



PLAN
INTERNATIONAL

COVID-19: SIX MONTHS ON REPORT

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION "STOP THE SETBACK"

FOREWORD

Just over six months after the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on 11 March 2020, the number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in many parts of the Asia-Pacific region continues to grow at a rapid rate. Although several countries are now stable or improving, this unprecedented global and regional crisis calls for targeted response and preventative measures to avoid and mitigate further effects.

The COVID-19: Six Months on Report is Plan International's analysis of the current situation of children, women and vulnerable groups after six months of effects from the COVID-19 pandemic in the Asia-Pacific region. It highlights our response, outputs and impacts during this time, as well as funding gaps and priority needs for future actions.

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation committed to advancing children's rights and equality for girls. We work with supporters and partners to address the root causes of the challenges that vulnerable populations face. Currently, COVID-19 is the cause of several obstacles extending beyond health and into socio-economic issues that require an immediate response.

In April 2020, a coalition of seven prominent children's rights organisations emphasised that COVID-19 poses

a significant barrier to children's rights initiatives in the region and stressed that children and other vulnerable groups must reside at the heart of the humanitarian response. The global situation is putting pressure on Plan International and partner organisations to deliver unprecedented support.

In Asia and the Pacific, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a unique set of circumstances that threaten to unravel much of the work we have already accomplished in advancing equality for vulnerable groups in the region, particularly for girls and young women. Although the direct health effects of the virus tend to spare children, the indirect effects are significantly impacting their education, safety and welfare.¹ Without immediate action to mitigate these consequences, a rise in inequality and a resurgence in practices such as child, early and forced marriage are extremely likely.

This report discusses the indirect effects of COVID-19 and highlights our response to the global crisis, including both immediate relief measures and long-term efforts to "stop the setback" for girls, boys, women and other vulnerable groups. It compiles information from across the Asia-Pacific region and provides a broad view of the changes, challenges and progress observed over the past six months to determine the necessary next steps to respond more effectively to the pandemic.

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¹ United Nations Children's Fund (2020). COVID-19 and Children. Retrieved from: <https://data.unicef.org/covid-19-and-children/>

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation)
ANCP	Australian Non-governmental Organisation Cooperation Programme
AP	Adolescent Pregnancy
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development)
CDP	Center for Disaster Philanthropy
CEFM	Child, Early and Forced Marriage
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFID	UK Department of Foreign and International Development
DOH	Department of Health
DRF	Disaster Relief Fund
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
EREF	Emergency Response and Recovery Fund
EU	European Union
FA	Foreign Affairs
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
FOA	Funding agreement document Open to All
GAC	Global Action for Children
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GFFO	Regional German Federal Foreign Office
GNO	Germany National Office
H&M	Hennes & Mauritz AB
JANO	Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome
JNO	Japan National Office
KIRA	Knowledge Informs Responsible Action
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NLNO	Netherlands National Office
NO	National Office
OFDA	Offices of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
PPE	personal protective equipment
SAWRPII	South Asia WASH Result Programme
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UK	United Kingdom
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDOL	United States Department of Labor
USNO	United States Naval Observatory
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

1. INTRODUCTION

The Asia-Pacific region suffers from frequent and devastating disasters and humanitarian refugee crises due to ongoing conflict and civil unrest. These issues have historically disproportionately affected girls and women, and that same disparity now extends to the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Plan International and other organisations have focused on providing equal rights and treatment to girls and women and have made significant progress in helping them develop leadership capabilities to improve and progress in their own lives. However, the health and socio-economic challenges accompanying COVID-19 threaten to unravel these long-standing efforts.²

The COVID-19 pandemic poses significant challenges for children and young women in the Asia-Pacific region. The resulting lockdowns, health effects and changing needs of the communities are increasing the risk of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), gender-based violence (GBV), sexual violence, sex trafficking, early pregnancy, withdrawal from education and online abuse – particularly for girls. The pandemic's indirect socio-economic effects are likely to be extensive and long-term, potentially reversing decades of efforts dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable youth.

Plan International's response to COVID-19 in the 15 target countries³ within the Asia-Pacific region involves collaborating with governments and other partners to prioritise the needs of vulnerable groups, including girls, boys, young women and LGBTQ+ individuals. The organisation is driving changes in practice and policy at the local, national and global levels using the knowledge and reach that come from more than 80 years of experience in over 75 countries. The response will focus on incorporating the voices of all groups experiencing the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 in the decision-making

process and ensuring that their perspectives influence aid programmes in order to meet their needs more effectively.

The COVID-19: Six Months on Report outlines how Plan International and partner organisations have addressed the above issues during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights successful initiatives during this time and quantifies their impacts, underscoring current gaps and posing suggestions for next steps and future interventions.



² Plan International (2020). Hear It from the Girls: Asia and COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org/hear-it-girls-asia-and-covid-19#download-options>.

³ The 15 countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

2. REGION-WIDE SITUATION AND GENDER ANALYSIS



>> COVID-19 AND OTHER CHALLENGES IN THE REGION

Since March 2020, Plan International has continually evaluated how the COVID-19 pandemic affects children and other vulnerable groups. The Hear It From the Girls report demonstrates a concerted effort to amplify girls' voices and determine the best ways to tailor the response plan to suit their needs.⁴

“ I BELIEVE THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE A MATTER OF CHANCE NOR LUCK. I THINK WE REALLY NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS. ”
– SHANIA, INDONESIA⁵

The Asia-Pacific region regularly experiences more disasters caused by natural hazards and emergencies than any other part of the world.⁶ Frequent events that affect communities include storms, typhoons, floods, droughts, landslides and earthquakes. Ongoing refugee and displacement crises in several of the Asia-Pacific countries also compound the problems caused by disasters and climate change and have created additional challenges stemming from extremely close living quarters and a lack of resources.

In the context of COVID-19, these frequent disasters and humanitarian crises create environments in which it is very difficult to combat the virus. People must regularly prioritise surviving disaster events, often leaving them with little time, money or resources to focus on hygiene, menstrual hygiene, social distancing and isolation. Refugee camps comprise especially inadequate conditions for virus protection. Kawsara describes her situation in the refugee camp Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh:

“ WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SOAP AND HYGIENE MATERIALS FOR OUR PERSONAL USE IN THE CAMP, AND WE LIVE IN A VERY DENSE AREA. OUR SITUATION IS NOT SIMILAR TO ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD. ”

On 27 September 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the South-East Asia region — including the Plan International target countries of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste — was thus far the second most affected region in the world, accounting for 21 per cent of cases and 11 per cent of deaths.⁸ Although the number of cases had been increasing significantly during previous weeks, the week ending on 27 September saw a 7 per cent decrease overall in new cases and a 3 per cent decrease overall in new deaths.

“ I FEEL RESTLESS, AND I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HOW WE WILL COPE IF CASES KEEP ON INCREASING. ”
– NEHA, NEPAL⁹

The WHO Western Pacific region — including the Plan International target countries of Cambodia, Fiji, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Viet Nam — has recorded an overall decrease in new cases and deaths during the same week. However, Nepal's displacement settings pose especially significant challenges in the pandemic context. Additionally, there is a high concern that young children in Indonesia will transmit the virus to adults over 60, as grandparents tend to live with their children and grandchildren in three-generation households.

“ IT SEEMS THIS PROBLEM IS EVEN GREATER THAN THE FIRST AND SECOND WORLD WARS. THIS VIRUS MAKES ME FEEL FRIGHTENED. ”
– BARBARA, TIMOR-LESTE¹⁰

⁴ Plan International (2020). Hear It from the Girls: Asia and COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://planinternational.org/hear-it-girls-asia-and-covid-19#download-options>.

