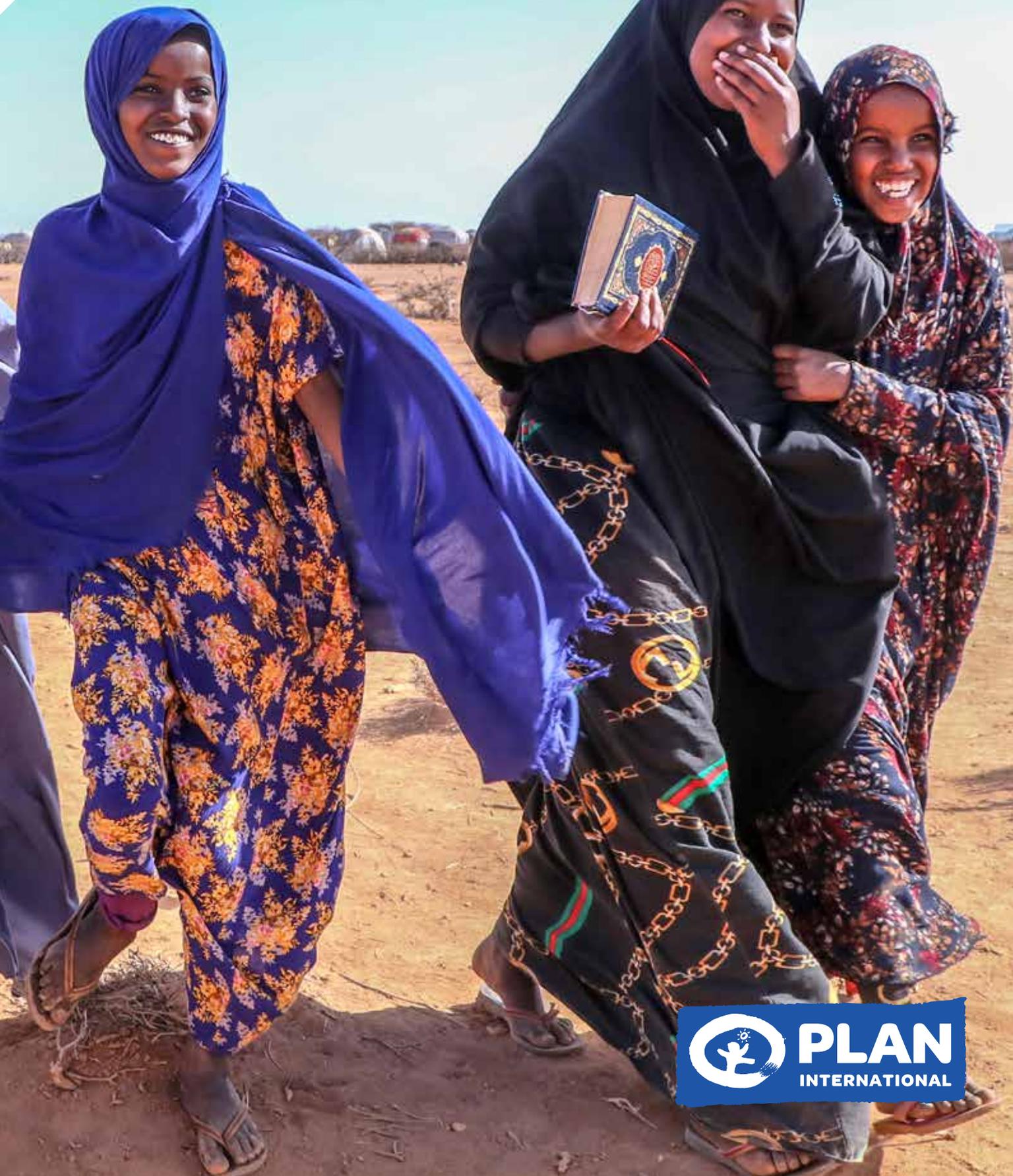


# ANNUAL REPORT & IMPACT REPORT

1 JULY 2021 – 30 JUNE 2022



**PLAN**  
INTERNATIONAL

**WE STRIVE FOR A JUST  
WORLD THAT PROMOTES  
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
AND EQUALITY  
FOR GIRLS.**

**WE WORK WITH  
CHILDREN, PARENTS,  
TEACHERS, PARTNERS AND  
POLITICAL LEADERS.  
WE ARE PRESENT IN TOWNS,  
VILLAGES, REFUGEE CAMPS AND  
WHERE BIG DECISIONS  
ARE MADE.**

**PLAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
WORKS FOR THE RIGHTS  
OF ALL CHILDREN. THE  
WORLD IS NOT EQUAL –  
THAT IS WHY WE FOCUS  
ON GIRLS.**

**PLAN INTERNATIONAL  
WAS FOUNDED IN**

**1937**

**50.3**

**MILLION CHILDREN  
WERE HELPED BY  
PLAN INTERNATIONAL'S  
WORK IN 2021**

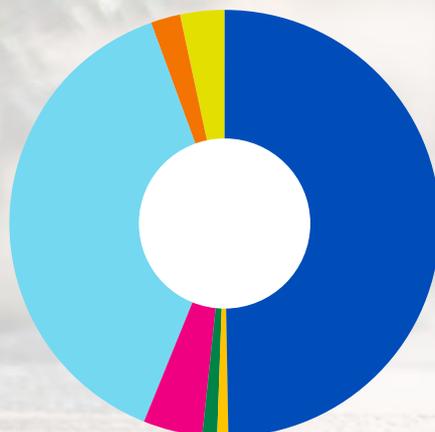
**PLAN INTERNATIONAL HAS BEEN OPERATING IN SWEDEN SINCE **1997****

**PLAN INTERNATIONAL  
IS ACTIVE IN**

**78**

**COUNTRIES**

**THIS IS WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM**



**Monthly donors: 243 MSEK**  
**Single contributions: 5 MSEK**  
**Corporate and Foundations: 5 MSEK**  
**Swedish Postcode Lottery: 21 MSEK**  
**Sida: 187 MSEK**  
**EU: 12 MSEK**  
**Other grants: 15 MSEK**

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*The English text is an unofficial translation of the Swedish original, and in the event of any discrepancies between the Swedish text and the English translation, the Swedish version shall take precedence.*

**Graphic design:** ClearDesign.se  
**Photographs:** Plan International



## CARL AND MARIANN ON THE PAST YEAR

# A NEW STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND EQUALITY FOR GIRLS

After this financial year, it is difficult to know which crisis we should focus on first. The pandemic, which has caused setbacks in the work to promote gender equality after several years of progress, climate change, which is escalating while governments are being criticised for doing too little, hunger and starvation, which is spreading as a result of factors such as droughts and conflicts, or the dark statistic that there are 100 million displaced persons in the world. Or that war came to Europe. All this is happening while conflicts are still going on in Yemen, Ethiopia and Syria, to name but a few places where children's safety is demolished.

In Sweden, the war has been an eye-opener – a legitimate reaction perhaps, now the worst thing imaginable is happening in such close proximity to our borders. It has also affected Swedish development cooperation. In spring 2022, the Government chose to make deductions in international aid in order to finance reception of refugees here in Sweden. That meant less money for the people and children living in poverty, for work to promote democracy and for a stronger civil society. It is a short-sighted decision with major consequences for the poorest people in the world. It was important for us to take part in the debate and highlight the fact that Sweden can afford to help refugees without it affecting the world's poorest people.

We are also concerned at the fact that several parties want to carry out a permanent reduction in the aid. However, while the parties are becoming less willing to provide aid, Swedes are becoming more willing to contribute. Donations to the non-profit sector rose by almost five per cent from 2020 to 2021. Our fantastic monthly donors form part of that force. Along with companies and institutional partners, they make it possible for us to work to promote children's rights and equality for girls – we supported projects in 36 countries during the year. In the short term, it is about children receiving protection and support and access to education and gaining knowledge of their bodies and their rights. In the longer term, our work helps to change attitudes, norms and harmful traditions so that girls are not forced to marry, for example.

Parallel to that, work is also being carried out to influence legislation to ensure that children's rights are respected. In Somalia, Egypt and Benin, we have contributed to new laws, such as the *Children's Act*, which strengthens child protection and is one step closer to the banning of genital mutilation. In Egypt, we worked actively to bring about the law against genital mutilation, which was passed in January 2022. Under a new law in Benin, abortion is permitted up to week twelve.

The challenges we now face – including more crises and uncertain funding – mean that we need to do more for more people but with fewer resources. We hope that our new strategy will enable us to help meet those challenges. It focuses more on girls and young people and on strengthening the impact of our programmes. It also highlights the importance of equal partnerships with stakeholders in our programme countries, how we can be more effective in engaging Swedish stakeholders for children's rights, focusing on girls, and how we can raise more money for that purpose.

We noted in the previous financial year that we need global solutions to global problems. It has also become clear that we need global solutions to local problems – because we live in an interconnected world in which we are all dependent on one another.

**Carl Lindgren**  
Chairperson

**Mariann Eriksson**  
National Director



# SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

## A NEW LAW PROTECTS CHILDREN IN SOMALILAND

Somaliland adopts the country's first law on children's rights during the year. Plan International, along with the Parliament and other organisations, was involved in the work to develop the new law.

**Sadia Allin, Plan International's Country Director in Somalia and Somaliland:** *"Today we see a glimmer of hope for girls in Somaliland. By banning all forms of violence and neglect, we are taking an important step towards ending genital mutilation".*

## TRAPPED NOMINATED FOR A SWEDISH DESIGN AWARD

Our animated interactive film "Fångad – en kärlekshistoria" [Trapped – a love story] is nominated in the Design Award category of Moving images/film – Information. The film was produced in 2020 with help from the animation agency SOJA.



## THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Plan International has not previously worked in Ukraine or its neighbouring countries, but when war breaks out, we are quickly up and running with fundraising to support displaced persons. The funds we have raised in Sweden and globally have enabled

us to support organisations on the ground in Moldova, Poland and Romania. Our efforts have focused on psychosocial support for children, safe places to play and ensuring that displaced children can go to school.



## EARTHQUAKE SHAKES HAITI

Haiti was hit by a powerful earthquake in August. There were more than 2,200 dead and thousands more injured. Five months after the earthquake, there are still 650,000 people in urgent need of help.

Plan International was already present on the ground before the earthquake and was quickly up and running with relief efforts. We continue to support families, including with financial contributions, to enable them to rebuild their lives.

**650,000**  
people were still in urgent need of help five months after the earthquake.

## THE HUNGER CRISIS IS GETTING WORSE

**Dr. Unni Krishnan, Global Humanitarian Director, Plan International, on the current global hunger crisis:** *“A catastrophic famine is literally knocking on the door. Ukrainian cereal harvests normally feed 400 million people and for each day that this conflict goes on, the situation gets worse for people all over the world. Food prices are going up rapidly, which makes an already difficult situation extremely serious. Acting fast saves lives. We must act now.”*



## GIRLS TAKE OVER

On the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October, girls all over the world take on important positions in society. At Swedish embassies in India, Zambia, Rwanda and Jordan, for example, girls from Plan International's operations step forward and serve as Swedish ambassadors for a day. Alva from Plan International Sweden's Youth Council takes over the role of Swedish Foreign Minister.



## THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PANDEMIC

“I've missed the library.” In January 2022, Viola from Uganda will finally be able to return to school, which has been closed for almost two years. It is the longest school closure in the world as a result of the pandemic. Millions of children have lost their education and many, particularly girls, will not go back to school again.



## CHILD MARRIAGE BANNED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

According to Virginia Saiz, the Plan International Country Manager in the Dominican Republic, changing public attitudes towards child marriage was difficult, important work. But after many years of hard campaigning and collaboration with politicians, child marriage is now prohibited.

**Virginia Saiz, Plan International Country Director in the Dominican Republic:** *“We wanted to get the man in the street to really understand that child marriage is wrong and to no longer see it as normal. And we wanted people to speak out about it.”*

## BENIN LEGALISES ABORTION

Along with other organisations, Plan International has been carrying on advocacy campaigns to strengthen the right to abortion in Benin for a long time. In November 2021, Parliament finally voted to pass the law legalising abortion in the country. That makes Benin the seventh country in Africa to allow girls and women to decide for themselves whether or not to give birth to a child.



## CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

Plan International Sweden is organising a Champions of Change camp for the first time. Young people from all over the country gather in Stockholm to learn more about the situation of girls in the world, to network and to receive tools for reaching out and advocacy. 30 young people participate in the three-day camp.



# WHAT WE HAVE DONE DURING THE YEAR

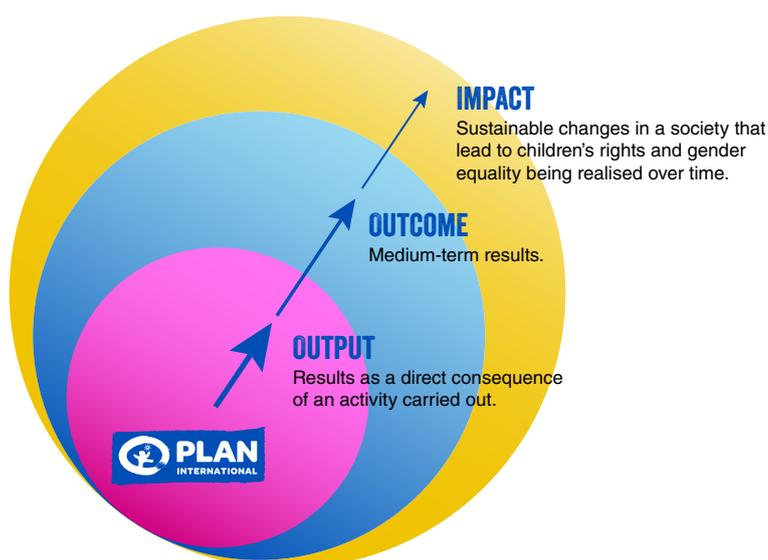
## – FOUR FOCUS AREAS

Plan International Sweden works extensively on children's rights all over the world. This year, we have chosen to highlight three of our focus areas: children's right to protection from violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights and children's right to participation. Our work in these areas is based on a long-term perspective to change attitudes and behaviour, influence laws and strengthen protection for children. Our humanitarian efforts also play an important role, particularly at present due to the pandemic, ongoing conflicts and increasing hunger. The large number of complex crises that affected children around the world even before Covid-19 struck have not stopped. On the contrary, they have worsened. The need for humanitarian aid has increased and in many cases we have been forced to revise and adapt our work.

### HOW DO WE MEASURE RESULTS?

We measure results primarily in the short-term (output) and medium-term (outcome) because long-term results take a long time to achieve and are difficult to link only to Plan International's operations.

We collect several types of supplementary supporting data for measuring results – quantitative information for the overall broad picture and qualitative information to provide a more detailed, explanatory perspective. Participation by children and young people is given priority in the work to measure results to ensure that their views form part of the assessment of what has been achieved.



#### THE CONTROL SPHERE

Plan International Sweden's local programmes in which we both assume responsibility for and have control over the results. **Example:** we conduct an information campaign that increases residents' awareness of children's right to education.



#### THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Plan International Sweden is involved and influences norms, attitudes and behaviour. In order to be able to affect and bring about change, we need to work with other stakeholders such as public authorities or organisations. Multiple stakeholders therefore contribute to the result.



#### THE SPHERE OF INTEREST

Complex social processes that have been going on over several years have brought about change. This is the kind of long-term result we are aiming for when we establish our goals. Our activities contribute to the change processes, but it is difficult to show exactly to what extent.



# CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO SAFETY AND PROTECTION

Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children have the right to grow up in safety and security, free from violence. Despite that, half the children in the world are subjected to violence every year and every five minutes a child dies as a result of violence. In short, there is a long way to go to keep the promises made in Agenda 2030 to protect children from violence.

**V**iolence against children occurs all over the world and in all social groups. Violence can be psychological, physical or sexual and may take many different forms. It may be a question of abuse, neglect, child labour or recruitment of children to armed groups. Girls are particularly vulnerable as they often have lower status in the society and within the family. They may be forced to marry and be subjected to genital mutilation and they are also at greater risk of being subjected to sexual abuse and harassment. Violence is often perpetrated in the child's everyday life – on the street, at school or in the home – by someone the child knows.

## **A difficult situation gets worse during the pandemic**

Research has shown that domestic violence against children and women increased during the pandemic. The number of phone calls to helplines increased when women and children who were being subjected to violence were stuck at home with their abusers. Globally, we can also see that children's safety nets, such as social services and schools, have not received as many reports of concern about violence against children as they did previously. This may be due to lockdowns of communities. The pandemic has therefore given rise to two connected consequences: violence against women and children has

increased and has at the same time become less visible.

We are also starting to see more and more effects of the pandemic. The 2021 UN report on the global goals shows that the positive trend towards the eradication of poverty has been reversed in recent years and extreme poverty is increasing for the first time in 20 years. This leads to a greater risk of children being forced to marry or work. For example, UNICEF estimates that an additional 10 million girls risk being married off over the next ten years due to the pandemic. The ILO and UNICEF also warn that an additional 8.9 million children risk ending up in child labour by the end of 2022 due to growing poverty resulting from the pandemic. They also note that previous positive trends have halted for the first time since the UN began measuring global levels of child labour.

Children's need for protection has not decreased in the past year, on the contrary. As is the case with other organisations, the years of the pandemic have meant that at Plan International we have had to adapt our work to restrictions and travel bans imposed by countries. This has placed great demands on our creativity and our ability to adapt. We have been able to digitalise parts of our work and we continue to support local stakeholders by reaching out in areas that no-one was able to travel to. We have used radios and mobile phones to maintain contact with people who

perhaps needed our support more than ever. As the spread of infection has decreased and countries have opened up again, we have been able to return to some of our previous procedures during the year, though always on the basis of current recommendations.

In order to protect children from violence, Plan International Sweden supports the programme offices' work to strengthen societies' safety nets in the form of functioning social services, health care and schools so they can intervene when guardians are unable to provide security. Guardians also receive support to enable them to protect their children from violence.

We are working to change norms, attitudes and behaviour that normalises violence against children and young people. We focus particularly on our work to promote gender equality – since lack of gender equality is a root cause of men's and boys' violence against girls. Plan International Sweden supports children who have been victims of violence and abuse by reporting, providing psychosocial support and support during legal proceedings. We also work to recognise the violence inflicted on children by their peers and by adults. We educate children and adults about children's right not to be subjected to violence.





**4,847**  
**ACCESSED**  
**INFORMATION AND**  
**HEALTH CARE**

# MORE INCLUSION AND A STRONGER CIVIL SOCIETY IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe has been living with a drawn-out crisis as a result of natural disasters, food shortages, destroyed sources of income, political insecurity and inability on the part of the state to cope with the crisis. The pandemic has made the situation worse, as in many other countries, and lockdowns have hit society hard. A report was issued in 2020 showing that the lockdowns in Zimbabwe had adverse consequences for girls and women. Violence by men against girls and women, as well as sexual violence, had increased and the restricted freedom of movement made it more difficult to access information, care and support.

## A stronger civil society

In these difficult circumstances, our project to improve the legal protection of children and young people and strengthen the status of civil society in the community has become increasingly important. We have worked to strengthen individual civil organisations as well as larger networks of organisations, for example by meeting with politicians and government agencies and holding seminars.

Along with other civil organisations, we have produced a number of reports for international bodies such as the UN and the African Union. As an important element in children's participation, we have also allowed children to produce a shadow report that highlights shortcomings in compliance with laws and regulations enforcing children's rights. The report is used to influence politicians and decision-makers and is a major step forward for everyone working on children's rights in Zimbabwe.

The new law prohibiting child marriage was the biggest step forward in the project this year. A stronger civil society and effective advocacy work in collaboration with other organisations were contributory factors when the Zimbabwean Parliament passed a law prohibiting marriage

before the age of 18 in March 2022. Now it only remains for the President to approve the law.

## More access to care and information

Our work to further strengthen the protection of children and young people included work on their sexual and reproductive health and rights. 8,000 children and young people have participated in groups and meetings at which they were able to exchange experiences and learn about their rights, gender equality and sex and cohabitation while at the same time gaining greater self-esteem and ability to express their views. Similar groups comprising a total of 2,876 young people received sex education, both in and out of school.

In addition to knowledge of their bodies and their rights, it is also crucial for them to be provided with good health care that is suited to young people. In one project, nearly 40 per cent (of 403 respondents) stated that access to suitable high-quality care had improved. In order to also improve access to care of that type in more remote areas, and to children and young people with disabilities, we have used mobile clinics offering contraception, HIV tests, cancer examinations and psychosocial support for girls and young women who have been subjected to physical or sexual violence – as well as help with reporting it. 4,847 children received information and care through mobile clinics during the year

Young people with various forms of disabilities are, as a group, discriminated against and often neglected. Our work has included training health care professionals in sign language to make it easier for young people with impaired hearing to obtain information and support if they have been subjected to violence or abuse. Starting to make these young people visible is an important step in ensuring that their rights are protected.

## JOINT WORK TO PROMOTE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ON A WHOLE CONTINENT

For ten years, we, along with Save the Children and a number of civil organisations all over Africa, have been working to strengthen the African Union's work for children's rights and support its committee, which has the task of ensuring that children throughout the continent have their rights protected.

In the decade that the project has been in progress, African countries have improved and strengthened laws protecting girls from abuse and exploitation. Although there is still work to be done, particularly for children in conflicts and children who are subjected to violence, the African Union's committee on the rights of the child has acquired a greater presence and has increased its ability to hold countries to account when children's rights are violated.

One important task was to get all countries to sign a commitment on children's rights. The Democratic Republic of the Congo became the fiftieth country to do that in

2020. Now, when 50 African countries are legally bound to uphold this, the committee's partners for human rights and development in Africa have been able to bring Cameroon to justice for not punishing those guilty of child marriage. Thanks to the support of the committee, the African Union has issued a judgment that holds Cameroon responsible and helps change the future for girls in that country.

Forums have also been set up, both at national and regional level, in which children and young people have been given space to discuss their living circumstances and their well-being as well as the opportunity to impose requirements on leaders to protect their rights. This has resulted in countries throughout Africa strengthening their commitment to ensuring that children are safe, healthy and have the opportunity to develop.

## SAFE PLACES IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Since December 2012, when the military and political crisis in the Central African Republic began, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated drastically, which has caused extreme suffering and has forced people to leave their homes. Security in the country deteriorated further after the political crisis surrounding the elections in late 2020, resulting in more attacks on aid workers and increased violence. This financial year has been relatively calm, but there has been underlying concern due to the constant presence of the military.

In 2021, the number of people in need of humanitarian aid rose from 2.6 to 2.8 million – more than half the population of the country. There were 722,000 displaced persons in the country in autumn 2021.

For children growing up in the Central African Republic, life is tinged by violence and abuse. The lack of functioning government agencies and limited social safety nets has increased inequality when it comes to access to safety, education, health, food and income. Children are the ones hardest hit by the crisis. Poverty has increased both their needs and the risks they face, while many have missed out on schooling, health care and protection.

In Zemio, where this project has been carried out, children are in urgent need of protection because they face risks including being separated from their families, being subjected to sexual violence and being recruited by armed groups. We have arranged safe places in the area where 4,786 children have come to play and obtain support and simply be children for a while. 300 children between

the ages of eight and twelve, who had their schooling interrupted due to the conflicts, were also able to catch up in order to be able to continue school again as planned.

We have also held vocational training courses for 200 young people who were living in extremely vulnerable situations in various ways. For example, they may have been subjected to violence, been involved in an unwanted pregnancy or been recruited to armed groups. Education is an important step back into society, towards self-sufficiency, and provides protection against further violence and abuse.

In order to break harmful norms and improve the situation for the girls in the region, we also organised discussion groups for 470 boys and men to enable them to learn about girls' rights and what they can do to bring about change for the better.

**Aberigo, a 14-year old boy:** *"For a few years we couldn't play together because of the crisis. Everyone was afraid of one another because they didn't know who was who. But now we aren't afraid to play and have fun with other children. We played football recently and I scored a lot of goals. I'd like to play like Lionel Messi".*

**Anikiate, a 19-year old boy:** *"Plan [International] started groups in which we could talk about how we behaved towards our sisters in the community. Before, we weren't aware that our behaviour could be harmful, but now we know that we have to respect girls. Last year we organised an information campaign to highlight the fact that a lot of girls weren't getting any education and girls' attendance at school has increased this year".*

**722,000**  
**PEOPLE WERE**  
**DISPLACED IN THE**  
**COUNTRY IN**  
**AUTUMN 2021**



THE MOST COMMON  
CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG  
**GIRLS AGED 15-19** IS:  
COMPLICATIONS RELATING  
TO PREGNANCY AND  
CHILDBIRTH

# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

The notion that children and young people should be able to decide over their own bodies and relationships may sound obvious, but it is a challenge for many people, particularly girls. The pandemic has clearly affected access to health care and medical treatment around the world – and has been described as the greatest public health challenge in a generation. Contraception, safe abortions and maternal health are examples of care that is not always prioritised in crises. However, we continue to work to increase knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights among children and young people and also among parents and other adults – and to find new solutions to ensure access to menstrual protection and contraception, for example.

**S**exual and reproductive health and rights includes information about the body, relationships and sexuality, and sex education in order to prevent violence and help bring about gender equality in relationships, as well as health care and medical treatment that offers contraception and safe abortions, for example. Our work focuses on the fact that young people should be able to make their own decisions about their bodies and their lives and if, when and with whom they want to engage in sex or have children.

Harmful norms and traditions affect the ability of children and young people to have their sexual and reproductive rights respected. It can be about children being forced into marriage and becoming mothers while they themselves are still children. In low- and middle-income countries, it is currently estimated that, each year,

around 12 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 and around two million girls under the age of 15 give birth to children. Complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth are the most common cause of death for teenage girls aged between 15 and 19 and the youngest girls are the most at risk.

Plan International Sweden works to promote children's rights, focusing particularly on girls, and one of our focus areas is sexual and reproductive health and rights. Even before the pandemic, there were major obstacles in the way of girls and women gaining access to basic information and health care. Two years of the pandemic have placed great pressure on health care systems in low- and middle-income countries that lack sufficient resources and have therefore created additional obstacles for girls and women.

The effects of the pandemic continue to give rise to challenges for young people when it comes to access to advice and information. Plan International Sweden has continued to adapt its programme activities to local circumstances and has thus been able to continue to reach out to young people. We have worked closely with authorities and have used TV, radio and social media to provide information about health and Covid-19. Measures have included recording of theatre pieces with messages about sexual and reproductive rights, creation of animated films and distribution of information in traffic using megaphones. We have also distributed hygiene packages as a complement to this.



# GENITAL MUTILATION IN EGYPT: CHANGED NORMS AND CRIMINALISATION

**731**  
PARENTS WERE GIVEN  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
MEET EXPERTS

In Egypt, Plan International Sweden is working to change harmful norms, values and behaviour in order to eradicate child marriage and female genital mutilation in the long run. We are working at several levels to promote gender equality and give children and young people greater influence to enable them to grow, develop and be granted and take their place in their communities. In order to achieve long-term change, we are collaborating with parties ranging from mosques and civil organisations to schools, health centres, recreation centres, parents and other adults.

Because religion forms an important part of life for many Egyptians, religious leaders have played an important role in the project. 120 leaders have been educated on the consequences of harmful traditions such as genital mutilation and child marriage and have received support in order to spread positive examples in the community.

We have been holding courses for just over a year and 4,740 young people (aged 15–19) have received sex education and 3,819 young people (aged 14–18) have learned about their rights and gained greater self-confidence and an ability to use their voice to influence society. After going on the training courses, several young people have become involved in local groups and have also started their own groups to help bring about change. Some have become

involved in initiatives including pushing to increase access to care and information suitable for young people. We have also held meetings for young people's guardians on positive parenting and sexual and reproductive health and rights. These meetings were attended by 2,062 adults. 731 parents were able to meet experts to discuss and learn more about the negative consequences of genital mutilation and child marriage. Groups were also organised in which 648 children and young people and their parents were able to meet and talk to one another. After these initiatives, the parents and their children felt that they had become more knowledgeable and were more comfortable talking to one another about these issues.

Besides the various initiatives to change norms, attitudes and behaviour and to strengthen the rights of children and young people, focusing particularly on girls, we have also carried out active work to influence legislation. Plan International participated in the Government's reference group for development of the new law banning genital mutilation. The law was passed in January 2022.

Marwa is 17 years old and lives in a suburb of Cairo in Egypt. Near where she lives, Plan International organises activities for children and their parents, focusing on children's rights and how adults can communicate with their children in a productive way.

When her mother first talked about genital mutilation, Marwa didn't know what it was. When she asked what it meant, her mother told her it was an operation that, according to tradition, all the girls in the village would undergo.

But after attending a few meetings with Plan International, she understood what genital mutilation really involved and how harmful it was for the girls who were subjected to it. Then she told her mother, who agreed not to subject her to it. "I talked to my friends about how harmful it is, and why they shouldn't agree to it," she says.

She now takes every chance she gets to talk to Plan International staff about sexual health and other topics she wants to know more about.

"Thanks to Plan International, I can express myself freely and discuss any topic at all."

She is determined to continue fighting against genital mutilation and she uses all her new knowledge to inform people in her neighbourhood.

"I hold education sessions for children. I also encouraged my neighbours to join in and they learned a lot. My mother always supports me and treats me and my brother as equals. She also wants to know what I'm learning and has been to a few education sessions"



**Omar, Imam of the Nahkla community in the Beheira region:** "I've been to several education sessions. As an important voice in the community, people listen to me and I have the opportunity to help bring about change. I preach against child marriage and genital mutilation – which have nothing to do with Islam".

**A teenage boy:** "I've gained self-confidence and have become more active. I've learned why child marriage is bad and that it has negative consequences for both girls and boys. A girl at school was going to be married off but we told her parents about the risk it posed to their daughter and the mother changed her mind and cancelled the marriage".

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS STRENGTHENED IN SOMALIA

Almost half of Somalia's population of 15.8 million people are under the age of 15 and the country is considered to be one of the most unsafe for children to live in. It is also one of the worst countries in the world for girls. Violations of girls' and women's rights, as well as violence against girls and women, are all too common and are made worse by the fact that there are no strong, effective laws that hold the perpetrators to account.

