's programmatic work covers three thematic areas: protection, education and economic empowerment, with a special focus on advancing and promoting girls' and women's rights. We implement programmes in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, South and Central America. Adolescent girls and young adults are at the centre of action. We empower them as agents of change and promote their participation and leadership.

Completed projects

New projects

## Towards an Empowering Future

YEE

### Project description

The overall objective of the project is for young women and men to improve their economic self-reliance and to be empowered to fight gender inequality in an increasingly protective and supportive environment. This will be achieved through entrepreneurship training activities. This includes financial literacy and life skills training to equip young entrepreneurs with

the necessary skills and knowledge to start and run their businesses. Particularly promising business ideas are supported by a grant to boost business operations. Other young people benefit from targeted vocational training tailored to their individual needs.

The project addresses issues around gender equality using Plan's Champions of Change (CoC) method. The method is creative, participatory, engaging and modern in its approach. The programme targets both girls and boys with the aim of developing young people's skills as peer educators on gender equality and girls' rights.



### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
July 2022 – July 2027

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
**1,200** families, approximately **2,400** individuals

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ **2,498** young people have attended the information sessions to develop their skills and access for self-employment opportunities.
- ✓ **687** youth attended "enterprise your life" and financial literacy trainings (Enterprise Your Life is a curriculum designed to transfer key enterprising life skills to youth to enhance their engagement in a wide range of income-generating activities).
- ✓ **165** business plans were submitted and selected for funding.
- ✓ **26** facilitators attended training on CoC.
- ✓ **476** girls and boys have successfully completed CoC training module and activities.
- ✓ **50** governmental officials attended Influencing and gender equality trainings.
- ✓ **74** Community members attended trainings on gender equality.
- ✓ **12** Child protection committees have been formed.
- ✓ **1** multi-sectoral referral mechanism was established.
- ✓ **17** media focal points have attended gender equality and discrimination training.







In a camp for internally displaced persons, a group discusses child protection.

📍 South Sudan

## Integrated protection, skills building

📌 YEE Protection Education

### Project description

The project empowers children, youth, families, and communities to improve their resilience and protect themselves from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. By targeting barriers in the areas of protection, education, and livelihood opportunities, Plan International works to facilitate a more protective and enabling environment for children and young people to exercise their rights in the Central Equatoria State of South Sudan.

### Key data

📅 **TIMEFRAME**  
Juni 2023 – Juni 2025

👥 **PEOPLE REACHED**  
**40,000** persons (12,000 boys, 14,000 girls, 6,000 men, 8,000 women) across all 3 locations; including 205 persons with disability (90 boys and men, 115 girls and women)

🚩 **ACHIEVEMENTS**  
✓ **10,727** (5,011 male and 5,716 female) community members were reached with awareness raising sessions conducted in the community on Child Protection, GBV, gender and safeguarding also through radio talk shows.

📍 South Sudan

## Child Protection, Gender Based Violence NEW

📌 Protection GBV

### Project description

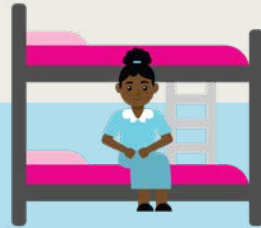
This project aims to ensure that returnee and refugee children, including adolescents, and their caregivers have access to better quality protection services.

### Key data

📅 **TIMEFRAME**  
April 2024 – April 2026

👥 **PEOPLE REACHED**  
planned: **15,000** children (8,000 girls and 7,000 boys); **7,000** caregivers (4,000 women and 3,000 men); including 300 persons with disability

🚩 **ACHIEVEMENTS**  
Outcomes are expected after the first year.



## Gender-transformative programme work – for a sustainable impact

A gender-transformative approach tackles the root causes of gender inequality and reshapes unequal power relations in the long term. A holistic promotion of gender equality is at the heart of an intervention, for example by empowering girls and women as well as engaging boys and men. Our goal for the future is for all of our programmes to be gender-transformative.

📍 Tanzania

## Protecting Girls from FGM ✓

📌 Protection from harmful practices  
FGM

### Project description

This project aims to help prevent harmful practices that lead to child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) in the Mara region of Tanzania:

- The resilience of adolescent girls is strengthened, especially those girls who are potentially at risk of child marriage, FGM and other forms of abuse.
- An enabling environment is created for the promotion of girls' rights and gender equality, as both are related to the elimination of the above-mentioned risks.
- To achieve the results, the project targets girls and boys at the individual level, but also addresses challenges at the family level by reaching out to parents and mobilising communities and duty bearers to support girls to resist child marriage and FGM.



### Abbreviations

FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
YEE	Youth Economic Empowerment
GBV	Gender Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
MHM	Menstrual Health Management
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths
CoC	Champions of Change
DRR/DRM	Disaster Risk Reduction / Management
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual
SPP	Summer Pre-School Programme
LOST	Lebanese Organisation for Studies and Training
PSS	Psychosocial Support

### Key data

📅 **TIMEFRAME**  
April 2021 – Juni 2024

- 🚩 **ACHIEVEMENTS**
- ✓ Increased self-esteem and confidence in children, adolescents, and youth participating in the project: this was observed through their active participation in discussion and confidence in seeking support from the guidance and Counselling teachers, but also making informed decisions for their well-being.
  - ✓ Men and boys are actively engaging in local advocacy for girls' rights specifically in reducing harmful practices and they are contributing to protecting girls against violence.
  - ✓ The project has also observed a positive change in parenting groups, the parents have started following up on risky behaviours, and risk areas, identifying children's need for support, and linking to women and children protection committees.
  - ✓ Villages declaring FGM free: One village of Turugeti in Bumera Ward managed to say no to the FGM season of 2022, no girl was mutilated in the whole village, which has never happened before. The results were pioneered by project intervention of the women and child protection committee along with mother and father group discussion on positive parenting that results in the prevention of FGM.
  - ✓ There are more than 25 cases of girls who were supported by the project to be free from child marriage and allowed to attend school.



**We stand up  
for children  
worldwide.**

[www.plan.ch](http://www.plan.ch)



## Futures for Youth NEW

Entrepreneurship skills Education Community support

### Project description

The overall goal of the project is to provide enhanced sustainable, productive economic development for youth, particularly young women, in a gender-responsive and supportive environment for entrepreneurship in Chiredzi Rural district, Zimbabwe. It seeks to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of 300 youth, particularly young women in Chiredzi.

With support from Plan International Switzerland, Plan Zimbabwe implements a project hinged on youth entrepreneurship in rural, marginalised communities of Chiredzi. The project uses a gender transformative approach to address contextual issues fuelling youth unemployment in the district such as limited access to capital, multi-dimensional poverty, gender disparities, and youth migration, among other issues.

### The project's three main implementation strategies

- 1 To supply youth with demand-driven skills through entrepreneurship training to curb youth unemployment and limited access to livelihood.
- 2 Introduction of climate-smart innovations including green skills for improved market linkage and environmental sustainability for those already engaged in the agricultural sector.
- 3 The project incorporates an agency-building component for young women to enhance community support to young women, including active participation of men as allies for gender equality.

### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
January 2024 – December 2026

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
400 young people aged 18 to 30; 600 participants who will be comprise of caregivers, communities, local entrepreneurs and community leaders (norm and policy change); 8,000 indirect beneficiaries (including 60 % women and vulnerable youth via community engagement activities)

**ACHIEVEMENTS**  
✓ Project setup activities (partner due diligence; Gender and Child Safeguarding including Protection)

- ✓ Outreach activities yielded a strong interest of youth in the form of high registration numbers for the project.
- ✓ Community elders as well as local government officials were invited to the kick-off meeting. They were pleased to see the project start and are committed to supporting the project.
- ✓ Skills and opportunities mapping with youth
- ✓ Procurement activities were completed for Vocational Skills Training, Entrepreneurship Training and agricultural activities
- ✓ Training of young people on the savings group methodology



Education and awareness-raising session

"I am very excited to be given this opportunity. Already as a girl, I decided I wanted to do a course in Solar Installation even though it was a male dominated job. With the acquired skills and knowledge, I will own my own project and earn a living. I know this will change my life."