⁵ Plan International (2020). Shania: Education & Activism During The COVID-19 Pandemic. Retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org.id/shania-education-activism-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2020, September). Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). Retrieved from: <https://www.unocha.org/roap>.

⁷ Plan International (2020). Hear It from the Girls: Asia and COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://planinternational.org/hear-it-girls-asia-and-covid-19#download-options>.

⁸ WHO (2020, September 6). Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiological Update. Retrieved from: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200907-weekly-epi-update-4.pdf?sfvrsn=f5f607ee_2.

⁹ Plan International (2020). Hear It from the Girls: Asia and COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://planinternational.org/hear-it-girls-asia-and-covid-19#download-options>.

¹⁰ Plan International (2020). Let's Work Together to Prevent the Spread of this Disease. Internal Plan International document. Unpublished.

As is the case across the globe, the Asia-Pacific economy is suffering significantly due to the lockdown. The region typically relies heavily on tourism, and most of its touristic areas currently have no activity, placing related jobs at risk.¹¹ People coping with unemployment due to the shrinking labour market are looking for alternative ways to earn a living, often resorting to desperate and dangerous measures. Women and children, in particular, are at risk of being forced into exploitative professions to maintain an income.

Additionally, women in the region are typically more likely to work in the informal labour market.¹² Due to the national shutdowns, they are at higher risk of losing their jobs without receiving any support, as stimulus programmes typically do not recognise their work. Youth are also more likely to lose their jobs, less likely to be hired and very likely to experience difficulty in finding resources and financing for any potential entrepreneurial ventures.

» GENDER ANALYSIS

Plan International's country offices conducted a rapid gender analysis as a follow-up to the rapid needs assessment. This analysis allows the organisation to listen to vulnerable girls and women, assess the gender gap, and identify and address their resulting needs in the overall response. Plan International conducted the analysis jointly with other agencies in the region, including CARE in Cambodia¹³ and the Gender in Humanitarian Action Network in Bangladesh.¹⁴

The analysis revealed that one of the key challenges threatening the livelihoods of girls and women is the shift to quarantine, resulting in isolation and the shutdown of schools, services and economic activities.¹⁵ Changes in economic activity and store supplies often cause difficulty in obtaining the goods and services women need to remain healthy, including contraception, sexual health services, hygiene products, menstrual hygiene products and prenatal and postnatal care. Even if these products and services are available in certain communities, the national lockdown may make it difficult to obtain them, as girls and women no longer have access to the support systems and information sources they had through school, social circles and reproductive health support mechanisms.



“ I AM WORRIED THAT DUE TO THIS PANDEMIC, THE ENTIRE PRIORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND HEALTH SERVICES HAS COMPLETELY FOCUSED ONLY ON COVID-19, AND THE IMPORTANT ISSUES OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH HAVE BEEN LESS PRIORITISED. ”

— LIRISHA, NEPAL ¹⁶

¹¹ United Nations Development Programme (2020). COVID-19 Pandemic: Humanity Needs Leadership and Solidarity to Defeat COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://www.asiapacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/coronavirus.html>.

¹² International Labour Organization (2018). Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical picture. Third Edition. Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/news/WCMS_627585/lang-en/index.htm

¹³ CARE International & Plan International (2020). Rapid Assessment of COVID-19 Impacts on Girls' Education. Retrieved from: <https://aseansafeschoolsinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Rapid-Education-Needs-Assessment-Plan-CARE-FINAL.pdf>

¹⁴ UN Women (2020). COVID-19 Bangladesh Rapid Gender Analysis. Retrieved from: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/covid-19-bangladesh-rapid-gender-analysis>

¹⁵ UN Women (2020). COVID-19 Bangladesh Rapid Gender Analysis. Retrieved from: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/covid-19-bangladesh-rapid-gender-analysis>

¹⁶ Plan International (2020). Hear It from the Girls: Asia and COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://planinternational.org/hear-it-girls-asia-and-covid-19#download-options>.

Emergency Response Kits Distribution Plan International Bangladesh



The lack of access to sexual health products and services may lead to extended secondary effects. For example, a lack of contraception may lead to unplanned pregnancies, prompting families to respond with forced marriage. Forced marriage is a negative mechanism for coping with unplanned pregnancy and is associated with increased rates of violence, restricted access to education and adverse health and developmental outcomes.¹⁷ Within the next decade, the pandemic could potentially contribute an additional 13 million child marriages worldwide.¹⁸

“ I HEARD ABOUT A CHILD MARRIAGE INCIDENT RECENTLY. I TRIED TO STOP IT AND INFORMED THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, UNFORTUNATELY, THEY COULDN'T RESPOND IN TIME DUE TO THE LOCKDOWN. ”

– MEGHLA, BANGLADESH¹⁹

Quarantine can also put girls and women in constant proximity to potential abusers, including family members, neighbours or online predators who have increased access to victims, as many people are spending more time online. The region is already seeing a drastic increase in domestic violence reports and hotline use. For example, China has recorded a three-fold increase in reports since the lockdown began.²⁰ India has also seen a 50 per cent increase,²¹ while Singapore reported a 33 percent increase, as well as a record-breaking number of divorce requests.²²

Isolation at home can also result in higher stress and unequal opportunities for girls and women, including a lack of support after losing informal jobs and increased workloads of unpaid domestic labour. This additional work, such as being responsible for

retrieving food from crowded markets, may involve an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19. The heavy domestic workload can also prevent girls from having adequate time to study, causing them to fall behind in their education and increasing their risk of not attending school once learning facilities open again.

“ I GET UP AT SUNRISE EVERY DAY TO HELP MOM COOK, DO LAUNDRY AND CLEAN OUR HOUSE. THEN, I FOLLOW HER TO WORK ON THE FIELD. AT THE SAME TIME, I CAN'T NEGLECT THE HOMEWORK ASSIGNED BY MY TEACHER. ”

– HUU, VIET NAM²³

Having access to the internet during lockdown can help both girls and boys continue their education during this challenging time, but it may also increase the risk of exploitation. The Government of the Philippines recorded 280,000 cases of cybersex trafficking against children between 1 March and 24 May 2020, totalling almost four times the number of cases recorded in 2019.²⁴ Girls are at particularly high risk of such exploitation, especially if their parents are not familiar with computers and do not provide sufficient parental oversight, advice or guidance.

“ THERE ARE ONLINE SCAMMERS AND PREDATORS SEEKING TO PREY ON THE MOST VULNERABLE ONES IN THE WORLD ON THE INTERNET — CHILDREN. ”

– MAU, THE PHILIPPINES²⁵

¹⁷ Care International (2020, May). Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and COVID-19: The Complexities of Responding to “The Shadow Pandemic”. A Policy Brief. Retrieved from: https://www.careinternational.org/files/files/GBV_and_COVID_19_Policy_Brief_FINAL.pdf.

¹⁸ Channel News Asia (2020, April). Commentary: Isolated with Your Abuser? Why Family Violence Seems to Be on the Rise During COVID-19 Outbreak. Retrieved from:

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/coronavirus-covid-19-family-violence-abuse-women-selfisolation-12575026>.

¹⁹ Plan International (2020). Hear It from the Girls: Asia and COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://planinternational.org/hear-it-girls-asia-and-covid-19#download-options>.

²⁰ Plan International (2020). Hear It from the Girls: Asia and COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://planinternational.org/hear-it-girls-asia-and-covid-19#download-options>.

