

A close-up portrait of a young girl with dark skin and short, braided hair. She is looking directly at the camera with a thoughtful expression, her hand resting under her chin. She is wearing a light blue top with white ties on the shoulders and a patterned garment with green and white designs. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

# My Body. My Future.2

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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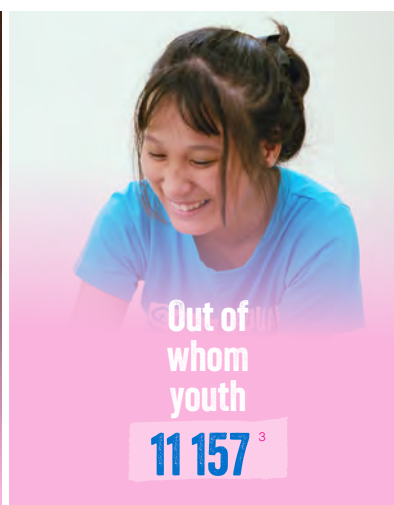
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# ABBREVIATIONS

|          |                                                                                |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACTADE   | African Centre for Trade and Development                                       |
| AFS      | Adolescent friendly service                                                    |
| AFHS     | Adolescent friendly health service                                             |
| AMODEFA  | Mozambican Association for Family Development                                  |
| APPG     | All Party Parliamentary Group                                                  |
| ASRHR    | Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights                           |
| CAY      | Children, adolescents, and youth                                               |
| CBO      | Community-based organization                                                   |
| CCC      | Citizens Coalition for Change                                                  |
| CO       | Country Office                                                                 |
| CoC      | Champions of Change                                                            |
| CSE      | Comprehensive sexuality education                                              |
| CSO      | Civil society organization                                                     |
| CtM      | Conversations that Matter                                                      |
| DIF      | Disability inclusion facilitator                                               |
| FGAE     | Family Guidance Association in Ethiopia                                        |
| GBV      | Gender-based violence                                                          |
| GNI      | Gross national income                                                          |
| IDG      | International Day of the Girl                                                  |
| IEC      | Information, Education and Communication                                       |
| LGBTQIA+ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual        |
| MAHLAHLE | Association for the Promotion and Development of Women                         |
| MBMF     | My Body. My Future.                                                            |
| MFA      | Ministry for Foreign Affairs                                                   |
| M&E      | Monitoring and Evaluation                                                      |
| MEESA    | Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa                                       |
| MEP      | Member of the European Parliament                                              |
| MEAL     | Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning                           |
| MESLM    | Mee-Eain-Shin-Lay-Myar                                                         |
| MoFA     | Ministry of Foreign Affairs                                                    |
| MoH      | Ministry of Health                                                             |
| MoU      | Memorandum of understanding                                                    |
| MP       | Member of Parliament                                                           |
| NGO      | Non-governmental organization                                                  |
| ODA      | Official development assistance                                                |
| OPD      | Organization of persons with disabilities                                      |
| PFHA     | Promotion of Family Health Association                                         |
| PI       | Plan International                                                             |
| PIE      | Plan International Ethiopia                                                    |
| PIEA     | Plan International Environmental Assessment                                    |
| PIM      | Plan International Myanmar                                                     |
| PIZ      | Plan International Zimbabwe                                                    |
| PVO      | Private Voluntary Organization                                                 |
| PWD      | Person with disability                                                         |
| SGBV     | Sexual and gender-based violence                                               |
| SRH      | Sexual and reproductive health                                                 |
| SRHR     | Sexual and reproductive health and rights                                      |
| SOGIESC  | Sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics |
| STEM     | Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics                              |
| TOC      | Theory of Change                                                               |
| ToT      | Training of trainers                                                           |
| UNFPA    | United Nations Population Fund                                                 |
| UNESCO   | United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization              |
| UPR      | Universal periodic review                                                      |
| VSLA     | Village Saving and Loan Association                                            |
| YEE      | Youth Economic Empowerment                                                     |

## My Body My Future 2. 2022 in numbers

### SRHR projects



**40 4539** people in Laos were reached indirectly through online events presented via Facebook Live.<sup>1</sup>

**139** project staff in Uganda and Zimbabwe trained on climate change, its consequences, climate risks and resilience measures.

**163** in and out of school clubs and youth groups were supported and functional in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.

**194** people in Myanmar, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique participated in disability inclusion dialogues, sessions, and trainings.

**5 520** parents, caregivers and community members in Myanmar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe participated in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR) dialogues, sessions, and trainings. **3 639** of all the participants were female and 1881 male.

