

# ANNUAL REPORT & IMPACT REPORT

1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021



**PLAN**  
INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

**PLAN INTERNATIONAL  
WAS FOUNDED IN**

**1937**

**50.9**

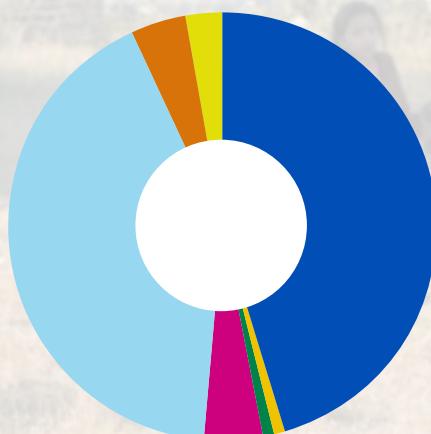
**MILLION CHILDREN  
WERE HELPED BY  
PLAN INTERNATIONAL'S  
WORK IN 2020**

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

**1997**

**PLAN INTERNATIONAL THIS IS WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM  
IS ACTIVE IN**

**75  
COUNTRIES**



■ Monthly sponsors: 240 MSEK  
■ Single contribution: 4 MSEK  
■ Corporate & Foundations: 5 MSEK  
■ Swedish Postcode Lottery: 23 MSEK  
■ Sida: 220 MSEK  
■ EU: 22 MSEK  
■ Other grants: 14 MSEK

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



Graphic design: ClearDesign.se  
Photographs: Plan International

# ANNUAL REPORT



## CARL AND MARIANN ON THE PAST YEAR

# GLOBAL SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL PROBLEMS

At the end of the financial year, we are still in a pandemic. A pandemic that has affected each of us personally as well as the organisation as a whole and our activities. A global crisis – in addition to existing climate change, wars and conflicts – has clearly shown how we are all dependent on one another and how crucial global development cooperation is for a sustainable future.

In 2015, the Millennium Development Goals were replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals. A great deal of emphasis was placed on “Leave No One Behind” and the assertion that the change for the better should be for everyone. The importance of this has become even clearer during the pandemic, since the economic effects and the uneven distribution of vaccines have been particularly hard on people who are already living in tough circumstances. In addition, it is becoming clear that global problems require joint, global solutions. In this regard, rich countries such as Sweden and organisations such as Plan International can provide vital support so that all children have the same rights, regardless of whether they grow up in the middle of a conflict, in a low-income country or under a repressive regime.

Several of the global goals go hand in hand with our activities and our vision that children must have access to good health and a good education and that no child should have to live in poverty, war or famine. But it is clear how important the gender equality goal is at an overall level – and that is also one reason why we focus particularly on girls. Girls run a greater risk of being married off and being forced to leave school. Girls – particularly teenage girls and girls with disabilities – are exposed to great risk in crises and disasters. Furthermore, many studies show that development is more sustainable in countries that invest in gender equality. That is why we took part when the objectives were being drawn up and underlined the importance of participation by young people, teenage girls’ needs and rights and the right to education and protection against violence.

During the year, thanks to our 111,000 monthly donors and sponsors, we were able to support more than 60,600 sponsor children in our programme countries and we ran 86 projects in 30 countries aided by funds from our institutional partners. In the short term, it is about children receiving protection and support and access to education and gaining knowledge of their bodies and their rights. In the longer term, our work helps to change attitudes, norms and harmful traditions so that, for example, girls are not forced to marry. In parallel, work is also being

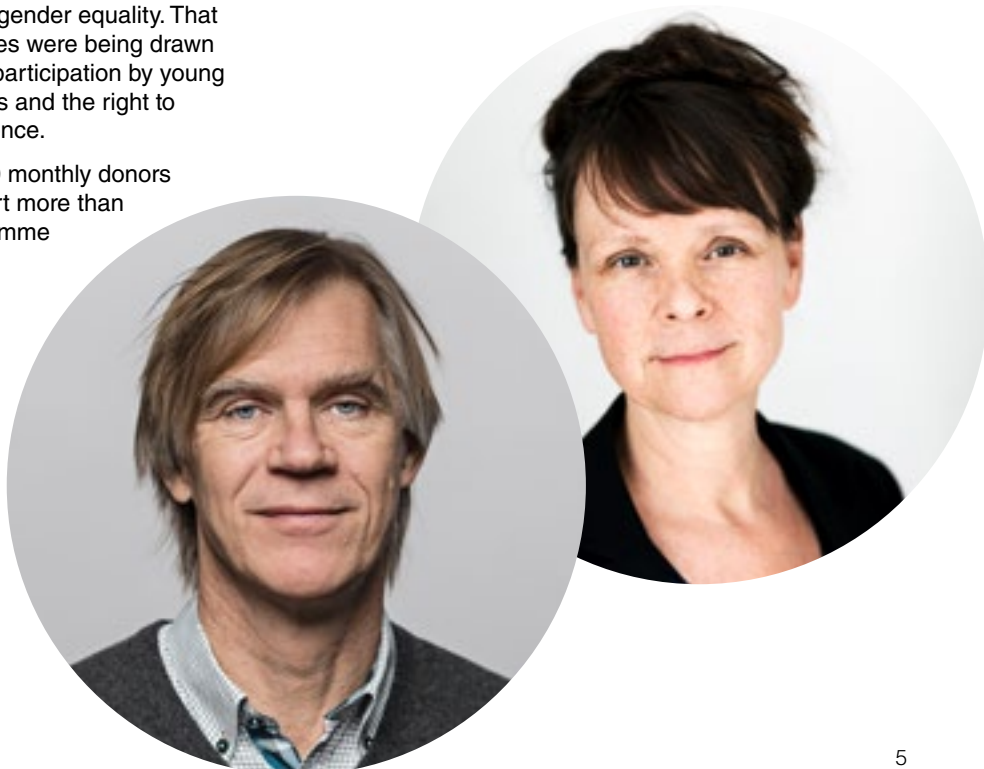
carried out to influence legislation to ensure that children’s rights are respected. The voices of young people are also important in this work. In Senegal, for example, a song produced by girls in our project became an important part of the campaign to introduce tougher punishments for rape – which also succeeded.

Therefore, although this has been a year of many challenges, we have managed to do a great deal and we have had some successes. But more needs to be done. Plan International Sweden works with young people and partners to strengthen our activities even further and we are updating our global strategy to meet the changes in the world around us. We are also working to digitalise our activities for better monitoring of results throughout the federation. However, the setbacks for children’s rights and equality for girls that we are seeing as a result of the pandemic also mean that governments, companies and aid organisations like us must jointly raise our level of ambition. We want to and we must strengthen local stakeholders and youth-led organisations. We must identify the communal global problems and contribute to solutions that are based on the knowledge and commitment to be found locally.

Finally, after a tumultuous year, we would like to thank partner organisations, donors, children, young people and everyone who makes our work for children’s rights and equality for girls possible!

**Carl Lindgren**  
Chairperson

**Mariann Eriksson**  
National Director



# SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

## YOUNG PEOPLE INFLUENCE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Young representatives from Plan International Sweden and other organisations participated in the European Week of Action for Girls and placed the issue of girls' rights on the agenda in the European Parliament.

**Khonaf from the Youth Council:**  
*"What I found interesting about the talks was the new partnership between the EU and the AU. And the fact that their supporting pillars will be about young girls and gender equality".*



## MUSIKHJÄLPEN 2020

Musikhjälpen 2020 took place in a slightly different form – from inside Annexet in Stockholm. The theme was *Ingen människa ska lämnas utan vård* [No human being should be left without care] and we were there to highlight children's rights. Alexandra Pärnebjörk, sexual and reproductive health and rights adviser, talked about the lack of sex education, contraception and care for young people in crises. Also, our ambassador, the media personality Hanna Persson, along with our press officer Sofia Klemming Nordenskiöld, came back to talk about the trip to Guatemala for Musikhjälpen two years previously.

## RAPE PROHIBITED IN SENEGAL

Girls active in our Sisters Create project created the "Dafa Doy" music video as part of a campaign to force through a new law prohibiting rape. Their song was widely played on national TV and radio and, thankfully, the law was pushed through.

**SCOTLAND THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO MAKE PERIOD PRODUCTS FREE**

Years of campaigning against menstrual poverty, in which Plan International's actions included the launch of the menstrual emoji, paid off when Scotland became the first country in the world to make period products free.

## FIVE RED DOTS ...

... to draw attention to obstacles that girls face when they get their first period. This year's five menstruation ambassadors painted it on their

nails to show that menstruation is #BloodySerious. So did ministers, influencers and sports personalities, as well as many private individuals.

## ZIMBABWE BANNED SCHOOLS FROM EXCLUDING PREGNANT GIRLS

In several places around the world, girls who have got pregnant, sometimes due to rape, are discriminated against by being excluded from school. Zimbabwe took an important step towards greater equality in August when it passed a new law allowing pregnant girls to complete their education.



## HUMANITARIAN AID FOR THE TYPHOON-STRICKEN PHILIPPINES

The Philippines was hit by several typhoons during the autumn and Plan International Sweden helped make it possible for tens of thousands of people

to receive rapid humanitarian aid. This included setting up safe places for children affected.



## SWEDEN IS THE BEST BILATERAL DONOR IN THE WORLD

Based on 17 indicators such as transparency and monitoring, Sweden was awarded the highest quality rating of all bilateral donors by Quality of Official Development Assistance (QuODA), which audits aid operators.



Natural disasters do not take a break during a pandemic. When Vietnam was hit by major floods, Plan International Sweden was able to help ensure that those affected could quickly receive hygiene packages, replace lost school materials and begin the reconstruction of schools that had been destroyed in the affected areas.

## THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MADE A VIRTUAL VISIT TO GUATEMALA

Digital travel is a good way to do it during a pandemic. Along with four other organisations, Plan International Sweden was part of a digital visit to Guatemala where Minister for International Development Cooperation Per Olsson Fridh was told about projects being implemented there.