²¹ The Hindu (2020, April). Coronavirus Lockdown: Govt. Helpline Receives 92,000 Calls on Child Abuse and Violence in 11 Days. Retrieved from: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/coronavirus-lockdown-govt-helplinereceives-92000-calls-on-child-abuse-and-violence-in-11-days/article31287468.ece>.

²² Channel News Asia (2020, April). Commentary: Isolated with Your Abuser? Why Family Violence Seems to Be on the Rise During COVID-19 Outbreak. Retrieved from:

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/coronavirus-covid-19-family-violence-abuse-women-selfisolation-12575026>.

²³ Plan International (2020). Hear It from the Girls: Asia and COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://planinternational.org/hear-it-girls-asia-and-covid-19#download-options>.

²⁴ South China Morning Post (2020). Online Child Sex Abuse Cases Triple in The Philippines, as Lockdown Fuels Cybersex Trafficking. Retrieved from: <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3086801/online-child-sex-abuse-cases-triple-philippines-lockdown>

²⁵ Plan International (2020). With A Brave Heart into A Brave New World: Realizations of A Young Woman During COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org/brave-heart-brave-new-world-realizations-youngwoman-during-covid-19>

>> GLOBAL PLAN FOR GIRLS

COVID-19 is putting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for the Asia-Pacific region at risk. To combat this risk, Plan International has constructed a global plan to address the pandemic and its gendered impacts and prevent significant setbacks to the Agenda and other programmes.²⁶ The plan aims to seize opportunities to strengthen girls' rights and agency by prioritising five key areas:

- 1 **PROTECTING GIRLS FROM VIOLENCE**
- 2 **GETTING GIRLS BACK IN SCHOOL**
- 3 **STRENGTHENING GIRLS' ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**
- 4 **PROTECTING GIRLS' SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)**
- 5 **SUPPORTING GIRLS' AGENCY AND VOICE**

The plan will leverage digital opportunities created by the pandemic to provide sufficient and appropriate platforms and support for girls. These opportunities will be integrated with the five prioritised areas to ensure that Plan International and its partners succeed in creating a global and long-term impact.



²⁶ Plan International (2020). Halting Lives: the Impact of COVID-19 on Girls and Young Women. Retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org/publications/halting-lives-impact-covid-19-girls#download-options>.

3. PLAN INTERNATIONAL REACH

>> ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Plan International countries in the Asia-Pacific region with the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases as of September 2020 are India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Indonesia and Nepal, as well as Myanmar due to the country's displacement settings.²⁷ Efforts to reduce the effects of COVID-19 in these countries strive to recognise the key challenges that residents experience in order to provide appropriate prevention, mitigation and care strategies.²⁸ Below are summaries of the current situation in each of the 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, 12,946 beneficiaries (including 4,545 girls, 2,473 boys, 2,222 women and 3,706 men) received direct livelihood support through cash grants and other similar assistance. In the Cox's Bazar refugee camp, 3,059 awareness sessions reached 15,590 beneficiaries (including 3,447 girls under 18 years of age, 4,439 women over 18, 3,561 boys under 18 and 4,143 men over 18), and 17,003 households with adolescents (8,273 girls and 8,730 boys) received hygiene kits. Plan International also continues to coordinate with the Director of Health Services to provide technical guidance on SRHR and health programming.

CHINA

Beijing reported zero cases of COVID-19 for 21 consecutive days (from 6 to 27 July 2020), and staff in Beijing returned to work on 13 July 2020. However, the country confirmed hundreds of domestic cases in the northwest and northeast provinces, although programme areas were not affected. Distribution of a total of 42,010 face masks reached 4,526 people (774 girls, 692 boys, 1,736 women and 1,324 men).

CAMBODIA

Social media of Child Helpline Cambodia has reached 773,458 people, including 205,419 children. SMS messages on hygiene reached 300 recipients. Additionally, 25,742 poor households received hygiene messages, handwashing devices and hygiene materials, including sanitary pads for girls and women. As children stay home from schools, 32 target primary schools applied paper-based distance learning with an emphasis on girls from disadvantaged ethnic groups. Four primary healthcare facilities have also received essential support for preventing, controlling and managing COVID-19, reaching a total of 38,732 people (7,812 girls, 8,464 boys, 10,780 women and 11,676 men).



²⁷ The countries are listed in order of highest to lowest number of confirmed cases as of 14 September 2020: 4,754,356 in India, 336,044 in Bangladesh, 214,746 in Indonesia, 257,863 in the Philippines, 53,120 in Nepal and 2,796 in Myanmar. Source: WHO (2020). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiological Update. Retrieved from: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200914-weekly-epi-update-5.pdf?sfvrsn=cf929d04_2.

²⁸ Plan International (2020). Asia-Pacific: COVID-19 Emergency Response, External Sitrep 9. Retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org/asia-pacific-covid-19-emergency-response-situation-reports#download-options>.

FIJI

Fiji has implemented nationwide curfews and restricted all positive cases of COVID-19 to quarantine zones. Schools are open, and the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance granted an award to fund the local partners' efforts to continue mitigating the effects of the pandemic in the country. Plan International is reaching out with key messaging around COVID-19 prevention hygiene behaviours and providing materials and products, including the distribution of 724 bars of soap, 724 menstrual hygiene products, 724 hygiene kits, 248 blankets, 248 buckets and 248 eating utensils. The beneficiaries reached by the hygiene messaging included 33 girls, 40 boys, 18 women and 28 men.²⁹

