



UGANDA

Promoting Child Rights
to end child poverty in Uganda





Top: Children of Mawu ECCD Centre - Luwero prepare to go home after classes.

Cover photo: One of the ECCD graduates from Abongit ECCD Centre reads a story for the rest of the class in Primary one at Abongit Primary school - Tororo

Plan in Uganda

Founded over 75 years ago, Plan is one of the oldest and largest children's development organisations in the world. We work in 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote child rights and lift millions of children out of poverty. In 2013, Plan worked with 78 million children in 90,229 communities. Plan is independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations.

Vision

A world in which all children realize their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity.

Mission

To achieve lasting improvements in the lives of marginalised children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning and value to their lives by:

- Enabling marginalised children, their families, and their communities to realise their rights, meet their basic needs, and increase their ability to participate and benefit from their societies.
- Building relationships to increase understanding and unity among people of different cultures and countries by promoting their rights and the interests of the world's children.

Our Values

- Act always in the best interests of the child.
- Respect children's rights and human rights, believing in everyone's innate and inalienable dignity as a human being, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, class, or disability.
- Be ethical, honest, and transparent and place a high value on integrity.
- Create conditions in our work, in our activities, and in our organisation for personal empowerment,



Children attend class at Kawempe ECCD Centre in Kawempe

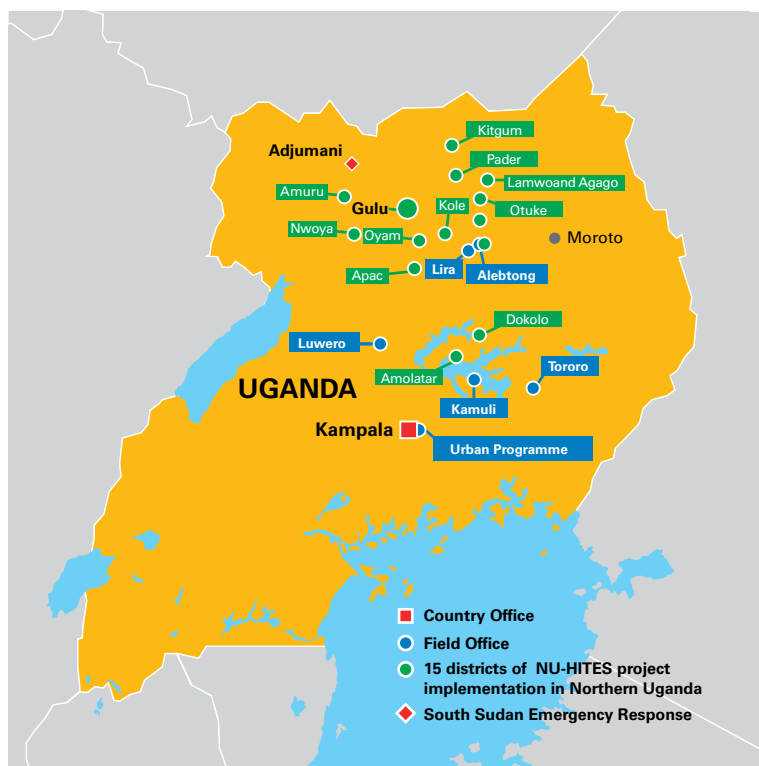
- especially of children and the most marginalised.
- Acknowledge that we cannot solve problems of poverty alone but only through teamwork and mutual partnerships.
- Be accountable to our stakeholders in our communities, finances, performance measures, and results and strive for effectiveness, sustainability, and efficiency in everything we do, adhering to recognised international standards.

Child Centred Community Development

Child Centred Community Development (CCCD) is Plan's distinctive approach to working with communities to help more children and young people realise their potential. It is built on two foundations:

Firstly, all children have the same universal human rights, which are set out in international treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They include the rights to: education, health care, protection from harm and participate as citizens. National governments have primary responsibility for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights.

Secondly, communities are powerful when they act together. Plan supports groups of people to come together to tackle their own issues. When people take action together, they support each other and build up their skills and confidence. They feel a sense of ownership over their activities. So they are likely to continue and promote them. They build up their ability to claim their rights and their children's' rights, as active citizens.



Plan in Uganda



Children of Mawu A ECCD centre participate in the math challenge during the numeracy session

Plan International has been operating in Uganda since 1992 and currently has a diversified programme portfolio in Tororo, Luwero, Kamuli and Lira and a health focus in 15 districts in Northern Uganda.

Plan feels proud to work closely with more than 50 national and international partners, including civil society, the private sector and government institutions. Together we contribute to improve the lives of children in the following areas: Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), Sexual and Reproductive Health, Education, Participation and Governance, Disaster Risk Management, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Economic Security and Child Protection. Advocacy, gender and civil society strengthening are cross-cutting priorities.