Somalia has the highest incidence of genital mutilation in the world – 98 per cent of all girls have been subjected to it, mostly between the ages of five and eleven. Many are also forced to marry. 23 per cent of women aged 20–24 were married before they reached the age of 18.

Two years of the pandemic have made the situation even less safe and have led to more children being subjected to violence, exploitation and abuse, while families have felt forced to marry off their daughters or make their children work to help with family finances – which has serious consequences for the children's future.

In the light of this, work to strengthen children's rights became even more important. Along with other civil organisations, we have been able to lobby decision-makers with the aid of training courses, conferences and individual meetings. The new law, the Children's Act, which strengthens the rights of children and young people, was passed on 1 February 2022. The Act is also an important first step towards eradicating genital mutilation.

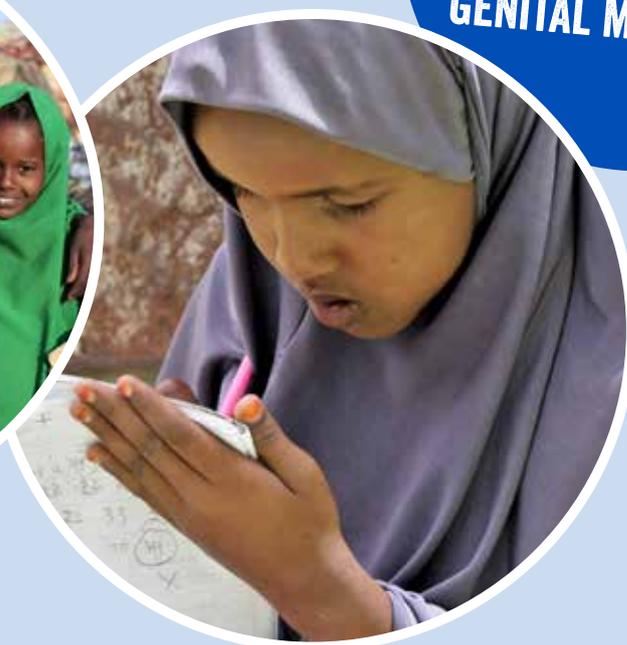
However, it takes more than laws to bring about lasting change. The project has been important in changing attitudes among government agencies and politicians, as well as in society, as far as traditions and norms that are harmful to girls, such as genital mutilation, are concerned. Previously, it was difficult to speak openly about genital mutilation, but now 67 per cent of public officials and

traditional and religious leaders say they are able to speak about it and 83 per cent say they are against this harmful tradition. Work to encourage the government agency for religious affairs, Parliament, religious and traditional leaders, and other decision-makers and rulers to work together has been a crucial step forward in obtaining broad support for banning genital mutilation.

At government agency level, it is important for the entire chain to work in order to secure protection for children. We have therefore strengthened the structures so that children who have been subjected to violence or other abuse can obtain care, psychosocial support, help with reporting and support in order to re-assimilate into society since they are often stigmatised and discriminated against. Due to improved structures, 24 survivors of violence have so far been able to obtain the support they need.

We have been working on information campaigns in order to further strengthen protection for children. This has included starting groups which have informed 3,800 households about the negative consequences of genital mutilation and sexual violence by knocking on doors. We have also used social media to distribute information films to young girls on topics such as girls' rights, genital mutilation, child marriage and education, focusing on their right to their own body. They also learned how to seek support if they have been subjected to sexual violence, for example, and had an opportunity to support one another and exchange experiences.

**98%**  
**OF ALL GIRLS HAVE  
BEEN SUBJECTED TO  
GENITAL MUTILATION**





## NEW LAW IN BENIN: ABORTION IS MADE LEGAL

In Benin, children's rights are being widely violated, particularly when it comes to sexual and reproductive health, education, participation and protection. Education, in particular, is an example of a right that is not respected for all children, especially not for children with disabilities, children who live in poverty, or girls. Child marriage is also a major problem. 26 per cent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before they reached the age of 18. A girl's first period can be seen as a sign that it is time for marriage. At the same time, only six per cent of teenagers use contraception, which increases the risk of unwanted pregnancies.

Because it is crucial to be able to hold the state responsible when children do not have their rights respected, we have worked to promote a stronger, more effective civil society in Benin. 30 civil organisations have received training courses in sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as child protection. 161 teachers have been trained in children's rights and 417 student teachers have been trained in alternatives to physical punishment. To increase young people's influence in school, 180 student councils have been started up, in which students have been involved in activities such as running health campaigns and holding discussions about sexual rights and health.

At a more general level, Plan International, along with other civil organisations and Benin's national gynecological association, has carried out advocacy work with government agencies to mobilise support for safe abortions. We have organised meetings in which government agencies and others have shared their expertise and young people have contributed their experiences and perspectives aimed at introducing minimum requirements on health care services to inform about contraception, give advice on safe abortions and provide support when someone has been subjected to sexual violence, for example. The work to improve communication channels and cooperation among government agencies has led to 149 cases of violence against children being reported, which is important in order to be able to provide the victims with protection and psychosocial support.

One big step forward – and a success for the project – is the new and improved law that allows safe abortions up to week 12. The new law was passed by Parliament and endorsed by the President in December 2021. The work of ensuring that the law is enforced so that girls and women really are given access to the care to which they are entitled is now continuing.



## MORE KNOWLEDGE AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING IN TIMOR-LESTE

In Timor-Leste, harmful norms, particularly among men and religious leaders, are an obstacle to work on gender equality. For that reason, we have focused on challenging taboos concerning sexual and reproductive rights and health and also concerning young women's involvement in decision-making.

Young people have been educated on topics such as puberty, menstruation, pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, sex and relationships to enable them to make well-informed decisions about their bodies and lives. Girls and young women in fifteen villages have been given the opportunity to participate in village councils in which all decisions relating to the area are made. Another positive development is the fact that teachers – including in Catholic schools – have asked us and our partners to support them in sex education, so we have provided training for them.

Young people have also played an important role in sharing knowledge and information in order to change attitudes and norms. Girls and young women have been taking courses to enable them to educate others of the same age and have therefore increased their ability to express their opinions in conversations with their families or at municipal meetings. They had never previously participated in these forums, partly because their families did not allow it, but now they have participated actively. Networks have also been created for young people to share information on how to

avoid teenage pregnancies and how to support other young people in obtaining information about sexual rights and the right care. These networks have also carried out work on positive masculinity along with men's organisations and male leaders in order to prevent violence against girls and women and bring about a more inclusive climate.





# CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION

Children and young people have a right to be heard and to participate in decision-making that affects them. However, shrinking civic space, discrimination against girls and just over two years of a global pandemic have restricted young people's ability to make their voices heard. That is why Plan International Sweden supports children and young people to enable them to organise themselves and influence decision-makers in order to have their rights respected and to bring about a sustainable future.

**P**lan International Sweden works to ensure that children and young people are aware of their rights and have the ability to actively assert them. We are involved in and implement projects in which children and young people become involved and can themselves identify problems, discuss solutions and meet decision-makers. Children's participation is a right and one of our focus areas. It

is a common theme running through our work. When decisions are made on issues relating to children and young people, both privately and in society, their point of view is often not taken into account. We endeavour to give children and young people the ability to influence political decision-making processes at local, national and international level and also in the home, at school and in the media. We also create opportunities for

children and young people to organise themselves so they become stronger together in the long term.

## **Girls' voices must be heard**

Girls often find it more difficult to occupy their place and make their voices heard because they are restricted by discriminatory norms. Sometimes there is a lack of self-confidence or inability to make themselves heard and take on leading roles. At other times, it is



the families that want to protect their daughters from the risks that their involvement could entail. For that reason, Plan International Sweden makes additional efforts to strengthen girls' participation at different levels of society. Among other things, by ensuring that girls have the opportunity to be included in and to lead children's or youth groups working on gender equality, education or environmental issues, for example.

### **Young people are faced with obstacles to their participation**

It has been clear to those of us who work to support youth-led groups, organisations and movements all over the world that the trend of shrinking civic space has worsened in the wake of the pandemic. This has hit children and young people particularly hard due to their age and status in society and also because their organisations often lack the capacity and resources to deal with the risks that their involvement entails. During the year, we have invested more in building up resilience and strengthening capacity in civil society in order to deal with the consequences of a shrinking civic space in the wake of the pandemic. Community participation has therefore been high on the agenda in our

projects compared with previous years. In the projects that have been most affected, we have carried out various activities to increase knowledge of the context in which they work and the existing risks.

In many countries, the pandemic has meant that democracy and human rights have been neglected. Several countries have declared states of emergency or have passed special laws which are intended to help fight the virus but which also grant those in authority far-reaching powers that restrict civil rights and freedoms. These include restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly and also greater powers for states to monitor citizens, as well as restrictions on freedom of expression and religious freedoms. This has hit children, young people and their organisations hard. In many places, children and young people have expressed frustration at not being able to continue their involvement, sometimes due to lockdowns and limited freedom of movement.

At the same time, we see that involvement on the part of young people in particular has largely moved over to digital platforms. However, there is a huge gulf between children and young people who have access

to the internet, mobile phones and computers and those who have no such access when it comes to the ability to participate and get involved. This was a problem even before the pandemic, but it has been exacerbated and has become more visible over the past two years. The children and young people we work with live in some of the world's most vulnerable countries, often a long way out in rural areas, and many of them state that they have found it difficult to become involved online or gain access to information.

One fact to offset the negative picture is that some children with disabilities have gained more opportunities to participate when activities are carried out digitally from home. We also see a great many positive initiatives in which young people get involved locally and become part of the solution by getting out there and spreading information about the fight against the virus or responding to fake news. Initiatives of this kind have been extremely important when we have revised large parts of our projects to respond to the challenges resulting from the pandemic.





## UGANDA: A SAFER CITY FOR GIRLS

The problems of sexual harassment in the Ugandan capital Kampala have increased in recent years. The situation of children, and particularly girls, deteriorated during the lockdowns as a consequence of the pandemic, resulting in domestic abuse and child and teenage pregnancies.

With the *Safer Cities for Girls* project, Plan International Sweden is working to make Kampala a safer place for girls and young women, including those with disabilities. This includes preventing sexual harassment in public places such as markets, workplaces or school transport and in their local environment.

To bring about change on a broad front, we have worked with the girls themselves, their parents and with the people and organisations they come into contact with – where they risk being subjected to harassment. Teenagers have received education in gender equality and advocacy – to enable them to change norms – as well as contact with decision-makers so they can be part in influencing laws and decisions that affect their local environments and the safety of the city.

### Safer transport

The advocacy work has led to specific measures at the two larger bus companies and smaller taxi associations after discussion meetings were held in which young people were allowed to put forward recommendations to increase safety. For example, special places for people with disabilities and 250 information signs about taking groups with different needs into consideration. Gender equality training courses have also been held for almost 400 people in the transport sector, such as motorcyclists and taxi drivers, as well as traditional leaders in order to increase understanding and prevent sexual harassment. 139 people in the same industry have been trained in sign language in order to increase safety for girls with hearing loss.

### Marketplaces

Girls and young women are particularly vulnerable in the city's markets. To change this, 56 managers in various marketplaces have been trained in leadership, reviewing guidelines and reporting abuse, as well as in sign language. So far, this has led three out of nine markets to improve their guidelines following recommendations from young people.

In addition to the practical changes that have already been implemented to make everyday life safer, work has been carried out to give young people a stronger voice so they can continue being involved in influencing their city for the better – and feel safe where they live. The project has provided young people with support for organising themselves. 13 small grassroots organisations have been formed and have received training to enable them to continue advocacy work and make the city safer for girls and young women.

## INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN SWEDEN

We also work on participation by young people in our activities in Sweden, both internally and externally. We have two observers on our Board of Directors who contribute their knowledge and important perspectives. In media and advocacy work, young people's voices are crucial for our credibility as a children's rights organisation. We have young people of different ages, throughout the country, who are involved in our Youth Council and who have attended our *Champions of Change* camp. Read more about what the young people got involved in during the financial year on page 42.

## CIVIL SOCIETY NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED – ONLINE TRAINING COURSES

To curb the negative trend towards shrinking civic space, we have provided various training courses to strengthen civil society during the year. One of the more extensive training initiatives was an online programme consisting of eight courses. 219 people from Plan International and partners from other organisations in 17 countries took part. We can already see that the training courses helped organisations to get better at strengthening civil society so the civic space can be maintained.



In Vietnam, Plan International is supporting a fully youth-led organisation that is working to promote gender equality.

## THE CHILDREN OF BANGLADESH HAVE BEEN GIVEN A VOICE

30 per cent of Bangladesh's population of 158.5 million people are estimated to be between the ages of 10 and 24. Despite this, young people in particular lack the opportunity to participate in important decisions that affect their lives, which means that the Government produces regulations and plans that do not always reflect the young people's reality. There are also many shortcomings regarding sexual and reproductive rights. For example, the country has the highest teen pregnancy rate in South Asia and one of the highest child marriage rates in the world. The taboos surrounding young people's sexuality also prevent adults from speaking openly about these issues, which means that young people lack knowledge of either their bodies or their rights.

Therefore, as part of the *Generation Change!* project, which is being implemented in 21 countries, we are implementing a sub-project aimed at increasing young people's involvement in civil society – focusing particularly on participation by girls – and providing knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as sexual and gender-based violence. The sub-project covers all 64 districts of Bangladesh.

A national working group with and for children, supported by both Plan International and Save the Children, was started up in 2006. The group is represented in all districts of the country and also has a parliament whose delegates are elected by the members. At the beginning, they focused on following up the work being carried out against sexual violence and exploitation, but now the group oversees children's rights in general.

This project used the children's working group as a starting point and its activities have included educating 616 children from that group in sexual and reproductive rights and health as well as in child protection. They have also received tools for advocacy. Monthly meetings have been held at district level to discuss the situation of children and develop action plans. This has enabled five child marriages to be stopped, among other achievements.

183 children, aged between 12 and 18, from all over the country took part in a national meeting organised by the Children's Parliament, which was also attended by the Minister of Education. The children shared their opinions and perspectives regarding matters such as education, health and how their rights have been affected by the pandemic. They also conducted a survey of young people which they were able to present to decision-makers.

We have also developed a digital education platform that is suitable for young people, with free courses on the subjects of sexual rights, violence against girls and women and child protection. 38,070 people use the platform and 450 people have so far completed educational courses and have received certificates.

The most positive thing about the project is the fact that the proportion of children and young people participating in everything from planning and budgeting for new guidelines to implementing them and following them up – both nationally and locally – has risen from 4 per cent to 25 per cent.



## YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE THE LEAD FOR CHANGE IN LATIN AMERICA

We now have the largest generation of young people in history, but most of them live in low- and middle-income countries where participation by young people is not valued or sufficiently visible. Laws and decisions concerning young people rarely take this generation's particular challenges into consideration or listen to their ideas and proposals for solutions. When young people participate in decision-making processes or as part of civil society, they must be seen as partners. A lot of young people are now getting involved in a range of different contexts, but they need to be backed up in order to get stronger.