INDIA

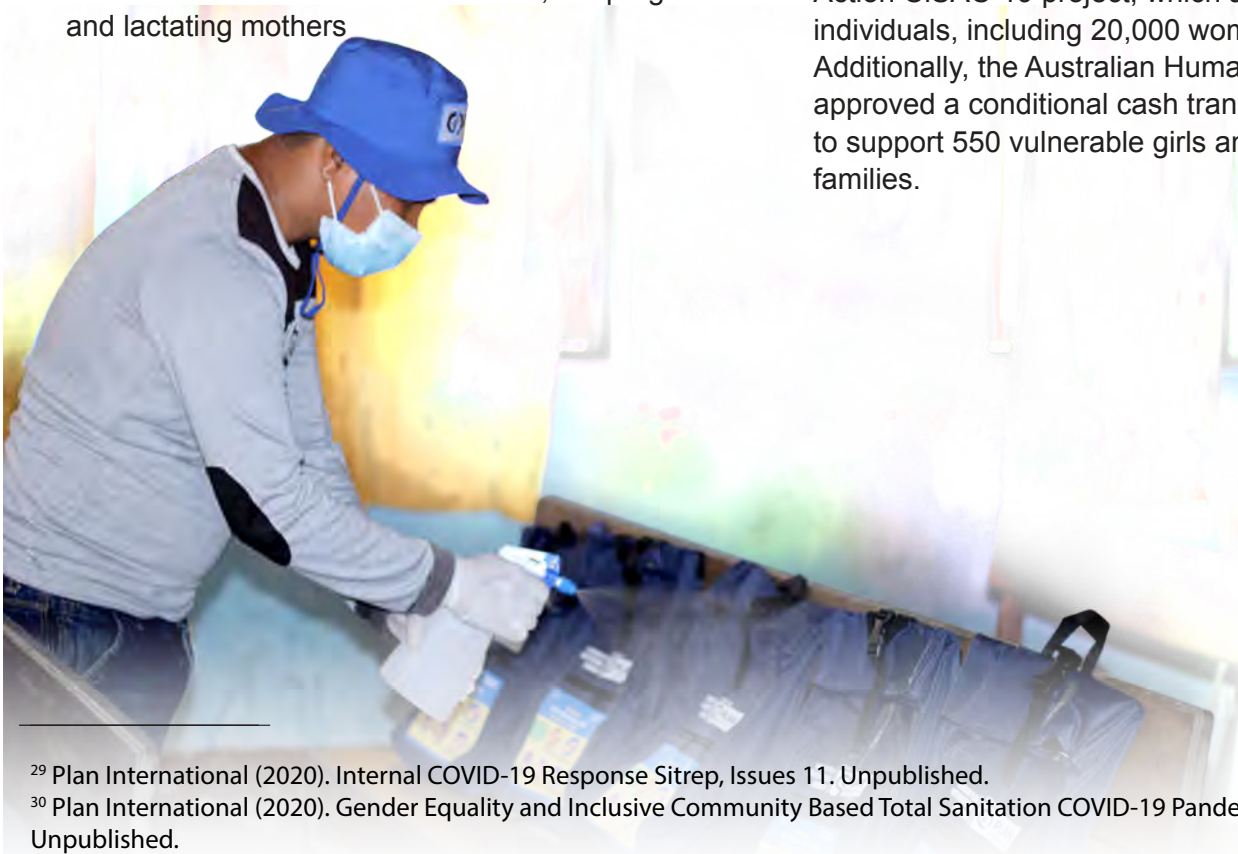
As of mid-September, Plan India has supported 110,464 families with the provision of food baskets and hygiene kits, benefiting a total of 441,856 people. Other support in India includes the distribution of hygiene kits to 171,801 families, personal protective equipment (PPE) to 39,745 frontline workers (all female), life-saving antiretroviral drugs to 26,321 people living with HIV/AIDS (including 16,304 women and 10,017 men) and 377,210 bars of soap and 1,718,010 sanitary pads. Hygiene promotion activities reached 3,401 villages and slums in programme areas. Additionally, World Breastfeeding Week led to the training of 906 frontline health workers on breastfeeding promotion, as well as breastfeeding awareness activities that reached 26,489 pregnant and lactating mothers

INDONESIA

Indonesia implemented the Yayasan Plan International Indonesia response in 23 districts, 67 subdistricts and 284 villages in five provinces, reaching a total of 554,146 people. Social media campaigns also reached 548,191 people. A collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs provided psychological support training for volunteers, staff and government members. Additionally, the Education Cluster and the Ministry of Education are drafting a collaboration plan to develop home learning guidance, and partnerships with both the National Alliance to End Violence Against Children and Indonesia Joining Forces will advocate Government and national task forces to ensure the fulfilment of children's rights. The Women for Women water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) behaviour change programme aims to improve the health, gender equality and well-being of Indonesian communities through inclusive and sustainable WASH practices. Programme activities have reached a diverse group of 198,663 people, including an even distribution of men and women, 610 women with disabilities and 412 men with disabilities. Of the 52,015 households reached, 92 per cent have begun washing hands with soap.³⁰

LAO PDR

At the end of September, the European Union (EU) supported the launch of the Civil Society Organisation Action CiSAC-19 project, which aims to benefit 40,000 individuals, including 20,000 women in high-risk areas. Additionally, the Australian Humanitarian Partnership approved a conditional cash transfer in Bokeo province to support 550 vulnerable girls and 500 boys and their families.



²⁹ Plan International (2020). Internal COVID-19 Response Sitrep, Issues 11. Unpublished.

³⁰ Plan International (2020). Gender Equality and Inclusive Community Based Total Sanitation COVID-19 Pandemic Case Study. Unpublished.

MYANMAR

Following a new COVID-19 outbreak in Sittwe, Takhine State, food distribution successfully reached over 48,000 internally displaced persons, and staff followed all standard operating procedure protocols for COVID-19 PPE distribution established by the World Food Programme, WHO and the Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar. Additionally, 55 primary healthcare facilities received essential support to prevent, control and manage COVID-19, reaching 1,660 girls, 1,500 boys and 963 women. The Urban Resilience team also distributed over 1,300 health and safety items to the Regional Departments of Health and Social Welfare. Plan International and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have responded to this issue through the Digital Protection and Education Campaign in Myanmar. The campaign has recorded great success during the six months following the outbreak, reaching over 4.6 million people, including 1 million people in post-engagement.³¹



NEPAL

During the six months following the outbreak, Plan International has broadcasted hygiene promotion and awareness-raising messages in the country via radio, reaching 55,813 households in the Sindhuli and Sunsari districts. Additional radio outreach included 288 curriculum-based radio schooling classes. The broadcasting of child protection messages through radio stations will continue in programme areas. Additionally, 4,360 beneficiaries received food and hygiene items, 760 girls benefitted from basic hygiene-material support, and the building or repair of eight handwashing facilities in households, communities and institutions benefitted a total of 18,933 people (1,296 girls, 1,238 boys, 7,872 women and 8,527 men).

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Beneficiaries received a total of 2,714 information, education and communication materials and 4,784 bars of soap. A radio programme is also raising public awareness of COVID-19 for people with disabilities, and other key messaging around COVID-19 prevention hygiene behaviours have reached 663 people, primarily children (363 girls, 263 boys, 21 women and 16 men).

THE PHILIPPINES

A webinar in the Philippines addressed the impact of COVID-19 on the fisheries industry and the related risks of trafficking and exploitation. Similarly, an online session covered the dangers that children and young people face online and provided information to protect them from sexual abuse and exploitation during the lockdown period. Various supplies, including PPE, WASH kits, and information, education and communication materials, reached a total of 22,294 people. The building and repair of 16 sanitation facilities also benefitted 189,354 people (44,865 girls, 40,732 boys, 54,662 women and 49,095 men). Plan International is partnering with Y-Peer Pilipinas to disseminate youth-friendly information and educational materials and offer peer education sessions. The Prudence Foundation is another valuable partner working with Plan International in the Philippines, as well as Cambodia and Thailand. This partnership focuses on influencing and promoting advocacy for education and safe school practices.

³¹ Lucille Delahunty, UNICEF (2020). Myanmar's Youth Call out 'Shadow Pandemic' of Violence: COVID-19 Response. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/myanmars-youth-call-out-shadow-pandemic-violence?fbclid=IwAR2J8AGv7yDN-I0JmGfp6HAKMO9BTurhD0IDrIHJnv7hNpBB-r3xzD9xe8>.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Outreach activities have distributed posters, pamphlets and brochures to 8,968 beneficiaries and distributed 11,942 bars of soap.³² Key messaging around COVID-19 prevention and hygiene behaviours reached 38,660 people, including 665 girls, 641 boys, 18,698 women and 18,656 men. Additionally, local partners, including the Solomon Islands Development Trust, are collaborating to begin an 18-month Australian Humanitarian Partnership project.

THAILAND

A training course on risk communication and child-led multi-risk assessment tools reached 96 teachers and education support personnel in Chiang Rai province. Key messaging focusing on COVID-19 prevention hygiene behaviours reached 8,482 individuals. Plan International also supplied 125 healthcare facilities with essential support to prevent, control and manage COVID-19 and distributed food rations to 354 families. Hygiene kits reached 1,133 people (378 girls, 467 boys, 140 women and 148 men).