Plan Uganda is in the last stages of implementing its five-year Country Strategic Plan (2010 to 2015) based on the life cycle approach to ensure all children access to their rights to survival, development, protection and participation. This plan has three core programmes: A Good Start in Life (0-6 years), The Next Steps (7-13 years), and Ready for the Future (14 -24 years).



Children of Natyole primary school enjoy games during break time - Luwero

Child Protection

Protecting children and young people from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence is central to everything we do.



Children play at Baratuku child Friendly Space constructed by Plan- Baratuku refugee settlement- Adjumani district

Programme Background

The Government of Uganda ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1990 and has since made positive progress towards the recognition of children's rights. Despite these efforts, there are still many children who are exposed to abuse and violence and forced into early child marriage, child labour and trafficking.

Child protection is a key component of Plan Uganda programmes. It is a cross-cutting issue in all our interventions but also an impact area on its own. Child protection measures aim to ensure that children are protected from all forms of exploitation, neglect and physical, sexual and emotional abuse through national and community-based child protection systems that effectively respond to and prevent violence against children, including

the provision of quality recovery and reintegration services by the State.

Main interventions

- **National and Community-Based Child Protection System:** This component focuses on building the capacity of children, caregivers, education officials and child protection professionals on the prevention of violence against children in the home, at school and in the community, as well as child protection case management. It also includes strengthening of existing local structures and mechanisms for child protection, such as Child Protection Committees (CPCs), local government actors, anti-violence groups in schools and parenting groups. It promotes effective coordination of civil

society actors by government statutory child protection agencies and strengthening of reporting and referral systems. Finally, it includes efforts to improve death and birth registration services for children to guarantee identity, parentage, nationality and legal protection.

- **Inclusion of Children with Disabilities (CWDs):** Promoting an environment of social inclusion and protecting children from discrimination is a key commitment for Plan Uganda. Using the community-based rehabilitation (CBR) model, Plan Uganda strives to empower institutions and structures at the community and district level to provide care, support and protection for children with disabilities. Interventions include building the capacity of local institutions which provide services for children with disabilities; supporting the establishment of community support structures to sensitise communities; enhancing children with disabilities' right to protection; and reducing their vulnerability to abuse, neglect, stigma and discrimination so as to improve their quality of life.
- **Civil society strengthening:** The Child Protection programme contributes to capacity building of civil society organisations (CSO) to engage children, youth and parents in promoting children's right to protection, monitoring State implementation of the Child Rights Convention and coordinating efforts related to advocacy and policy reform on child protection.

Main partnerships

Adina Foundation Uganda; Benedictine Eye Hospital Tororo; CoRSU; Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA); Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (Department of Children and Youth); Ministry of Internal Affairs: (Uganda Police Child and Family Protection Units); Ministry of Education and Sports; and Uganda Registration Services Bureau.



Snack time at Kocoge ECCD centre- Tororo

Some key Achievements

- Functional community-based child protection committees (CPCs) have been established in 230 communities for protection of children at the family and community level.
- Increased community participation in awareness and dialogue meetings on the protection of children from abuse; this has subsequently increased the reporting of abuse cases.
- Functional anti-violence school clubs (AVCs) have been established in over 180 primary schools and 20 secondary schools. Children-managed AVC systems are providing alternatives to corporal punishment.
- The number of functional parent support groups (PSGs) for CWD has increased, as has support for CWD by community members. More children have been provided with rehabilitation services through the CBR programme, managed by community members themselves.
- Capacities of CSOs, youth groups and women's groups have been built on child rights and child protection awareness.
- Child Helpline action centres have been established in Lira, Alebtong, Luwero, Kamuli and Tororo to facilitate reporting and referral of child abuse cases through National Child Helpline 116.
- There is improved national coordination of child protection stakeholders and CSOs by the Ministry of Gender.
- Child reception centres have been constructed, which has improved access to child-friendly justice within the police.

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)



A child from Mawu ECCD Centre in Luwero writes his name on the black board to demonstrate school readiness skills gained from the ECCD centre.

Programme Background

Plan Uganda implements its ECCD programme through a successful model called Community Led Action for Children (CLAC) to ensure that all children develop to their full potential through an integrated, holistic, high impact, community led and managed ECCD programme that respects and observes the rights of children.

The ECCD programme addresses the limited knowledge and skills on positive child rearing practices among mostly poor and struggling parents. Limited knowledge is mainly due to a lack of developed services to support children and families in need, which has impacted negatively on children's right to a good start in life. Early childhood stimulation and development is not well understood and not widely practiced in rural areas of

Uganda, which has resulted in limited investment in the area of ECCD for pre-school/nurseries. Implementation is left to the private sector, which locks out children from poor families, and, as a result, these children enter school without the readiness skills to pursue a successful education and life.

Main interventions

The ECCD programme is aligned with the four Early Childhood Care and Development cornerstones to secure a strong foundation for young children:

1. Start at the beginning
2. Early development and learning
3. Make schools ready for children
4. Include early childhood development in policies.