Our youth project in Latin America, *The Regional Youth Program*, aims to promote participation and influence by young people, for example by creating rewarding forums for young people and opportunities for them to build networks. We collaborate with 18 youth-led groups in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia and Bolivia in order to use their power to create more equality and gender equality in societies.

In El Salvador, the groups have organised four information campaigns on violence by men against girls and women, climate change and Covid-19, as well as seven digital forums for teenage girls on sex and cohabitation – based on a feminist viewpoint. They have also held seminars and training courses and have reached over 30,000 people in physical meetings.

The Colombian youth groups have organised activities for 2,400 young people and our partners in Guatemala have had over 800 participants in their activities.

In Nicaragua, their work has included producing large murals to highlight sexual harassment in the public space. In Honduras, they have developed a platform for information on sexual and reproductive rights – the first of its kind in the country.

# HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Adversity has increased in the world and more and more people are in need of humanitarian aid. This situation is driven by conflicts, political instability, the pandemic and the climate crisis. This financial year, like the previous year, has shown that there is a greater need for humanitarian initiatives. The UN report on the humanitarian situation in the world, published at the end of 2021, estimates that 274 million people are in need of humanitarian aid. That figure has doubled in four years. Children, and particularly girls, are being hit hard by humanitarian crises and work to create resilience is becoming increasingly important.

**C**limate change leads to more and worsening weather-related disasters including droughts, extreme storms and floods. There is thus an enormous need to rebuild communities and ensure that children can return to an everyday life involving school and protection from violence. Children who are displaced or who live in conflict zones are particularly vulnerable. We also see how complex, protracted conflicts, combined with greater extremism, mean that many children are forced to grow up in war zones and environments that are characterised by violence, uprisings and instability.

The risk of violence, exploitation and abuse of children increases during crises in society and the pandemic has badly affected the right of children – and teenage girls in particular – to protection. Measures such as lockdowns and self-isolation during the pandemic have made it more difficult for us to reach out and provide humanitarian aid in the ongoing crises in which we work, though there are many good examples of how we have managed to adapt our activities in a positive, effective way. We can reverse this trend through investment focusing on the global goals.

The purpose of Plan International Sweden's humanitarian initiatives is to save lives, alleviate distress and uphold the dignity of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other crisis situations. Our aim is to further strengthen our response to humanitarian crises and revise projects in order to adapt to the enormous need that exists. Humanitarian needs stem from crises that go on for a long time and Plan International Sweden attaches great importance to the work of supporting and building up the resilience of children and young people.

In the short term, it is about children receiving protection and support through child-friendly, safe places, psychosocial support, access to education and knowledge of their bodies and their rights. In the longer term, Plan International Sweden's work helps to change attitudes, norms and harmful traditions so that girls are not forced to marry or leave school in order to work, for example. Parallel to this, work is being carried out to influence legislation to ensure that children's rights are respected.







**296**  
**LEADERS FROM FIFTEEN  
COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN  
EDUCATED IN EXISTING LAWS TO  
PREVENT AND PROTECT  
AGAINST VIOLENCE**

## PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE IN GUATEMALA

Natural disasters of various kinds are common in the areas in which we work. Guatemala was hit hard by hurricanes Iota and Eta last year. They led to floods, landslides and mudslides and had tangible consequences for the approximately five million people living in the hard-hit areas.

The aim of our project in this region was to reduce the impact of this type of disaster on the population and the social structures. In a country that is often affected by cyclones, earthquakes and other natural disasters, it is important to invest in and bring about effective coordination and working groups that work well at several levels: regional, municipal and local.

If there are effective plans for managing crises and disasters, there is less risk that the affected population will end up in a worse situation after a disaster. This is also how you prevent poverty, which often affects the already vulnerable population after a disaster such as this. So far, fifteen communities have adopted measures to strengthen capacity and have begun training courses in protection and risk reduction. 273 leaders from various civil bodies have participated in the training courses, which address matters such as regulations for risk management, risk analysis, coordination and local contingency plans.

The preventive work has also involved other aspects of protection such as creating awareness and commitment among the population so they possess both the knowledge and the ability to assert their right to be protected from violence and to be able to live in safety and security. 296 leaders from fifteen communities have been trained in existing laws to prevent and protect against violence. Contingency plans have been developed in schools so that children understand what risks exist and what to do if a natural disaster occurs, for example how to get out of school safely and where to seek shelter.

Disasters entail great risks in themselves, but they also increase the risk of children and young people being subjected to violation and abuse. For that reason, 299 adults from fifteen local protection networks have received training in children's right to protection in order to improve support for children affected so they can receive qualified care and have the opportunity to report misconduct and violence. The women, who were in the majority in the training courses, got involved and contributed important insights into the existing need for protection.

# CAMEROON: CHILD PROTECTION AND HEALTH IN CONFLICTS

Cameroon is a crisis-hit country with a number of ongoing crises including conflicts and climate impact around Lake Chad in the north, armed conflicts in the western parts of the country and refugees from the Central African Republic in the east. 2 million people are affected by the armed conflict in the west that is now in its sixth year, 1.4 million of whom are in need of humanitarian assistance. There are 574,000 displaced persons in other parts of the country. The situation has been particularly difficult for children. 700,000 students have had their schooling interrupted.

Teachers, students, schools and health care facilities have been attacked. In



this crisis, Plan International sees how girls and boys are subjected to sexual violence and harassment and how child marriage, unwanted pregnancies and recruitment to armed groups are widespread.

The low vaccination rate during the pandemic also meant that the country needed to maintain restrictions for longer, which has increased the risk of children being subjected to sexual violence, for example, while at the same time limiting their chance of receiving care or support.

Plan International Sweden works with children, guardians and trained social workers to strengthen protection of children, ensure that they have a safe environment and ensure that they receive high-quality, effective support when they need it. 90 per cent of the staff in social services and other government agencies have stated that they gained greater knowledge of child protection from our training sessions, which in turn has meant that 600 children in need of protection have had their cases dealt with in a rapid, secure, high-quality way. We work at different levels of the community to strengthen children's home environment. For example, 1,250 guardians participated in parenting courses that focused on how to provide their children with a safe environment to grow up in.

In order to raise the level of both knowledge and resilience, we have held education sessions for 2,427 young people on sexual and reproductive health and rights concerning puberty and menstrual health, for example. 3,427 children have also received hygiene kits containing items such as soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste. The girls have also been given menstrual products to allow them to take part in activities and live as usual.

# PEACEKEEPING INITIATIVES IN MYANMAR

The people in the northern parts of Rakhine State in Myanmar have been living with conflict since 2012. In 2016, Myanmar got its first democratic government in over fifty years. In that same year, border crossings between Rakhine and Bangladesh were attacked, whereupon the military was deployed in the area and the humanitarian crisis worsened. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya – the Muslim minority in Myanmar – fled to Bangladesh and there were over a hundred thousand displaced persons within the country.

We have been working on a peace project in Rakhine during the year in which sport has served as a unifying force. To reduce tensions between Rohingya and Rakhine residents, 2,845 young people in sixteen villages first played football within their respective groups and then met and played all together. The work has been built up with great awareness of the difficult context and with the aim of increasing trust between groups in a difficult conflict situation.

Based on the first activities, peace groups and networks have subsequently been built up in which young people have arranged joint activities and have met up to talk about society and everyday life. These groups and networks have already improved relations and dialogue between the communities and have strengthened the sense of community between them.



# IMPACT REPORT

## **WHAT DOES YOUR ORGANISATION WISH TO ACHIEVE?**

Plan International strives for a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We have worked according to the strategy that runs until 2022 to become the leading children's rights organisation with a special focus on equality for girls. Preparation of the new strategy was completed during the financial year, with five new strategic goals by 2027. More information on the strategic areas is available on pages 33–34.

## **WHAT IS THE ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT IN WHICH YOUR ORGANISATION OPERATES?**

Plan International is a children's rights organisation that is independent of party politics and religions. We are part of the Plan International federation, which is active in 78 countries. The offices cooperate with local organisations in the countries where we implement projects. Read more about the organisation on pages 2, 9 and 32–33.

## **WHAT STRATEGIES DO YOU ADOPT TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?**

The global strategy has been updated and from the next financial year will focus even more on the vulnerable situation of girls and our work in humanitarian crises. We strive to change harmful attitudes and behaviour, as well as laws and policies that stand in the way of girls' rights. Read more about our strategy and how we bring about change on pages 9 and 33.

## **WHAT CAPACITY AND WHAT EXPERTISE DO YOU HAVE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?**

Plan International is active in 78 countries with 10,000 employees and thousands of volunteers, all working for children's rights and gender equality around the world. The federation has been gathering experience and knowledge and has been building relationships with relevant partners for 85 years. We work to spread and develop the expertise that exists within the organisation, including through various thematic networks.

## **HOW DO YOU KNOW WHETHER YOUR ORGANISATION IS MAKING PROGRESS?**

It is crucial for us to be able to demonstrate, both to the children and young people we work with and to our donors and employees, that we do make a difference. In order to quality-assure our activities, we cooperate with the programme countries and local civil organisations which are responsible for monitoring and evaluation on the ground. In order to safeguard children's rights more effectively, we ensure that children's and young people's perspectives form part of our monitoring and learning. The information collected also forms a basis for learning and developing our initiatives. All Plan International Sweden's projects use the same methods for planning and implementation. Read more about how we measure results on pages 9.

## **WHAT HAVE YOU ACHIEVED SO FAR?**

Despite considerable setbacks for girls' rights in several parts of the world and a pandemic that we cannot yet see the end of, Plan International Sweden has continued to work for children's rights and gender equality. Read more about specific changes and results in four of our focus areas: Children's right to safety and protection on pages 11–13, Sexual and reproductive health and rights on pages 14–19, Children's and young people's right to participate on pages 20–23 and our work in humanitarian crises on pages 24–27.



# ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON OUR ACTIVITIES

The Board of Directors of Plan International Sverige Insamlingsstiftelse (Plan International Sweden Fundraising Foundation) and the National Director hereby submit the accounts for activities for the year from 01/07/2021 to 30/06/2022.

### Plan International

Plan International Sweden is part of the global children's rights organisation Plan International, one of the oldest and largest international children's rights organisations in the world. We work to advance the rights of all children and, because the world is not equal, we focus particularly on girls.

Plan International Sweden is independent of party politics and religions. Our work is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and connects to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We work with the children, their parents, teachers and traditional and political leaders and partners. We are present in towns, villages, refugee camps and where big decisions are made.

The Plan International federation was founded in 1937 and is currently active in 78 countries with over 10,000 employees and thousands of volunteers. There are twenty fundraising countries and Sweden is one of them, with the task of garnering political support for our issues as well as providing financial support and assistance with skills for the programme countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Plan International has four advocacy offices for lobbying on global policy regarding children's rights and gender equality. These offices are located close to the United Nations in Geneva and New York, the EU in Brussels and the African Union in Addis Ababa. The Plan International head office is in the UK.

We have offices in the programme countries and we collaborate with partner organisations. That enables us to work close to – and with – the population to bring about long-term, sustainable changes. Our projects are always based on the needs, realities and challenges that children and young people encounter in their everyday lives. In concrete terms, Plan International Sweden contributes to the global work by supporting the planning, monitoring, evaluation and further development of the projects. We also contribute through fundraising, advocacy work and communication.

In Sweden, we conduct information and fundraising campaigns. We carry out advocacy work aimed at politicians and other decision-makers. One important aspect of our work is to ensure that Swedish international development cooperation focuses clearly on issues regarding children's rights and that girls' needs and challenges are budgeted for and highlighted in policies and strategies.

## OUR ROLE

- We raise funds in Sweden and work to increase commitment to children's rights with particular focus on girls.
- We are involved in and develop and contribute financial support to Plan International's long-term development projects and humanitarian work.
- We lobby decision-makers and those in power in Sweden and internationally to advance children's rights and increase gender equality.

## OUR VALUES

We value long-term thinking, openness and the ability to take action and work together. It guides us in our day-to-day work both internally and externally with partners, decision-makers and the rest of civil society.

### For and with children

Plan International and partner organisations work with children and young people in all programme countries to ensure that they are aware of their rights and are able to demand that those rights be respected. Plan International also works to strengthen children and their ability to influence decisions that affect them.

### For gender equality

Girls are ascribed a lower value from the day they are born. They often receive less food, care and opportunities for development. They are doubly discriminated against, both because they are children and because they are girls. They are subjected to gross violations and abuse that require specific, targeted measures. That is why Plan International focuses particularly on girls and their conditions. Furthermore, investing in girls and gender equality is a key to combating poverty and achieving the sustainability goals in the UN Agenda 2030. The fact that Plan International focuses on girls does not mean that we do not work with

women, boys or men. On the contrary, in order to be successful, we need to get everyone on board in our work.

## FOCUS AREAS

Plan International Sweden combines humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation. We base our work on six focus areas:

- Protection from violence
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Education
- Participation
- Children's early development
- Strengthening young people's economic potential

We ensure that the projects we support are relevant and sustainable and that they focus on the fundamental causes of the problems, regardless of where and in what context they are implemented. Our work is based on a conflict-sensitivity perspective so it does not have an adverse effect on a conflict or the situation in a particular area.

## 90 ACCOUNT

Plan international has a so-called "90 account" and its work is monitored by Svensk Insamlingskontroll (The Swedish Fundraising Control). This means that at least 75 per cent of the revenue must be allocated to the purpose and a maximum of 25 per cent may be used for fundraising and administration. In the 2022 financial year, 85.5 per cent of Plan International Sweden's income was allocated to the purpose, with 14.5 per cent being allocated to fundraising and administration. Plan International Sweden's account numbers are 9007311 and 9007014 (Plusgiro) and 900-7311 and 900-7014 (Bankgiro). We are members of Giva Sverige, which is an industry organisation that promotes secure donation.

## OUR STRATEGY

The global strategy focusing more on girls, young people and young adults runs until 2022. During the year, Plan International Sweden and the federation continued to highlight the vulnerable situation of teenage girls both in projects and in communication. We have also focused clearly on humanitarian

efforts – particularly the situation of teenage girls in crises and conflicts. In line with our strategy, we have continued to extend our presence and provide support for activities in conflict-torn and unstable countries where violations of the rights of children, and particularly girls, are common and where the needs of teenage girls often fall between two stools.

Work on the new strategy was completed during the financial year, both globally and in Sweden. It will focus more on girls and young people and on strengthening the effect of our projects. It also highlights the importance of having equal partnerships with stakeholders in our programme countries, how we can more effectively engage Swedish stakeholders for children's rights, focusing on girls, and how we can raise more money for this purpose. The strategy will begin guiding the work from July 2022 onwards.

## That is how we want to bring about change

Plan International Sweden endeavours to break destructive norms and change laws and policies that stand in the way of children's rights and gender equality. We work locally, nationally and globally along with stakeholders who help us achieve our goals, bring about long-term effects and strengthen society's safety net for children and young people.

## Strategic areas

Plan International Sweden works in four strategic areas that will help us become the leading children's rights organisation for equality for girls by 2022.