Trance Chirapasi (25), Gwanetsa village

## Asia



"SPP is very useful for my daughter and the children in the village, because there is no pre-primary school. The project also supports children to eat at school – so I can take care of the work at the field."

Ms. Bounmee (29), sends her daughter to the SPP

### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
April 2022 – März 2025

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
2,438 participants, including 1,339 girls; 600 summer pre-school children, 40 SPP class teachers and assistants, 750 parents, 48 national, provincial and district education staff and 1,000 primary school children from the WASH activities.

- ACHIEVEMENTS**
- ✓ The teacher training for the SPP 10-week course in 20 target schools/villages was conducted with a total of 52 teachers (41 women, 11 men).
  - ✓ A total of 317 children (173 females, 144 males) were enrolled. To assess the pupils' performance, pre- and post-tests were held before and after the SPP. Post-test results revealed that 69 % of children improved their scores by at least 70 %, compared to 10 % before SPP.

- ✓ Simultaneously with the SPP course, positive parenting sessions were conducted for parents and caregivers. These sessions focused extensively on parents' engagement in their children's learning. The primary objectives of positive parenting were to increase parental/caregiver involvement in SPP, equip them to support ongoing learning, promote gender equality, and implement positive discipline practices

## Ready, Set, Go!

Early childhood development Inclusive education WASH

### Project description

This project aims to improve the educational opportunities of children under the age of 5 in Bokeo Province, Laos. The children benefiting from this project are mainly from rural areas and ethnic minorities who are excluded from public early childhood education and care services due to their geographical isolation. By participating in summer pre-school programmes (SPP), these children are prepared for the transition to primary school and their equal opportunities in the education system are strengthened.

## Girls Learn Equally ✓

Inclusive education STEAM

### Project description


The main objective of the project was to increase the access for children and adolescent – especially girls – to inclusive and quality education, including in emergencies. It aimed to lower the rate of out-of-school girls, getting them back into school and keeping them motivated to stay in school and aim high.

The project provided basic education including literacy and numeracy for early grade children, with a particular focus on children with disabilities, in order to support better learning, reading and mathematics comprehension; this was all the more critical to bridge learning gaps after school shutdown. In addition, the project has built basic skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) to

increase the relevance and breadth of the curriculum and improve retention. There was a special focus on enhancing inclusive access to education, for example by supporting school dropouts to resume their education as schools reopen and building community awareness on the importance of continued education for girls, Dalits and children with disabilities.



## Key data (Girls Learn Equally)

 **TIMEFRAME**  
July 2021 – July 2024

 **PEOPLE REACHED**

24 schools have developed early learning and reading materials (including digital); **1,656** of households that have reading corner/space for their children, thus taking an active role in their child's education; **192** teachers promote inclusive learning environments at school; **144** teachers have enhanced STEAM-based pedagogy, and 3405 students are familiar with STEAM-related learning process; **24** schools have improved menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and disability friendly facilities; **38** out of school children / adolescent girls are enrolled in their age appropriate class; MHM and handwashing facilities were all completed; drop out students were identified and supported to return to school; teachers received trainings on STEAM, disability identification, parenting education, responding to complaints; Complaint mechanisms established at all schools

 **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- ✓ School drop out in Girls Learn Equally schools is 0, especially due to parental awareness on the importance of education that was raised during the project.
- ✓ Teachers feel that the school standard has improved – students are now ranking highest in the ward in quiz competitions.
- ✓ Together with the local government, schools can continue giving scholarships, providing teacher training, and implementing remedial classes.
- ✓ Children respond more positively to the new learning environment in classrooms (learning materials on the wall, colours, etc.) that was created in the project.
- ✓ MHM facilities in schools were greatly improved and overall, the hygiene enhanced in all schools (clean water, handwashing stations).



 **El Salvador**

## Growing with Love

 **Protection**

### Project description


El Salvador has 463,075 people with disabilities, including 119,944 children and adolescents. Specialized care is limited and costly, making it inaccessible for many. Plan International aims to promote comprehensive care for children with neurodevelopmental disorders, emphasizing quality, warmth, and humanism. The country's sole rehabilitation centre, "Instituto Salvadoreño de Rehabilitación Integral," is insufficient in handling the demand for rehabilitation services, and families face barriers to accessing timely care. Decentralizing services is essential to provide local care, especially for low-income households.


To address these challenges, a new clinic will be established to decongest the national rehabilitation centre and provide a platform to educate and support parents and families. This initiative aligns with the El Salvadorian "Growing Together Act" and aims to expand healthcare access to the most vulnerable populations, potentially becoming a national model for decentralized care for children with disabilities.

## Central America



### Key data

 **TIMEFRAME**  
November 2023 – November 2025

 **PEOPLE REACHED**  
**100** families (i.e. at least 100 children),  
**80** multidisciplinary staff

 **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- ✓ Curriculum development for specialized medical training
- ✓ Planning of care facilities completed
- ✓ Approval from the Ministry of Health that planned construction aligns with national standards
- ✓ Selection of medical personnel (speech therapists, emotional therapists, physical therapists etc.) to participate in trainings
- ✓ Initial drafts of educational manuals for families

The Ministry of Health has expressed strong interest and has contributed to speeding up institutional processes for the swift construction of the clinic. Activities involving children and youth with neurodevelopmental disorders will commence in September 2024.

 **El Salvador**

## Reintegration after incarceration


 **Protection**




### Project description

This project aims to enhance the institutional and technical capacities of the Plan International El Salvador Foundation to establish family and community support networks for individuals with criminal records undergoing social reintegration within the Routes to Social Insertion Project. It focuses on strengthening protective and inclusive environments for 300 individuals and promoting community coexistence in five priority communities. Sustainability is ensured through coordination with various actors, adapting and replicating the model, and systematizing experiences to identify best practices.

### Key data

 **TIMEFRAME**  
October 2023 – October 2025

 **PEOPLE REACHED**  
**600** relatives (men and women) of individuals with incarceration experience; **300** female leaders in vulnerable conditions

 **ACHIEVEMENTS**


- ✓ Development of training sessions for protective family models and life skills (positive parenting) with a gender and healthy masculinities focus.
- ✓ Provision of psychosocial care for families and beneficiaries, with preparatory work on materials and terms of reference for facilitators.

**"You don't know how much it means to us to come here, we come from tiring and ugly realities. Coming here is like a respite from what we face outside."**

**Vilma** during a Family Training session

 **El Salvador**

## Protection of children, adolescents and migrant families in transit


 **Inclusive quality education** **Humanitarian rapid response/readiness**

### Project description

UNICEF and Plan International are implementing a strategy in El Salvador to assist 300 migrants in transit. Activities include strengthening institutional capacities for protection, psychosocial support training, community support, improving migrant care facilities, and educational reinforcement for children and adolescents. WASH kits are also distributed, and a gender and equity approach ensures inclusive and sustainable actions.

International migration impacts millions of children worldwide and is often linked to human rights violations, including children's rights. In 2023, a record number of migrants crossed the Darién jungle between Panama and Colombia, with over a quarter of a million people, mostly from Venezuela, Haiti, and Ecuador. Migrants face significant barriers such as limited access to basic services, risks of exploitation, and educational disruption.

### Key data

 **TIMEFRAME**  
September 2023 – August 2025

 **PEOPLE REACHED**  
**300** people

 **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- ✓ In the first 4 months, **58** migrant children and adolescents in transit received educational reinforcement.
- ✓ In the first 4 months, **194** migrant children and adolescents in transit and their families received mobile hygiene kits.
- ✓ More than double of the target of officials and community leaders strengthened in their capacities to provide protection services to the migrant population.
- ✓ All participating state institutions received recreational kits for psychosocial care for the migrants they serve.