- **Parenting Education:**

Plan empowers parents with skills and knowledge that support the development of their children from conception to the age of 8 by caring for, learning from and protecting children. The CLAC model also enhances parents' understanding of the importance of the early years, increases confidence and strengthens practical skills to provide effective care and stimulation for children.

- **Community Based Early Learning Programme:**

Community-led early learning centres allow children aged 3-6 to participate in early childhood education programmes that promote cognitive, social, emotional and physical development, ensuring they are ready to attend primary school.

- **Transitions to Primary:** This is based on a premise that initial success at school, both socially and intellectually is a significant factor in determining children's adjustment to the demands of the school environment and future progress with support from the parents and teachers.

- **Advocacy, Partnerships and Collective Action:** Collective advocacy at the community, district and national levels aims to meet the development needs of children from 0-8 years by building ECCD expertise within the communities, supporting collective action for children at the neighbourhood level, and strengthening the demand for and execution of ECCD services.

Main partnerships

Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Ministry of Education and Sports; UNICEF; Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU); National Council for



Ms. Margaret Nantege - Caregiver of Katala ECCD Centre demonstrates how to shape letter O for the children.

Children; Aga Khan Foundation; and Save the Children.

Key Achievements

- 4,992 (1,760M, 3,232F) parenting group members acquired child development and financial management skills, which have enabled them to monitor their children's development, combat malnutrition and improve their financial status.
- 107 ECCD centres have been established thus far, registered by the Ministry of Education and provided with construction, scholastic, learning and play materials.
- 321 caregivers and infant teachers have been equipped with child-friendly skills and knowledge of proper hygiene to enable them to provide attractive and safe learning environments for children.
- 26,897 (13,186 M, 13,711F) children, of which 97 (53M, 44F) have disabilities, have benefited from the programme.
- Plan Uganda has supported the development of a National ECCD Policy, in partnership with the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, UNICEF, Save the Children, Aga Khan Foundation, National Council for Children and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Economic Security



Walter 23 years stands by his maize garden – Tororo

Programme Background

It is currently estimated that 78% of Uganda's population is under 30 and children (0 to 18 years) constitute the majority, at 56%. In 2007, the official unemployment rate stood at 32% nationally and at 22.3% among youth. Real figures may be much higher and it is estimated that 80% of 15-25 year olds are unemployed or underemployed.

Lack of land access and insufficient technology, modern techniques, capital and business skills among youth, in addition to restrictive criteria to access government programmes, are the main issues which keep youth from accessing livelihood opportunities.

Around 80% of Uganda's population lives in rural areas and directly depends on agriculture as a source of livelihood. The level of knowledge and skills needed to enhance agricultural productivity, food security and nutrition presents a big challenge. As a result, poverty, hunger and malnutrition continue to affect families, and over 60% of those living in poverty are children. The situation is worsened by limited access to formal financial services and a lack of entrepreneurial skills and enterprise-based product knowledge. The existing formal institutions do not find it profitable to work with poor rural households. Furthermore, many women have been left out by these institutions and are left without alternative income generating activities.

Main interventions

- Plan strengthens agricultural value chains to enable small-scale farmers and their organisations to seize production and market opportunities. Consequently, local economies and food security improve due to the fresh, local produce available for selling, eating, and improving child wellbeing.
- Plan works in sub-sectors, such as livestock, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables and staple crops, depending on the opportunities in different regions of the country. Furthermore, we adapt a number of well-established agriculture livelihood development approaches to the local context.
- Plan uses a multi-sectoral approach involving the corporate and public sectors to implement youth employment models involving the establishment of producer groups, micro-franchise business relationships and job placement.
- We support access to financial services by promoting the establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in order to strengthen the capacity and confidence of rural dwellers to identify and exploit economic opportunities and build household assets. We also support the creation of linkages of the VSLAs to formal financial institutions to enhance financial mediation and provide a broader range of financial products.
- Plan promotes vocational training/apprenticeship, entrepreneurship and life skills development and financial literacy among young people in order to enable them to enjoy their economic rights.
- We build on the capacity of structures within local governments and of partners in both the public and private sectors to expand outreach and ensure the sustainability of our interventions.

Main partnerships

Government ministries and departments and local governments; Africa 2000 Network; Community Vision; VEDCO; Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO); Concerned Parents Association (CPA); and Bukedi Diocese; public and private vocational training institutions and apprenticeship centres; social enterprises such as AFRIPads; and corporate actors such as Barclays Bank.



Youths participate in a vocational skills training; welding session at St. Joseph Vocational School in Kamuli town council

Key Achievements

- Built capacity of seven farmer associations for collective marketing in selected value chains.
- Trained over 9,000 farmers in improved crop husbandry practices and set up demonstration plots.
- Established 3,400 VSLA groups with a total membership of 100,000 (85% female).
- Provided 200 households with poultry management skills, starter kits and technical support, which benefited over 1,200 children.
- Supported over 2,500 young people with vocational, apprenticeship and life skills.