- Programmes with power to change: Our programmes are based on facts, insights and experience and bring about positive, long-term change for and with children and young people – focusing on girls' rights.
- Agenda-setters for girls' rights: We highlight girls' specific needs and vulnerability in order to bring about commitment and action.
- A sustainable organisation for the future: We are an inspiring, efficient organisation in which employees are developed, enjoy their work and feel healthy.
- Mobilisation of resources for growth: We are achieving long-term sustainable and cost-effective growth.

The five new strategic areas applying in 2022–2027:

## FIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- **Greater impact:** We base our rights-based programmes on local needs, endeavour to achieve greater impact and collaborate in equal partnerships with stakeholders in civil society. Together we work to achieve a long-term sustainable society for children, with a focus on equality for girls.
- **More effective, gender-equal humanitarian initiatives:** Plan International carries out more and more effective humanitarian initiatives – always based on humanitarian principles and with a clear gender-equality perspective.
- **More resources for children’s rights and equality for girls:** We help strengthen our sponsorship activities and raise more funds from individuals as well as from companies and institutional donors. We contribute more flexible funding for programme activities.

- We communicate in order to increase knowledge of and commitment to our issues among the general public and relevant stakeholders.
- We lobby politicians and decision-makers so that the rights of children and young people – focusing on girls – are prioritised and have resources allocated to them.



- We allow our communal values – togetherness, openness, determination and long-term perspective – to permeate our work for more sustainable, inspiring employeeship and leadership.
- We are working long-term to strengthen skills development, job satisfaction and diversity within the organisation.
- We endeavour to achieve even better and more effective cooperation internally in order to strengthen communal outcomes for children’s rights and equality for girls.

- We review needs and opportunities for activities in Sweden.
- We investigate funding opportunities for long-term sustainable investment.

- We help make the global headquarters, regional offices and programme operations, as well as our ability to work together to strengthen children’s rights and equality for girls, more efficient.
- We always demand local consolidation and local leadership and work with civil society in equal partnerships.

## IMPORTANT EVENTS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

### Activities in Europe: support for children fleeing Ukraine

In March, millions of children and families were forced to flee their homes in Ukraine to nearby countries. To enable an initiative to be carried out, some of Plan International Sweden's employees from the Programme Department and the Fundraising Department travelled to Poland, Moldova and Romania to interview refugees from Ukraine and identify needs and partners. Plan International Sweden's expert on protection of children in disasters was also present on the ground and helped set up systems and activities suitable for displaced children and families. This initiative forms part of Plan International's efforts to increase activities in humanitarian disasters.

There has been a tremendous level of commitment in Sweden to supporting the people affected. We raised SEK 1.1 million from private donors and companies. Those funds have gone to local organisations working around the clock on the ground to support children and families who have fled Ukraine. We increased our recruitment of disaster sponsors during the crisis and their long-term support allows us to help those who need it most, where the situation is urgent.

### Digitalisation and systems

#### *Power BI in place!*

We have introduced a new tool in 2022 that helps us work in a more data-driven way. We have built up an ability to carry out analyses and a number of reports for two departments – finance and fundraising and communication – as a first step, but the goal is to make it possible for the entire office to benefit from this tool in its strategic analysis work.

#### *More secure IT for the activities*

During the financial year, we have worked extremely hard on reducing the joint technical debt and using computers and phones in a more secure way. The purpose is to reduce the risk of unauthorised access to information and data as well as intrusion by external parties. All activities have been gathered together in a program called *Modern and Secure Workplace* to enable us to see the big picture for both the technical parts and the organisation's awareness of risks, for example, and to simplify future work.

We will be better equipped in the autumn, with secure program management and a fully-prepared

cloud solution that enables future system changes to be implemented in a secure, efficient way.

### The pandemic continued – but Sweden opened up

Most employees have continued to work from home during much of the financial year in line with Public Health Agency of Sweden recommendations. But when the restrictions were removed at the beginning of 2022, we began working at least two days a week in the office and the digital way of working we had started to get used to changed over to hybrid work – i.e. both physically in the office and digitally from home.

The global organisation has been forced to adapt and revise many of the operational activities in our projects according to prevailing circumstances. The spread of infection, lockdowns and various types of restrictions have at times given rise to challenges when it comes to being able to carry out ordinary tasks, but they have also led to creative digital solutions being found wherever possible. For example, the more communities have opened up, the greater the focus on ensuring that all children, including girls, return to school.

### High-profile campaigns to increase knowledge

#### *International Day of the Girl Child #FörAllaFlickor*

On the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, we chose to focus on the reasons why there is a need for a Day of the Girl Child and highlighted the challenges we still face, with millions of girls being married off and being left without education, for example, under #FörAllaFlickor. More than 250 people shared our posts under the hashtag and so did 35 influencers and celebrities with a total of around two million followers including Lisa Nilsson, Agneta Sjödin, Sarah Dawn Finer, Parisa Amiri, Nilla Fischer, Moa Henggren and Ida Östenson.

As in previous years, Plan International Sweden carried out takeovers in which girls took over important positions around the world, including at 13 Swedish embassies. In Sweden, one of the members of our Youth Council shadowed Foreign Minister Ann Linde for a day and was then interviewed by Dala-Demokraten and Kamratposten on the importance of giving girls a voice. Another Youth Council member was allowed to take over as CEO of Astra Zeneca, which was reported in both Expressen and Mölndalsposten.

Plan International's annual global report, *State of the World's Girls*, was about disinformation online and how it affects girls. A Youth Council member was invited to talk about the report in Nyhetsmorgon and it was also highlighted in other media.

### *The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation*

Because genital mutilation is an issue that we are working on and that is of interest to large numbers of people, whereas the day against female genital mutilation does not normally attract a great deal of attention in Sweden, we chose to make it a larger initiative this year. To make it more widely known and persuade more people to get involved with us against genital mutilation, we recorded an information film with author and blogger Flora Wiström, the Instagram activist Danny Lam, the clothing designer Sanne Josefson, a current and a former Youth Council member and a sponsor.

The film was posted online and on Youtube and was advertised in social media, where it reached just over 600,000. The full film online was only seen by just over a hundred people, but the shorter trailer version had almost 23,000 views – so the most important message was still widely distributed.

On the day itself, our National Director was in Nyhetsmorgon and talked about genital mutilation and the serious consequences it has for girls all over the world. Along with the organisations Existera and Unizon, we published a debate article in Aftonbladet about the use of existing legislation to protect girls from genital mutilation. In addition, our Youth Council and participants from our Champions of Change youth camp wrote a letter to the editor on zero tolerance for genital mutilation which was published in seven local newspapers including Hallandsposten, Sydsvenskan, Barometern and Östersundsposten.

### **New office, more hybrid work**

We moved to a new office during the year. The new office is about half the size of the previous one. That means that we continue to keep rent costs down while adapting to more hybrid work, in other words, employees divide their time between work in the office and remote work.

The move was prompted by three factors: having a centrally located office to enable us to continue to be an attractive employer and retain competent employees, basing our work on sustainability and recycling – for example, we took much of

our equipment with us – and achieving greater collaboration between different teams.

### **Cuts in aid – and the debate that followed**

In spring 2022, as a result of the war in Ukraine, the Government decided to freeze just over SEK 9 billion that would have gone to international aid and instead use the money for reception of Ukrainian refugees in Sweden. That had a major impact on Swedish civil society and had consequences for activities all over the world.

For Plan International Sweden, the cuts in civil support as well as in the information and communication grant from Sida have meant a tightening of the belt and redistribution of resources. During the spring, we joined with other civil organisations and the Concord network to raise our voices against the cuts. We have put forward the opinion that of course Sweden should take in people who have been forced to flee, but we can afford to do that without taking resources from the people in the world who are living in the utmost vulnerability and poverty. It was a short-sighted decision with potentially long-term adverse consequences.

To spark off debate, we made strategic use of social media, mainly Twitter, in order to reach policymakers and journalists. We have written our own debate articles and added our signature to articles by other organisations. Our National Director was interviewed in Global Bar Magazine and took part in a panel discussion organised by Global Bar. Two employees in Africa and Asia also commented on the cuts in Ekot.

Even before the cuts, we carried out active advocacy work to persuade the political parties to stick to the so-called one per cent target, in other words one per cent of GNI should go to international development cooperation. That is because some of the parties stated, in advance of the 2022 election campaign, that they wanted to reduce development aid to 0.7 per cent of GNI, which would have serious consequences for the fight against poverty, the development of democracy and gender equality work globally.

## **SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION**

### **Environmental matters**

Plan International Sweden is aiming high when it comes to climate and environmental work. It forms

a natural part of many of our programmes and is integrated in our work at all times. The environment policy from 2019 contains clear objectives and an action plan of measures that we are working on. Three main areas of the organisation's environmental impact have been identified: travel, procurements and a greener office. We were subject to travel bans during the pandemic and now the restrictions have been lifted, we still travel less than before. When we moved to our new office, we changed our electricity supplier to one that has the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation's most stringent label – Bra Miljöval [Good Environmental Choice] – and we have reused the furniture we had in the old premises. The property we have moved into is owned by Faberge, which has high sustainability goals.

### **Working environment**

The pandemic taught us to work digitally and remotely and to use Teams as a tool for meetings. Staff have stated that they appreciate the opportunity to also work from home in future as there are advantages such as avoiding the daily commute. We have ended up continuing with hybrid work in which we are welcome to be in the office every day of the week but are expected to be present at least two days a week. One of the days is the same for everyone in the same department and the other day can be chosen by the employee him or herself.

In our new premises, we have focused on openness, community and collaboration in an inclusive work environment. We no longer have fixed places. Instead you take any free desk. Besides desks, there are meeting rooms and a large lounge area where a lot of people also choose to sit and work.

We gained new safety representatives during the year and they took part in the joint training course entitled "Bättre Arbetsmiljö" [Better Work Environment].

### **Employees in other countries**

Plan International Sweden does not send out employees on longer assignments. If Swedish staff work in other countries, they are on leave of absence from Plan International Sweden and are employed via our head office in the UK. The 3–4 people working for other countries have worked remotely from Sweden during the year.

### **Staff surveys carried out**

Every month, we carry out a measurement using two questions: how comfortable the employees feel in the job and how much they have to do. Well-being

has been at an average of 70 per cent during the year and the employees feel that they have 102 per cent to do, i.e. slightly more than they really have time for.

Before the move to a new office, a survey was conducted to ascertain the staff's views on matters such as new ways of working, what activities the office should make available and views on hybrid work. The survey then formed the basis for the design of the office and the guidelines for hybrid work that were introduced.

### **Work carried out by employees**

Plan International Sweden is a fundraising foundation that mobilises financial resources through private individuals, institutional donors, companies and philanthropists. We do this through our work in markets, donor services, communication and advocacy. Our Program Department cooperates with our program countries and we have support functions such as IT, HR, finance and internal services that support the entire organisation.

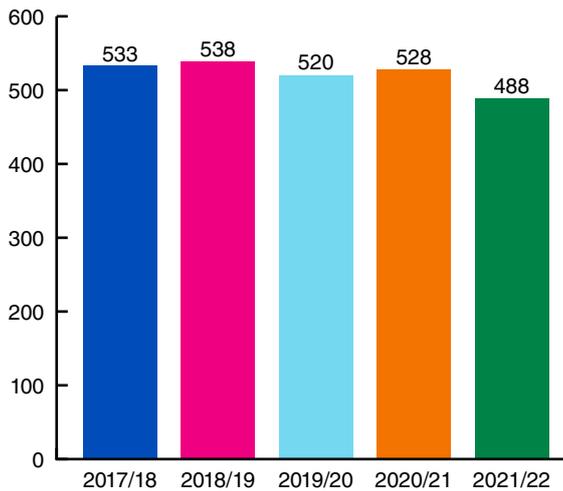
### **Gender equality and diversity work**

Gender equality and diversity work forms an integral part of our activities and there is a high level of awareness. We have an active equality of treatment group which includes representatives from various departments and which works on the basis of a plan of action based on the Discrimination Ombudsman's guidelines on how employers should prevent and combat possible discrimination. The plan contains concrete measures to ensure that working conditions work for everyone regardless of gender, gender identity or gender expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, functional variation, sexual orientation or age.

### **Skills development**

The process for goal and performance management discussions includes a more long-term career discussion which forms the basis for succession planning. All employees have individual development plans and skills development takes place on a continuous basis both individually and in groups. Like many others, we work according to the 70-20-10 rule, i.e. 70 per cent of what we learn is from day-to-day work, 20 per cent from social interactions and 10 per cent from learning activities such as courses. Plan International Sweden's employees play an active part in international cooperation and participate in training sessions and working groups that help strengthen Plan International as a global organisation. We also share knowledge internally in lunch lectures, for example.

**Total revenue in the 2021/22 financial year amounted to 488 MSEK**



**Existence of collective agreements**

Plan International Sweden has collective agreements through Fremia with Unionen and Akademikerna, both of which have local clubs.

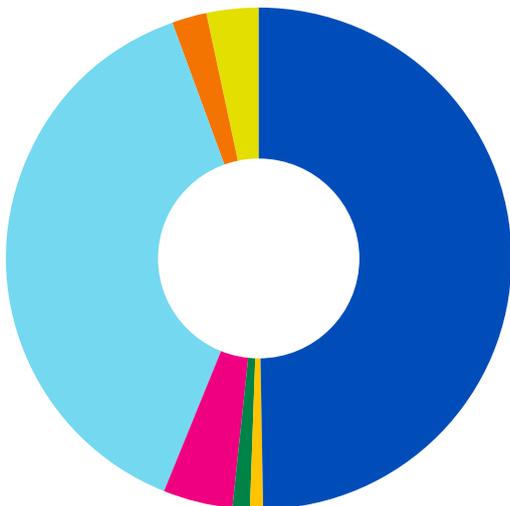
**Staff turnover**

Half our employees are aged between 30 and 39, which is a time of life at which many people are engaged in building a family and have a wish to develop professionally. That means that we have a relatively high level of mobility, with substitutes due to parental leave of absence or people on leave of absence in order to work for Plan International in other countries. Many of our employees' professions are such that we are competing not only with similar organisations to us, but also with the rest of the labour market in Stockholm. We have noted that there is a great deal of mobility in the Stockholm labour market and that we cannot compete in terms of salary.

Staff turnover during the year was 24.7 per cent, including people who had been on study leave and then resigned, for example.

Plan International Sweden's employees are committed and ambitious, but it is a challenge to create career paths in a small organisation. Instead, we can be proud of the fact that we develop our employees so they grow out of their roles and move on as good ambassadors for Plan International Sweden. It has emerged from the interviews we conduct with employees leaving the organisation that the most common reason for resigning is the fact that the person concerned has applied for a managerial position or another role with greater responsibility or a different focus.

**This is where the money comes from**



- Monthly donors: **243 MSEK**
- Single contributions: **5 MSEK**
- Corporate and Foundations: **5 MSEK**
- Swedish Postcode Lottery: **21 MSEK**
- Sida: **187 MSEK**
- EU: **12 MSEK**
- Other grants: **15 MSEK**

**EARNINGS AND FINANCIAL POSITION**

Plan International Sweden is a fundraising foundation which aims to raise money to strengthen children's rights and equality for girls. The foundation also has a subsidiary, Plan Produktion AB. The company manages consulting services relating to our aim and purpose which are carried out for other organisations within the Plan International federation.