**2 655** of children, adolescents and youth received comprehensive sexuality education in Myanmar, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. Out of the total number of participants, **1 482** were female, 1160 male and 13 other.

**261** of health workers, health centre staff and health authorities in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique participated in pre- or in-service training on adolescent friendly health services (AFHS) and disability inclusive services. Out of the **261** participants, **193** were female and **68** male.

<sup>1</sup> This number does not include indirect reach from Laos. The indirect reach from Laos has been reported separately, since it contains people indirectly reached via Facebook Live events and Facebook pages.

<sup>2</sup> This number is calculated only based on direct reach. Indirect reach is not included since the reporting format used does not separate indirectly reached people by age.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> This number is calculated only based on direct reach. Indirect reach is not included since the reporting format used does not separate indirectly reached people with disabilities.

## Communication, youth participation and global citizenship education in Finland



Total number of people  
reached in Finland  
**51 695**



Out of whom children and  
adolescents  
**32 460**



Out of whom  
girls  
**16 242**

The reach in Plan's own social media channels was **2,6 million** in 2022. Plan Finland had **5 411** earned social media hits with the potential reach of **14,2 million**.

Plan Global School strengthened the capacity of **192** teachers, other educational professionals, and teacher students to practice quality global citizenship education by giving **26** in-service trainings and by producing teaching resources.

Plan conducted **36** meetings and interactions with overall **200** decision-makers and emphasized the role of Finland as an active partner in development cooperation and an enhancer of gender equality, and women's and girls' rights.

**13 750** visitors visited Plan Finland's global education website: [www.globaalikoulu.net](http://www.globaalikoulu.net).

An estimate of **3 700** people were reached through the Children's Board activities.

Plan engaged in active media work, and reached **399** media hits, with the potential reach of **111 million**.

The Child Rights Ambassadors of The Global School component conducted **298** school visits, reaching altogether **9 270** children and youth.





# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 SUMMARY

**M**y Body. My Future. 2 (MBMF2) is a 4-year long joint programme between Plan International Finland and Plan International Country Offices in Ethiopia, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, Uganda, and Zimbabwe as well as numerous partners in the programme countries. In addition to the international programme component, the programme also includes a domestic programme component implemented in Finland. The programme seeks to advance girls' rights and gender equality, especially through promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with the aim of improving understanding and practices related to SRHR amongst children, adolescents, and youth (CAY) both in and out of school. At the same time, the programme also aims to enhance rights, inclusion, and meaningful participation of CAY with disabilities and, in selected contexts, LGBTIQ+ youth. The impact to be delivered by MBMF2 is that CAY in all their diversity have control over their bodies and futures in a healthy, safe, and supportive environment.

The MBMF2 -programme takes a gender transformative approach to development, to tackle the root causes of inequality and reshape power relations<sup>7</sup>, as well as to address social and gender norms and barriers that limit the participation of CAY, especially girls, in society and restrict their access to quality, adolescent friendly SRHR services, and place them in risk of diverse forms of violence. Additionally, the programme aims to improve CAY's resources, skills, and opportunities by supporting livelihoods and employment, especially for girls. The domestic programme component, in turn, focuses on strategic communication, participatory advocacy and global citizenship education. The programme receives funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) for the years 2022–2025.

The year 2022 was the first implementation year of the MBMF2 -programme and the year started with a 6-month long inception period in each programme country. The inception period focused on programme start-up and preparatory work necessary to build a good foundation for the programme to ensure a smooth operation over the coming four years. During the inception period, systematic support was given to project staff on key thematic areas, a MEAL strategy and a monitoring system was developed, baseline data collected, and targets specified for outcomes. In the first six months of the year, the project teams in Ethiopia, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, Uganda, and Zimbabwe also begun conducting a social and gender norms diagnosis and analysis<sup>8</sup> and a youth consultation that helped to iterate intersections between climate change impact and SRHR in the specific context of each country-level project. During the inception period in Finland, the domestic programme team also recruited volunteers, planned school outreach, kicked off a communication plan and set policy/communication objectives for the first year.

<sup>7</sup> To do this MBMF2 implements strategic actions that link to 6 essential elements which are interconnected and mutually reinforcing which include: social and gender norms; agency; work with boys, young men, and men; diversity; improving both condition and position of girls and young women; and fostering an enabling environment.

<sup>8</sup> The social and gender norms diagnosis and analysis took place throughout the entire first year.