Education



Girls revise notes at Kagogo primary school

Programme Background

Approximately 53% of Uganda's population consists of children of primary school going age (6-12 years). The Ugandan Government adopted the policy of Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997, abolishing tuition fees in all public primary schools. The Ugandan Education Act (2008) made primary education compulsory for all children of primary school going age. Since 1996, primary school enrolment increased from 3,068,625 to 19,193,267 pupils. Despite this achievement, there are still challenges regarding the quality of service delivery, as half of students enrolled in primary one repeat or drop out before completing seven years, and learning outcomes are poor.

Education laws emphasise community participation in school governance, yet head teachers remain the main decision-makers. Parents and learners view education as the sole responsibility of the government and participate little in school budget, policy, management and monitoring processes. There is little recognition of

parents' and teachers' shared responsibility for protecting instructional time, ensuring that students and teachers attend class, and prioritising learning.

Main interventions

- **Increasing Access to Education:** Plan Uganda has intensified support for the most vulnerable children to ensure access to basic quality education. Interventions ranging from community mobilisation and sensitisation on the value of education for boys and girls, to improving the learning environment and financial support targeting the most marginalised children to meet their basic school requirements, have been implemented, including scholarships, providing books, scholastic materials and sanitary pads, and school classroom construction or rehabilitation.
- **Education Quality:** In addition to supporting equal

access to basic education for boys and girls, Plan supports education quality improvement, since quality and equality in education are inextricably linked. Measures undertaken for improving education quality include increased inputs (textbooks and other instructional materials), promoting a supportive teaching-learning environment that helps learners feel confident and safe and promoting participation of both boys and girls in monitoring teaching quality.

Capacity building for education stakeholders, including children, their parents, teachers and school governance bodies like parent teacher associations (PTAs) and School Management Committees (SMCs), was undertaken. Close to 1,000 teachers have been trained on a range of issues, including child-centred pedagogical skills, the new thematic curriculum and alternatives to corporal punishment.

- **Strengthening School Governance:** There are several key intervention strategies used to improve school governance. Plan supports the use of social accountability and participatory approaches in which schools are supported to assess the level of transparency and accountability that schools have through the Community Scorecard (CSC). Schools are supported to establish child-led platforms, such as children's councils, to promote child participation in schools. Peer mediation is used as a voluntary strategy aimed at creating a safe school environment for children to learn and solve their conflicts. School management committees (SMCs) are supported to monitor school project implementation as well as to enhance parent participation in school processes through the parent education teams (PETs), community education committees (CECs) and parent teacher associations (PTAs).

These strategies are enhanced through the use of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) to monitor challenges affecting education delivery in Uganda (teacher/pupil absenteeism, disengaged parents, weak and dormant communities, poor accountability, etc.)



Children's council session - Ssemyungu primary school; Luwero

Main Partnerships

Government departments; parents; children; and community-based organisations.

Key Achievements

- Increased community engagement in school processes as evidenced by their contributions towards keeping their children in school.
- Established spaces for children to participate in school processes and have instigated districts to pass ordinances for the participation of children in these processes.
- Supported increased financial accountability and efficiency in the use of resources. The increased financial accountability and efficiency in the use of other resources minimises waste and directly leads to improvements in the school learning environment.
- Two ordinances and bylaws on midday meal provision have been passed in primary schools in Tororo and Luwero.
- There has been an increase in the vigilance of parents in monitoring their children's performance in school. This is a result of sensitisation and appreciation of the roles of parents in their children's education. The observable changes associated with parental vigilance include improvement in Primary Leaving Exam outcomes, with more children achieving first grades over the last 10 years.
- Reduction in early teenage pregnancies due to increased interest in education by both parents and children as well as joint monitoring by all stakeholders. This greatly and positively impacts the retention and completion rates of children as well as their general performance in school.

Health



A health camp outreach conducted by Plan in Kamuli

Programme Background

Uganda's health system is faced with many challenges: limited access to health facilities; shortage of human resources for health, especially in lower health centres; weak referral linkages between communities and health facilities due to lack of effective means of communication between communities and health centres and between lower health units and higher (referral) facilities; insufficient health financing and frequent shortage of essential medical commodities in facilities; high maternal mortality ratio; high child mortality rate; high HIV prevalence; and a high teenage pregnancy rate.

To address some of these issues, Plan Uganda has devised health interventions which particularly address two thematic areas: maternal and child health and HIV/Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR).