## El Salvador

# EDUCATECH

Education STEAM

### Project description

EDUCATECH aimed to deconstruct gender roles by motivating and empowering adolescent girls to continue their academic training in pursuit of a STEAM career.



Gabriela (17, second from the left) with her classmates from the EDUCATECH programme.

### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
June 2021 – October 2023

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
**3,556** adolescents (3,055 adolescent girls and 501 adolescent boys) were trained and informed about the opportunities and advantages of studying a STEAM Career, of this population 87 girls received scholarships to continue their studies; **351** adolescent girls strengthened their skills in mathematics and learned about the opportunities that exist in the country to study a STEAM career; **50** teachers trained on the importance of encouraging adolescent girls to pursue STEAM careers.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**  
A total of **3,556** adolescents, 3,055 girls and 501 boys have been trained in STEAM careers. After the STEAM training, 71 % of students have now decided on the career they will pursue

(compared to just 48 % before the training). In addition, 81 % of students now have an understanding of the type of degree they will pursue compared to just 42 % before the training.

- ✓ Overall the girls' tech tours turned out to be of great relevance to expose girls to real STEAM learning environments.
- ✓ The maths reinforcement for girls in STEAM careers have been important in ensuring that they have the right skills needed to succeed in these fields.
- ✓ Providing scholarships for adolescent girls interested in pursuing a STEAM career was also part of the strategy to ensure access to higher education for girls who demonstrated a commitment to these disciplines.
- ✓ Furthermore, teacher training sessions were conducted on the importance of empowering girls to pursue a STEAM career, which have been relevant in preparing educators and ensuring they are equipped to encourage girls to pursue STEAM careers from an early age.



"I was able to gain a lot of knowledge that I wouldn't have had any idea about if I hadn't taken part in this project. I say that with a lot of confidence."

Hillary (18), project participant

## South America

### Brazil

## Bridges to the Future

YEE Protection Education

### Project description

The 5-year project "Bridges to the Future" aims to empower young people, especially young women to ...

- take greater control over their bodies and sexuality;
- develop life skills and access higher levels of education;
- increase their employability potential so that they are empowered;
- live free from gender-based violence;
- be able to pursue their life plans.

The project considers the social context and economic inequalities in the city of São Paulo and aims to tackle social challenges such as adolescent pregnancy, early motherhood and the lack of economic opportunities for young people, especially women, by focusing on South and West city zones, through the promotion of empowerment of girls and communities.

The project considers multiple stakeholders including, but not limited to government, civil society, international organisms and the active participation of the communities of which those people belong to.

Read the success story on page 19

### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
July 2022 – June 2027

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
planned: The target people are adolescents and young people, primarily between 15 and 24 years, with a particular focus on young black, indigenous and LGBTQIA women, and their families in vulnerable conditions in the city of São Paulo. The project will directly impact **25,560** people and **665,400** people indirectly, totaling 690,960 during the 5-year project.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**  
✓ **544** adolescents and young people participated in conversation rounds with representatives of specialized services, such as health and social assistance, on SRHR, on identifying and reporting situations of GBV, and preventing early pregnancy.  
✓ **360** adolescents and young people participated in training activities on the themes of Gender, SRHR, GBV and health services (using part of Champions of Champion programme).

- ✓ **128** young people were supported with individual follow-up to continue their education.
- ✓ **135** young people received scholarships for complementary courses (e.g. digital skills and languages) including preparatory courses to access universities and technical schools.
- ✓ **346** young people participated in conversation rounds facilitated between project participants and young professionals on their access track to universities/job market.
- ✓ **81** project stakeholders were sensitized on the project themes – including educators of the preparatory courses, staff of partner organizations, community leaders and families .
- ✓ **135** young people were trained on entrepreneurship abilities.
- ✓ **109** mothers, fathers and caregivers participate in intergenerational dialogues on Gender, SRHR, and GBV.
- ✓ **67** people participated (families and community) in conversation rounds to raise awareness on the importance of youth's employability.

Project participant during class





## Middle East

### Lebanon

## Education in emergencies

Education LOST

### Project description

The project ensures that the most vulnerable children in North Bekaa, who are out of school or at risk of dropping out, access and retain education. Targeting children and youth (6–17 years), their caregivers, educators and communities, it takes a holistic, inclusive and conflict-sensitive approach to meet their educational needs and promote social stability.

Plan International and the Lebanese Organisation for Studies and Training (LOST) are implementing the proposed intervention to ensure access and retention of the most vulnerable children in North Bekaa who are not attending school or are at risk of dropping out.



Lebanese and Syrian pupils attending the school programme run by Plan International, LOST and SDC.

Read the success story on page 21

### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
October 2021 – September 2024

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
3,820 boys and girls between 6 and 17 years of age; 1,700 parents; 75 teachers/educators/pedagogues

**ACHIEVEMENTS**  
✓ 1,122 children reached with non formal education

- ✓ 206 public school children received retention support
- ✓ 90 children attended PSS sessions
- ✓ 285 PSS kits were distributed
- ✓ 66 teachers were recruited and trained
- ✓ 448 caregivers attended parenting sessions
- ✓ Training sessions on safeguarding (47 educators) and gender equality (32 individuals) enhanced the team's ability to address student needs and make referrals.

**"We are just starting to learn about having environmental advocacies so we can help in developing this high risk community into a safe and peaceful place."**

### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
July 2018 – December 2024 (phase 2.0)  
July 2018 – December 2024 (El Salvador)  
July 2018 – October 2023 (Nicaragua)  
January 2021 – December 2024 (Vietnam)  
July 2021 – December 2024 (Philippines)

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
Number of beneficiaries planned to be reached by project end:

27,636	El Salvador
25,439	Nicaragua
64,347	Vietnam
229,667	Philippines
<b>347,089</b>	<b>in total</b>

Aires Cavalida (19), young participant of the training program in the Philippines



Specialised personnel visit the intervention area.



Read the success story on page 20

### El Salvador / Nicaragua / Vietnam / Philippines

## Flood protection



DRR / DRM Resilience to floods Adaptation to climate change

### Project description

The [Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance](#) (the Alliance) is a multi-sectoral partnership focusing on finding practical ways to help communities in developed and developing countries strengthen their resilience to flood risk. The Alliance consists of humanitarian, NGO, research, and private sector partners who work together to increase public and private investment in evidence-informed community-based flood resilience.

The Alliance was originally launched in 2013 with the goal of shifting focus from flood response and recovery to pre-event risk reduction. Based on the successes

achieved in this first phase, the Zurich Foundation extended funding for a second five-year phase in 2018, and in 2020 support was further extended through to 2024.

As an implementing partner of the Alliance, Plan International Switzerland supports programming towards achieving the Alliance's vision in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Vietnam and the Philippines leveraging our many years of experience in community-based project-work and well-established relations with humanitarian response institutions at the national level. We collaborate to tackle climate-related hazard, to empower communities and foster sustainable, equal opportunities for all.

### OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ **Increased Community Resilience:** Establishment and enhancement of community structures for flood response, including response plans, equipment, and capacity building.
- ✓ **Enhanced Risk Awareness:** Significant improvements in community understanding of flood risks, preparedness, and response mechanisms.
- ✓ **Strengthened Local Capacities:** Investment in local government units to adopt more participatory and inclusive disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) planning.
- ✓ **Community Savings and Loan Initiatives:** Development of community savings groups to create social safety nets and support disaster-affected areas in asset recovery and financial preparedness.

### ACHIEVEMENTS BY COUNTRY

#### El Salvador

- ✓ **Resilience measurement:** Intermediate measurements show a significant increase in community resilience to floods, with an average positive increase of 40% in four communities.
- ✓ **Disaster Risk Management:** 22 local governments in the department of La Libertad were consulted and

completed a diagnosis for the analysis of risk scenarios.