TIMOR-LESTE

A COVID-19 seminar for university students reached 248 participants. Additionally, 19,244 sponsored children received hygiene kits, and 24,436 boys and girls received COVID-19 prevention and awareness kits in 150 primary schools in four municipalities. The construction and repair of 32 handwashing facilities benefitted 4,785 girls, 3,589 boys, 2,393 women and 1,196 men.

VIET NAM

Plan International partnered with the Central Youth Union to provide a series of communication activities on life skills and child protection, reaching 170,000 participants. Additionally, digital and social media pathways led to the production and broadcasting of child protection messages, reaching an estimated 470,000 beneficiaries. Key messaging around COVID-19 prevention hygiene behaviours reached 20,584 individuals (3,838 girls, 4,612 boys, 5,806 women and 6,328 men).

³² Plan International (2020). COVID-19 Regional Assistant Tracker. Unpublished.

The below provides additional information on the various types of assistance that Plan International has provided across the region thus far.

>> REGIONAL REACH PER AREA OF ASSISTANCE³³



1,006,348

Total number of **personal protective equipment (PPE)** distributed



395,558

Total number of **parents and caregivers** that have participated in the “Coping with COVID-19” support programme



1,987,955

Total number of **hygiene supplies** (including menstrual hygiene materials) distributed



883,753

Total number of **information, education and communication materials** produced and distributed



1,613

Total number of **handwashing and sanitation facilities** (in households, communities and institutions) built or repaired



427,391

Total number of **girls and boys who are or have been engaged in distance learning programmes** and other non-formal education provisions during school closure and as schools reopen



6,280,433

Total number of **people reached with key messaging** on COVID-19 prevention hygiene behaviours



154,004

Total number of **parents and caregivers** who have received relevant education and support aimed at strengthening resilience and their ability to provide nurturing care to their children



1,109

Total number of **primary healthcare facilities** that have received essential support to prevent, control and manage COVID-19



7,500

Total number of **teachers** who have received training to support learning



106,329

Total number of **vulnerable families** that have received food rations



57,311

Total number of people who have received livelihood support (including **cash grants, unconditional cash transfers, conditional cash transfers, cash for work and vouchers**)



367,262

Total number of **children, adolescents and youth** that have participated in the “Coping with COVID-19” support programme

³³ Plan International (2020). Asia-Pacific: COVID-19 Emergency Response, External Sitrep 9. Retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org/asia-pacific-covid-19-emergency-response-situation-reports#download-options>.



» TOTAL BENEFICIARY REACH PER COUNTRY AS OF 12 AUGUST 2020.³⁴

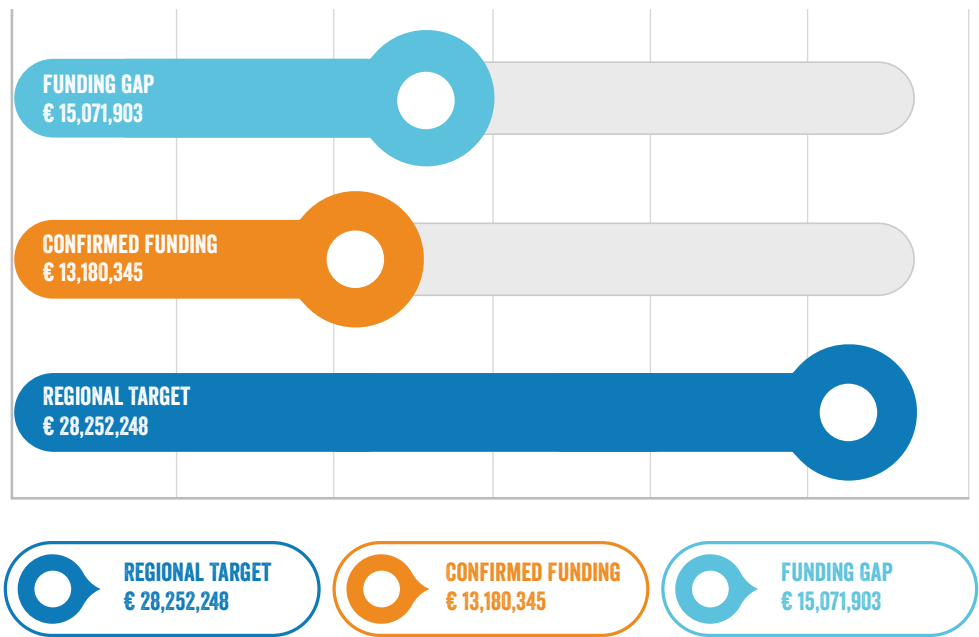
COUNTRIES	TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF MEN	NUMBER OF GIRLS (UNDER 18)	NUMBER OF BOYS (UNDER 18)	NON-SADDD (SOCIAL AND MASS MEDIA)
Bangladesh	490,262	258,753	96,976	66,209	68,324	
Cambodia	4,124,891	1,411,032	1,574,241	582,544	557,074	
China	82,531	15,824	8,498	27,324	30,885	
Fiji	898	402	434	27	35	
India	1,313,133	439,200	427,494	244,252	202,187	
Indonesia	1,286,740	177,406	171,614	88,722	73,628	775,370
Lao PDR	1,789,404	444,332	440,632	452,691	451,749	
Myanmar	5,055,288	18,000	16,070	20,007	19,087	4,982,124
Nepal	225,527	65,279	99,571	33,276	27,401	
Papua New Guinea	3,717	468	386	1,636	1,227	
Philippines	20,814,681	2,073,525	1,937,861	997,353	1,002,406	14,803,536
Solomon Islands	38,772	18,721	18,677	701	673	
Thailand	65,159	25,787	19,837	9,777	6,388	3,370
Timor-Leste	108,191	12,463	13,968	39,847	41,913	
Viet Nam	121,336	34,909	34,522	27,011	24,894	
TOTAL REGIONAL	35,520,530	4,996,101	4,860,781	2,591,377	2,507,871	20,564,400

³⁴ Plan International (2020). Internal COVID-19 Response Sitrep, Issue 16. Unpublished.