Main interventions

- Strengthening community participation and stimulating community ownership for project initiatives through community-driven models to enhance and promote empowerment of service users; create demand for the services; and strengthen the community referral system, to promote sustainable health outcomes.
- Empowering community volunteers who are peers of the target audience with information and skills to communicate. For example, to promote ASRHR Plan works with youth peer educators who give psychosocial support and information to other youths, and for Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), we have expert clients who are HIV positive and are trained to give psychosocial support and information to other HIV positive clients.
- Capacity building of both professional health workers and community volunteers to ensure that quality services are given by the service providers.
- Continuous mentorship and joint support supervision to both the professional health workers and community volunteers to maintain the quality of services given. For example, under the Strengthening Community Response to Promote Early Childhood Survival (SCORPES) project, the

village health teams (VHTs), which are trained to provide treatment for malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia and malnutrition for children under five, are mentored on a regular basis at the health facility and are supervised within their respective communities.

- Using a toll-free telephone hotline, 0800 200 600, to which young people are linked for information, counselling and referrals.
- Conducting community level HIV counselling and testing (HCT) outreaches, nutrition assessment, family planning dispersals, community dialogues, safe motherhood meetings and music, dance and drama initiatives for mobilisation and information giving.
- Providing motorcycles to the health facilities to simplify transport during outreaches and for health facility coordination purposes. Provision of bicycle ambulances to the community to ease patient emergency referrals and promote community health facility linkages.
- Scaling-up and extending of PMTCT services to lower level health facilities at sub-county and parish level.
- Establishing a livelihood component in which People Living with HIV/AIDs (PLWHAs) are taken through agricultural trainings, given farm inputs and goats and trained in Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) maintenance to increase their economic stability.
- Preventing unintended pregnancies (through promotion of family planning) among women living with HIV, lowering HIV infection among women of childbearing age through testing and awareness campaigns, and reducing transmission of HIV from positive pregnant women to their babies through awareness talks.

Main partnerships

Ministry of Health; district local governments; Community Vision; Communication for Development Uganda (CDFU); VEDCO; Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO); Concerned Parents Association (CPA); Marie Stopes International.

Key Achievements

- 478,531 males and females have accessed HIV counselling and testing both in northern and eastern Uganda.
- Established and built the capacity of a community-based network of 94 youth peer-educators in Lira and Alebtong districts who have provided ASRHR information and training on life skills to 42,139 adolescents through the interactive peer-led session.



A peer educator conducts a Sexual and Reproductive Health session for adolescents – Lira

- 3,446 adolescents (2,828M, 615F) adolescents were linked to toll-free hotline-based health education, counselling and referrals on ASRHR and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- 55 community bicycle ambulances were given to communities with extremely limited access to health facilities in Lira, Alebtong and Kamuli districts. This was intended to strengthen community referrals and linkages. 11 motorcycles were given to different health facilities in Kamuli, Lira and Alebtong Districts.
- 11 health centres were renovated and equipped with medical equipment and supplies to offer quality services.
- 859 VHTs were trained in different areas of operation.
- Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) drugs worth UGX 338,951,851 (122,145 USD) were procured and distributed to health facilities to be used by the VHTs in fighting malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea.
- 62 VSLA groups were formed saving UGX 48,324,550 (19,470 USD) cumulatively. 3,126 goats and farm inputs such as maize, beans seeds and fruit tree seedlings of improved variety were distributed to PLWHAs under the livelihood component with the aim of increasing food security and economic stability.
- Plan is currently implementing a new project through USAID, the Northern Uganda-Health Integration for Enhanced Services (NU-HITES) in 15 district with a budget of 50 million USD. The project aims to increase the communities' use of quality health services at the facility and community level, particularly by women, girls, and children, and to strengthen health systems.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



A mother teaches her children to wash hands after latrine visit by using a tippy tap - Tororo

Programme Background

The presence of open defecation practices in communities exposes people to diseases stemming from the contamination of water by people and animals. A lack of safe water leads women and children to trek long distances searching for clean water, causing much productive time to be lost. Girls, on the other hand, miss school or lose hours of valuable school time in search of safe water. To address these issues, Plan Uganda supports community and school-led efforts to enhance access to safe water and hygienic sanitation.

Main interventions

Plan Uganda uses low-cost and community-managed approaches to improve water and sanitation including:

- The Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), approach where communities are facilitated to analyse their sanitation situation and undertake collective actions to end the practice of open defecation.
- Through a sanitation marketing programme, Plan Uganda supports the creation of market supply and demand in order to increase access to affordable sanitation products.
- The school WASH programme helps to ensure that girls don't drop out of school due to lack of safe water and child-friendly latrines.
- The menstrual hygiene management program aims to support rural women and adolescent girls to manage their menstruation effectively and hygienically through improved knowledge, attitudes and practices and increased access to affordable and hygienic pads. It also aims to improve the capacity of VSLA members to generate income.

- Community water supply ensures increased access to safe water, which helps to improve health conditions and reduce the burden of women and children who search for clean water.
- At the national level, we engage with network organisations and line ministries to advocate for appropriate policies, practices and the commitment of resources needed to improve the environmental health conditions of schools and communities.

Main partnerships

Ministry of Health; Ministry of Water and Environment; Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET), Network for Water and Sanitation (NETWAS); and AFRIPads.