- ✓ **Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Communication Mechanism:** Enhanced collaboration between government institutions and communities to implement effective warning dissemination.
- ✓ **Community structures:** Establishment of community structures to respond to floods, including response plans and teams.
- ✓ **Human and social capital:** Strong improvements in human and social capital due to awareness-raising and organisational efforts, leading to a clearer understanding of risks and preparedness mechanisms.

#### Vietnam

- ✓ **FRMC Approach:** Application of the Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) approach in three districts of Quang Tri province, reaching nearly 64,000 people.
- ✓ **Community Response Teams:** Training of 360 members in first aid and rescue, with replication of knowledge to neighbouring communities through existing local groups.
- ✓ **Village Savings and Loans (VSL):** 1,500 households accessed disaster preparedness funds through VSL

associations, promoting community saving and disaster response awareness.

- ✓ **Early Warning Systems (EWS):** 1,550 households equipped with EWS, with audits conducted to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ✓ **National Disaster Preparedness Committee (NDPC) Planning:** Integration of six NDPC plans into Social Economic Development Plans (SEDP) through project advocacy and orientation efforts.

#### Philippines

- ✓ Improve understanding of flood risk and underlying factors to inform risk-based planning for preparedness, response and mitigation.
- ✓ **Youth participation:** Training and facilitation of youth in the creation of family preparedness plans and community resilience projects, developing skills and confidence for community leadership.
- ✓ **Community savings groups:** Creation of savings groups to provide a social safety net and assist in post-disaster asset recovery.
- ✓ **Local government capacity building:** Investment in local government units to improve participatory and inclusive DRRM planning.



## Building Resilient Cities in Ecuador

DRR/DRM Resilience to floods  
Adaptation to climate change

### Project description

Plan International (Plan) and Z Zurich Foundation (the Foundation) partnered to prepare vulnerable communities to better respond to emergencies and disasters in the provinces of Guayas and Manabí through the project “Building Resilient Cities in Ecuador”. The project aims to strengthen resilience to flood risk by improving skills and knowledge in Disaster Risk Management (DRM), particularly among girls, boys and adolescents.

Ecuador is considered a high-risk country due to its geographic disposition and social and economic vulnerability, among other reasons. Significant natural and man-made emergencies to which the country is exposed are some of the reasons why humanitarian assistance and risk management projects are needed.

### Die 3 Hauptziele des Projekts

- 1 Strengthening resilience to flood risk through the implementation of the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) approach in 23 project communities located in urban locations of Guayaquil and Portoviejo.
- 2 Developing community analyses in selected communities following the CRMC approach.
- 3 Improving the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) skills and knowledge of community members, particularly girls, boys and adolescents, for better flood response management at community level.

Strengthening partnerships with public and private actors to improve public policy, technical capacity, compliance and investment in flood resilience at local and up to the national level.

### Key data

**TIMEFRAME**  
November 2021 – October 2024

**PEOPLE REACHED**  
Number of beneficiaries planned to be reached by project end:  
**40,972** people

### ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ **Community Resilience Measurement:** The CRMC approach was used to support the impacted population to accurately identify climate risks and vulnerabilities, leading to effective risk prevention, reduction and mitigation actions.

✓ **Youth participation in DRM:** Girls, boys and adolescents were involved in 23 Disaster Risk Management Leadership Schools, which enabled them to develop and implement community risk management plans. In addition, DRM knowledge and practices were strengthened among students in 17 educational units. With the support of parents and teachers, this resulted in the development of institutional risk reduction plans with a resilience approach.

✓ **Community empowerment:** 23 community risk management committees and emergency brigades were formed, trained and equipped. A total of 972 members (838 women and 134 men) were trained, with an emphasis on women's participation in traditionally under-represented areas.

✓ **Social media outreach:** Key messages on risk management, climate resilience, environmental protection, and gender equality were disseminated through social media, reaching more than 200,000 people.

✓ **Collaborative partnerships:** Relationships with public and private actors were established and strengthened, enhancing public policy, technical capacities, regulatory compliance and investment in flood resilience from the local to the national level. Key partners included the Secretariat for Risk Management, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, municipal and provincial governments, the Red Cross, World Vision and the International Centre for El Niño Research.



A young participant in the Disaster Risk Management Leadership School in Portoviejo.



## Hillary's journey from project participant to professional success



Hillary (18)

**At just 18, Hillary's journey from a high school graduate in 2023 to a professional in a multinational company showcases the impact that the right support and opportunities can have on a young person's life. This is how her participation in our “Bridges to the Future” programme changed her life, empowering her to dream bigger.**

The “Bridges to the Future” project aims to empower young people, particularly young women, by helping them gain **control over their bodies**, develop **life skills** and **higher education**, enhance **employability**, live **free from gender-based violence**, and pursue their **life goals** autonomously. The programme came to Hillary's attention through a course she was taking at the Institute for Social Opportunity (IOS)\*. She considered the topics addressed in the programme as very relevant: “I've been able to gain a lot of knowledge that I wouldn't have had any idea about if I hadn't taken part.”

Hillary liked the approach of the programme and says it was well thought through. The diverse range of topics provided essential information on health rights, access to education, employment, and entrepreneurship options. These are important topics for young people, but as Hillary says, **not many people her age are aware of them**. Before the Bridges to the Future project, Hillary had a basic knowledge of these issues.

Now, she knows them in depth, especially when it comes to higher education. She learnt about different ways to be admitted to the university, and she gained insights into the rights she can claim once enrolled.

### One particular activity changed her life

Hillary particularly appreciated the inclusive environment of the course, which encouraged young participants to express themselves. One of her most memorable experiences was the hands-on preparation she received for her job application process. Ahead of her interview at the multinational company Kimberly-Clark, she participated in a mock online interview with a social educator, who offered constructive feedback on her performance. This preparation made all the difference for Hillary. **When she received the call confirming her selection, she was beyond happy**; the opportunity was exactly what she was looking for. Hillary's experience at the company has been great so far: “I feel very welcomed at work, especially by my team. So, I like it a lot,” she shares.



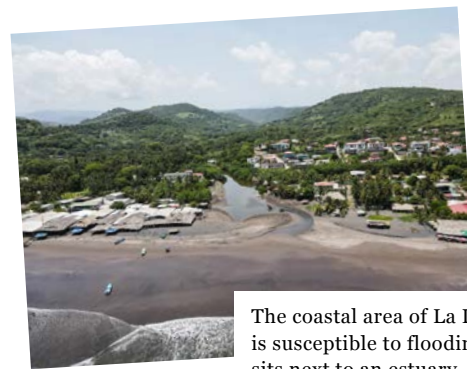
**“I always say that I always want to follow my path in such a way that I look back and feel very proud of myself.”**

She feels supported by her team and her superiors, and even had the unique chance share her story in a company video. Looking ahead, Hillary dreams of completing a degree in psychology, securing a permanent role at Kimberly-Clark, and one day looking back on her journey with pride.

\*The Institute for Social Opportunity (IOS) is a Charitable Social Assistance Entity which has been promoting free professional training and employability for young people and people with disabilities since 1998.



# Zuleyma's fight against flooding



The coastal area of La Libertad is susceptible to flooding, as it sits next to an estuary.

At just 18 years old, Zuleyma from El Salvador is transforming her community's battle against flooding. Living in a region vulnerable to rising waters, she leads a recycling initiative that not only reduces waste but also mitigates the impact of climate change. Through her efforts, Zuleyma inspires her peers to take action and protect their environment, proving that local youth can be powerful agents of change.

Zuleyma lives in the coastal area of La Libertad in El Salvador. In a country where land elevation is typically less than 10 metres above sea level, Zuleyma's community is especially susceptible to flooding, as it sits next to an estuary. Watching the mouth of the river overflow with water, especially during the rainy season, used to fill Zuleyma with dread. "The biggest emergency we had was during quarantine," she recalls. "The water came out of the mouth of the estuary and flooded here. Then we had to go to the school, but we couldn't leave unless someone came to evacuate us, because it was too full of water."