## WE JUMPED ON THE CLUBHOUSE BANDWAGON

Clubhouse became an opportunity for us to test making new contacts and talk about our focus areas in a simple, cost-effective way. In spring 2021, we led discussions on gender equality every Friday along with researchers, journalists, politicians and stakeholders in civil society.

**Alma from the Youth Council during the discussion about violence against girls online:**

*"In general, it's about changing a culture in which girls are seen as objects".*



people have seen our interactive animated film **"Captured – a love story"** on child marriage and have made choices that affect the story.

## TAKEOVER AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On International Day of the Girl on 11 October, the Foreign Minister Ann Linde took part in Plan International's global initiative #GirlsTakeOver and invited Fanny from our Youth Council to take part in her work for one day.



**Fanny from the Youth Council was interviewed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** *"I think that girls being represented is the basis for everything. They should be seen and heard just as I was today when I was given the opportunity to try out a position of power in society".*

## CSWG5

Plan International Sweden took part in the Swedish delegation led by the Minister for Gender Equality Märta Stenevi when the UN Commission on the Status of Women was held for the 65th year – this time digitally. We raised important issues about gender equality and how girls are adversely affected by consequences of the pandemic such as greater violence, more child marriages and interrupted education.



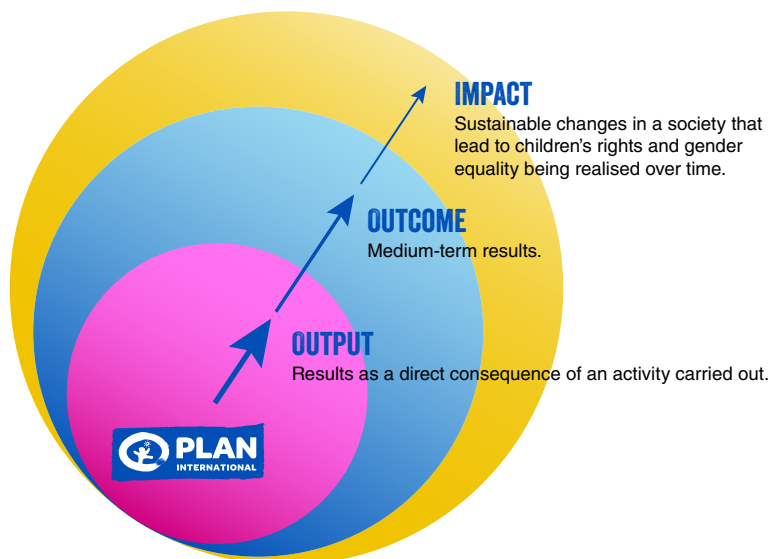
# WHAT WE HAVE DONE DURING THE YEAR – FOUR FOCUS AREAS

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

## HOW DO WE MEASURE RESULTS?

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

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



### THE CONTROL SPHERE

Plan International Sweden's local programmes in which we both assume responsibility for and have control over the results. **For example**, we implement an information campaign that increases inhabitants' awareness of children's right to education.



### THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

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



### THE SPHERE OF INTEREST

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



# CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO SAFETY AND PROTECTION

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

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

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

As one country after another closed schools and imposed restrictions on people's freedom of movement, there were reports of greater violence against children and women. We saw the same pattern all over the world: the number of calls to hotlines for women subjected to violence rose dramatically as more and more people were trapped in the home with the perpetrators.

A good school can serve as a safety net for children who are victims of domestic violence, but that protection disappears if the school closes.

It is still too early to see what effect the pandemic is having on the world, but in October, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that tens of millions of people were at risk of ending up in extreme poverty. As more families become poorer, more girls are at risk of being married off. That is something we have seen in many previous crises. One mouth less to feed can be seen by a breadwinner as the only solution. In some areas, genital mutilation of girls has increased during the pandemic. In Somalia, groups began to go round knocking on doors to make sure that families had genitally mutilated their girls – a method that had not been seen in that country for many years.

The need for child protection has not decreased in the past year – the opposite is the case. At the same time, organisations such as Plan International have been unable to carry on working as usual due to lockdowns and travel bans. This has placed great demands on our creativity and our ability to adapt. We have been able to digitalise parts of our work and we continue to support

local stakeholders in order to reach areas that no one was able to travel to. We have used radios and mobile phones to keep in contact with people who perhaps need our support more than ever. In order to protect children from violence, Plan International Sweden supports work by the country offices to strengthen societies' safety nets in the form of functioning social services, health care and schools, so they can intervene when guardians are unable to provide that security. Guardians also receive support to protect their children from violence.

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



**60**  
**LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING**

## CHILD PROTECTION IN CRISES

Children in crises and conflicts are in particular need of protection. This applies especially to children who have also lost their families or been separated from them. Cameroon has been convulsed by bloody conflicts since 2016 and the Boko Haram terror movement is ravaging parts of the country. As a result of the unrest, more than 400,000 people have been displaced in their own country and over 25,000 are estimated to have fled to Nigeria.

In Cameroon, Plan International Sweden supports projects implemented along with local stakeholders to increase the protection of children who are subjected to violence. A total of 60 different local organisations and public authorities have received training in children's right to protection and coaching in their professional roles to help children who have been or are at risk of being subjected to violence. The organisations and public authorities have, in turn, reached more than 15,000 people. Interviews with people living in the areas where we work confirmed that knowledge of children's right to protection has increased.

More than 5,500 children who were or who risked being subjected to violence have received psychosocial support at our child-friendly spaces.

"Thanks to the centre and everything I learned there, my hope has been renewed," says a 15 year-old.

The Central African Republic has suffered unrest and conflict since it gained independence in 1960. The recurring outbreaks of violence have had a negative impact on the school system, the judiciary, health care and the labour market and many families have been displaced.

We also run child-friendly spaces in the Central African Republic. 28,671 children and young people received psychosocial support in these safe places during the year and almost 2,500 children have received help to report and follow up reports of violence. Plan International has trained personnel who process the reports of violence and we have seen that as many as 97 per cent of the reports are processed properly and within a reasonable time.

## KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD PROTECTION IS INCREASING IN CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, Plan International Sweden has supported the work to improve child protection by such means as strengthening the public authorities' role and the capacity of the child protection system. 359 employees of the public authority for women and children have been trained in child protection, gender equality, processes for reporting in the event of abuse and sexual and reproductive health and rights. 80 per cent of the participants reported that they had improved their knowledge during the training.

At the same time, children and young people were given the opportunity to participate in youth clubs, where they were able to learn about their rights and about what to do when they themselves or others were subjected to violence. 65 per cent of the young people increased their knowledge and were also able to learn how to pass on their knowledge to other children and young people.

## ADAPTATIONS IN SUDAN

Around the time when the Corona virus began to spread throughout the world, Plan International Sweden started a project to strengthen the protection of children in three regions of Sudan: Kassala, White Nile and North Darfur. The pandemic put a stop to several planned physical meetings but, after rapid adaptation, the project was able to continue and all planned activities were carried out.

In order to bring about long-term change, Plan International Sweden is working to change attitudes and values when it comes to gender equality, children and girls in particular. One of our most important tools is to increase knowledge of gender equality and the harmful effects of child marriage and genital mutilation. It is only by bringing everyone on

board, from children, parents and neighbours to teachers and local and religious leaders and decision-makers, that we can really bring about sustainable change. We have clearly seen an increase in knowledge on gender equality and changes in attitudes linked to gender norms among our participants in Sudan. But it takes time to change norms in a society and we must continue to study these changes for a longer period of time in order to guarantee results.

We, and all those fighting for girls' rights in Sudan, reached a milestone in 2020 when genital mutilation was criminalised. Now the difficult and important work of ensuring compliance with the law throughout the country continues.





# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

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

**NEARLY  
12 MILLION  
GIRLS AGED BETWEEN  
15 AND 19 GIVE BIRTH  
EVERY YEAR**



**S**exual and reproductive health and rights include information about the body, relationships and sexuality, sex education to prevent violence and help bringing about equal relationships, and health care and medical treatment that offers contraception and safe abortions, for example. In our work, it is a question of young people being able to make their own decisions about their bodies and their lives and if, when and with whom they want to engage in sex or have children.

Harmful norms and traditions affect the ability of children and young people to have their sexual and reproductive rights respected. It can be about children being forced into marriage and becoming mothers while they themselves are still children. As things

stand today, each year, an estimated 12 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth in low- and middle-income countries. Besides that, around two million girls under the age of 15 give birth each year. Complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth are the most common cause of death for teenage girls aged between 15 and 19 and the youngest girls are the most at risk.

Plan International Sweden works to promote children's rights, focusing particularly on girls, and one of our focus areas is sexual and reproductive health and rights. Even before the pandemic, there were major obstacles in the way of girls and women gaining access to basic information and health care. Just over a year of the pandemic has meant greater pressure on health care systems in low- and middle-

income countries that lack sufficient resources, and therefore additional obstacles for girls and women.

The impact of the pandemic can also be seen in the poorer access to advice and information. But Plan International Sweden has adapted programmes to the new circumstances and has thus been able to continue to reach young people. We have worked closely with public authorities and have used radio programmes, social media and television for communicating information on health and Covid-19. Measures have included filming dramas with messages about sexual and reproductive rights, creation of animated films and distribution of information in traffic using megaphones. We have also distributed hygiene packages as a complement to this.



## ADVOCACY WORK IN AFRICA

The pandemic, which has had extremely negative consequences for children's and young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights, has meant that advocacy work has been an important tool during the year. In August 2020, Plan International presented a report on how the pandemic has affected girls in Africa. That report has been used as a basis for advocacy work aimed at decision-makers and those in power as well as laws and other proposals during the year. In a regional collaboration, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child was contacted for a discussion on young people's rights to sexual and reproductive health and rights on the continent. A debate was arranged on the subject in March and Plan International took part in two panel discussions. The discussions resulted in a plan of action and a formal statement on matters including age-appropriate training and specific guidance in humanitarian initiatives.