Key Achievements

- 260 communities have been declared Open Defecation Free.
- 96,900 people have gained access to safe clean water.
- 40 sanitation entrepreneurs have been trained in sanitation marketing.
- 120 schools have been supported to improve their water and sanitation access.
- 2,000 community structures, including village health teams, water-user committees, hand pump mechanics and school health clubs, have been formed and strengthened to support project delivery and sustainability.



Access to water creates a good learning environment for children

Participation and Governance



Children of Ntinda Primary school voting about teacher absenteeism

Programme Background

The Participation and Governance Programme is about tackling issues of accountability, social justice and empowering those who lack a voice in society, particularly children, youth, women and girls, people with disabilities, widows and those out of school.

The programme also involves building the capacity of government, political leaders and service providers to respond to the concerns of young people and support the participation of excluded and marginalised young people in the community and in governance processes.

Main Interventions

- Capacity building and facilitating of civil society organisations (CSOs) in several areas, including institutional strengthening, transparency and accountability, functions and operations of local governments as well as their mandated roles and responsibilities.
- Facilitating public/private dialogue workshops to engage local stakeholders including politicians, technical staff and CSO representatives to discuss priority local development and policy issues.
- Facilitating processes for youth engagement in Plan's governance processes where youth are key players and stakeholders, enabling Plan respond to the voices of young people and put them at the centre of everything we do.
- Enhancing legal rights protection and promotion of vulnerable groups, especially children, women and youth, and improving access to justice and legal services, leading to improved observance of human rights.
- Strengthening community-based development planning and action, mobilising communities to engage in their own development initiatives to enhance greater ownership of programmes

and promoting self-help and sustainability. Plan works with communities to identify community problems, design interventions and implement them, using participatory methodologies. Plan also facilitates communities to work on their community development plans and promote the implementation of community-managed projects.

- Building and strengthening mechanisms, processes and forums for youth engagement.
- Building the capacity of youth and youth structures



Plan promotes participation of children in decision making and governance processes

to engage with civil society.

- Sensitising children, parents and community members on the right to participation in governance processes.
- Conducting child participation trainings for staff and partner groups to enhance knowledge and skills. These trainings promote child and youth engagement in the development planning cycle.
- Capacity building for viable youth groups to form stronger alliances and linkages to key development partners and organisations that implement youth-focused programmes.
- Supporting the participation and leadership of children in school governance through student clubs and councils.

Main partnerships

District local governments; community development officers, Straight Talk Foundation; Uganda Youth Network; Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children; and

Uganda Women Parliamentary Association.

Key Achievements

- Plan's participation and governance programme worked with more than 70 community-based youth groups and 100 schools in Plan-supported districts, enabling them to express themselves, negotiate differences, engage in constructive dialogue and build the confidence they needed to assume responsibilities for themselves, their families, and their communities and to influence decisions at the local and national levels.
- Supported a review of the newly enacted Domestic Violence Act (DVA) by developing position papers. This simplified the application, usage and reporting procedures of DVA among those whose rights are often violated.
- Improved self-representation in court by widows, leading to recovery of property of women and marginalised people who were initially denied access.
- Piloted the establishment of a Youth Advisory Panel in order to develop learning and good practice for youth participation. The Youth Advisory Panel will help mainstream youth engagement from the highest levels, influencing Plan policies and programmes and helping Plan Uganda explore local governance structures that will increase accountability and legitimacy at the national level.
- Ensured a rise in girl participation in trainings, now at 43% (and rising), achieved through dialogue and discussions about the importance of girl involvement in decision-making process at all levels.
- With over 200 youth having skills in budget monitoring and analysis, different leaders at national, district and sub-county levels have felt the impact of the budget analysis and monitoring capacity building initiatives undertaken by the youth. For example, the youth at the national level were able to lobby for the Youth Livelihood Programme, which has been scaled down to the sub-counties. The same youth serve on a committee for managing youth funds.
- At the sub-county level, children and youth voices have been amplified through radio talk shows, community discussions and children's clubs. These processes have led to increased awareness in child and women's rights and responsibilities.

Disaster Risk Management



Children enjoy games at Ayillo II Refugee Child friendly Space- Adjumani district

Programme Background

From disaster relief to recovery projects, Plan works to protect the rights of children and young people during emergencies. Disaster risk is an increasingly global concern and its presence in one region can easily impact others. Common disasters in Uganda include floods, landslides, epidemics and refugee influxes from neighbouring countries.

Each of these disasters has a tragic impact on the lives of children, including lives lost and property damaged. Survivors have suffered the consequences of displacement, including poverty and psychological breakdown. The effects of these disasters extend far beyond the individual, and have eroded some of

Uganda's hard-won development gains and have increased vulnerabilities.

Children have remained the most vulnerable group during emergencies. In the aftermath of a disaster, children suffer both emotionally and physically. The long-term impact of their exposure to traumatic events can be debilitating if not addressed.