Beyond geography, Zuleyma points out, there's a second culprit in the flooding that has nothing to do with Mother Nature: "When the mouth of the estuary fills up completely with water, the water overflows into the community," she explains. "It does this because so much trash clog things up, giving the water no other way out."

Together with several of her classmates, Zuleyma is leading a recycling initiative. Working with other community members, her tireless team has collected over three tons of plastic and cans from the river and sold them to recycling companies. In addition to helping prevent flooding, they also prevent rubbish from ending up in the sea. Calling herself a "leader and a collaborator", Zuleyma takes her role seriously. When she's not collecting waste, Zuleyma is encouraging her friends and neighbours to join her in protecting their community and environment.

## Our Flood Resilience Project in El Salvador

For several years, young people such as Zuleyma have been involved in the "Increasing Resilience to Floods in Central America" programme facilitated by Plan International and the former Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, now Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance. Its goal is to support communities with technical and community organisation tools to strengthen their resilience to flood risk.

Some of the activities implemented by the programme are conducting outreach in schools, training young people in solid-waste management and implementing a collection system that runs solid waste through a recycling station. Along with receiving instruction on identifying glass, caps, cans and other inorganic waste, participants receive training on gender equality, enabling girls and young women like Zuleyma to adopt leadership roles that will help keep their communities strong.



Zuleyma and her team have already collected over three tonnes of plastic and cans from the river.

# The power of education

This personal story is about a 13-year-old Syrian girl who spent part of her childhood in a refugee camp in Lebanon and the challenges she had to face as a result. It demonstrates the power of education and the will of a person to change for the better. This is the story of Kawthar.

For Kawthar, her future finally became brighter when she was given the opportunity to register in our Wosoul project ("Wosoul" means "access" in Arabic). The project is implemented by the Lebanese Organisation for Studies and Training (LOST) in partnership with Plan International to ensure both accessibility and retention for the most vulnerable children in the North Beqaa region who are out of school or at risk of dropping out.

Kawthar has been out of school for over two years when she met the Wosoul team during an outreach activity in the camp where she lives with her family. Being in and out of school has affected the quality of her education, unable to read or write, like her older siblings. Enrolled in Basic Literacy and Numeracy non-formal education, Kawthar initially showed a lack of interaction with teachers and classmates, avoiding participation during class and maintaining a certain distance from others. She appeared isolated and faced numerous challenges in reading and writing. However, educators observed her strengths through individual follow-ups and the tasks she completed.

## Empowerment through education

Within the Basic Literacy and Numeracy programme, Kawthar gained proficiency in math, English, Arabic, and life skills. The life skills sessions covered emotional management, rights awareness, expressing feelings, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), addressing bullying, effective communication, and combating child labour. The programme also instilled discipline, respect, and strengthened the personality of the participants. As a result of her involvement, Kawthar became more motivated and active in participation showcasing a talent in writing that was discovered during the process. The teachers then started supporting her to develop her personality and behaviour, and to discover more of her skills.

"I am a girl who once had an unattainable dream, and suddenly I stand before you, as a proud poet and champion."



Kawthar proudly accepts her diploma.

To commemorate her progress, Kawthar was invited to attend Wosoul's graduation ceremony for 160 graduates of the programme. During the event, she confidently recited a poem she had written. In front of a large audience, Kawthar, glowing with confidence and a radiant smile, expressed her gratitude to everyone who had supported her throughout her transformative journey. Addressing the attendees, she declared, "I am a human who once had an unattainable dream, and suddenly I stand before you, a proud poet and champion."



# Elma “takes over” as the highest ranking Swiss politician

Last year’s #GirlsTakeOver campaign for the International Day of the Girl (IDG) took place on 29 September in the Federal Palace. On this day, 19-year-old Elma Gromilic from Zurich slipped into the role of National Council President Martin Candinas. Elma tells us in her own words and from her perspective how she experienced the day and what she took away from it.

Early in the morning of 29 September, around 06:10, I meet the Plan International Switzerland team at the hotel, and we make our way to the Federal Palace together. At 07:00, I meet with the President of the National Council, **Martin Candinas**, to plan the course of the session together. It’s the last day of the **autumn session** and the 51<sup>st</sup> legislature of the Swiss Parliament. Together, we briefly go through all the pending motions and finalise the President of the National Council’s closing speech, in which he bids farewell to the retiring National Councillors.



“National Council President” Elma Gromilic welcomes National Council President Martin Candinas.

The session starts at 8 a.m. sharp and I follow it in the National Council chamber **while also preparing my own speech, which I will give later.** The session ends earlier than expected and I have another opportunity to spend some time with National Council President Candinas and chat to him. The next appointment is at 11am. Together with **Christine Häslér**, member of the government of the Canton of Bern, we give a speech welcoming the winners of the SwissSkills national team who took part in the EuroSkills championship.



Elma gives a speech for the SwissSkills National Team.

The SwissSkills winners have shown what results are possible when you are committed to something with ambition, discipline and hard work. **They are role models for an entire generation!** We take a picture with the SwissSkills winners, then it’s straight to the next appointment, as we receive special guests from Chur: Mayor **Urs Marti**, Councillor **Patrik Degiacomi** and Councillor **Dr Sandra Maissen**. We take a short tour of the parliament building and talk about the history of the Federal Palace. Afterwards, we have lunch together and talk about everything under the sun. We have some very interesting conversations that I will remember forever. Finally, content is produced for Plan International Switzerland and to finish the day, we toast to the successful #GirlsTakeover with a drink.



Elma and National Council President Candinas greet Christine Häslér, member of the Bernese cantonal government, at the reception for this year’s SwissSkills winners.

## Tears of joy over an unforgettable day, and a promise

And so, an unforgettable day comes to an end for me, which just flew by! In the evening, back in my hotel room, I’m sitting on my bed and the first tears of joy appear. Once again, I realise what a privilege I have. **I promise myself to empower, protect and support girls and young women.** And no matter how hard the road ahead will be, I am determined to fight. Because today’s decisions affect us all, especially us young people. With tears streaming down my face, I say to myself: If no one has done it before me, then I will be the first.

29 September 2023 will remain in my memory forever – because, **among other things, it opened up my eyes!** A big thank you to Plan International Switzerland and the whole team!



Posing with the SwissSkills National Team



“No matter how hard the road ahead will be, I am determined to fight. If no one has done it before me, then I will be the first.”



Elma asks the President of the National Council a few questions at the end of the day.



Elma saying goodbye



# Together against female genital mutilation

On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February), we joined forces with the Sara Aduse Foundation to set an example against this cruel practice with a joint event in Zurich. Around 180 people attended the event.

To stop female genital mutilation (FGM/C), we need to talk about it. Because education can save lives. That's why this harmful practice was the focus of our event at the Frame Cinema in Zurich on 6 February. We screened the documentary film "Do You Remember Me?" by 20 Minuten and Sara Aduse, who was circumcised as a seven-year-old in Ethiopia. After the screening we talked about our work against FGM/C and gave our guests an insight into the topic. For example, in a current project in Tanzania, **we are protecting girls from this harmful practice** by involving the entire community, raising awareness and strengthening child protection mechanisms.

The evening was rounded off with some drinks and Ethiopian appetisers and music from the Kenyan singer Claudia Masika. The guests were able to discuss the topic with our teams and learn more about our projects.

## Girls and women are also affected in Switzerland

Putting an end to FGM/C is a matter close to the heart of our organisation. The practice is not only **an extreme form of gender-based violence**, but also contributes to **gender inequality**. Its elimination is considered one of the important criteria for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With our event, we wanted to draw attention to the issue, as more than [230 million girls and women](#) worldwide are still affected – including in Switzerland. Here, there are more than [20,000 girls and women](#) who live with some form of genital mutilation. For those affected in Switzerland, there are various contact points that offer advice, awareness-raising and information – now also in Zurich since 6 February 2024. We welcome the opening of the Canton of Zurich's contact point, "[FGM Help](#)", which was presented at our event by the Head of the Department of Health of the Canton of Zurich, Natalie Rickli, who opened its doors on the same day.