4. FUNDRAISING OVERVIEW

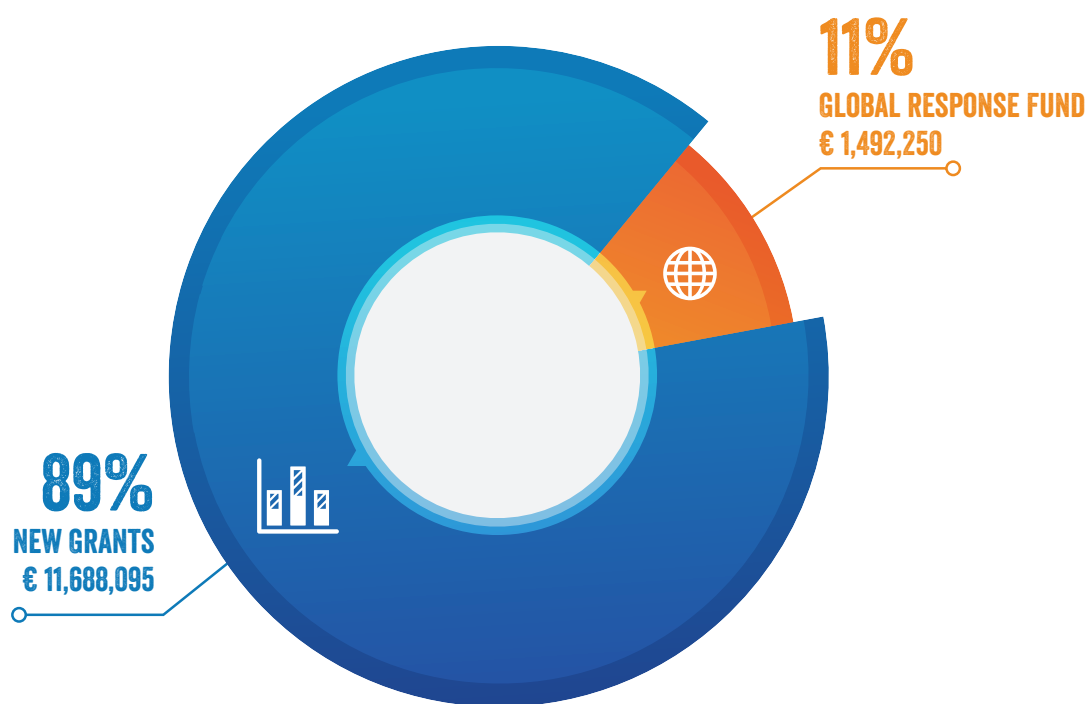
>> WHOLE REGION FUNDING SCENARIO

Budget adjustments derived from enterprise resource planning reviews established an overall regional funding target of EUR 28,252,248. Of this target, Plan International has confirmed EUR 13,180,345, leaving a gap of EUR 15,071,903.

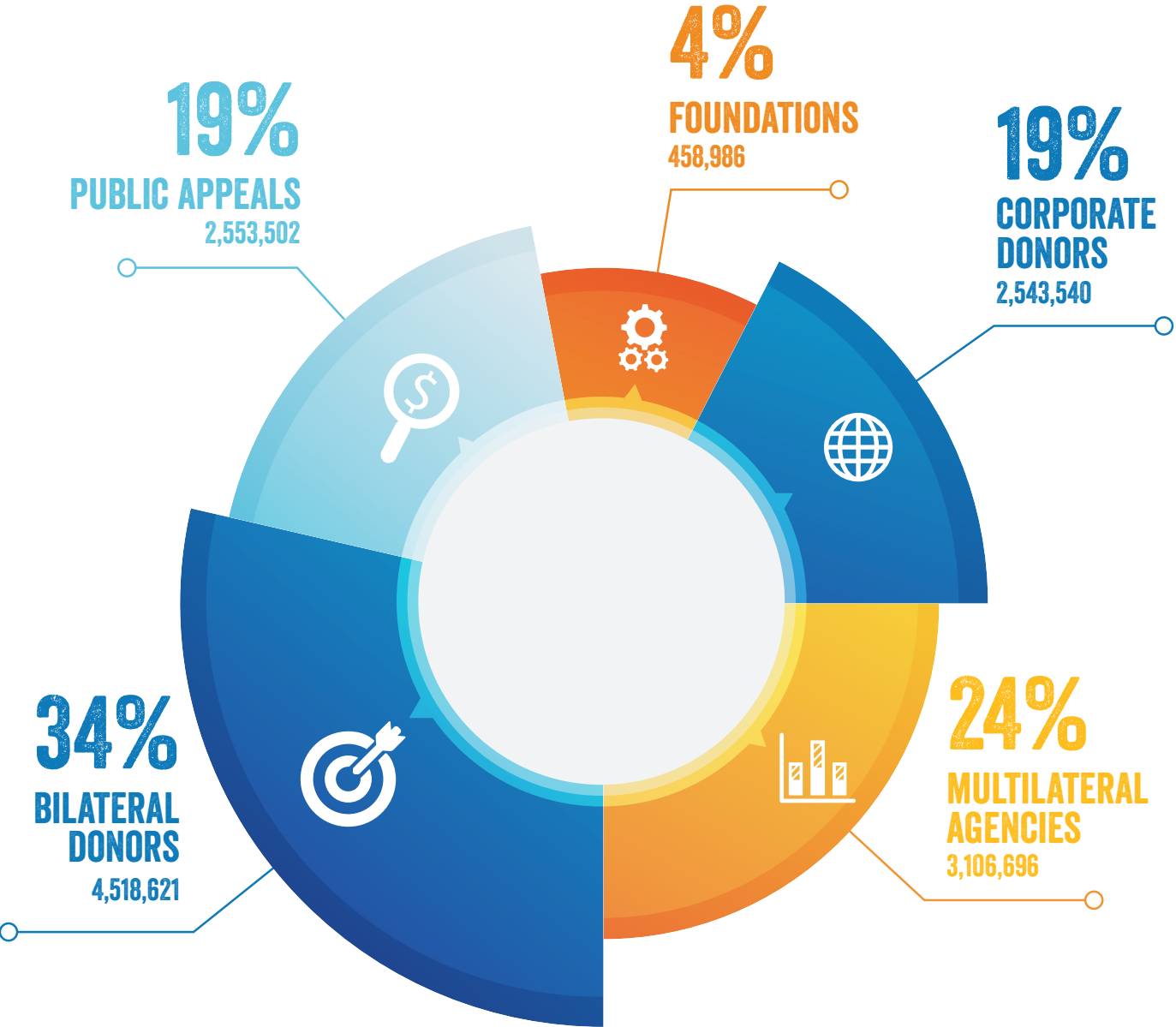


>> FUNDING CONFIRMED BY SOURCE OF FUNDING

Sources of confirmed funding in the Asia-Pacific region include new grants (89 per cent) and the Global Response Fund (11 per cent), as illustrated below.



The distribution by type of donors shows that bilateral donors were the greatest contributors at 34 per cent, followed by multilateral agencies at 24 per cent, public appeals (including the Global Response Fund) at 19 per cent, corporate donors at 19 per cent and foundations at 4 per cent.



National Offices (NOs) also play a significant role in funding, with the importance of local sources increasing significantly due to the national lockdown. India and Indonesia are leading the local NO contributions, although the NO in Germany remains the main donor overall. Other important donor groups include Accenture Thailand, AECID, ANCP, Barclays Bank Plc., BHA (OFDA), Biscayne Hospitality, BMZ, CDP Foundation, DFAT, DFID-SAWRP, DRF, Dubai Cares, the Dutch Ministry of FA, ECHO, the

Elcher Group Foundation, Empowering Communities, Engelhardt, EREF, the EU Delegation, EU-JANO, the EU, FICCI, FOA, GAC, GAC-SHOW, GFFO, the Girls Fund, Girls not Brides UK, Girls Ready for the Future, the Give Foundation, the GNO Foundation, H&M, Irish Aid, the Japan Platform Fund, JNO Appeal, MFA, NLNO, Prudential, Radio City, Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare, Sandvik Asia Pvt. Ltd., SIDA, the Start Fund, Swiss Donors Gifts, the TUI Care Foundation, UNFPA, UNFPA CERF, UNICEF, UNOPS/WSSCC, USAID, USDOL USNO and Western Union.

5. SUCCESS STORIES



Below are some examples of the many successful activities in which Plan International has participated during the six months following the outbreak.

» KIRA CHATBOT AND WEB APPLICATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Technology can act as an invaluable tool during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic for those who have access to it. The Knowledge Informs Responsible Action (KIRA) chatbot is a suite of online artificial intelligence tools designed to share and disseminate important and official information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵ In particular, the tools help vulnerable populations by assessing symptoms and risks, facilitating referrals and providing information on how to remain protected from viral transmission. KIRA is available on the most common platforms in the Philippines, including Facebook Messenger and Viber.

“

KIRA KONTRACOVID HAS BECOME AN INNOVATIVE TOOL IN CONNECTING CITIZENS TO VALID AND BITE-SIZED INFORMATION ON COVID-19 AND HAS PROVIDED FILIPINOS WITH A CONVENIENT WAY TO CONDUCT SELF-ASSESSMENTS OF THE COVID-19 RISK.