Main interventions

Plan's Disaster Risk Management programmes contribute to two strategic objectives: a) to ensure that children grow up safely in resilient communities; and b) to enable children to realise all of their rights, even in emergencies.

INTERVENTION	MAIN ACTIVITIES
Child protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of Child Friendly spaces • Provision of play materials • Distribution of warm clothes • Provision of medical kits including drugs
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of clean drinking water through the drilling of boreholes • Water tanks • Hygiene and sanitation promotion • Provision of pit latrine construction materials • Training on best hygiene practices • Construction of bath shelters and providing hand wash facilities
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of scholastic materials - uniforms, books, pens • Provision of classroom furniture - desks • Early Childhood Care and Development structures and services
Provision of Non-Food items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquitos nets • Cooking utensils • Beddings

Plan's interventions in the area of DRM have been primarily focused on Education, Child Protection, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) as well as the distribution of Non-Food Items. Plan begins each DRM initiative with a Rapid Needs Assessment, which informs the strategies used in the respective responses. Strategies are designed based on the type of disaster. A response team is formed, with members taking on any roles necessary to achieve the goals of the response.

Although Plan usually operates in certain districts, when an emergency occurs, Plan can also intervene, especially when it has been declared as a national disaster and children are among the most affected.

Main partnerships

Plan is an active member of interagency emergency coalitions both at the district and national levels. Plan's membership in this forum enables it to implement responses effectively. Partnerships depend on the type of response. Partners Plan has worked with during past responses include, but are not limited to: Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Directorate of Disaster Management and Refugees (the national lead body on



A borehole constructed with support from Plan Uganda in Baratuku refugee settlement- Adjumani

coordination of the humanitarian emergency), UNHCR, district local governments, UNICEF, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Irish Aid.

Key Achievements

Plan Uganda's involvement in emergencies began in 2009 and has included responses to floods in Kasese district (Western Uganda), landslides in Bududa (Eastern Uganda), a refugee crisis in Bundibugyo (as a result of fighting in DR Congo) and a refugee crisis in Adjumani district (Northern Uganda), as a result of the South Sudan political crisis. Plan's interventions in Adjumani district are ongoing and are centred in Baratuku and Nyumanzi settlements.

Gender Equality in Plan Uganda



Children commemorate International day of the Girl Child – Kampala

Plan believes that the promotion of gender equality is an integral part of the goal of addressing the structural causes and consequences of child poverty. Therefore, Plan is committed to gender equality based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. Gender injustice is tackled at many different levels, from the individual, to social institutions, to the policy level. In Plan Uganda, the promotion of gender equality is addressed in every sphere of our programmes, partnerships and within the organisation itself.

To this end, Plan Uganda is implementing Plan's Global Because I am a Girl (BIAAG) Campaign, an initiative to end gender inequality, promote girls' rights and lift millions of girls and those around them out of poverty. Various gender transformative projects are currently being implemented. In addition, there is continuous

and deliberate capacity building of staff to enhance their gender programming and advocacy capacities. There is also gender balancing of staff at all levels of the organisation.

Although gender equality is cross-cutting in all our interventions, there are some projects that are particularly focused on gender equality:

- **School-Community Approaches for Transforming Gender Relations in Uganda:** This project seeks to empower an estimated 17,000 girls and boys, teachers, parents/caregivers and community members to transform gender relations in and around schools, and create peer-support networks for girls. The project empowers girls by developing their individual and collective agency through: raising consciousness of rights and unjust

structures and power relations that suppress rights and self-efficacy; developing capabilities (such as decision-making, self-esteem and negotiation skills) that enable girls to make life decisions and feel in control of their destiny; and building support, solidarity and networks.

- **Participatory School Governance for Children:**

This project promotes participation of children, boys and girls, parents, teachers, school management committees, community leaders and district education officers in school management and development planning processes. The project promotes the “equality and non-discrimination” principles of Plan’s CCCD approach, with a strong focus on addressing girls as an excluded group. Project interventions to overcome social exclusion address gender injustice as a specific area. Girls are mentored and encouraged to participate in school decision-making as student council leaders.



The Because I am a Girl campaign empowers girls to speak out on issues affecting them

- **Research to Inform**

Programming for Girls’ Education: Plan Uganda conducts empirical studies to provide robust evidence on factors affecting girl child educational attainment. Currently we are completing a three-year (2012-2014) collaborative study with Oxford University on “Menstruation and the Cycle of Poverty,” supported by the Economic Social and Research Council (ESRC) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The purpose of the study is to evaluate and document the impact of poverty on girls’ education by investigating the relationships between menstruation, sanitary provisions, reproductive health and girls’ educational outcomes at the primary school level. The study findings will be used to inform policy and practice in the field of education and adolescent reproductive health.