## New project in Egypt

In collaboration with our colleagues in Egypt, we have an exciting new initiative called "Aswan Aspire: Together against FGM". This project aims to raise awareness and knowledge among girls and young women in Upper Egypt to combat violence, including harmful practices such as FGM. What is particularly promising about this project is that it addresses an urgent need – an estimated 98% of women in the region have experienced FGM. At the same time, it takes a step-by-step approach that aims to challenge the underlying social norms that lead to these practices.



**Support our projects against FGM/C.**

# Breaking Period Taboos

On 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Menstrual Health Day, we launched the **#ItsBloodyNormal** awareness campaign in collaboration with Swiss period disc manufacturer Rayne. The goal of the campaign was to **break taboos surrounding menstruation and normalise the topic – because we still don't talk about it enough, despite menstruation being a completely natural process. Every month, we published two joint social media posts with facts, myths, and information about menstruation.**

Visit form aunt Flo, shark week, that time of the month ... You've probably heard one of these terms. Why don't we just call menstruation by its name? There are **more than 5,000 euphemisms** around the world **to avoid naming a completely natural process**. While some of these terms may make us laugh and seem harmless, they reinforce the idea that menstruation is something we shouldn't talk about. As if we should be ashamed of it.

But why is it so hard to talk about it openly? The reason lies in the same **societal norms** that, in certain parts of the world, prevent women from cooking, praying, or even entering the house while menstruating. It's also the same reason why girls around the world are unable to attend school during their periods due to a lack of menstruation-friendly toilets or products. It's the reason why research on menstruation (hormones, cycles, period pains, menstruation products, etc.) is so heavily neglected – even though women have been menstruating since the beginning of time.

The root cause is **societal taboos**. For years, girls world-wide have been taught that menstruation is something dirty, something they shouldn't talk about. Many aren't educated on the subject and don't understand what happens to their bodies when they experience their first period (menarche). This issue doesn't only occur in distant regions; **it is also a problem here in Switzerland.**

Through our awareness campaign, we aimed to **break these taboos**, inform people about menstruation-related topics, and encourage them to speak more openly about it themselves.



Our posts covered topics such as our projects, menstruation products, period poverty, taboos and myths, euphemisms, the female cycle, and we also answered questions that our community asked on the subject. Talking about menstruation not only helps break negative connotations, but it also **raises awareness of the challenges and obstacles** people who menstruate face in everyday life. Only by doing this can we find solutions. Even small changes can have a big impact. A first step could be to call menstruation by its name, rather than hiding behind euphemisms.



The full campaign can be found on our Instagram channel: [@planswitzerland](#)



Photo: rayne.com

## About Rayne

Rayne is a female-founded startup from Zurich that aims to normalise menstruation and offer comfortable, aesthetically pleasing products. With a strong focus on innovation, design and sustainability, Rayne develops outstanding menstrual products that offer the highest level of comfort while respecting the health of users and the environment.



[www.raynecare.com](http://www.raynecare.com)



The partner organisation Taawon distributes hot meals to children living in refugee camps in the south of Gaza.



## "Building back, better" with partner organisation Slavic Heart and Ruki Druziv

The project in the central Ukrainian administrative districts of Chelnyzkyj, Kirovhrad, Cherkasy and Vinnytsya is about rebuilding social and physical infrastructure for children in schools, youth clubs and shelters for internally displaced persons. The aim is to provide children with safe, age- and gender-specific protection through child-friendly learning environments and adequate accommodation.

Approximately 20,800 children and 41,300 young people of all genders are reached. The programme also focuses on mental health and psychosocial support for children and young people affected by conflict. The aim is to teach them how to cope better with stress and minimise their risk of mental health problems.



Children attend child-friendly space run by Slavic Heart in Ukraine.

# Emergency aid and humanitarian work



**Disasters, conflicts and outbreaks of diseases threaten the lives, rights and prospects of children and harm the societies in which they live. A quarter of the world's population now lives in conflict-affected areas and humanity is currently experiencing the highest number of displaced people.**

More than 100 million people are forced to flee their homes, 40 per cent of whom are children. The needs of adolescent girls, who are the most vulnerable in disasters, are at the centre of our work. Our approach is based on universal human rights and humanitarian principles.

In 2024, we were involved in **87 disasters worldwide**. In cooperation with local organisations, we implemented 49 child protection, 35 education and 22 cash and voucher programmes as well as context-specific life-saving humanitarian core aid.

## Plan projects in Ukraine and neighbouring countries

According to United Nations estimates, 14.6 million people in Ukraine are currently in need of humanitarian aid – that is around 40 per cent of the total population. Around four million Ukrainians are internally displaced persons and have had to flee within their own country. The war has also forced millions of people to seek refuge in (neighbouring) countries. In February 2024, for example, Poland registered over 950,000 people from Ukraine under temporary protection. In mid-December 2023, around 84,000 Ukrainians were accommodated in Romania. The majority of refugees are women, girls and boys.

## "Relief to Protect" with partner organisation Charitable Fund Pomagaem and Voices of Children

The project focuses on measures for mental and psychosocial health for children, young people and their families, including those near the front line. It is being implemented in 72 communities in the administrative districts of Kharkivska, Dnipropetrovska and Zaporizhia.

Through the project, 10,300 children (55 per cent of whom are girls) receive urgently needed age- and gender-specific childcare and psychological support from mobile and stationary teams. Families also receive cash assistance to cover their basic needs.

The partner organisation Voices of Children supports children with group activities on mental health.





## "Support for children with disabilities in Krakow" with partner organisation Patchwork

The project is aimed at both Ukrainian and Polish children and young people with disabilities. It aims to improve their access to education by creating a safe and inclusive learning environment. To this end, individual interviews were conducted with 93 families to understand the children's special educational needs, improve access to disability-friendly protective services and promote school attendance.



Evelina (17) lives with cerebral palsy near Krakow and receives support from the partner organisation Patchwork.

As girls with disabilities are at particularly high risk of gender-based sexualised violence, they are prioritised.

## "Building Safer Futures – Urban Safety in Poland"

The aim is to create an inclusive, safe and secure urban environment for girls and young women, LGBTQIA+ communities and young Ukrainian refugees in the Polish cities of Krakow and Warsaw.

The project is highly participatory, inclusive and youth empowering and part of Plan International's global "Safer Cities" programme, youth activists use their channels to advocate for safety issues in the urban context and achieve change with local decision-makers.



The Egyptian Red Cross is preparing food parcels for the people in Gaza.



## "Res.Mo Project" with partner organisation National Centre for Preventing Child Abuse and La Strada

Res.Mo was one of the first projects implemented as part of Plan International's Ukraine aid programme to respond to the protection and psychosocial needs of refugee Ukrainian children, young people and their families in Moldova. The risk of human trafficking was reduced through child-orientated information material.



Young people were able to access information on how to protect themselves from violence, exploitation and abuse via a website and an app. Live conversations with psychologists could be held via the website seven days a week and in three languages.

With its partner organisation National Centre for Preventing Child Abuse (CNPAC), Plan International supports Ukrainian families and children.



## Advocacy Report

Plan International works in various crisis regions that are often forgotten or do not get the attention they deserve, such as in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Cameroon and Sudan, providing life-saving humanitarian aid.

Click here for the Advocacy Brief "[Neglected Crises](#)".

A girl living in a camp for internally displaced persons in Rafah (Gaza)



© Photo: TdH/Abad Zagout

## Crisis in Gaza

As a humanitarian organisation working for children's rights and principled humanitarian action around the world, Plan International is shocked by the horrific violence that has been escalating in Gaza and Israel since 7 October. Plan International condemns the violence in the strongest possible terms and calls for an immediate and complete ceasefire by all parties involved. We call on all parties to respect international humanitarian law, to ensure the protection of civilians, especially children, and to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access, and urge the safe return of hostages.