**Revenue**

Our activities are made possible thanks to financing from private donors, companies, foundations and public, institutional donors.

Plan International Sweden's total revenues in 2021/2022 amounted to 488 (528) MSEK, a reduction of 8 per cent compared with the previous year.

The decrease in revenue is mainly due to the fact that we had fewer or reduced grants from the institutional donors Sida and the EU. Several of our major Sida and EU-funded projects were completed during the year and circumstances in the programme countries – such as the effects of the pandemic, political instability and armed conflicts – have also delayed some of the projects. We are now also seeing the full effect of the phase-out from Sida HUM.

#### ***Donations 274 (271) MSEK +1%***

Revenues from monthly donors and sponsors amounted to 243 (240) MSEK +1.5%.

We have continued to achieve stable new recruitment during the year. We have also seen that efforts with regard to our existing donors have yielded positive results. Relevant, up-to-date information about our activities and what the donors contribute to, combined with greater service and support, have enabled us to strengthen relationships and reduce cancellations, which has contributed to the growth in private fundraising. The increase is due to an increase in average amounts per monthly donor and more paying Girl Sponsors.

One-time donations amounted to 5 (4) MSEK. There is still fierce competition in the market for one-off donations, but we continue to strengthen our brand and our position, including in the humanitarian area. This was noticeable, among other things, in connection with the conflict in Ukraine. We are already seeing that we have increased revenue from wills and also that there is potential for continuing with this work.

Revenue from corporate collaborations increased in comparison to previous years and amounted to 4.6 (4.2) MSEK. The number of business collaborations increased during the year and Plan International is perceived as an attractive organisation for companies in all industries that wish to invest in sustainable development. Aim'n and Desenio Group are examples of new corporate partners of Plan International Sweden. Several business partnerships have been extended during the year, such as our collaboration with Greencarrier and Studentbostäder.

The annual support from the Svenska Postkodlotteriet (SPL) [the Swedish Postcode Lottery] amounted to 21 (23) MSEK.

#### ***Grants 214 (257) MSEK -17%***

The total grants was 214 MSEK, of which public subsidies amounted to 204 (251) MSEK.

##### ***Sida***

Grants from Sida amounted to 187 (220) MSEK. Sida contributes to Plan International's programme activities in over 25 countries in both long-term development collaborations and humanitarian initiatives. In addition to our grant from Sida to support civil society, we receive grants through Swedish embassies. During the year, we – along with our programme countries – have continued to adapt our activities to current restrictions due to the pandemic and to reschedule ongoing projects. The transition was successful and we see that the pace of implementation in our programme activities has been less affected in this financial year compared with the start of the pandemic. The decrease in grants from Sida applies to humanitarian projects -6 MSEK, civil society projects -8 MSEK and embassy projects -19 MSEK. The decrease is due to certain delays in the project as a result of the Government's deductions from the official development assistance and also to the fact that several large embassy projects were completed during the year. We are now also seeing the full effect of the phasing out of Sida's humanitarian support.

##### ***EU***

Revenues for grants from the EU amounted to 12 (22) MSEK. Several major EU projects were completed during the year and we also secured a new EU grant that mainly supports civil society and schools in Togo.

##### ***UN***

Our grants from the UN come mainly from UNOCHA and UNICEF, with particular focus on humanitarian efforts. The grants from the UN amounted to 5 (9) MSEK during the year. These funds contribute to our humanitarian work in Ethiopia, Sudan and Cameroon.

##### ***Other***

Other public grants and fundraising have increased and amounted to 9 (5) MSEK, which is mainly due to grants from the Swedish Postcode Lottery and Radiohjälpen.

During the year, we received funding from the Swedish Postcode Lottery for a joint project with WaterAid that will increase knowledge, break taboos

and remove practical obstacles for menstruating girls in Bangladesh. This is within the framework of their thematic investment in girls' education.

The partnership with Radiohjälpen was also strengthened during the year since we have had all five applications approved. That shows that Plan International Sweden has succeeded in positioning itself as a relevant stakeholder and reliable partner in both development and humanitarian contexts.

Through Musikhjälpen's funding stream, we have received 8 MSEK in funding for two projects in the Middle East (Lebanon and Jordan) to counteract various forms of child labour.

Through Världens Barn [the Children of the World], Radiohjälpen has granted support to a project in Guatemala to counteract the risk of trafficking of young women in a migration context. We have also received funding from Radiohjälpen amounting to 10 MSEK for our humanitarian efforts in Ukraine's neighbouring countries.

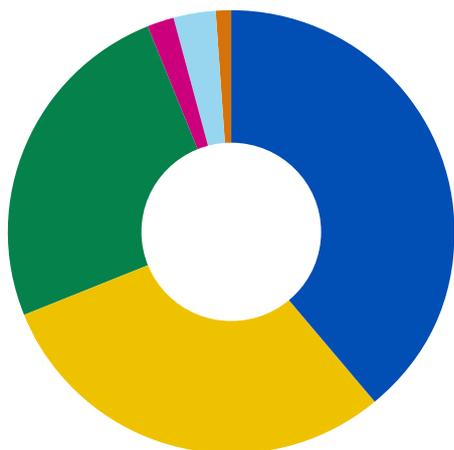
## Costs

Plan International Sweden's costs consist of costs for the purpose and costs for fundraising and administration.

### *Costs for the purpose 417 (453) MSEK*

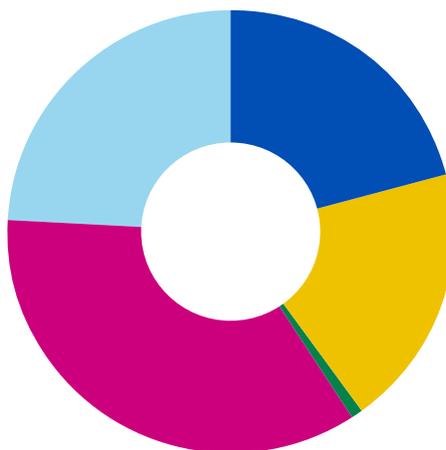
Costs to achieve tangible, quality-assured results for children's rights and equality for girls are referred to as costs for the purpose. They consist of programme costs at Plan International's country offices around the world, costs for programme support for staff in Sweden and costs for information and opinion-forming carried on in accordance with our purpose. The reduced costs for the purpose in SEK relate to decreasing revenues, which meant that the transfer of funds to programme activities outside Sweden has decreased. The share of revenue that goes to costs for the purpose remains high – 85.5 per cent of funds raised. Plan International Sweden supports programmes in 36 countries and has its largest presence in Africa.

**This is how the money is distributed per focus area in 2021/2022**



- Children's and young people's right to protection from all forms of violence: **39 %**
- Young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights: **30 %**
- Children's and young people's right to participation: **25 %**
- Children's right to education: **2 %**
- Strengthening young people's economic potential: **3 %**
- Early Childhood Development (ECD): **1 %**

**This is how the money is distributed per region in 2021/2022**



- Asia: **21 %**
- Latin and South America: **19 %**
- The Middle East: **1 %**
- Eastern and Southern Africa: **35 %**
- Western Africa: **24 %**

<b>Key figures, the parent foundation</b>					
Amounts in thousand SEK	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018
Total operational income	487,951	528,154	519,688	538,356	533,438
Costs for the purpose	416,971	452,854	444,623	457,853	451,902
Proportion in relation to total operating income					
Funds raised, %	58 %	52 %	51 %	47 %	52 %
Public contributions, %	42 %	48 %	49 %	53 %	48 %
Fundraising costs, %	11%	11 %	11 %	11 %	11 %
Administration costs,	4 %	3 %	3 %	3 %	3 %
Fundraising and administration costs,	15 %	14 %	14 %	14 %	14 %
Average number of employees	76	81	91	94	81

Plan International works preventively and adopts a long-term approach, but we are also on the ground in emergencies. Our work is based on six thematic areas: children's right to safety and protection, children's right to make decisions about their bodies, their sexuality and their relationships, children's right to education, children's right to participation and the ability to have an influence, strengthening young people's economic potential and children's early development and health. During the financial year, we have mainly supported programmes for children's right to safety and protection, sexual and reproductive health and rights and their right to participation and education.

#### *Fundraising and administration cost 71 (71) MSEK*

Fundraising costs amount to 52 (57) MSEK.

Administration costs amount to 19 (15) MSEK. Plan International works to ensure that administration costs are reasonable in relation to the costs for the purpose while at the same time adhering to guidelines, rules and laws, ensuring satisfactory internal control and monitoring and being a good employer.

We can see an increase in administration costs during the year as a result of relocation of offices and investments in a new analysis system.

Our aim and ambition is to continue to develop systems, processes and working methods to secure future income as well as to reduce fundraising and administration costs through more efficient processes, efficient support systems and more automated work.

#### **Profit 0 (4) MSEK**

Our goal is to achieve a zero result and a situation whereby all funds raised and grants received are used as soon as possible for our purpose based on statutes and aims.

Plan International Sweden's first priority is to protect programme activities and pass on as many financial resources as possible to children and young people in the countries we work in.

#### **MANAGEMENT, STEERING AND GOVERNANCE**

Plan International Sweden is organised as a foundation and, in accordance with its statutes, the Board of Directors is the highest decision-making body in the organisation. Plan International Sweden complies with Giva Sverige's quality code for guaranteeing an efficient organisation and governance with a high degree of transparency. In accordance with Giva Sverige's quality code, certain governance documents have been drawn up and have been made available on the Foundation's website, including rules of procedure for the Board of Directors and a description of how Board members are appointed. For current activities, there is a Secretariat which is led by the National Director, who is appointed by the Board. Additional governance documents have been drawn up with regard to matters such as instructions for the National Director, strategies, long-term plans, organisation, governance, finances, monitoring, internal controls, risk management and fundraising.

Plan International Sweden must send a declaration to Giva Sverige every other year stating that all requirements in accordance with the quality code have been met. That declaration must be audited and certified by the auditor. This was last submitted for the 2020/2021 financial year and the next time will be in autumn 2022.

The Board of Directors was led by Carl Lindgren. Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg, Nina Nornholm, Anja Olin Pape, Elias Aspud and Dona Hariri were Board members. Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg completed her assignment in April. The Board of Directors has held eight minuted meetings during the financial year. Carl Lindgren attended all the Board meetings during the year, Nina Nornholm and Dona Hariri attended all but one and Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg and Anja Olin Pape attended all but two. Elias Aspud attended three meetings.

Plan International Sweden's Youth Council has two observers on the Board. At the end of the year, Maja Lundqvist (student) and Holger Bergengren (student) handed over to Alexandra Rojas Nordqvist (student) and Leandra Gashi (student).

Plan International Sweden's secretariat is led by National Director Mariann Eriksson in consultation with a management team. In addition to the National Director, the management team during the financial year consisted of: Programme and Advocacy Manager Björn Holmberg who, at the end of the year also stepped into the role of Deputy National Director, Head of Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships Mirjam Hast, Head of Communications and Fundraising Johan Bååthe, whose role was subsequently taken over – as acting – by Nathalie Piehl, CFO Charlotte Bäckstrand, whose role was subsequently taken over by Christina Carlsson, and HR Manager Helena Ölander. The auditor for Plan International Sweden is PricewaterhouseCoopers AB, with Erik Albenius as the accountant in charge. The results of activities and the position at the end of the financial year in general is shown in the following income statements and balance sheets and cash flow statements with their associated notes.

## **OTHER NON-FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **Employees**

The average number of employees converted to full-time equivalents was 76 (81) during the financial year. The decrease is due to the downsizing and reorganisation we carried out in order to respond

to the changing conditions brought about by the pandemic.

### **Volunteers and trainees**

Before the pandemic, we had around a hundred registered volunteers, but when the spread of infection speeded up, we closed down the volunteer activities in the office and went from ten to five volunteers during the period. The volunteers have provided support remotely during the financial year, but since the restrictions were lifted, they also come into the office occasionally to help with tasks such as mailings.

There are eight trainees (whose work placement lasted for longer than two weeks).

### **Plan International Sweden Youth Council**

The Plan International Sweden Youth Council has an advisory role and contributes children's and young persons' perspectives to the organisation. The Youth Council has carried out a reorganisation during the year and has merged the two previous groups that worked on external communication and internal advocacy work and has developed a new task for the Youth Council: to encourage involvement, contribute to advocacy and opinion-forming at national and international level and empower young people in internal decision-making. During the financial year, the Youth Council had 16 members aged between 16 and 22 from locations ranging from Norrbotten to Skåne. The members have acted as a reference group for various initiatives in education and involvement and two representatives were observers at Plan International Sweden's Board meetings.

During the financial year, the members participated in events such as the European Week of Action for Girls, a digital event in which young people lobbied the European Union, and this year also the African Union, to continue their work to strengthen girls' rights in the world. The Youth Council's activities also included running the education initiative Champions of Change and organising the first physical camp. Young people from Gällivare to Ystad, aged between 15 and 19, attended the camp and learned about global development issues, children's and young people's rights, gender equality and advocacy work in greater detail so they could, in turn, inspire more young people to fight for a fairer, more equal world.

The Youth Council and young people from Champions of Change met politicians and collaborated with the media during the International Day of the Girl

Child and Menstrual Hygiene Day. In total, they were seen and heard 24 times on local radio and in newspapers, either through interviews or opinion pieces. One member also participated in TV4 Nyhetsmorgon and in a podcast that was well-known nationally.

### **Investment policy financial instruments**

Plan International Sweden has a policy of not investing raised funds in stocks or financial instruments. Raised funds must be kept in ordinary bank accounts. Donations in the form of securities, stocks and shares, real property, tenant-owner apartments and personal property are sold without delay.

### **PLAN INTERNATIONAL SWEDEN'S EXPECTED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The pandemic reinforced the realisation that global problems require global solutions. Children's – and particularly girls' – rights have experienced a setback, which leads to serious consequences. We must be prepared to revise and rethink when worldwide crises occur. The lessons we have learned over the past two years will benefit our future work. We must be agile and think innovatively in our programmes so that children have their rights respected regardless of the situation in the world.

We are also preparing to do more, though with fewer resources when events such as the temporary reduction in Sida's grants for civil society as a result of reductions in aid occur. We are also seeing a need in our immediate surroundings and will begin our work on activities in Sweden based on our expert knowledge of child protection and sexual and reproductive health and rights, among other things.

A dismal record has been broken this year: There are 100 million displaced persons. Since February, millions of people have fled Ukraine, while several long drawn-out crises and conflicts are still going on, but there is a lack of funding to meet the needs. These crises are caused by conflicts created primarily by climate change and shortages

of food and water. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to children's futures. Children, and particularly girls, are among those most affected by disasters and they are the ones who will live the longest with the consequences of climate change. That is why we see the climate as a question of rights and gender equality.

Work will begin in the next financial year on the basis of our new Swedish strategy, which has been updated and revised in harmony with Plan International's new global strategy, which applies in 2022–2027. We continue on the path we have started on – for children's rights with particular focus on girls – but with a clearer focus on increasing our capacity for humanitarian initiatives and establishing stronger equal partnerships with stakeholders in our programme countries.