## PARENTS DARE TO TALK ABOUT SEX EDUCATION IN TOGO

Local leaders often have great influence in their communities. Plan International Sweden is therefore working strategically to enlist their help to change society's view of children and young people and in particular its view of girls and young women. Issues relating to young people's sexual and reproductive rights are often sensitive and local leaders in Togo have become a bridge when it comes to talking to parents about sex education. One important topic has been the fact that pregnancy should not have to mean that girls must leave school. As a result of our work in Togo, parents have adopted a more positive attitude towards sex education and have at the same time learned to talk to their children about sensitive issues such as how children are conceived, contraception and menstruation.

## GLOBAL ADVISOR

A global advisor focusing on learning about sexual and reproductive health and rights was recruited during the year to help coordinate training. The training package, *Conversations that matter*, has reached 300 people, including leaders, programme employees and partners. A digital introductory course in sexual and reproductive health and rights was developed during the 2020 pandemic year and 550 people have so far taken part. In addition, we produced an online course dealing with issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.



## TIMOR LESTE – DEEP-ROOTED NORMS ARE RELAXED

Plan International has strengthened its position as a stakeholder in sexual and reproductive health and rights in Timor Leste. During the year, we have taken part in consultations with regional authority representatives in which we discussed issues relating to sex education and access to guidance for children and young people. The work has helped children and young people to gain greater awareness and confidence to talk about these issues. One example of this is a network in which the issues were discussed with local leaders, public authorities and representatives of other organisations. We have also seen how children and young people have become more aware of decisions they themselves make concerning their sexual and reproductive health. We have also made use of local radio programmes in order to spread knowledge more widely.

The work on children's and young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights includes both boys and girls and part of our strategy is to be able to adopt a comprehensive approach in work on deep-rooted norms. Our work has led to greater understanding on the part of boys and men of the importance of respecting girls' rights and of issues relating to discrimination and violence against girls and women.

## THE PANDEMIC HAS HAD SEVERE CONSEQUENCES IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe is one of the countries that was hard hit by the effects of the pandemic. The health care system is weak and has faced a number of challenges in connection with the pandemic. Furthermore, the economic crisis has led to worse conditions for young women in particular. As a result, it has become more difficult to obtain health and medical care such as advice on sexual and reproductive health and access to menstrual protection and contraception. The country was also in lockdown for a period due to the spread of the virus. Domestic violence is common and when children and young people were unable to go to school, they risked being trapped with a violent parent or guardian instead. Reports of sexual violence also increased at the time of the lockdown.

Teenage pregnancies have also increased rapidly, which has led to many girls being forced to leave school. In the city of Bulawayo, statistics from one of the major hospitals showed that children between the ages of 12 and 16 accounted for almost a third of births. Plan International Sweden has been seeking to work around the challenges of the pandemic and be able to meet the considerable need for sex education, contraception and maternity care and reduce the risk of children being subjected to violence.

We have worked closely with local authorities and the Ministry of Health. The work has involved a combination of initiatives. We have worked with authorities, schools and hospitals to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancies. At the same time, we have focused on strengthening capacity, for example with mobile clinics, in order to make the initiatives more effective. In this way, it was possible to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. In order to reach more people with information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, teenage pregnancies and sexual violence, residents of municipalities have received information via text message, radio, TV and Facebook. 60,869 teenagers and young people have received information and care in health care clinics in which staff have been trained to attend to the target group.

As the restrictions eased, 948 young people living with disabilities were able to obtain information on sexual and reproductive health and rights at open meetings in their communities. We were also able to reach 864 young people with information on how to report sexual violence and violence against girls and women by such means as a helpline open around the clock and mobile clinics.



**60,869**  
**TEENAGERS**  
**AND YOUNG**  
**PEOPLE RECEIVED**  
**INFORMATION**  
**AND CARE**



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

Children and young people have a right to be heard and to participate in decisions that affect them. However, shrinking civil space, discrimination against girls and a global pandemic that has been going on for over a year restrict young people's ability to make their voices heard. That is why we support children and young people to help them organise themselves and influence decision-makers in order to have their rights respected and bring about a sustainable future.

ACK

# YOUNG PEOPLE GET INVOLVED LOCALLY AND BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION

**P**lan International Sweden works to ensure that children and young people are aware of their rights and have the ability to actively assert them. Plan International Sweden is involved in implementing programmes in which children and young people become involved and themselves identify problems, discuss solutions and meet decision-makers.

Children's participation is a right and is one of our focus areas. It is a common theme running through our work. When decisions are made on issues relating to children and young people, both privately and in society, their point of view is often not taken into account. We endeavour to give children and young people the ability to influence political decision-making processes at local, national and international level and also in the home, at school and in the media. We also create opportunities for children and young people to organise themselves so they become even stronger together and in the long term.

## Girls' voices must be heard

Girls often find it more difficult to occupy their place and make their voices heard because they are restricted by discriminatory norms. Sometimes there is a lack of self-confidence and a lack of opportunities for girls to make themselves heard and take on leading roles. At other times, it is the families that want to protect their daughters from the risks that their involvement could entail. For that reason, Plan International Sweden makes additional efforts to strengthen girls' participation at different levels of society. Among other things, by ensuring that girls have the opportunity to be included in and to lead children's or youth groups working on gender equality, education or environmental issues, for example.

## Young people are faced with obstacles to their involvement

It has been clear to those of us who work to support youth-led groups,

organisations and movements all over the world that the trend of shrinking civil space has worsened in the wake of the pandemic. Children and young people are hit particularly hard due to their age and status in society and also because their organisations often lack the capacity and resources to deal with the risks that their involvement entails. For that reason, Plan International Sweden conducted a study in 21 countries in 2020 to find out how young people's involvement is affected and how we can provide them with support. The results of the study have led to a series of measures on our part such as launching a fund through which local partner organisations can quickly and easily obtain support when they are subjected to some kind of attack or risk.

Just over a year of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that democracy and human rights have been neglected in many countries in the world. Several countries have declared states of emergency or have passed special laws to help fight against the virus but, at the same time, these grant those in authority far-reaching powers that restrict civil rights and freedoms. These include restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly and also greater powers for states to monitor citizens, as well as restrictions on freedom of expression and religious freedoms. This has hit children, young people and their organisations hard. In many places, children and young people have expressed frustration at not being able to continue with their involvement, sometimes due to lockdowns and limited freedom of movement. In other cases, involvement has been limited because whole families, including children, have needed help to survive and secure basic needs such as food and clean water.

At the same time, we see that involvement on the part of young people in particular has largely moved over to digital platforms. However,

there is a huge gulf between children and young people who have access to the internet, mobile phones and computers and those who have no such access when it comes to the ability to participate and get involved. That was a problem even before the pandemic, but it has been exacerbated and has become more visible over the past year. The children and young people we work with live in some of the world's most vulnerable countries, often a long way out in rural areas, and many of them state that they have found it difficult to become involved online or gain access to information. Many children have also had their education interrupted, which makes it more difficult for them to be active citizens in future. We therefore need to learn more about how we can bring about the conditions to allow children and young people to also participate in crises of this kind.

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



**JUST OVER  
5,600  
HAVE LEARNED MORE  
ABOUT SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT**



## **OUR CITY: YOUNG PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES**

Around the world, young people's voices have become a big part of the climate struggle – and their involvement has forced adult society to act. They see that their future – and their right to live and develop – is threatened and they expect adults and those in power to take responsibility and stop climate change. In the Our City 2030 project, over 5,600 students, young people not at school and teachers in Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda and the Philippines have learned more about sustainable development, climate change and urban development. The young people have not only been given training and have themselves started to spread knowledge in youth clubs and other networks, they have also played a big part in influencing local decision-makers. Together, they have drawn up goals and action plans for climate work and have presented visions for their home towns, both to other young people and to those in power in what are known as climate councils. This has led to various commitments from those in power, such as the commitment signed by the mayor of Lusaka, Zambia which included promoting the participation of young people and working with young people in reporting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In the capital of Uganda, Kampala, the mayor and the education committee undertook to incorporate some of the young people's proposals into urban planning.

Pupils in the four cities have also received support in exerting influence to make their school environment more environmentally friendly and sustainable and they have drawn up action plans with the school management for making concrete improvements.

Young people's involvement has always been an important factor for change and this project has not only allowed young people to gain greater knowledge and confidence, they have also passed that knowledge on in their local environment and on social media and have gained access to a context in which to continue their involvement and a way to reach decision-makers. Various mechanisms have been developed or used to make it possible for young people to participate and officials and those in power have realised that young people can, and have a right to contribute to urban development.

**Hope Mutakila Jr, aged 19:**

*"I'm a student at City Secondary School in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. It's one of the fastest growing cities in southern Africa with a population that grew from 1.7 to 2.5 million between 2010 and 2018.*

*As part of the Our City 2030 project, I launched a campaign at my school to keep Zambia clean and I also started a climate club to provide information about the harmful consequences of climate change.*

*This project wanted to provide young people with education on sustainable development, climate change, inequality and social injustice. The project has really changed people's lives and has empowered young people. They have gained a lot of the knowledge they need to be able to save the earth. The best thing about the project is that it's given us new perspectives and tools to enable us to take responsibility and bring about change ourselves. I have so many ideas and am looking forward to new adventures. I've gained more knowledge and experience.*

*Young people's voices and ideas are important to enable us to deal with the global problems we face. The future belongs to the young. That's why we understand how important it is to take responsibility for it."*



## SISTERS CREATE – BACK THE SISTERHOOD

Girls in Senegal and Sweden have joined forces to fight for equality in the Sisters Create project that we run in collaboration with Fryshuset. With the aid of music, media and cultural activities in which girls play an active role, they will be strengthened, will be able to take control of their lives and will achieve greater influence in society.

Halfway through the project, the results are looking good and several positive changes have taken place. The form of the project clearly shows how organisation in groups, collaboration and social mobilisation are a good basis for bringing about change and it is clear that a sisterhood

has been created across national borders. The fact that the girls have been empowered and have built up their self-confidence is a factor that has triggered activism among the Swedish girls and has made them more likely to stand up against racism and inequality. It became clear to the girls in Senegal that they had become stronger and more confident in defending girls' rights. The power of the girls in Senegal to act has also helped strengthen social engagement for the criminalisation of rape, which led to the adoption of a national law in 2020.

# HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Last year's humanitarian work was not only characterised by the pandemic but the pandemic did serve to exacerbate the already vulnerable situation of displaced people and people living through crises, disasters and poverty. Children, and especially girls, are being hit hard by crises and efforts to create resilience are becoming increasingly important.

**T**he financial year, like the previous year, has shown that there is a greater need for humanitarian initiatives. According to the UN, 235 million people will need humanitarian aid and protection in 2021 and the UN refugee agency released the news that the number of displaced people had passed the 80 million mark. Climate change is leading to more frequent and worse weather-related disasters, including droughts and extreme storms and floods that create an enormous need to rebuild communities and allow children to return to a day-to-day life of schooling and protection from violence. At the same time, we see how complex, protracted conflicts combined with greater extremism mean that many children are forced to grow up in war zones and environments characterised by violence, uprisings and instability.

The pandemic, with the ensuing hard-pressed health care systems, closed communities and deteriorating livelihoods, has exacerbated many crises that children and families are living through. Those hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic are people who are already vulnerable in low-income countries suffering a lack of health care and weak social security networks. UN estimates show that the long-term effects of the pandemic could lead to an additional 200 million people – a total of 1 billion – living in poverty by 2030. But investments

focusing on the global goals can reverse that trend.

Children fleeing or living in conflict zones are particularly vulnerable. During crises in society, the risk of violence, exploitation and abuse of children increases and the pandemic has badly affected the right of children – and teenage girls in particular – to protection. At the same time, measures such as curfews and isolation have made it difficult for Plan International to reach people and deliver humanitarian aid in the ongoing crises in which we are working, even though there are some good examples in which we have successfully managed to adapt our activities.

One example of this is Zambia, which has suffered an extreme drought during the year leading to hunger and insecurity. In the current situation, Plan International has nevertheless succeeded in reaching the most vulnerable by adapting the activities. Distribution of food has increased and has been made secure from infection, while at the same time there has been an opportunity to inform parents about both Covid-19 and the risks faced by children when they are unable to go to school. This meant that parents found it easier to report abuse and protection risks to the helplines that had been started up.

Plan International Sweden aims to strengthen our response in humanitarian crises and revise

programmes to adapt to the enormous need that currently exists. Our efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic have focused on support for Plan International's country offices in the following areas:

- Ensuring that children affected by the crisis and their families receive information on health and Covid-19 and have access to clean water and soap to manage their hygiene and stop the spread of infection.
- Support health care so that services relating to issues such as sexual and reproductive health can continue to be provided even during the pandemic.
- Preventing violence against children by spreading knowledge via TV, the internet and radio and working to ensure that children who are victims of domestic violence can get help.
- Supporting schools and teachers with information for students about Covid-19 and how they can protect themselves against infection. Where students have not been able to go to school, we make sure that parents and children receive information at home on how they can protect themselves against infection and gain access to teaching adapted to the pandemic. Preparing schools to welcome children back to a safe school environment.





# RAPID SUPPORT AFTER A VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN GUATEMALA

People in southern Guatemala were hard hit by the eruption of the Fuego volcano in summer 2018. Families lost their homes, their livelihoods (plantations, crops, livestock) and basic access to water and sanitation. Closed schools affected children and their right to education, while many people were forced to leave their homes to go to temporary shelters.

Guatemala is a country that is exposed to a high level of risk of both natural disasters and crises caused by humans. There is a high risk of earthquakes as well as vulnerability due to the volcanoes located throughout the country. Furthermore, the country suffers from extreme poverty, unemployment, migration, racism and illiteracy. The pandemic became an additional threat and a risk to the country.

Plan International Sweden collaborated with rapid initiatives after the volcanic eruption, including distribution of food and other basic necessities as well as child protection and support for temporary accommodation. That was followed by work up to December 2020 which formed a bridge from the first emergency responses to longer-term initiatives to increase resilience and preparedness for disasters among the population. That work also led to the creation of a network for child protection and a system for adaptation to crises. Thanks to that system, money could be redistributed during the pandemic, so that around 6,000 of the most vulnerable children could be identified and were able to receive nutritional supplements.

AROUND  
**6,000**  
CHILDREN RECEIVED  
NUTRITIONAL  
SUPPLEMENTS





## LESSONS FOR BETTER RESILIENCE

The Philippines experienced a large number of volcanic eruptions during the year which caused great devastation. Having worked hard to help the most vulnerable in the Philippines, Plan International has learned lessons that are now being used in other humanitarian initiatives so that those working in crises and disasters are becoming even better at supporting families and communities. It is about working on disaster reduction both at community level and directly with families, providing training and producing information on disasters and how they can be managed in order to build resilience.





# IMPACT REPORT

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

Plan International strives for a just world that promotes children's rights and equality for girls. Plan International Sweden has four strategic areas that will help us become the leading children's rights organisation for equality for girls by 2022. More information on the strategic areas is available on p. 31.

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

Plan International is a children's rights organisation that is independent of party politics and religions. We are part of the Plan International federation, which is active in 75 countries. The country offices cooperate with local organisations in the countries where we implement programmes. Read more about the organisation on pages 2, 9 and 30–31.

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

The global strategy has been updated and from the next financial year will focus even more on the vulnerable situation of girls and our work in humanitarian crises. We strive to change harmful attitudes and behaviour, as well as laws and policies that stand in the way of girls' rights. Read more about our strategy and how we bring about change on pages 9 and 31.

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

Plan International is active in 75 countries with 10,000 employees and thousands of volunteers, all working for children's rights and gender equality around the world. The federation has been gathering experience and knowledge and has been building relationships with relevant partners for over 80 years. We work to share and develop the expertise that exists within the organisation, including through various thematic networks.

Read about one of our training courses for experts on p. 16. The Federation has come up with a new global data system to enable us to measure results better. Read more about it on page 32.

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

It is crucial for us to be able to demonstrate that we make a difference both for the children and the young people we work with and for our donors and employees. In order to ensure the quality of our activities, we work with the programme countries and other civil society organisations which are responsible for monitoring and evaluation on-site. In order to safeguard children's rights more effectively, we ensure that children's and young people's perspectives form part of our monitoring and learning. The information collected also forms a basis for learning and developing our initiatives. All Plan International Sweden's programmes use the same method for planning and implementation. Read more about how we measure results on p. 9 and about our new global data system for follow-up on p. 32.

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

Despite a powerful backlash against girls' rights in several parts of the world and a pandemic that we cannot yet see the end of, Plan International Sweden has continued to work for children's rights and gender equality. Read about specific changes and results in four of our focus areas: Children's right to safety and protection on pages 11–13, Sexual and reproductive health and rights on pages 14–17, Children's and young people's right to participate on pages 18–21 and our work in humanitarian crises on pages 22–25.

# ANNUAL REPORT





# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON OUR ACTIVITIES

The Board of Directors of Plan International Sverige Insamlingsstiftelse (Plan International Sweden Fundraising Foundation) and the National Director hereby submit the accounts for activities for the year from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2021.

### Plan International

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

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

The Plan International federation was founded in 1937 and is currently active in 75 countries with over 10,000 employees and thousands of volunteers. Of these, 55 are programme countries and 20 are fundraising countries. Sweden is one of the fundraising countries and is entrusted with the task of mobilising politically and providing financial support and skilled assistance to programme countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

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

The organisation operates in programme countries via local offices and partner organisations. That enables us to work closely alongside the population to bring about long-term, sustainable changes. Our programmes are always based on the needs, realities and challenges faced by children and young people in their everyday lives. In concrete terms, Plan International Sweden contributes to the global work by supporting planning, monitoring, evaluating and further developing the programmes. We also contribute through fundraising, advocacy work and communication.

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

## OUR ROLE

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

## OUR VALUES

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

### For and with children

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

### For gender equality

Girls are ascribed a lower value from the day they are born. They often receive less food, care and opportunities for development. They are doubly discriminated against, both because they are children and because they are girls. They are subjected to gross violations and abuse that require specific, targeted measures. That is why Plan International focuses particularly on girls and their conditions. Furthermore, investing in girls and gender equality is a key to combating poverty and achieving the sustainability goals in the UN Agenda 2030. The fact that Plan International focuses on girls does

not mean that we do not work with women, boys or men. On the contrary, in order to be successful, we need to get everyone on board in our work.

## FOCUS AREAS

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

- Child protection
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Education
- Participation
- Children's early development
- Strengthening young people's economic potential

We ensure that the programmes we support are relevant and sustainable and that they focus on the root causes of the problems, regardless of where and in what context they are implemented. We work on the basis of a conflict-sensitivity perspective so our work does not adversely affect a conflict or the situation in a particular area.

## 90 ACCOUNT

Plan International Sweden has a 90 account and its work is monitored by Svensk Insamlingskontroll (The Swedish Fundraising Control). This means that at least 75 per cent of income must be allocated to the purpose and a maximum of 25 per cent may be used for fundraising and administration. In the 2021 financial year, 87 per cent of Plan International Sweden's income was allocated to the purpose, with 13 per cent being allocated to fundraising and administration. Plan International Sweden's account numbers are 900731-1 and 900701-4 (Plusgiro) and 900-7311 and 900-7014 (Bankgiro). We are members of Giva Sverige, which is an industry organisation that promotes secure donation.

## OUR STRATEGY

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

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

During the financial year, work was being carried out within the Federation to update the global strategy that will be adopted next year.

## That is how we want to bring about change

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

## Strategic areas

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

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

## IMPORTANT EVENTS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

### Extended humanitarian aid

Plan International Sweden was informed soon after the end of the previous financial year that our current strategic partnership agreement with Sweden's government agency for development cooperation's (Sida) humanitarian aid would not be extended when it expires in spring 2022. Sida's

decision is based on an evaluation forming part of the process for selecting new strategic partner organisations for their humanitarian budget of SEK 4 billion. This was followed by discussions with Sida which led to a two-year extension of the partnership. The largest amount of humanitarian aid goes to the Central African Republic and Cameroon, where Plan International Sweden is providing SEK 10 million in each country to support child protection work.