”

**– DR BEVERLY LORRAINE C. HO, MPH, DIRECTOR IV,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) PROMOTION BUREAU**

KIRA is a collaboration between civil societies, online technology platforms, the National Government, Aiah, the United Nations Development Programme, Facebook, Viber and Plan International to provide accessible information and links to relevant

government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The DOH co-designed the collaboration from the start, and the primary developer, AI4GOV, has led an agile development process while also considering the specific messaging channels that the Filipino population primarily uses.

Both the Facebook and Viber chatbot platforms connect to a government-managed and web-based triage system that guides users through the input of their symptoms and assesses exposure and vulnerability to COVID-19. With this information, the system can classify users as “low-risk,” “probably a case,” “suspected mild case” or “suspected moderate-to-severe case.” Depending on the result, KIRA may then advise the user to verify the result through the DOH telephone hotline or the Local Government Unit’s Health Emergency Response Teams.

A large portion of the Filipino population uses smartphones, giving KIRA a wide reach. Additionally, through its partnership with Facebook, impoverished communities can access and use KIRA for free. The tool’s interface is friendly to all age groups, genders and users, making it the ideal tool for any interested parties. KIRA also aims to fight misinformation and rumours by providing reliable and verified information to citizens.

As of September 2020, KIRA has recorded 522,000 subscribers, generating 8.9 million interactions and receiving 14,843 citizen reports concerning COVID-19 (including 8,822 from females and 6,021 from males). In the long term, KIRA will be integrated and owned by the DOH, and constant development will strive to improve usability and accuracy in verifying case severity.

³⁵ Aiah (n.d.). Knowledge Inspires Responsible Action. Retrieved from: <https://www.aiah.ai/kira/#/>.

» REGIONAL PROGRESS AGAINST CEFM

Plan International and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are working together to eliminate CEFM in South-East Asia and make it the first region completely free from the practice by 2030.³⁶ During the six months following the outbreak, the main challenge has been keeping CEFM and adolescent pregnancy (AP) elimination on the agenda amidst competing COVID-19 priorities. Maintaining steady progress in today's context involves mobilising efforts and modifying relevant interventions to accommodate both the pandemic and girls' issues.

The partnership aims to ensure consistent enforcement, empowerment and equality, and economic strengthening and self-determination through all means available. These goals involve participation and activism in several areas, including legal and policy frameworks, budgets, social and economic resources and safety nets, and social norms, attitudes, behaviours and traditions.

Plan International and ASEAN are implementing gender-transformative programming and advocacy across the region. Organisations in Cambodia are empowering civil societies to promote child rights and equality for girls. For example, Bloom Indonesia is supporting 1,800 adolescent girls and boys in gaining gender and life skills and learning education and workforce preparedness, as well as campaigning and raising awareness to decrease CEFM. Several groups in Lao PDR are focusing on SRHR and girls'

empowerment; Thailand is facing challenges such as social norms and the provision of access to SRHR services; and groups in Viet Nam are striving to encourage continued education, empower youth and provide supportive services to girls.

Plan International and ASEAN co-organised the recent 2nd Regional Forum on Eliminating CEFM in South-East Asia. The Forum included four youth speakers' statements on their involvement in advocacy and campaigning to prevent and eliminate CEFM and AP in their communities, as well as a regional presentation on key issues, gender-transformative interventions and key messages. Several Plan International youths from Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam also provided statements on the activities and progress in which they are involved.

Ho from Viet Nam outlined a plan to establish an online girls' rights platform to provide girls with useful information on their rights, adolescent reproductive health, professional career orientation, access to jobs and other topics to encourage continuing education and avoid CEFM.

“

WE NEED SUPPORT FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY GIRL. WITH STRONG WILL AND WORKING TOGETHER, I BELIEVE WE CAN DO IT AND END CHILD MARRIAGE FOR GOOD.

”

– HO, VIET NAM

Similarly, Orn from Thailand is working to disseminate knowledge on SRHR, and Ferny from Indonesia is involved in online discussions on education by the Youth Coalition for Girls. The coalition also conducted a survey to investigate the impact of the pandemic on child marriage and discovered that many people in the region are unaware of the pandemic's negative effects on child marriage.

The Forum's main request is to initiate a Regional Plan of Action to Eliminate CEFM and AP, thus contributing to the accelerating efforts to eliminate CEFM by 2030, despite the recent challenges posed by COVID-19.



³⁶ Plan International (2020). Time To Act! From Enforcement to Empowerment: Integrative and Holistic Solutions to Prevent and Eliminate Child, Early and Forced Marriage in South-East Asia Presentation. Unpublished.

>> PROJECT SURAKSHA IN INDIA

Plan International has partnered with Barclays in India since 2010 and has enhanced the results and extended the reach of several collaborative projects over the last decade. The newest project through this partnership, Project Suraksha, aims to address the COVID-19 crisis by providing humanitarian support in the form of dry rations, safety kits and sanitary kits to vulnerable populations across the country – particularly girls, boys and young women.

The Project has already exceeded its goal of reaching 31,233 families, with a total of 37,649 families reached with provisions of food kits and health and safety kits.

“ NOW I HAVE FOOD, SANITARY PRODUCTS AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

”

– UMA, DELHI³⁷

>> ACHIEVEMENTS BY TARGET GROUP AND ACTIVITY

TARGET GROUP	NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED AWARENESS SESSIONS	NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED FOOD KITS	NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED HEALTH AND SAFETY KITS
Girls	74,765	38,137	38,126
Boys	75,749	39,674	39,382
Women	95,983	46,310	46,350
Men	94,760	43,169	43,171
Transgender people	1,411	1,629	1,629
Families	83,602	37,649	37,649
Villages	341	656	656
Slums	154	169	168

In addition to disseminating safety and sanitary kits, the Project also raised awareness through SMS, phone calls, posters, wall paintings, leaflets and relief kits and equipped government frontline health workers with the latest information to share during home visits. These awareness activities reached over 83,000 families across India. Recipients of the various support activities include women, men, girls, boys and transgender people. Transgender people, in particular, often face social barriers preventing them from receiving adequate support. Project Suraksha

works to include these vulnerable groups and has reached over 4,600 transgender people through the awareness sessions and kits.

“ I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO PLAN INDIA, WHO HAS PROVIDED THESE RELIEF MATERIALS, AND FOR THEM TO CONSIDER PEOPLE LIKE US IN THIS DESPERATE SITUATION, AS WE ARE OFTEN THE IGNORED GENDER IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

”

– CHITRA NATHA, TRANSGENDER PERSON³⁸

³⁷ Plan International (2020). Plan International and Barclays research. Unpublished.

³⁸ Plan International (2020). Internal COVID-19 Response Sitrep, Issue 13. Unpublished.



Project Suraksha also began an education component on 13 September 2020. The objective of this component is to enable 16,000 girls in the 8th, 9th and 10th grades to continue their education by supporting them with both education and hygiene kits. Girls in these groups of secondary education are more likely to drop out than girls in primary and higher secondary education, and the negative effects of COVID-19 on the livelihoods of their families are likely to increase this risk.