Revenues from the private fundraising market remain stable despite the fact that it is a fairly tough market containing a large number of operators. We continue to optimise our activities in order to meet and be relevant to our donors in the best possible way and we have implemented systems that support this as part of our work. Apple's new operating system has affected the amount of data collected on users and has thus made targeted marketing in social media more difficult. We have an agile, data- and insight-driven way of working in order to ensure that we are as efficient as possible and that we create maximum value from our marketing and communication initiatives.

Plan International Sweden must be a relevant, efficient and sustainable organisation. We continuously work to further develop leadership and employeeship and constantly attempt to look critically at our methods and processes in order to make working methods simpler and more efficient. The collaboration group and the units' workplace meetings are examples of forums in which employees are encouraged to discuss change issues. Besides that, we adopt an inclusive, transparent approach to work together to ensure that Plan International Sweden continues to be an attractive workplace with a satisfactory working environment.



## INCOME STATEMENT, PARENT FOUNDATION

	Note	01/07/2021 – 30/06/2022	01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021
<b>Operating income</b>			
Donations	2	274,031,536	271,490,089
Grants	2	213,885,562	256,567,051
Other income	3	34,074	96,448
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>487,951,172</b>	<b>528,153,588</b>
<b>Operating costs</b>	4.5		
Costs for the purpose		-416,970,699	-452,854,104
Fundraising costs		-51,751,113	-56,693,546
Administrative costs		-19,116,452	-14,600,349
<b>Total operating costs</b>		<b>-487,838,264</b>	<b>-524,147,999</b>
<b>Net operating result</b>		<b>112,908</b>	<b>4,005,589</b>
<b>Profit/loss from financial investments</b>			
Interest income and currency gains		9,026	3,051
Interest expenses and currency losses		-121,934	-8,639
<b>Total profit/loss from financial investments</b>		<b>-112,908</b>	<b>-5,588</b>
<b>Net result for the year</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>
<b>Allocation of profit/loss for the year</b>			
Net profit/loss for the year in accordance with the income statement (see above)		0	4,000,000
Change in funds reserved for the purpose		0	0
Retained amount for the year/change in retained equity		<b>0</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>

## BALANCE SHEET, PARENT FOUNDATION

	Note	30/06/2022	30/06/2021
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<b>Intangible assets</b>	6		
Capitalised expenditure for computer software		0	0
<b>Tangible assets</b>	7		
Leasehold improvements		155,322	22,187
Equipment		197,019	123,813
<i>Total tangible fixed assets</i>		<i>352,341</i>	<i>146,000</i>
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Shares in Swedish subsidiary	8	1,150,000	1,150,000
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>1,502,341</b>	<b>1,296,000</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Receivables from Swedish subsidiary		37,646	26,357
Other receivables		2,556,948	1,184,660
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	9	808,009	549,173
<i>Total current receivables</i>		<i>3,402,603</i>	<i>1,760,190</i>
Cash & bank balances		122,668,800	119,962,554
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>126,071,403</b>	<b>121,722,744</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>127,573,744</b>	<b>123,018,744</b>

## BALANCE SHEET, PARENT FOUNDATION

	Note	30/06/2022	30/06/2021
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Funds restricted to the purpose		7,707,137	7,707,137
Reserved capital		15,000,000	15,000,000
Retained earnings		11,577,181	11,577,181
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>34,284,318</b>	<b>34,284,318</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		8,806,732	10,138,664
Liabilities to subsidiary		0	0
Liability for unused grants	10	30,366,968	49,505,226
Liability for grants decided on and not paid		40,193,307	15,735,856
Tax liabilities		727,166	847,351
Other liabilities		4,028,645	3,899,284
Accrued expenses and deferred income	11	9,166,608	8,608,045
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>93,289,426</b>	<b>88,734,426</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		<b>127,573,744</b>	<b>123,018,744</b>

## CHANGES IN EQUITY, PARENT FOUNDATION

	Purpose-specific funds	Reserved capital	Retained earnings	Total equity
Opening balance at 01/07/2021	7,707,137	15,000,000	11,577,181	34,284,318
Net result for the year	0	0	0	0
<b>Closing balance 30/06/2022</b>	<b>7,707,137</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>11,577,181</b>	<b>34,284,318</b>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT, PARENT FOUNDATION

	Note	01/07/2021 – 30/06/2022	01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Result for the year		112,908	4,005,589
Depreciation		149,118	817,179
Interest received		9,026	3,051
Other interest expenses and similar income statement items		-121,934	-8,639
<b>Cash flow from current activities before changes in working capital</b>			
		<b>149,118</b>	<b>4,817,179</b>
Increase (-)/Decrease (+) in current receivables		-1,642,412	-207,947
Increase (+)/Decrease (-) in current liabilities		4,555,000	15,214,684
<b>Cash flow from current activities</b>			
		<b>3,061,706</b>	<b>19,823,916</b>
<b>Investments</b>			
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets		-355,460	0
<b>Cash flow from investments</b>			
		<b>-355,460</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Dividends received		0	0
Shareholder contribution submitted		0	-1,000,000
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>			
		<b>0</b>	<b>-1,000,000</b>
<b>Increase (+)/Decrease (-) in cash and cash equivalents</b>			
		<b>2,706,245</b>	<b>18,823,916</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		119,962,554	101,138,638
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	12	<b>122,668,800</b>	<b>119,962,554</b>

## INCOME STATEMENT, GROUP

	Note	01/07/2021 – 30/06/2022	01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021
<b>Operating income</b>			
Donations	2	274,031,536	271,490,089
Grants	2	213,885,562	256,567,051
Net sales		3,334,834	3,400,967
Other income	3	38,147	96,448
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>491,290,079</b>	<b>531,554,555</b>
<b>Operating costs</b>	4.5		
Costs for the purpose		-420,367,694	-456,234,793
Fundraising costs		-51,751,113	-56,693,546
Administrative costs		-19,116,452	-14,600,349
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-491,235,259</b>	<b>-527,528,688</b>
<b>Net operating result</b>		<b>54,820</b>	<b>4,025,867</b>
<b>Total profit/loss from financial investments</b>			
Interest income and currency gains		9,026	3,051
Interest expenses and currency losses		-121,934	-8,639
<b>Total profit/loss from financial investments</b>		<b>-112,908</b>	<b>-5,588</b>
<b>Profit/loss after financial investments</b>		<b>-58,088</b>	<b>4,020,278</b>
Tax		383	-4,337
<b>Net result for the year</b>		<b>-57,705</b>	<b>4,015,941</b>

## BALANCE SHEET, GROUP

	Note	30/06/2022	30/06/2021
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<b>Intangible assets</b>	6		
Capitalised expenditure for computer software		0	0
<b>Tangible assets</b>	7		
Leasehold improvements		155,322	22,187
Equipment		197,019	123,813
<i>Total tangible fixed assets</i>		<i>352,341</i>	<i>146,000</i>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>352,341</b>	<b>146,000</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Trade accounts receivable		197,119	938,914
Other receivables		2,646,259	1,223,519
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	9	808,009	549,173
<i>Total current receivables</i>		<i>3,651,387</i>	<i>2,711,606</i>
Cash & bank balances		124,184,334	120,874,821
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>127,835,721</b>	<b>123,586,427</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>128,188,062</b>	<b>123,732,427</b>

## BALANCE SHEET, GROUP

	Note	30/06/2022	30/06/2021
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Funds restricted to the purpose		7,707,137	7,707,137
Reserved capital		15,000,000	15,000,000
Retained earnings		11,591,325	7,575,385
Net profit/loss for the year		-57,705	4,015,941
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>34,240,757</b>	<b>34,298,463</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		8,822,217	10,165,179
Liability for unused grants	10	30,366,968	49,505,226
Liability for grants decided on and not paid		40,193,307	15,735,856
Tax liabilities		731,120	851,688
Other liabilities		4,124,539	3,967,715
Accrued expenses and deferred income	11	9,709,154	9,208,300
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>93,947,305</b>	<b>89,433,964</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		<b>128,188,062</b>	<b>123,732,427</b>

## CHANGES IN EQUITY, GROUP

	Purpose-specific funds	Reserved capital	Retained earnings	Net profit/loss for the year	Total equity
Opening balance at 01/07/2021	7,707,137	15,000,000	7,575,384	4,015,941	34,298,462
Allocation of previous year's profit/loss			4,015,941	-4,015,941	0
Net profit/loss for the year	0	0	0	-57,705	-57,705
<b>Closing balance 30/06/2022</b>	<b>7,707,137</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>11,591,325</b>	<b>-57,705</b>	<b>34,240,757</b>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT, GROUP

	Note	01/07/2021 – 30/06/2022	01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Result for the year		54,820	4,025,867
Depreciation		149,118	817,178
Interest received		9,026	3,051
Income tax		383	-4,337
Other interest expenses and similar income statement items		-121,934	-8,639
<b>Cash flow from current activities before changes in working capital</b>		<b>91,413</b>	<b>4,833,120</b>
Increase (-)/Decrease (+) in current receivables		-939,781	-1,137,517
Increase (+)/Decrease (-) in current liabilities		4,513,341	15,898,466
<b>Cash flow from current activities</b>		<b>3,573,560</b>	<b>14,760,949</b>
<b>Investments</b>			
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets		-355,460	0
<b>Cash flow from investments</b>		<b>-355,460</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Increase (+)/Decrease (-) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>3,309,513</b>	<b>19,594,069</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		120,874,821	101,280,752
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	12	<b>124,184,334</b>	<b>120,874,821</b>

## NOTES

### NOTE 1 ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

The annual report has been prepared with the application of the Annual Accounts Act (1995:1557), BFNAR [the General Guidelines of the Swedish Accounting Standards Board] 2012:1 Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements (K3), Giva Sverige's governing guidelines for annual reports and BFNAR 2020:1 Certain accounting issues due to the coronavirus. The annual financial statements also contain certain information required by the Swedish Fundraising Control.

The consolidated financial statements include subsidiaries in which the Foundation holds, directly or indirectly, more than 50 per cent of the voting rights or otherwise exercises a controlling influence.

The consolidated accounts have been prepared in accordance with the acquisition method, which means that subsidiaries' equity at the time of acquisition, established as the difference between the fair value of the assets and the fair value of the liabilities, is eliminated in full. Thus, the group's equity only includes that portion of the subsidiaries' equity that came into the group after the acquisition.

Internal profits within the group are eliminated in full.

Amounts are expressed in full SEK unless otherwise stated.

### Operating income

Only the inflow of financial benefits that the organisation has received or will receive on its own behalf is recognised as income. Income is measured, unless specified below, at the fair value of what has been received or will be received.

### *Donations and grants*

A transaction in which the organisation receives an asset or a service that has a value without giving back a corresponding value in exchange is a gift or a grant received. If the asset or service is provided because the organisation met or will meet certain conditions and if the organisation has an obligation to repay the other party if the conditions are not met, it is a grant received. If it is not a grant, it is a donation.

### *Donations*

Donations are, as a main rule, recognised as income when they are received.

A donation that is entered as income is recognised either as an asset or as an expense, depending on whether or not the donation is used directly. Donations that the

organisation intends to use in its activities on a permanent basis are recognised as fixed assets. Other donations are recognised as current assets.

Donations are, as a general rule, measured at fair value. In cases where the organisation has made a payment to receive the donation, the value of the donation is reduced by the amount of the payment.

### *Donations from sponsors*

Means the monthly amount that traditional sponsors and theme sponsors contribute as support for the local development programmes in Plan International's programme countries.

### *Other donations*

Means donations from the general public, companies, organisations, associations, private and non-profit funds and foundations and sponsorship.

### *Grants*

Grants are recognised as income when the conditions for receiving the contribution have been met. Received contributions are recognised as liabilities until the conditions for receiving the contribution have been met.

Grants that have been received in order to cover certain costs (administration, for example) are recognised in the same financial year as the cost. In the case of multi-year projects, the cost will arise over multiple financial years and the revenue will therefore also be recognised over multiple years.

Grants relating to a fixed asset reduce the historical cost.

Grants received are measured at the fair value of the asset that the organisation received or will receive.

### *Other income*

Other income is income that is not primary for the organisation. Other income refers mainly to support and compensation from authorities, such as the Swedish Public Employment Service and the Swedish Tax Agency.

### Operating costs

Operating costs are divided into the following functions: purpose, fundraising and administration costs.

The organisation has costs – so-called common costs – which are common to the purpose, fundraising and the administrative functions. Ordinary joint costs consist of IT, finance, internal service and rental of premises.

### ***Costs for the purpose***

Costs for the purpose are costs that can be attributed to the organisation's assignments in accordance with its statutes. These also include the common costs allocated to the costs for the purpose. Costs for administration that arise as a direct consequence of an activity/project, such as monitoring and reporting, in the purpose are included in costs for the purpose.

### ***Fundraising costs***

These are the costs necessary to generate external income, i.e. direct costs for fundraising work. They include campaigns, events, advertising, announcements, personnel costs in relation to fundraising work, dispatch and similar activities. Fundraising costs also include costs for brand building, profiling and positioning and the common costs allocated to fundraising costs.

### ***Administrative costs***

Administrative costs are the costs necessary for the administration of the organisation and constitute a guarantee of quality for the purpose and for the donor. Plan International Sweden has chosen to recognise all personnel costs for the National Director and HR department as administration costs. Other costs classified as administration include auditing (excluding auditing of project funds), administrative systems and insurance.

### **Leasing**

All of Plan International Sverige Insamlingsstiftelse's leases are expensed on an ongoing basis (on a straight-line basis) over the lease period.

### **Payments to Employees**

Regular payments to employees in the form of salaries, social insurance costs and similar are expensed at the rate that the employees carry out services.

Since all pension obligations are classified as defined-contribution, the pension cost is recognised in the year in which the pension is accrued.

### **Assets and liabilities**

#### ***Fixed assets***

Tangible and intangible fixed assets are measured at historical cost minus depreciation according to plan.

Depreciation takes place on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. The following depreciation periods are applied:

Capitalised expenditure for software	3-5 years
IT equipment	3 years
Other equipment	5-10 years
Leasehold improvements	5 years

If a tangible fixed asset has a lower value in use than the book value on the balance sheet date, the asset is impaired to that lower value if it can be assumed that the decrease in value is permanent.

#### ***Financial assets***

Trade receivables are measured individually at the amount expected to be received. Receivables and liabilities in foreign currency are measured at the exchange rate in force at the balance sheet date.

#### ***Liability for unused grants***

In the cases where Plan has received a grant but has not yet fulfilled the conditions, these are recognised as a liability.

#### ***Liability for grants decided on and not paid***

When Plan has decided to pay out and has notified the recipient, but has not effected the payment, this amount is recognised as a current liability.

#### ***Equity***

The item Funds restricted to the purpose in equity includes gifts not yet consumed and other funds restricted to the purpose. These funds represent the amount not yet decided for Plan's purposes. A reduction means that a higher amount than the amount received was transferred to Plan International Inc., and vice versa. During the year, transferred funds are included in the expense items Costs for the purpose, international programmes, in the income statement. See also specification for the Balance Sheet.