### **Better results with the new data system**

During the financial year, Plan International has begun to roll out its new global data system in all the regions in which we operate. The first part that is starting to be used relates to monitoring and quality assurance of results, *PMERL (Project Management, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning)*, which will provide us with a better basis for systematically collecting, analysing and making use of results in the activities. A person at Plan International Sweden has taken a training course in the system, which means that we have access to and are able to use the system along with the countries where the projects are being implemented. The focus during the financial year has been to put PMERL in place and develop employees' knowledge of how it works. The system will be gradually introduced in the activities and all new projects will be entered and monitored in it.

### **The pandemic affects the organisation – in Sweden and globally**

Throughout the financial year, the Swedish office organisation has chosen to minimise the number of people present in the office at the same time in line with recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Sweden. This has meant major changes for individuals and for the Swedish organisation as a whole. Digital meetings instead of physical meetings have become commonplace and a different work dynamic has arisen. There are both advantages and disadvantages with the new dynamic. Besides greater calm and better concentration, home offices have led to feelings of isolation and poorer ergonomics.

The global organisation has been forced to adapt and revise many of the operational activities in our programmes based on local conditions. Spread of infection, lockdowns and restrictions of various types have at times given rise to challenges when it comes to carrying out ordinary assignments and certain Covid-19-related emergency and long-term initiatives have taken precedence.

### **Marketing campaigns for profiling and recruitment**

During the year, we have implemented a number of campaigns aimed at profiling Plan International Sweden, strengthening our brand and recruiting new donors. The campaigns have been run in a number of different channels and have highlighted different thematic areas. In the autumn, we ran a campaign highlighting the fact that girls are particularly vulnerable in crises, one of the solutions to which is for girls to be able to carry on going to school – despite Covid-19 and other obstacles. In the spring, we ran a campaign that highlighted several of our different focus areas such as child marriage and education and we also clarified our mission as a children's rights organisation for equal opportunities for girls.

#### *Campaign on child marriage: Captured – a love story*

Plan International Sweden released an interactive animated film on social media in which the viewer is able to make choices that affect the story – with young people aged 15-19 as the main target group. The film was released on 12 February and since then has been watched in full by 8,000 people. School materials on child marriage were also produced, along with a debate article that was published in Göteborgs-Posten at the time of the launch.

#### *International Day of the Girl – #FreeToBeOnline and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

On the occasion of International Day of the Girl on 11 October, Plan International released the annual State of the World's Girls report, with the theme of "Free to be online," about girls' experiences of online harassment. Over half of the 14,000 girls from different parts of the world who were interviewed for the report stated that they had been harassed online. The report had considerable media impact and was featured on TV4 News and in DN, TT and SvD, as well as in local newspapers and P4 editorials. Along with the report, an open letter was issued to the large social media platforms in which the girls demanded that harassment on the platforms be stopped. We gathered 3,000 signatures to the open letter in Sweden and over 60,000 were gathered globally. The tremendous amount of attention led to the initiation of a discussion with Instagram, Facebook and Whatsapp in which ten young girls shared their knowledge and their and other girls' experiences.

In connection with the Day of the Girl, Plan International carried out takeovers – in which girls

took over important positions in politics, the media and other areas – around the world. In Sweden, a member of our Youth Council shadowed Foreign Minister Ann Linde for a day. The takeover was highlighted in the Foreign Ministry's channels and the Youth Council representative was interviewed by both SVT Uppland and Uppsala Nya Tidning.

### *International Menstrual Hygiene Day on #BloodySerious*

For the third year in a row, we ran the #BloodySerious campaign on International Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28 May. The campaign highlights five ways in which girls' lives and health are affected by their first period in order to show that menstruation is a crucial issue for girls' rights. In order to take part in the campaign, you paint five red dots on your nails and share a picture on social media.

A new feature this year was a major PR initiative with five menstruation ambassadors, influencer mailings and an AR filter for Instagram. Footballer Nilla Fischer, midwife Asabea Britton, Youtuber Felicia Bergström, TikToker Nike\_Najki and media personality Hanna "HanaPee" Persson were enlisted as ambassadors. They were responsible for drawing attention to each of the five points and the campaign as a whole in their channels. Of the nearly sixty influencers who received the nail varnish mailing, almost half, including Lisa Nilsson, Michelle Coleman and Ida Östensson, chose to participate in the campaign. In addition, almost 400 private individuals with open Instagram accounts and people in power such as Minister for Gender Equality Märta Stenevi (MP), Minister for Financial Markets Åsa Lindhagen (MP) and members of the Swedish parliament Gudrun Brunegård (KD) and Helena Antoni (M) took part.

In the week leading up to Menstruation Day, we did four live broadcasts on Instagram including information on the points in the campaign and some competition items. Representatives from our organisation, as well as some of the ambassadors, took part. The broadcasts – live and recorded subsequently – were seen by more than 4,800 people in total.

Like the previous year, we were at the top of Google's search results for *Menstruation Day* and *International Menstruation Day* on 28-29 May.

### **Continued investments in digitalisation and transition to agile working methods**

During the year, the Department of Fundraising and Communication has completed the transition

to an agile way of working with cross-departmental, independent teams that, on the basis of their respective team assignments, have an extensive mandate and responsibility for prioritising and carrying out activities that generate the highest value. A major transition that places other demands on employees to take responsibility and in which leadership and self-leadership become essential for success. We have taken great steps forward in the transition process during the year, though it is a never-ending change.

We have also continued to invest in system support during the year to make us more able to meet the needs and requirements of our existing and future donors. We have worked on a new system to ensure that our donors receive more relevant communication about our work and the projects they support, i.e. information on progress being made in the areas that interest them most, so they thus feel a stronger commitment to our issues and remain as donors. We have also prepared for a new payment system which will be introduced in full in summer 2021. We want to simplify the process of becoming a sponsor using payment methods that people are familiar with from other contexts. We also note that the change will contribute to greater cost efficiency and less manual processing.

## **SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION**

### **Environmental matters**

Plan International Sweden is aiming high when it comes to climate and environmental work. It forms a natural part of many of our programmes and is an issue that is integrated into our work at all times. The environmental policy was adopted in autumn 2019 and contains clear objectives and an action plan of measures that we are working on. Three main areas of the organisation's environmental impact were identified: travel, procurements and a greener office. We have been subject to travel bans during the year due to the pandemic and most of our employees have worked from home, which has led to a significant reduction in consumption of electricity and printouts, etc. in the office.

### **Working environment**

The work environment has taken a different direction during the year. This year, it has been about managing remote work digitally. This has affected all employees' work environment – both physically and socially. We still want a safe, inclusive working environment where employees enjoy their work, are developed

and feel healthy. For that reason, we have actively worked to support our employees and managers in various ways in the rapid transition to working from home using digital tools. It consisted of everything from check lists and guides to lectures as well as the opportunity to borrow screens, ergonomic aids and chairs to use at home. However, the most important tool for a good remote working environment is the dialogue between manager and employee.

During the year, we had new safety representatives who participated in the joint training Better Work Environment along with our temporary HR generalist.

### **Employees in other countries**

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

### **Staff surveys carried out**

Every month, we carry out a measurement using two questions: how comfortable the employees feel in the job and how much they have to do. We also participated in Plan International's global employee survey, which is conducted every other year. From that survey, we see that our employees support Plan International Sweden's purpose, are proud of the work the organisation does and can see how their own work contributes to the common goals. They think that they receive the skills development they need to enable them to do the job efficiently and that they are encouraged to develop their potential. They are treated fairly and with respect in the organisation and feel that their manager trusts them and that they have a manageable workload. Among the areas for development, the employees want greater transparency with regard to decisions and more participation in different processes. They also see that the organisation needs to get better at internal change work.

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

Plan International Sweden is a fundraising foundation that mobilises financial resources through private individuals, institutional donors, companies and philanthropists. We do this through our work in the market, donor services, communication and advocacy. Our Programme Department cooperates with our programme countries and we have support

functions such as IT, HR, finance and internal services that support the entire organisation.

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

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

### **Skills development**

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

### **Existence of collective agreements**

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

### **Staff turnover**

Half our employees are aged between 30 and 39, which is a time of life that for many is occupied by building a family and a wish to develop professionally. That means that we have a relatively high level of mobility, with substitutes due to parental leave of absence or people on leave of absence in order to work for Plan International in other countries. The average period of employment is four and a half years, but we expect this to fall based on the situation in society as a whole. In terms of many of our employees' professions, we are competing not only with similar organisations to Plan International

Sweden, but also with the rest of the labour market in Stockholm. We note that there is a great deal of mobility in the Stockholm labour market and that we cannot compete in terms of salary.

Staff turnover was 18 per cent over the year.

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

## EARNINGS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

Plan International Sweden is a fundraising foundation which aims to raise money to strengthen children's rights and equality for girls. Financially we endeavour to achieve a zero result at all times. This year's profit has arisen because the pandemic has meant that investments in marketing and automation could not be implemented during the year.

### Revenue

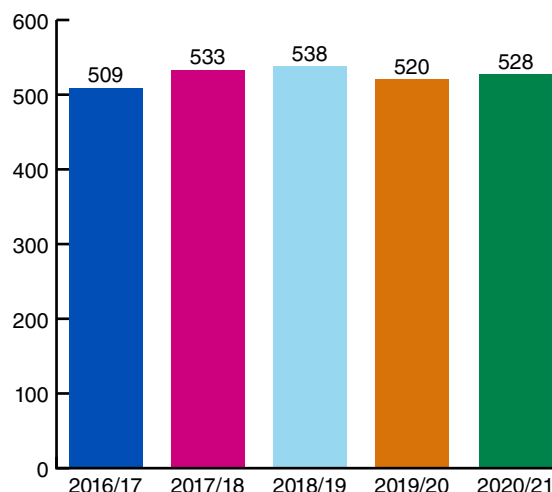
Plan International Sweden's total revenue in 2020/2021 amounted to 528 MSEK (520), an increase of 2 per cent. Our activities are made possible thanks to financing from private donors, companies, foundations and public, institutional donors.