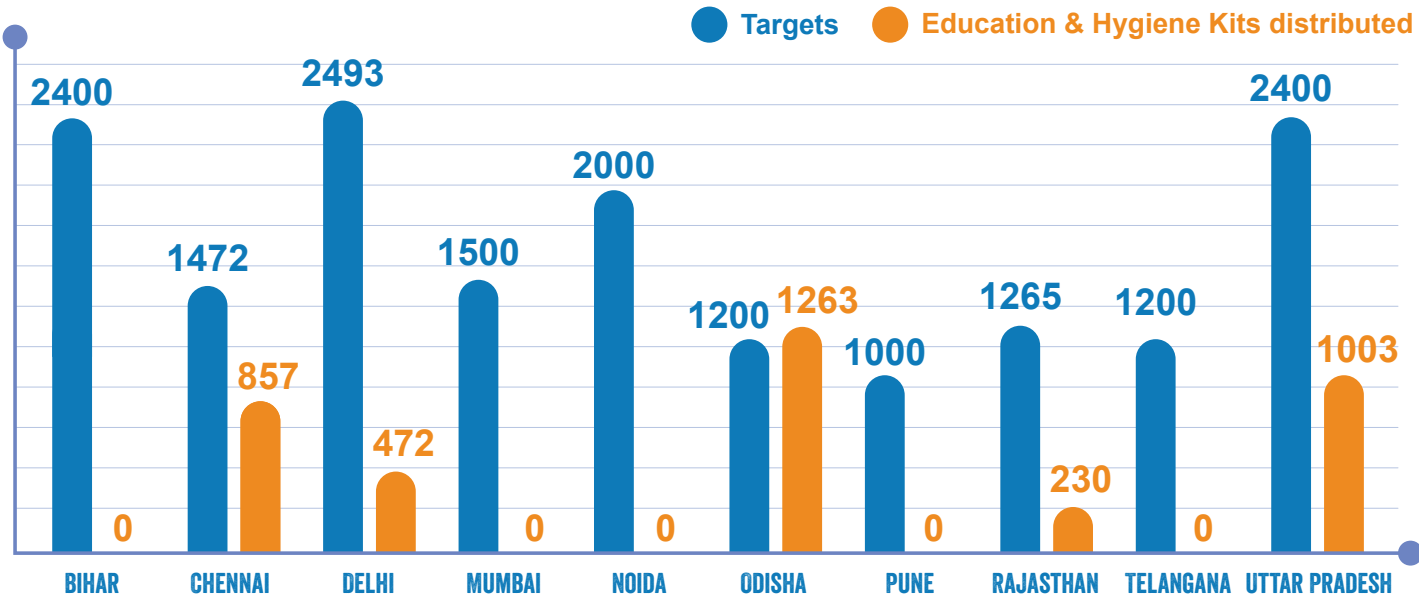
To prevent the potential increase in dropout rates and ensure that girls return to school when the lockdown ends, Project Suraksha will provide the necessary kits to keep girls healthy and encourage participation in continued education while schools are closed. The Project is implementing activities in sponsorship areas,

and frontline staff will be monitoring how many girls receive kits, as well as how many girls return to school after the lockdown ends. In less than one week, the programme disseminated kits to 3,825 girls.

The food basket and hygiene kit distribution portion of Project Suraksha should conclude in March 2021, and the Project hopes to complete the education component by the end of September 2020. As targeted schools are located in Plan India's programme areas, the Project expects engagement to continue after implementation has ended. Frontline workers will continue to monitor girls and organise meetings once small gatherings are approved to encourage communities to return girls to schools and prepare the buildings with hygiene measures necessary to receive students.

>> STATE WISE TARGETS VS ACHIEVEMENT

GIRL REACHED THROUGH EDUCATION AND HYGIENE KITS



6. URGENT ASKS AND APPEALS NEEDED TO BUILD BACK BETTER AND STOP THE SETBACK FOR GIRLS' RIGHTS

Times of crisis can provide the ideal settings for building back better than before, on stronger foundations and with consideration for those who were previously excluded. As the Asia-Pacific region addresses the challenges of COVID-19, it must focus not only on reducing damage but also on continuing to implement improvements where possible.

Plan International is taking the opportunity to implement five key asks to build back better and stop the setback for girls' rights. Each key ask highlights the importance of the intervention, advocates its use and makes suggestions or requests on the best implementation methods.³⁹

»» KEY ASK 1: WASH

- The provision of safe and reliable water and sanitation supplies and services should continue as a first line of defence against COVID-19.
- Organisations and governments should consider the substantial resource mobilisation during the pandemic response as a long-term "common good" investment.
- Poor WASH practices reinforce gender inequality by causing disproportionate negative consequences on girls and women. To combat this effect and encourage girls to continue their educations, schools should receive a thorough cleaning and ensure that functional water and sanitation services and hygiene systems (including menstrual hygiene products and facilities) and protocols are in place before reopening.

»» KEY ASK 2: SRHR AND MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH

- SRHR services and information for girls and women must remain a budgeted priority and should be considered essential services throughout all phases of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Immunisation programmes are critical; governments should safely deliver routine immunisation and implement vaccination campaigns to raise awareness, ensuring accurate information is disseminated.

»» KEY ASK 3: CHILD PROTECTION

- Reporting mechanisms for violence against children and referral pathways must remain functional, appropriate and child- and gender-sensitive.
- Investment in and prioritisation of other social protection mechanisms and the continuation of girls' education and services are crucial for preventing an increase of CEFM.

- Governments must ensure that increased GBV levels do not become the norm as communities recover from COVID-19.

»» KEY ASK 4: EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

- Cash and voucher assistance must remove economic barriers to education to facilitate the reopening of schools and encourage the participation of all children equally.
- Governments should increase support for sending children back to school, including encouraging initiatives such as catch-up programmes, remedial education and accelerated education programmes. Governments should also target those most at risk of not returning to school.
- Returning to school will likely present psychological challenges for both students and teachers, making support for psychological and socio-emotional well-being a vital component of the process.
- When schools reopen, consideration of protection factors will be necessary to ensure a balance between the benefits of schooling and the risks of COVID-19.

³⁹ Plan International (2020). Halting Lives: the Impact of COVID-19 on Girls and Young Women. Retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org/publications/halting-lives-impact-covid-19-girls#download-options>.

»» KEY ASK 5: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Actors working on the COVID-19 response must actively seek contributions and suggestions from vulnerable groups, such as children, girls and young women.
- Any information on COVID-19 and the response plans should also be accessible to all affected people, including those who may face restrictions due to language or disability.

Additionally, Plan International intends to integrate gender and inclusion as well as a Cash Voucher Assistance programme into the above key asks:

»» GENDER AND INCLUSION

- Gender disparity is a crosscutting issue that exists in all socio-economic areas. Governments must stay vigilant of how these disparities arise, as well as how to combat them.

- Governments should strengthen the participation of girls and women at every step of the COVID-19 planning and decision-making process.

- Addressing gender norms that result in girls and women performing the majority of unpaid domestic work will be important for reducing gender disparity overall.

»» CASH VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

- Plan International asks that humanitarian agencies make unconditional multipurpose cash grants a default form of support during the recovery phase to maintain inclusive support for diverse needs of vulnerable and affected households.
- Efforts to link the Cash Voucher Assistance programme with social protection programming of the Government should receive priority during the recovery phase to enhance speed, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of future responses.
- Efforts are necessary to ensure all cash assistance is gender-responsive and benefits all household members equally.

>> PLAN INTERNATIONAL

is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We strive for a just world, working together with children, young people, supporters and partners. Using our reach, experience and knowledge, we drive change in practice and policy at local, national and global levels. We are independent of governments, religions and political parties. For more than 80 years, we have been building powerful partnerships for children and are active in more than 75 countries.



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