#### **Cash flow statement**

The cash flow statement is drawn up using the indirect method, i.e. it is based on the operating profit/loss. The recognised cash flow includes only transactions entailing incoming and outgoing payments. Only cash and bank balances are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

## NOTE 2 FUNDS RAISED

Donations recognised in the income statement	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
<b>Funds raised</b>				
Traditional sponsorship	165,245,161	165,245,161	168,409,492	168,409,492
Theme sponsorship	78,027,428	78,027,428	71,237,201	71,237,201
Single contributions from the general public	5,117,379	5,117,379	4,229,532	4,229,532
Corporate	4,636,568	4,636,568	4,209,104	4,209,104
Other foundations and organisations	75,000	75,000	300,000	300,000
Svenska Postkodföreningen	20,930,000	20,930,000	23,104,760	23,104,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>274,031,536</b>	<b>274,031,536</b>	<b>271,490,089</b>	<b>271,490,089</b>

### Donations not recognised in the income statement

Donations received but not recognised in the income statement refers to pro bono services and advertisement discounts, for example, where the value in SEK is not produced.

Grants recognised as income	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
<b>Funds raised (private grants)</b>				
Radiohjälpen	6,812,725	6,812,725	4,309,769	4,309,769
Svenska Postkodföreningen	2,649,469	2,649,469	881,154	881,154
H&M Foundation	0	0	-54,611	-54,611
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,462,194</b>	<b>9,462,194</b>	<b>5,136,312</b>	<b>5,136,312</b>
<b>Public sector grants</b>				
Sida	186,713,836	186,713,836	220,127,510	220,127,510
EU	8,972,778	8,972,778	16,505,997	16,505,997
ECHO	3,486,473	3,486,473	5,816,368	5,816,368
UNICEF	634,286	634,286	5,541,178	5,541,178
UNOCHA	4,615,995	4,615,995	3,439,686	3,439,686
<b>Total public subsidies</b>	<b>204,423,368</b>	<b>204,423,368</b>	<b>251,430,739</b>	<b>251,430,739</b>
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>213,885,562</b>	<b>213,885,562</b>	<b>256,567,051</b>	<b>256,567,051</b>
<b>Total funds raised consists of the following:</b>				
Donations recognised in the income statement	274,031,536	274,031,536	271,490,088	271,490,088
Private law grants recognised in the income statement	9,462,194	9,462,194	5,136,312	5,136,312
<b>Total funds raised</b>	<b>283,493,730</b>	<b>283,493,730</b>	<b>276,626,400</b>	<b>276,626,400</b>

### NOTE 3 OTHER INCOME

Other income consists mainly of support and compensations from public authorities such as the Swedish Public Employment Service.

### NOTE 4 AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, PERSONNEL EXPENSES AND FEES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Personnel, salaries and social insurance costs</b>	<b>Parent foundation 2021/2022</b>	<b>Group 2021/2022</b>	<b>Parent foundation 2020/2021</b>	<b>Group 2020/2021</b>
<b>Average number of employees</b>				
Number of employees	76	79	81	84
Of which male	15	16	16	16
Proportion of men	20 %	20 %	20 %	19%
The average number of employees was calculated on the basis of annual working time of 1,950 hours per year.				
<b>Members of the Board of Directors and management team</b>				
Number of Board members on the balance sheet date	5		6	
Of which male	2		2	
National Director and management team	6		6	
Of which male	1		2	
<b>Salaries and other remuneration</b>				
Board of Directors	0	0	0	
National Director	1,053,528	1,053,528	1,067,576	1,067,576
Other employees	38,577,587	40,884,249	40,971,272	43,082,318
<b>Total salaries and payments</b>	<b>39,631,115</b>	<b>41,937,777</b>	<b>42,038,848</b>	<b>44,149,894</b>
Social insurance costs	16,448,074	17,481,880	17,816,332	18,825,957
(of which pension costs)	3,148,134	3,400,975	3,575,745	3,811,677
Pension premiums for all employees follow the ITP plan and are included in the above amounts.				
There are no agreements regarding severance pay to any employee or Board member.				
<b>Allocation of pension costs</b>				
National Director	198,831		199,800	
<b>Volunteers</b>				
Due to the pandemic, volunteer activities in the office have been closed and only a handful of volunteers have helped remotely. Eight trainees worked unpaid at Plan Sweden during the financial year.				

## NOTE 5 LEASING

Plan Sweden mainly leases all office premises and equipment. Expensed leasing fees amount to SEK 3,918,987 (SEK 3,580,254)

Future leasing fees fall due for payment as follows:

	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
Within 1 year	4,273,829	4,273,829	3,609,854	3,609,854
1-5 years	11,108,994	11,108,994	13,570,079	13,570,079
Later than 5 years	0	0	0	0
<b>Total leasing fees</b>	<b>15,382,823</b>	<b>15,382,823</b>	<b>17,179,933</b>	<b>17,179,933</b>

The agreement on the rental of premises extends to 31 October 2026.

## NOTE 6 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
<b>Acquisition value</b>				
Opening balance	9,494,022	9,494,022	9,494,022	9,494,022
Acquisitions for the year	0	0	0	0
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>9,494,022</b>	<b>9,494,022</b>	<b>9,494,022</b>	<b>9,494,022</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
Opening balance	-9,494,022	-9,494,022	-9,494,022	-9,494,022
Depreciation for the year	0	0	0	0
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-9,494,022</b>	<b>-9,494,022</b>	<b>-9,494,022</b>	<b>-9,494,022</b>
<b>Book value intangible fixed assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**NOTE 7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
<b>Leasehold improvements</b>				
<b>Acquisition value</b>				
Opening balance	5,068,487	5,068,487	5,068,487	5,068,487
Acquisitions for the year	172,580	172,580	0	0
Scrapped for the year	-5,068,487	-5,068,487	0	0
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>172,580</b>	<b>172,580</b>	<b>5,068,487</b>	<b>5,068,487</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
Opening balance	-5,046,300	-5,046,300	-4,521,151	-4,521,151
Depreciation for the year	-39,446	-39,446	-525,149	-525,149
Scrapped for the year	5,068,487	5,068,487	0	0
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>17,528</b>	<b>17,528</b>	<b>-5,046,300</b>	<b>-5,046,300</b>
<b>Book value leasehold improvements</b>	<b>155,321</b>	<b>155,321</b>	<b>22,187</b>	<b>22,187</b>
<b>Equipment</b>				
<b>Acquisition value</b>				
Opening balance	3,230,865	3,230,865	3,230,865	3,230,865
Acquisitions for the year	182,880	182,880	0	0
Scrapped for the year	-2,662,394	-2,662,394	0	0
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>751,351</b>	<b>751,351</b>	<b>3,230,865</b>	<b>3,230,865</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
Opening balance	-3,107,052	-3,107,052	-2,815,023	-2,815,023
Depreciation for the year	-109,672	-109,672	-292,029	-292,029
Scrapped for the year	2,662,393	2,662,393	0	0
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-554,331</b>	<b>-554,331</b>	<b>-3,107,052</b>	<b>-3,107,052</b>
<b>Book value equipment</b>	<b>197,020</b>	<b>197,020</b>	<b>123,813</b>	<b>123,813</b>
<b>Book value tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>352,341</b>	<b>352,341</b>	<b>146,000</b>	<b>146,000</b>

**NOTE 8 SHARES IN SWEDISH SUBSIDIARY**

	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
<b>Acquisition value</b>				
Opening balance	1,150,000		150,000	
Acquisitions for the year/ Shareholder contributions	0		1,000,000	
Write-down for the year	0		0	
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>		<b>1,150,000</b>	
<b>Book value financial fixed assets</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>		<b>1,150,000</b>	

**Specification of the organisation's shares in subsidiaries**

	30/06/2022	30/06/2021
	Carrying amount	Carrying amount
Plan Sverige Produktion & Försäljning AB, Corporate ID no.: 556584-5798, head office: Stockholm	1,150,000	1,150,000
<b>Total participations in group companies</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>

The company's equity is SEK 1,106,439 and it made a loss of SEK 57,705 in this financial year.

**NOTE 9 PREPAID EXPENSES AND ACCRUED INCOME**

	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
Prepaid rent	633,774	633,774	549,173	549,173
Other	174,235	174,235	0	0
<b>Total prepaid expenses and accrued income</b>	<b>808,009</b>	<b>808,009</b>	<b>549,173</b>	<b>549,173</b>

**NOTE 10 LIABILITY FOR UNUSED GRANTS**

	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
ECHO	84,898	84,898	0	0
EU	1,975,223	1,975,223	2,757,369	2,757,369
Radiohjälpen	5,217,276	5,217,276	4,030,000	4,030,000
Sida	21,028,745	21,028,745	41,417,979	41,417,979
Other	2,060,826	2,060,826	1,299,878	1,299,878
<b>Total liability unused grants</b>	<b>30,366,968</b>	<b>30,366,968</b>	<b>49,505,226</b>	<b>49,505,226</b>

**NOTE 11 ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME**

	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
Accrued vacation supplement	3,978,437	4,295,753	4,764,851	5,113,782
Accrued social insurance expenses	1,239,249	1,383,140	1,467,391	1,647,078
Other accrued expenses	3,948,922	4,030,261	2,375,803	2,447,440
<b>Total accrued expenses and deferred income</b>	<b>9,166,608</b>	<b>9,709,154</b>	<b>8,608,045</b>	<b>9,208,300</b>

**NOTE 12 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

The following sub-components are included in cash and cash equivalents:

	Parent foundation 2021/2022	Group 2021/2022	Parent foundation 2020/2021	Group 2020/2021
Bank balances	122,668,800	124,184,334	119,962,554	120,874,821
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>122,668,800</b>	<b>124,184,334</b>	<b>119,962,554</b>	<b>120,874,821</b>

Blocked funds of a total of 500 TSEK have been given as a guarantee for the new lease agreement for premises for the activities.

## **SIGNATURES TO THE ANNUAL REPORT**

Stockholm on the date shown in our electronic signatures.

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Carl Lindgren  
Chairperson

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Anja Olin Pape

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Nina Nornholm

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Dona Hariri

---

Elias Aspudd

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Mariann Eriksson  
National Director

Our auditors' report was issued on the date  
shown in our electronic signature.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

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Erik Albenius  
Authorised Public Accountant

# AUDIT REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Plan International Sverige  
Insamlingsstiftelse, corporate ID no. 802404-9150

## REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Opinion

We have conducted an audit of the financial statements and consolidated financial statements of Plan International Sverige Insamlingsstiftelse for the financial year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The foundation's financial statements and consolidated financial statements are contained on pages 30–61 of this document.

In our opinion, the financial statements and consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and, in all material respects, give a true and fair view of the parent foundation's and the group's financial position at 30 June 2022 and of their financial results and cash flow for the year in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The administration report is consistent with the other parts of the financial statements and consolidated financial statements.

### Basis for the opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibility under these standards is described in more detail in the section entitled *The auditor's responsibility*. We are independent from the parent foundation and the group in accordance with generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our professional ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We consider that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Information other than the financial statements and consolidated financial statements

This document also contains information other than the financial statements and consolidated financial statements. The other information consists of the Annual Report (pages 4–27) and the Impact Report (pages 28–29). The Board of Directors is responsible for that other information.

Our statement regarding the financial statements and consolidated financial statements does not include this information and we make no statement of confirmation regarding this other information.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and consolidated financial statements, we are responsible for reading the information identified above and considering whether the information is incompatible with the financial statements and consolidated financial statements to any substantial extent. During this review, we also take into account the knowledge we obtained otherwise during the audit and we assess whether the information otherwise appears to contain material misstatements.

If, based on the work that has been carried out with regard to this information, we conclude that the other information contains a material misstatement, we are required to report it. We have nothing to report in that regard.

### Responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the National Director

The Board of Directors and the National Director are responsible for ensuring that the financial statements and consolidated financial statements are prepared and that they give a true and fair view in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act. The Board of Directors and the National Director are also responsible for the internal controls they deem necessary in order to prepare financial statements and consolidated financial statements that contain no material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

When preparing the financial statements and the consolidated financial statements, the Board of Directors and the National Director are responsible for assessing the foundation's and the group's ability to continue as a going concern. They provide information, whenever applicable, on any circumstances that could affect the ability to continue as a going concern and apply the assumption of going concern. However, the assumption of going concern is not applied if the Board of Directors and the National Director intend to cease operations or have no realistic alternative to doing so.

### The auditor's responsibility

Our objective is to achieve a reasonable degree of assurance as to whether the financial statements and consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error, and to submit an auditor's report that contains our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA and generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect a material misstatement, if any exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements and consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In addition:

- we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements and consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures, *inter alia* on the basis of these risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- we obtain an understanding of the part of the foundation's internal controls that is relevant to our audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the

circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the foundation's internal controls.

- we evaluate the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors and the National Director.
- we draw a conclusion on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' and the National Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements and consolidated financial statements. We also draw a conclusion, based on the audit evidence obtained, as to whether any material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the disclosures on the material uncertainty in the financial statements and consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the financial statements and consolidated financial statements. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- we evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that provides a true and fair view.
- we obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence with regard to financial information for the units or business activities within the group in order to issue a statement with regard to the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for control, monitoring and implementation of the audit of the consolidated financial statements. We have sole liability for our statements.

We must inform the Board of Directors and the National Director of such matters as the planned scope, emphasis and timing of the audit. We must also inform of significant findings during the audit, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify.

## REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

### Opinion

In addition to our audit of the financial statements and consolidated financial statements, we have also audited the Board or Directors' management of Plan International Sverige Insamlingsstiftelse for the financial year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

In our opinion, the Board members have not acted in contravention of the Swedish Act on Foundations, the Swedish Ordinance on Foundations or the Swedish Annual Accounts Act.

## Basis for the opinion

We conducted the audit in accordance with generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibility under these standards is described in more detail in the section entitled *The auditor's responsibility*. We are independent from the parent foundation and the group in accordance with generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our professional ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We consider that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate as a basis for our opinion.

## The Board of Directors' responsibility

The Board of Directors is responsible for the management in accordance with the Swedish Act on Foundations and the Swedish Ordinance on Foundations.

## The auditor's responsibility

Our objective with regard to the audit of the management, and therefore our opinion, is to obtain audit evidence to enable us to assess with reasonable assurance whether any member of the Board of Directors has, in any material respect:

- taken any action or been guilty of any omission that could give rise to any liability to the foundation or whether there is reason for dismissal, or
- acted in any other way that is contrary to the Swedish Act on Foundations, the Swedish Ordinance on Foundations or the Swedish Annual Accounts Act.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect acts or omissions that may give rise to an obligation to pay compensation to the foundation.

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. The audit of the administration is based mainly on the audit of the accounts. Any additional review procedures are carried out exercising our professional judgment on the basis of risk and materiality. That means that we focus the audit on the measures, areas and circumstances that are essential for the foundation's operations and where deviations and violations would be of special significance for the foundation's situation. We review and examine decisions made, supporting data for decisions, actions taken and other circumstances that are relevant for our opinion.

Stockholm, on the date shown in my electronic signature.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

Erik Albenius, Authorised Public Accountant.

*The English text is an unofficial translation of the Swedish original, and in the event of any discrepancies between the Swedish text and the English translation, the Swedish version shall take precedence.*



[www.plansverige.org](http://www.plansverige.org)