We can see that stabilisation and recovery have taken place during this second year in the shadow of the Corona pandemic. Thanks to several different support initiatives in Sweden, the private finances of many donors have not been hit as hard as was feared, while the tax allowance for donations was available for use by private individuals who wished to donate money. Our grant income is dependent on the implementation of programme activities and we have managed to adapt our programmes despite the fact that many of Plan International's programme countries are still subject to extensive lockdowns and high levels of infection.

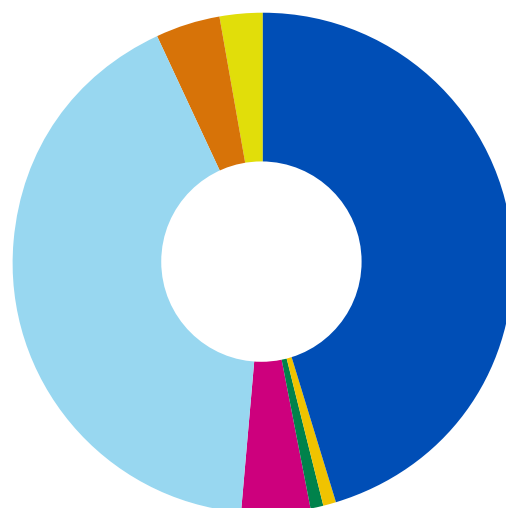
*Donations 271 (259) MSEK +5%*

The number of private monthly sponsors continued to rise, this year by 6,100 to 111,000 monthly donors, and income amounted to 240 (231) MSEK +4 per cent.

## Total revenue during financial year 2020/2021 amounted to 528 MSEK



## This is where the money comes from



- Monthly sponsors: **240 MSEK**
- Single contribution: **4 MSEK**
- Corporate & Foundations: **5 MSEK**
- Swedish Postcode Lottery: **23 MSEK**
- Sida: **220 MSEK**
- EU: **22 MSEK**
- Other grants: **14 MSEK**

During the past year, we have continued to experience strong new recruitment through both digital and physical channels. We have also seen that our efforts to provide our existing donors with relevant, up-to-date information on our activities and where their contributions go, as well as greater service and support, have strengthened relations and reduced cancellations, thus contributing to strong growth in private fundraising.

One-time donations amounted to 4 (4) MSEK. There continues to be strong competition in the market for on-time donations and we continue to strengthen our brand and our position to make us even more attractive for one-time donations to support children's rights and equal opportunities for girls. We see, among other things, that there is potential for increasing revenue from wills and memorial gifts.

Revenue from corporate collaborations increased in comparison to previous years and amounted to 4 (3) MSEK. The number of corporate collaborations increased during the year and Plan International is perceived as an attractive organisation for companies in all industries that wish to invest in sustainable development. HAGS Aneby, Acne Studios and Greencarrier are examples of new Plan International Sweden corporate partners. Several corporate partnerships have been extended during the year, such as our collaboration with Monki.

Support from the Svenska Postkodlotteriet (SPL) amounted to 23 (22) MSEK. We continue to receive considerable support from the Swedish Postcode Lottery, which enables us to strengthen and improve our activities, and the annual donation is the same amount as last year. Also, the SPL decided to make an additional donation to all beneficiaries in order to support civil society during the pandemic. The extra donation has enabled important adaptation work to be carried out. We also received a new donation from the Clas Ohlson Foundation during the year.

### **Grants 257 (260) MSEK -1%**

The total grants was 257 MSEK, of which public subsidies amounted to 251 (256) MSEK -2 per cent. The income from grants is subject to certain conditions and repayment is demanded if these are not met.

The grants from Sida amounted to 220 (235) MSEK -6 per cent. Sida contributes to Plan International's programme activities in over 25 countries in both long-term development initiatives and humanitarian work. In addition to our large grant from Sida's support for civil society, we receive subsidies

through Swedish embassies. During the summer/ autumn of 2020, we – along with our programme countries – worked intensively to revise our activities, adapt to current restrictions and re-plan ongoing projects. The transition was successful and we note that the rate of implementation in our programme activities has increased and we are starting to catch up with what was lost during the first months of the pandemic. At the beginning of the financial year, we were informed that our strategic partnership agreement with Sida's humanitarian unit would not be extended when it expires in 2022. Sida's decision is based on an evaluation which forms part of the process for selecting a new group of strategic partner organisations which will be the principal channels for Sida's humanitarian budget. One of the criteria for the decision was that Plan International has no presence in several of the countries most prioritised by Sida. Nevertheless, in its assessment, Sida emphasised that Plan International is particularly strong in its work to meet the needs of children and young people in the transition from humanitarian crises to development cooperation.

Revenue from EU grants rose by 10 per cent to 22 (20) MSEK. We have secured two new EU grants during the year which are mainly aimed at our work in support of civil society and education in Togo and Zambia. We have also increased our humanitarian contributions from ECHO, mainly in Latin America.

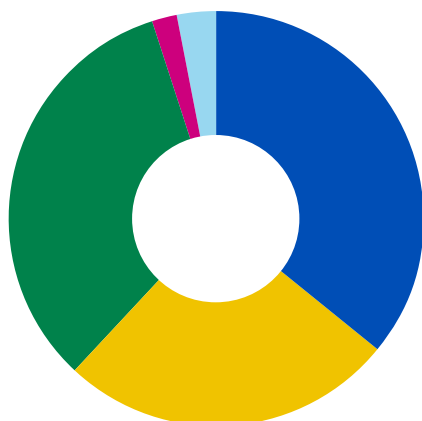
Our grants from the UN come mainly from UNOCHA and UNICEF, with particular focus on humanitarian efforts. New grants from the UN was an area we made efforts in during the year. They amounted to 9 (0) MSEK. Funds from UNOCHA and UNICEF contribute to our humanitarian work in Ethiopia as a result of the pandemic and the Tigray conflict. In Togo, contributions from UNICEF support our educational initiatives in the wake of the pandemic.

Other public grants and fundraised grants amounted to 5 (5) MSEK, in line with the previous year. Grants from Radiohjälpen continued to provide important support for our activities which, during the year, included an agreement to support the work to combat sexual violence in Bidi Bidi, the large refugee camp in Uganda.

### **Costs**

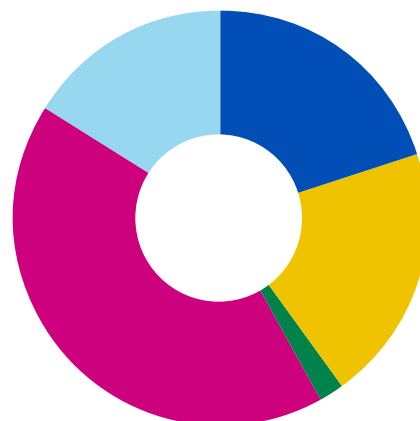
Plan International Sweden's costs consist of costs for the purpose and costs for fundraising and administration.

**This is how the money is distributed per focus area in 2020/2021**



- Children's and young people's right to protection from all forms of violence: 36 %
- Young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights: 26 %
- Children's and young people's right to participation: 33 %
- Children's right to education: 2 %
- Strengthening young people's economic potential: 3 %
- Early Childhood Development (ECD): 0 %

**This is how the money is distributed per region in 2020/2021**



- Asia: 20 %
- Latin and South America: 20 %
- The Middle East: 2 %
- Eastern and Southern Africa: 42 %
- Western Africa: 16 %

### *Costs for charitable activities*

**453 (445) MSEK +2%**

Costs to achieve tangible and quality-assured results for children's rights and equality for girls are referred to as costs for charitable activities. They consist of programme costs at Plan International's country offices, costs for programme support for staff in Sweden and costs for information and opinion-forming carried on in accordance with our purpose. The higher costs for the purpose in SEK are related to rising revenues and mainly to the fact that the transfer of funds to programme activities outside Sweden has increased. The proportion of costs for the purpose in relation to income remains high and in line with the previous year.

Plan International Sweden supports programmes in 30 countries and has its largest presence in Africa.

Plan International works preventively and adopts a long-term approach, but we are also on the ground in emergencies. Our work is based on six thematic areas: children's and young people's right to protection from all forms of violence, young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights, children's right to education, children's and young people's

right to participation, strengthening young people's economic potential and early Childhood Development (ECD). During the financial year, we have mainly supported programmes for children's right to safety and protection, sexual and reproductive health and rights and their right to participation and education.

In addition, Plan International Sweden has continued to provide funds to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic through various initiatives such as distributing information about health and the spread of infection, contributing to ensure access to water and soap, preventing trafficking through cash support and supporting schools and teachers to enable them to provide distance learning. A specific contribution of 3.5 MSEK has been designated for the Corona crisis in India.

During the year, Plan International launched a unique fund to enable early, effective action in incipient crises and conflicts called the Early Action Fund. Being able to act early and even, in some cases, prevent crises is an invaluable support for Plan International's programme areas. Plan International Sweden contributed 20 MSEK to the Early Action Fund thanks to support from private individuals and corporates.

<b>Key figures</b>					
Amounts in thousand SEK	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017
Total operating income	528,154	519,688	538,356	533,438	509,445
Costs for charitable activities	452,854	444,623	457,853	451,902	422,305
Proportion in relation to total operating income					
Funds raised, %	52%	51%	47%	52%	48%
Public grants, %	48%	49%	53%	48%	52%
Fundraising costs, %	11%	11%	11%	11%	13%
Administration costs,	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Fundraising and administration costs,	13%	14%	14%	14%	16%
Average number of employees	81	91	94	81	75

### *Fundraising and administration cost 71 (75) MSEK -5%*

The reduced costs is the result of active adaptation work mainly due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, with a greater risk of lower revenues. In the latter part of the financial year, the world around us stabilised when vaccinations began.

Fundraising costs amounted to 57 (60) MSEK -5%. Some fundraising activities have been affected by the uncertain situation and restrictions that have arisen in connection with the pandemic and will instead be carried out in the new financial year.

Administration costs amount to 14.6 (15.4) -5%. Plan International works to ensure that administration costs are reasonable in relation to the costs for the purpose while at the same time adhering to guidelines, rules and laws, ensuring satisfactory internal control and monitoring and being a good employer.