Despite repeated calls for a ceasefire, the situation in Gaza has become increasingly precarious, especially for the civilian population. This situation has been characterised by the withdrawal of non-governmental organisations from the Gaza Strip and the extremely limited admission of aid transporters. "Time is running out for the children in Gaza," said Dr Unni Krishnan, Director of Humanitarian Aid at Plan International, describing the situation.

Since October 2023, Plan International has expanded its support to humanitarian partners to provide critical emergency aid in the Gaza Strip. This was achieved through close cooperation with partner organisations, such as Taawon, which was able to provide around 6000 meals in Rafah. Together with the Egyptian Red Cross, over 600 food baskets, 1,000 first aid kits and around 2000 cartons of water were delivered.

Plan International will continue to raise its voice to call for an immediate ceasefire. Every life lost is a tragedy and every child deprived of a future is a failure of humanity.



# Thank you!

In the last fiscal year  
we have raised a total of CHF

## 8.5 m

in donations.

Over  
**84%**  
of the income  
went directly into our  
project work.

## We would like to thank

all our donors who have supported  
our work in any way during the financial  
year 2024. Through your commitment  
and donation, you are making a difference in  
the lives of children, families and communi-  
ties, and are helping to create a world where  
girls and young women can live free from  
violence, oppression and exploitation.

Special thanks goes to



DÄSTER  
SCHILD  
STIFTUNG

Fondation Dora  
helping children



GEBAUER STIFTUNG

Green Leaves Education Foundation

J&K WONDERLAND  
FOUNDATION

SWISSLOS  
Kanton Aargau

BASEL  
LANDSCHAFT  
SWISSLOS

Gemeinde  
Riehen

Kanton Basel-Stadt

ZURICH  
Foundation

Drittes  
Millennium

as well as to our major donor:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

# Financial ratios

July 2023 – June 2024

**7.98 M**  
CHF total

Allocation of funds

**10%**

Communications  
and fundraising  
CHF 0.75 M

**6%**

Administration  
CHF 0.51 M

**84%**

Project expenditure  
CHF 6.72 M

**4%**  
Single donations  
CHF 0.32 M

**9%**  
Regular donations  
Girls' Fund  
CHF 0.82 M

**19%**  
Institutional  
donations  
CHF 1.61 M

**20%**  
Sponsorships  
CHF 1.69 M

**48%**  
Foundations  
CHF 4.07 M

**8.51 M**  
CHF total

Source of funds



# Balance Sheet

Assets	Notes	30.06.2024	30.06.2023
Cash and cash equivalents		3'180'314.18	3'234'359.88
Other short-term receivables	3.1	10'500.82	12'235.12
Prepayments		0.00	9'133.11
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>3'190'815.00</b>	<b>3'255'728.11</b>
Rental deposit		30'551.70	30'404.75
Property, plant and equipment	3.2	7'840.40	3'909.77
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>38'392.10</b>	<b>34'314.52</b>
		<b>3'229'207.10</b>	<b>3'290'042.63</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables from goods and services		14'934.30	16'791.30
Other current liabilities	3.4	139'377.85	594'064.44
Support and sponsorship liabilities	3.3	538'544.95	519'093.89
Accrued liabilities and deferred income	3.5	85'596.39	245'3720.09
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>778'453.49</b>	<b>1'375'321.72</b>
<b>Restricted fund capital</b>		<b>968'049.77</b>	<b>790'871.17</b>
Unrestricted reser		1'482'703.84	1'123'849.74
<b>Organization Capital</b>		<b>1'482'703.84</b>	<b>1'123'849.74</b>
		<b>3'229'207.10</b>	<b>3'290'042.63</b>

# Income Statement

Income Statement	Notes	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023
Donations		6'866'717.50	5'940'486.42
Sponsorships		1'641'489.95	1'571'470.03
Other income		200.00	200.00
<b>Operating income</b>		<b>8'508'407.45</b>	<b>7'512'156.45</b>
Project expenditure International		-5'828'167.75	-4'957'500.53
Project expenditure Switzerland		-516.30	-3'576.75
Personnel expenses Projects	4.2	-731'081.53	-770'032.96
Advocacy expenses		-6'707.20	-28'491.32
Personnel expenses Advocacy	4.2	-73'370.50	-145'932.87
Sponsorship communicat		-39'465.35	-46'909.70
Travel expenses		-37'103.48	-51'683.78
<b>Total project expenses</b>		<b>-6'716'412.11</b>	<b>-6'004'127.91</b>
Marketing		-397'357.53	-422'773.76
Personnel expenses	4.2	-354'643.51	-321'456.80
<b>Total Fundraising expenditure</b>		<b>-752'001.04</b>	<b>-744'230.56</b>
Personnel expens	4.2	-337'496.55	-271'365.73
Rental expenses	4.1	-72'758.50	-75'606.60
Property insurance / cleaning		-8'052.32	-13'272.40
Administrative expenses		-86'772.32	-190'589.41
Depreciation	3.2	-4'407.42	-3'765.36
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>		<b>-509'487.11</b>	<b>-554'599.50</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>		<b>-7'977'900.26</b>	<b>-7'302'957.97</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>		<b>530'507.19</b>	<b>209'198.48</b>
Exchange gain / loss		0.00	-33'377.79
Currency translation gains		9'545.57	0.00
Bank charges		-3'887.91	-2'533.58
Interest income		-132.15	0.00
<b>Financial results</b>		<b>5'525.51</b>	<b>-35'911.37</b>
<b>Operating result before change in fund capital</b>		<b>536'032.70</b>	<b>173'287.11</b>
Change in fund capital		177'178.60	-204'336.29
Allocation to organizational capital		358'854.10	31'049.18
		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>



# Cash flow Statement

Geldflussrechnung	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023
Annual outcome (before allocation to the organizational capital)	536'032.70	173'287.11
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	4'407.42	3'765.36
Change in other current receivables	1'734.30	3'893.30
Change in prepaid expenses and accrued inc	—	16'572.80
Change in prepayments	9'133.11	514'866.89
Change in trade payables	-1'857.00	7'382.90
Change in other current liabiliti	-454'686.59	515'310.54
Changes in sponsorships and sponsorships received in advance	19'451.06	91'340.33
Change in accrued expenses and deferred income	-159'775.70	143'678.29
Cash flow from operating activities	-45'560.70	1'470'097.52
Investment in property, plant and equipment	-8'338.05	-4'221.85
Disinvestment of property, plant and equipment	—	—
Cash flow from investing activities	-8'338.05	-4'221.85
Investment in financial ass	-146.95	—
Disinvestment of financial assets	—	—
Cash flow from financing activities	-146.95	0.00
Change in cash and cash equivalents	-54'045.70	1'465'875.67
Cash and cash equivalents as of 01.07.2023	3'234'359.88	1'768'484.21
Cash and cash equivalents as of 30.06.2024	3'180'314.18	3'234'359.88
Statement of changes in cash and cash equivalents	-54'045.70	1'465'875.67

# Statement of Changes in Capital

Changes in Restricted Fund Capital	Starting Balance 01.07.2022	Allocation	Appropriation	Ending Balance 30.06.2023
Fund capital				
Girls' fund	575'562.63	937'773.83	925'555.60	587'780.86
Special projects fund	3'962.84	4'185.00	0.00	8'147.84
Emergency relief fund	6'150.91	428'801.00	240'897.94	194'053.97
Water fund	858.50	30.00	0.00	888.50
Total fund capital	586'534.88	1'370'789.83	1'166'453.54	790'871.17
Girls' fund:	Projects in Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Laos, Libanon, Vietnam			
Emergency relief fund:	Projects in Ecuador, for Ukraine Response, Syria Earthquake Response			
Water fund:	—			