- **Because I am a Girl Urban Program (BIAAG-UP):** This is a joint programme developed in partnership between Plan International, Women

in Cities International (WICI), and UN-HABITAT. It is being implemented in five cities around the world: Cairo, Delhi, Hanoi, Kampala and Lima. The programme seeks to close existing gaps between urban programming targeting ‘youth’ or ‘women’, by focusing on adolescent girls, who are often the most vulnerable population in a city, yet are frequently excluded from urban processes.

- **Promoting Urban Communities Free from Gender Based Violence:** This project is implemented in four divisions of Kampala, covering 12 parishes and 104 zones. The project goal is to contribute to the reduction of gender-based violence (GBV) against girls and young women in Kampala. The project was spearheaded by Plan Uganda with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through Plan Sweden.
- **Partnerships for Empowerment of Vulnerable Girls and Women in Urban Slums of Kampala:** The project intends to train 900 girls and young women who are sexually exploited, aged 13-24, in a range of skills, including business management and entrepreneurship, rights awareness, and life skills, to enable them to pursue alternative livelihoods and access sexual and reproductive health services in the divisions of Kawempe and Rubaga.

Advocacy

Fundamental to how Plan Uganda works has been the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, specifically the rights of children as stipulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Plan Uganda employs

a rights-based approach to development that uses advocacy as one of the major strategies in achieving its programmatic goals, with the ultimate aim of ensuring a positive and lasting impact on the lives of children. Under its Advocacy portfolio, Plan Uganda has the following components:

MAIN INTERVENTIONS	AREAS OF FOCUS/INTERVENTIONS
Legislative Reform Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing legal and policy dialogue • Policy formulation and implementation • Harmonising national legislation with international human rights instruments (policy reform)
Treaty Reporting and Monitoring Government Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring government compliance to ratified treaties, including UNCRC, CEDAW, CRPD & UPR • Supporting government treaty reporting • CSO alternative reporting • Following up on concluding observations of the UN committees with respect to above treaties
Strategic Partnership Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a culture of communication and information sharing • Joint ventures/activity engagement on similar issues of interest • Building a collective voice on issues of mutual interest
Child Rights Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified information education communication (IEC) materials on child rights • Awareness creation trainings and workshops on • Child rights related human rights instruments, mechanisms and national legislation
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening capacity of government institutions to better protect, promote and fulfil the rights of children and their families • Organisation/institutional strengthening in advocacy

In addition to the above, Plan Uganda has mainstreamed and integrated advocacy issues and concerns arising from our Plan global campaigns, including: (a) Learn without Fear (b) Because I am A Girl and (c) Count Every Child.

Main Partnerships

Plan Uganda has, over the years built strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations whose agenda may not necessarily be child rights but is broad enough to include the advancement of the rights of children. Some of our key partners in advocacy work:

- Uganda Law Society, in producing ground-breaking research on Violence Against Children in Schools in

Uganda.

- Africa Network for Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse (ANPPCAN), in organising a national children's press conference on violence against children that brought together children, parliamentarians and media to deliberate on violence in schools.
- Forum for Education NGO's in Uganda (FENU), which coordinates the Gender Parity Advocacy Taskforce, of which Plan Uganda is as a member.
- Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children (UPFC), together with other child rights activists such as Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, Save the Children, FIDA-Uganda, Straight Talk Foundation,



Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children in a session

Child Fund International, UNICEF and Action for Children, in lobbying the Parliamentary Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development.

Key Achievements

- Involvement in key treaty reporting and monitoring government compliance initiatives: Used the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and influenced key national legislative bodies; engaged in the CEDAW reporting process; UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) monitoring, mainly mobilising children to assess government implementation of the UNCRC and also give input to the state report.
- Capacity building: Supported the National Council for Children (NCC) in developing their five-year Strategic Plan (2011/2012 - 2015/16); engaged in a partnership with the National Council for Disability (NCD) to support the development of its Strategic Plan (2014-2019) and to guide the Council in incorporating child rights in their programme portfolio; trained 32 Members of the Parliament of the Uganda affiliated with the Parliamentary Forum for Children (UPFC) on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Child rights promotion: Created simplified pictorial booklets of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) for dissemination in schools and a child-friendly CEDAW booklet for children aged 6-12 years.
- Legislative reform initiatives: In partnership with UNICEF, supported the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) to develop an overarching comprehensive ECCD policy; in collaboration with the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) coalition, supported the process of drafting the DVA regulations and lobbied the MoGLSD to pass the regulations; in partnership with the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children (UPFC), joined other child rights activists to lobby the Parliamentary Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development on two issues: the Amended Children's Bill in Parliament and the amendment of the Birth and Death Registration Act (BDR) and adoption of a national policy on BDR; worked in partnership with FENU to call for a policy that allows for pregnant girls to stay in school and complete their education after delivery of a child (draft policy already in place).



Corporate engagement: Plan in partnership with Airtel Uganda Ltd. and Grameen Foundation have enabled VSLAs to keep their money in form of e-wallet (mobile money)



"Morning circle" at Ayillo II ECCD centre- Ayillo refugee settlement- Adjumani



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