There is an objective and an ambition to continue to develop and automate systems, processes and working methods and make them more efficient in order to secure future revenues and reduce fundraising and administration costs.

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

Our goal is to achieve a zero result and for all funds and contributions raised to be used for our purpose on the basis of statutes and aims as soon as possible. This year's surplus will be used to increase future revenues by such means as digitalisation and

automation in order to make activities more efficient. Some of this year's surplus is also being used for marketing initiatives that could not be carried out due to the pandemic.

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

### **MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP**

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

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

The Board of Directors was led by Carl Lindgren. Initially, the Board members were Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg, Nina Nornholm and Ingalill Karlsson. Two Board members were added in 2020: Anja Olin Pape in November and Elias Aspud in December. Ingalill Karlsson's post ended in February 2021 and Dona Hariri was added in May. The Board of Directors has held eight minuted meetings during the financial year. Carl Lindgren and Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg attended every board meeting during the year. Nina Nornholm attended all but two. Elias Aspud attended all five meetings from when he took office. Anja Olin attended four meetings out of six and Dona Hariri attended one out of two.

Plan International Sweden's Youth Council had observers on the Board of Directors during the year. Those observers were Maja Lundqvist (student) and Holger Bergengren (student).

Plan International Sweden's secretariat is led by National Director Mariann Eriksson in consultation with a management team. During the financial year, the management team consisted, in addition to the National Director, of Programme Manager Mia Haglund Heelas, whose role was subsequently taken over by Björn Holmberg, Head of Resource Mobilisation and Partnership Mirjam Hast, Head of Communications and Fundraising Johan Bååthe, CFO Charlotte Bäckstrand, Head of HR Helena Ölander and Management Coordinator Anja Daun. The auditor for Plan International Sweden is PricewaterhouseCoopers AB, with Jonas Grahn as accountant in charge. The results of activities and the position at the end of the financial year in general is shown in the following income statements and balance sheets and cash flow statements with their associated notes.

## **OTHER NON-FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **Employees**

The average number of employees converted to full-time equivalents was 81 (91) during the financial year. The decrease is due to the downsizing and

reorganisation we carried out in order to respond to the changing conditions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Volunteers and trainees**

We closed down our voluntary activities in the office when the pandemic hit and during the year we have only had a handful of volunteers who helped remotely.

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

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

The Plan International Sweden Youth Council has an advisory role and contributes a child's and young person's perspective. The Youth Council has continued to work in two different groups, each with a different focus: external communication and internal advocacy. During the financial year, the Council had 15 active members aged between 15 and 21 from locations ranging from Småland to Jämtland. The members have acted as a reference group for various initiatives in education and involvement and two representatives were observers at Plan International Sweden's Board meetings.

During the financial year, members participated in events such as the European Week of Action for Girls, a digital event in which young people lobbied EU members to continue their work to strengthen girls' rights in the world. The Youth Council also participates in the ongoing Erasmus + project *Gender Transformative Advocates Unite*, along with 39 young people from Ireland, Spain, France and Belgium. A physical camp was cancelled due to the pandemic and five youth-led digital training sessions were held instead. The Youth Council participated in campaigns on International Girls' Day on 11 October and International Menstruation Day on 28 May. They wrote debate articles that were published in local newspapers and they were interviewed a total of 15 times by local radio and national media. For example, one of the members took part in TV4 Nyhetermorgon along with the National Director.

### **Investment policy financial instruments**

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

## **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR**

No significant events have taken place after the end of the financial year.

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

The pandemic knows no borders and can only be solved by global efforts. However, vaccination rates are too low in many low-income countries due to uneven vaccine distribution and the WHO does not expect all countries to be vaccinated until 2024. According to the Gates Foundation, we have already lost 25 years' development in 25 weeks and we note that the future of an entire generation is being adversely affected by closed schools, stretched health and medical care and economic crisis. In addition, aid levels are affected by a decline in GDP in donor countries and a focus on national measures. We are preparing major initiatives to enable children and young people to make up for lost time at school and ensure that they have access to good health care and medical treatment when the pandemic is over. We are also preparing to do more, but with fewer resources, as key donor countries and partners follow in the UK's footsteps and cut back their aid.

Never before have so many people being displaced. The efforts required are enormous, but funding is lacking and many refugee crises have been overshadowed by other events in the media. These crises are caused by conflicts created primarily by climate change and shortages of food and water. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to children's futures. Children, and particularly girls, are among those most affected by disasters and they are the ones who will live the longest with the consequences of climate change. That is why we see the climate as a question of rights and gender equality.

Work on revising Plan International's global strategy for 2022–2027 will end during the next financial year. That means that we will also revise our Swedish strategy. We will continue along the path we have started on – for children's rights and equal opportunities for girls – but with a clearer focus on strengthening our capacity for our humanitarian initiatives, our work on climate, water and food issues and our work for local civil organisations in low-income countries.

We continue to adapt our activities and to invest in order to keep up with the rapid digitalisation of society. It is a question of new behaviour in the private fundraising market in particular and we need to adapt in order to be relevant to our target groups. Part of that work consists of the fact that our fundraising and communication department began to implement agile working at the end of the previous financial year. The aim is to be data-driven and insight-driven in order to be more competitive and increase the impact of our marketing and communication initiatives. So far, the transition appears to be favourable since we have seen an increase in the funds raised, among other things. With lessons learned from the department, several parts of the organisation will move towards a more agile approach.

Plan International Sweden must be a sustainable organisation for the future and is working to further develop leadership and self-leadership among managers and employees. Also, we are constantly attempting to look at our methods and processes in a critical way in order to simplify our working methods and make them more efficient. The cooperation group and the units' workplace meetings are examples of forums in which employees are encouraged to stimulate change so that together we will ensure that Plan International Sweden continues to be an attractive workplace with a good working environment.

## INCOME STATEMENT

	Note	01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021	01/07/2019 – 30/06/2020
<b>Operating income</b>			
Donations	2	271,490,089	259,199,686
Grants	2	256,567,051	260,277,137
Other income	3	96,448	211,079
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>528,153,588</b>	<b>519,687,902</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	4,5		
Costs for charitable activities		-452,854,104	-444,623,058
Fundraising costs		-56,693,546	-59,646,448
Administrative costs		-14,600,349	-15,371,834
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-524,147,999</b>	<b>-519,641,340</b>
<b>Net operating result</b>		<b>4,005,589</b>	<b>46,562</b>
<b>Earnings from financial investments</b>			
Profit/loss from Swedish subsidiary	6	0	-50,190
Interest income and currency gains		3,051	0
Interest expenses and currency losses		-8,639	-75,379
<b>Total earnings from financial investments</b>		<b>-5,588</b>	<b>-125,569</b>
<b>Result for the year</b>		<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>-79,007</b>
<b>Allocation of profit/loss for the year</b>			
Net profit/loss for the year in accordance with the income statement (see above)		4,000,000	-79,007
Change in funds restricted for the purpose		0	0
<b>Retained amount for the year/change in retained equity</b>		<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>-79,007</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

	Note	30/06/2021	30/06/2020
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<b>Intangible assets</b>	7		
Capitalised expenditure for computer software		0	0
<b>Tangible assets</b>	8		
Leasehold improvements		22,187	547,336
Equipment		123,813	415,842
<i>Total tangible assets</i>		<i>146,000</i>	<i>963,178</i>
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Shares in Swedish subsidiary	9	1,150,000	150,000
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>1,296,000</b>	<b>1,113,178</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Receivables from Swedish subsidiary		26,357	0
Other receivables		1,184,660	989,372
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	10	549,173	562,871
<i>Total current receivables</i>		<i>1,760,190</i>	<i>1,552,243</i>
Cash & bank balances		119,962,554	101,138,638
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>121,722,744</b>	<b>102,690,881</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>123,018,744</b>	<b>103,804,059</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

	Note	30/06/2021	30/06/2020
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Funds restricted to the purpose		7,707,137	7,707,137
Reserved capital		15,000,000	15,000,000
Retained earnings		11,577,181	7,577,182
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>34,284,318</b>	<b>30,284,318</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		10,138,664	5,321,665
Liabilities to subsidiary	11	0	1,671,229
Received unutilised grants	12	49,505,226	38,206,442
Liability for grants decided on and not paid		15,735,856	11,207,000
Tax liabilities		847,351	820,255
Other liabilities		3,899,284	2,462,741
Accrued expenses and deferred income	13	8,608,045	13,830,409
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>88,734,426</b>	<b>73,519,741</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		<b>123,018,744</b>	<b>103,804,059</b>

## CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Purpose-specific funds	Reserved capital	Retained earnings	Total equity
Opening balance at 01/07/2020	7,707,137	15,000,000	7,577,181	30,284,318
Result for the year	0	0	4,000,000	4,000,000
<b>Closing balance 30/06/2021</b>	<b>7,707,137</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>11,577,181</b>	<b>34,284,318</b>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Note	01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021	01/07/2019 – 30/06/2020
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Result for the year		4,005,589	46,562
Depreciation		817,179	970,992
Interest received		3,051	0
Other interest expenses and similar income statement items		-8,639	-75,379
<b>Cash flow from current activities before changes in working capital</b>			
		<b>4,817,179</b>	<b>942,175</b>
Increase (-)/Decrease (+) in current receivables		-207,947	874,002
Increase (+)/Decrease (-) in current liabilities		15,214,684	-4,040,157
<b>Cash flow from current activities</b>			
		<b>19,823,916</b>	<b>-2,223,980</b>
<b>Investments</b>			
Acquisitions of intangible/tangible assets		0	0
<b>Cash flow from investments</b>			
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Dividends received		0	799,810
Submitted shareholder contribution		-1,000,000	0
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>			
		<b>-1,000,000</b>	<b>799,810</b>
<b>Increase (+)/Decrease (-) in cash and cash equivalents</b>			
		<b>18,823,916</b>	<b>-1,424,170</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		101,138,638	102,562,808
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	14	<b>119,962,554</b>	<b>101,138,638</b>

## NOTES

### NOTE 1 ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

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

The Foundation does not prepare consolidated financial statements with reference to the relief rules in ÅRL 7:3.