Fondskapital	Starting Balance 01.07.2023	Allocation	Appropriation	Ending Balance 30.06.2024
Girls' fund	587'780.86	662'824.93	494'263.33	756'342.46
Special projects fund	8'147.84	2'688.00	0.00	10'835.84
Emergency relief fund	194'053.97	5'929.00	0.00	199'982.97
Water fund	888.50	0.00	0.00	888.50
Total fund capital	790'871.17	671'441.93	494'263.33	968'049.77
Girls' fund:	Projects in Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Laos, Libanon, Vietnam			
Emergency relief fund:	—			
Water fund:	—			

Changes in Organizational Capital	Starting Balance 01.07.2022	Allocation	Appropriation	Ending Balance 30.06.2023
Unrestricted reserves	1'154'898.92	0.00	31'049.18	1'123'849.74
Total organizational capital	1'154'898.92	0.00	31'049.18	1'123'849.74

	Starting Balance 01.07.2023	Allocation	Appropriation	Ending Balance 30.06.2024
Unrestricted reserves	1'123'849.74	358'854.10	0.00	1'482'703.84
Total organizational capital	1'123'849.74	358'854.10	0.00	1'482'703.84



# Notes to the Financial Statement as of 30 June 2024

## 1 General Information

The association Plan International Switzerland was founded on 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2006. The headquarter of the association is in Zurich. Plan International Switzerland pursues the goal of helping vulnerable children, their families and their communities in underdeveloped countries to satisfy their basic needs and to promote their ability to contribute to the improvement of their community. The association is committed to development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

## 2 Accounting principles

The accounting principles applied by the association are in accordance with the Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting principles. Expenses and income are accrued on an accrual basis. Expenses and income apply to the respective accounting period. Cash and cash equivalents as well as receivables / payables in foreign currencies are reported in the balance sheet at closing date 30th of June. The foreign currency valuation of the operating accounts is based on the daily exchange rates of the respective transaction. Receivables and liabilities in CHF are valued at nominal value.

## 3 Explanatory notes to the Balance Sheet

### 3.1 Prepaid expenses and accrued income

	30.06.2024	30.06.2023
UVG/KTG/AHV (accident /daily benefit / old-age and survivors' insurance)	10'400.82	12'185.12
Donations / services not yet received	0.00	0.00
	<b>10'400.82</b>	<b>12'185.12</b>

### 3.2 Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are shown in the balance sheet at their acquisition costs, taking into account depreciation calculated according to the straight-line method on the corresponding useful life.

	Property, plant and equipment		Intangible Assets	Total
	Furniture Depreciation 25 %	Communication / EDP Depreciation 50 %	Website Depreciation 50 %	
<b>Aquisition values</b>				
Balance as of 01.07.2022	36'686.55	75'424.30	36'430.21	148'541.06
Additions	0.00	4'221.85	0.00	4'221.85
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stand 30.06.2023	36'686.55	79'646.15	36'430.21	152'762.91
<b>Value Adjustments</b>				
Balance as of 01.07.2022	-34'741.06	-73'916.51	-36'430.21	-145'087.78
Additions	-1'319.40	-2'445.96	0.00	-3'765.36
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance as of 30.06.2023	-36'060.46	-76'362.47	-36'430.21	-148'853.14
<b>Book value as per 30.06.2023</b>	<b>626.09</b>	<b>3'283.68</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3'909.77</b>

	Property, plant and equipment		Intangible Assets	Total
	Furniture Depreciation 25 %	Communication / EDP Depreciation 50 %	Website Depreciation 50 %	
<b>Aquisition values</b>				
Balance as of 01.07.2023	36'686.55	79'646.15	36'430.21	152'762.91
Additions	499.90	7'838.15	0.00	8'338.05
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance as of 30.06.2024	37'186.45	87'484.30	36'430.21	161'100.96
<b>Value Adjustments</b>				
Balance as of 01.07.2023	-36'060.46	-76'362.47	-36'430.21	-148'853.14
Additions	-667.74	-3'739.68	0.00	-4'407.42
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance as of 30.06.2024	-36'728.20	-80'102.15	-36'430.21	-153'260.56
<b>Book value as per 30.06.2024</b>	<b>458.25</b>	<b>7'382.15</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7'840.40</b>

### 3.3 Support and sponsorship liabilities

	30.06.2024	30.06.2023
Child sponsorship received in advance	347'022.89	336'174.62
Project sponsorship received in advance	7'180.12	6'400.12
Sponsorships received in advance	184'341.94	176'519.15
	<b>538'544.95</b>	<b>519'093.89</b>

### 3.4 Liabilities to pension funds

As of 30.06.2024 there was a liability to the pension fund of **CHF 27'433.25** (Prior year: CHF 26'812.60).

### Other current liabilities

	30.06.2024	30.06.2023
Liabilities to pension funds and social insurances	139'377.85	125'829.40
Liabilities to Plan International Inc.	0.00	468'235.04
	<b>139'377.85</b>	<b>594'064.44</b>

### 3.4 Accrued expenses and deferred income

	30.06.2024	30.06.2023
Vacation and overtime accruals	67'835.19	76'866.69
Other expenses	17'761.20	168'505.40
	<b>85'596.39</b>	<b>245'372.09</b>



4 Notes to the Income Statement

4.1 Rental expenses

	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023
Rental expenses	-72'758.50	-75'606.60
<b>Net rental expenses</b>	<b>-72'758.50</b>	<b>-75'606.60</b>

4.2 Personnel expenses

	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023
Personnel expenses Projects	-731'081.53	-770'032.96
Personnel expenses Advocacy	-73'370.50	-145'932.87
Personnel expenses Fundraising	-354'643.51	-321'456.80
Personnel expenses Administration	-337'496.55	-271'365.73
<b>Total personnel expenses</b>	<b>-1'496'592.09</b>	<b>-1'508'788.36</b>

4.3 Administrative expenses

	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023
IT maintenance, Office supplies	-56'220.91	-70'049.56
Legal advice	-4'017.30	-10'440.30
Board	-534.15	-1'973.80
Porti	-2'343.86	-52'262.40
Accounting	-9'894.75	-45'863.40
Audit expenses	-13'761.35	-9'999.95
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>	<b>-86'772.32</b>	<b>-190'589.41</b>

5 Full-time positions on annual average

The number of full-time positions on annual average is below 50 in reporting year 2023 / 2024 as prior year 2022 / 2023.

6 Total amount of all compensation to the executive board

The members of the Executive Board received compensations in the amount of **CHF 464'738.45**, of that amount **CHF 62'375.45** are compulsory employer contributions to social security.  
(Prior year: CHF 434'429.00, of that amount CHF 58'827 are compulsory employer contributions to social security)

7 Voluntary work

The Board of Directors of Plan International Switzerland works on an honorary basis and is only entitled to reimbursement of acutal expenses and outlays.

Report of the statutory auditor

on the limited statutory examination to the General Meeting of Plan International Schweiz, Zurich

Zurich, 23 August 2024

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, operating statement, cash flow statement, statement of changes in equity and notes) of Plan International Schweiz for the year ended 30 June 2024. As permitted by Swiss GAAP FER 21 the information in the performance report is not required to be subject to the statutory auditor's examination.

These financial statements prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, Swiss law and the association's articles of incorporation are the responsibility of the Association Board. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of association personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of association documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER. Furthermore, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the association's articles of incorporation.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG



**Regina Spälti**  
Licensed audit expert  
Auditor in charge



**Kerstin Baumgartner**  
Licensed audit expert





**#Girls  
Takeover**

**"I once had an  
unattainable dream,  
and suddenly  
I'm standing here in front  
of you as a proud poet  
and fighter."**

**Kawthar (13)**, refugee from Syria  
and participant in the education  
programme in Lebanon

**"We are just  
starting to work for  
the environment  
and help transform  
this highly vulnerable  
community into  
a safe and  
peaceful place."**

**Aires (19)**, participant in the  
school programme as part of the  
ZCRA project in the Philippines



**The Girls' Rights Organisation**

**Plan International Switzerland**

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