Amounts are expressed in full SEK unless otherwise stated.

#### Operating income

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

#### Donations and grants

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

#### Donations

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

A donation that is entered as income is recognised either as an asset or as an expense, depending on whether or not the donation is used directly. Donations that the organisation intends to use in its activities on a permanent basis are recognised as fixed assets. Other donations are recognised as current assets.

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

#### Donations from sponsors

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

#### Other donations

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

#### Grants

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

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

Grants relating to a fixed asset reduce the historical cost.

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

#### Other income

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

#### Operating costs

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

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

#### Costs for charitable activities

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

#### Fundraising costs

These are the costs necessary to generate external income, i.e. direct costs for fundraising work. They include campaigns, events, advertising, announcements, personnel costs in relation to fundraising work, dispatch

and similar activities. Fundraising costs also include costs for brand building, profiling and positioning and the common costs allocated to fundraising costs.

### ***Administrative costs***

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

### **Leasing**

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

### **Payments to employees**

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

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

### **Assets and liabilities**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### ***Received unutilised grants***

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

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

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

#### ***Equity***

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

### **Cash flow statement**

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

## NOTE 2 FUNDS RAISED

<b>Donations recognised in the income statement</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>
<b>Funds raised</b>		
Traditional sponsorship	168,409,492	168,102,132
Theme sponsorship	71,237,201	62,642,396
Single contributions from the general public	4,229,532	3,716,253
Corporate	4,209,104	3,238,905
Other foundations and organisations	300,000	0
Svenska Postkodföreningen	23,104,760	21,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>271,490,089</b>	<b>259,199,686</b>

### Donations not recognised in the income statement

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

<b>Grants recognised as income</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>
<b>Funds raised (private grants)</b>		
Radiohjälpen	4,309,769	1,960,273
Svenska Postkodföreningen	881,154	894,069
H&M Foundation	-54,611	1,800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,136,312</b>	<b>4,654,342</b>
<b>Public sector grants</b>		
Sida	220,127,510	235,347,226
EU	16,505,997	9,799,181
ECHO	5,816,368	10,476,388
UNICEF	5,541,178	0
UNOCHA	3,439,686	0
<b>Total public sector grants</b>	<b>251,430,739</b>	<b>255,622,795</b>
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>256,567,051</b>	<b>260,277,137</b>
<b>Total funds raised consists of the following:</b>		
Donations recognised in the income statement	271,490,088	259,199,686
Grants recognised in the income statement	5,136,312	4,654,342
<b>Total funds raised</b>	<b>276,626,400</b>	<b>263,854,028</b>

### NOTE 3 OTHER INCOME

Other income consists mainly of support and compensation from public authorities such as the Swedish Public Employment Service and the Swedish Social Insurance Agency.

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

<b>Personnel, salaries and social insurance costs</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>
<b>Average number of employees</b>		
Number of employees	81	91
Of which men	16	22
Proportion of men	20%	24%
The average number of employees was calculated on the basis of annual working time of 1,950 hours per year.		
<b>Members of the Board of Directors and management team</b>		
Number of Board members on the balance sheet date	6	4
Of which men	2	1
National Director and management team	6	8
Of which men	2	1
<b>Salaries and other remuneration</b>		
Board of Directors	0	0
National Director	1,067,576	1,030,800
Other employees	40,971,272	43,458,241
<b>Total salaries and payments</b>	<b>42,038,848</b>	<b>44,489,041</b>
Social insurance costs	17,816,332	18,820,359
(of which pension costs)	3,575,745	3,424,972
Pension premiums for all employees conform to the ITP plan and are included in the above amounts.		
There are no agreements regarding severance pay to any employee or Board member.		
<b>Allocation of pension costs</b>		
National Director	199,800	198,388
<b>Volunteers</b>		
Due to the pandemic, volunteer activities in the office have been closed and only a handful of volunteers have helped remotely. Three volunteers worked unpaid at Plan Sweden during the financial year.		

## NOTE 5 LEASING

Plan Sweden mainly leases all office premises and equipment. Expensed leasing fees amount to SEK 3,580,254 (SEK 2,532,890). The increase in future lease payments is mainly due to the fact that the office rent agreement has been signed for five more years.

Future leasing fees fall due for payment as follows:

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Within 1 year	3,609,854	3,505,496
1–5 years	13,570,079	6,293,542
<b>Total leasing fees</b>	<b>17,179,933</b>	<b>9,799,037</b>

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

## NOTE 6 PROFIT/LOSS FROM SWEDISH SUBSIDIARY

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Dividends from Swedish subsidiary	0	799,810
Impairment of Swedish subsidiary	0	-850,000
<b>Total profit/loss from Swedish subsidiary</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-50,190</b>

## NOTE 7 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	2020/2021	2019/2020
<b>Acquisition value</b>		
Opening balance	9,494,022	9,494,022
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>9,494,022</b>	<b>9,494,022</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Opening balance	-9,494,022	-9,373,150
Depreciation for the year	0	-120,872
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-9,494,022</b>	<b>-9,494,022</b>
<b>Book value intangible fixed assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**NOTE 8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	2020/2021	2019/2020
<b>Leasehold improvements</b>		
<b>Acquisition value</b>		
Opening balance	5,068,487	5,068,487
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>5,068,487</b>	<b>5,068,487</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Opening balance	-4,521,151	-3,996,001
Depreciation for the year	-525,149	-525,150
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-5,046,300</b>	<b>-4,521,151</b>
<b>Book value leasehold improvements</b>	<b>22,187</b>	<b>547,336</b>
<b>Equipment</b>		
<b>Acquisition value</b>		
Opening balance	3,230,865	3,443,571
Scrapped for the year	0	-212,706
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>3,230,865</b>	<b>3,230,865</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Opening balance	-2,815,023	-2,702,759
Depreciation for the year	-292,029	-324,970
Scrapped for the year	0	212,706
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-3,107,052</b>	<b>-2,815,023</b>
<b>Book value equipment</b>	<b>123,813</b>	<b>415,842</b>
<b>Book value tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>146,000</b>	<b>963,178</b>

**NOTE 9 SHARES IN SWEDISH SUBSIDIARY**

	2020/2021	2019/2020
<b>Acquisition value</b>		
Opening balance	150,000	1,000,000
Submitted stakeholder contribution	1,000,000	0
Impairment for the year	0	-850,000
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Book value financial fixed assets</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>

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

			30/06/2021	30/06/2020
	Number of participations	Participations as a %	Carrying amount	Carrying amount
Plan Sverige Produktion & Försäljning AB, Corporate ID no.: 556584-5798, head office: Stockholm	1,000	100	1,150,000	150,000
<b>Total participations in Swedish subsidiary</b>			<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>

The company's equity is SEK 1,164,145 and the result of the year was SEK 15,941.

**NOTE 10 PREPAID EXPENSES AND ACCRUED INCOME**

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Prepaid rent	549,173	562,871
<b>Total prepaid expenses and accrued income</b>	<b>549,173</b>	<b>562,871</b>

**NOTE 11 LIABILITIES TO SUBSIDIARIES**

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Opening liabilities to subsidiaries	1,671,229	900,000
Additional liabilities	0	1,671,229
Settled liabilities	-1,671,229	-900,000
<b>Total liabilities to subsidiaries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,671,229</b>

**NOTE 12 RECEIVED UNUTILISED GRANTS**

	2020/2021	2019/2020
EU	2,757,369	0
Radiohjälpen	4,030,000	0
Sida	41,417,979	36,008,145
Other	1,299,878	2,198,297
<b>Total received unutilised grants</b>	<b>49,505,226</b>	<b>38,206,442</b>

**NOTE 13 ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME**

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Accrued vacation supplement	4,764,851	5,179,335
Accrued social insurance expenses	1,467,391	1,600,628
Other accrued expenses	2,375,803	7,050,446
<b>Total accrued expenses and deferred income</b>	<b>8,608,045</b>	<b>13,830,409</b>

**NOTE 14 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

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

	30/06/2021	30/06/2020
Bank balances	119,962,554	101,138,638
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>119,962,554</b>	<b>101,138,638</b>

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

## **SIGNATURES TO THE ANNUAL REPORT**

Stockholm on the date shown in our electronic signatures.

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Carl Lindgren  
Chairperson

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Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg

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Nina Nornholm

---

Dona Hariri

---

Elias Aspudd

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Anja Olin Pape

---

Mariann Eriksson  
National Director

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

PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

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Erik Albenius, Authorised Public Accountant

# AUDIT REPORT

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

## REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Opinion

We have conducted an audit of the financial statements of Plan International Sverige Insamlingsstiftelse for the financial year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. The annual report for the Foundation is contained on pages 28–53 of this document.

In our opinion, the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act and present a fair view, in all material respects, of the financial position of the foundation at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act. The administration report is consistent with the other parts of the annual financial statements.

### Basis for the opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibility under these standards is described in more detail in the section entitled The auditor's responsibility.

We are independent from the foundation in accordance with generally-accepted auditing standards in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our professional ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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

### Information other than the annual report

This document also contains information other than the annual report. The other information consists of the Annual Report (pages 4–25) and the Impact Report (pages 26–27). The Board of Directors and the National Manager are responsible for that other information.

Our statement regarding the annual report does not include this information and we make no statement of confirmation regarding this other information.

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

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

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

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

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

## The auditor's responsibility

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

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

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

- we evaluate the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors and the National Director.
- we draw a conclusion on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' and the National Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements. We also draw a conclusion, based on the audit evidence obtained, as to whether any material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the annual financial statements. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the annual financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that provides a true and fair view.

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

## REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

### Opinion

In addition to our audit of the annual report, we have also audited the Board or Directors' management of Plan International Sverige Insamlingsstiftelse for the financial year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

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

### Basis for the opinion

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

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

### The Board of Directors' responsibility

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

### The auditor's responsibility

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

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

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

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

Stockholm on the date shown in our electronic signature.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

Erik Albenius  
Authorised Public Accountant.

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



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