After the inception period was completed by the end of the first half of the year, the country level projects and the domestic programme component in Finland began implementation towards outcomes. Under the international programme component, Champions of Change (CoC) groups were established at country level and CoC facilitators received training. Implementation of CoC training sessions begun in 2022 and CSE facilitators and teachers received training on how to implement CSE curriculum. The projects also started implementing out of school CSE sessions in 2022.

The quality of SRHR service provision and outreach was improved in 2022 through, for example, assessing the needs of health facilities, establishing youth friendly corners to health facilities and conducting training to service providers in youth friendly SRH services. Diverse actors, such as religious leaders, community leaders, maternal- and child health providers and school health focal points, also strengthened their capacity in the provision and access to SRH services and gained knowledge and skills to mobilize, raise awareness and provide adolescent- and youth friendly and quality SRH services. Health care workers in health facilities in turn, received training on adolescent friendly service provision and service providers increased their capacity to provide adolescent-friendly, gender-responsive and disability inclusive SRH services.

During the reporting period, boys and men, religious and cultural leaders, CBOs, women's development groups and inter-religious councils learned about the negative impacts and prevention of early and forced marriage and teenage pregnancy, and prevention of harmful practices, such as gender-based violence (GBV). Networks of Agents of Change were also formed at community level in some of the countries and the network members gained training in gender equality and SRHR. In Uganda, community-, cultural- and religious leaders were oriented on norm change and value clarification, and in Zimbabwe, parents and caregivers increased their understanding on SRHR and discussed among each other about SRHR, SGBV, disability inclusion and social norms.

In 2022, the MBMF2 projects under the international programme component also gave capacity building training to CSOs, strengthened partnerships with government actors and engaged in civil society platforms. In Uganda, partner CSOs also begun to mobilize CAY to access SRHR services, make referrals for adolescents to access SRHR services and assess health clinics for accessibility and adolescent friendliness. In Zimbabwe, the project continued to support a digital media advocacy initiative: "Amplify Girls' Voices Through Digital Arts" which was funded and piloted through the MBMF1 programme in 2021. Additionally, a youth innovation challenge was also implemented in Zimbabwe during the reporting period.

Under the domestic programme component in Finland, learning materials were developed on school visit concepts and Child Rights Ambassadors started conducting school visits. Plan Finland's Global School strengthened the capacity of teachers, other educational professionals, and teacher students to practice quality global citizenship education, and Global School experts participated in different networks and advocacy processes relevant to maintaining the quality of the global citizenship education among education professionals in Finland.

In 2022, Plan Finland conducted advocacy work to influence the parliamentary elections that took place in Finland in 2023. At the same time, the domestic programme team in Finland organized campaigns, gathered young people and volunteers for various events, and coordinated thematic youth groups. During the reporting period, Plan Finland also advocated for effective implementation of the Government's commitment to gender equality and rights and status of women and girls in the Finnish development policy and raised awareness on the rights and status of girls and women, especially in humanitarian crisis.

Plan Finland's media visibility also increased in 2022, as the organization engaged in active media work, and reached 399 media hits, with the potential reach of 111 million. In social media, Plan International Finland continued to produce high quality content and raise discussion and engagement. A wide variety of dynamic and diverse communication material was also produced for Plan Finland's own channels and for external use.

All in all, in 2022, the total number of people reached by the projects in Ethiopia, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, Uganda, and Zimbabwe was 91066, out of whom 22690 were children and adolescents, 11157 youth, 16541 girls and young women and 500 people with disabilities. In Finland, the programme reached all together 51695 people in 2022, out of whom 32460 were children and adolescents, and 16242 girls.

## 1.2 THE MY BODY. MY FUTURE. 2 PROGRAMME

All children, adolescents, and young people (CAY) have the right to make their own free and informed choices and to have control over their lives and bodies free from discrimination, coercion, violence, or harmful practices. This includes the ability and right to make decisions about their sexuality, whether, when and whom to marry and whether, when and by what means to have a child. Yet, around the world, many children, adolescents, and youth are being denied even the most basic information about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), leaving them unequipped to make healthy, voluntary, and informed decisions about their sexuality, relationships, and life in general.

Girls in particular represent one of the largest excluded groups in society, due to their gender and age. Each year, millions of girls are forced into early marriage or unions, bearing children too young, and being subjected to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). 16 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19, and 2.5 million girls aged 12 to 15 give birth each year, and nine in ten births by adolescents occur within marriage or a union<sup>9</sup>. Every day, an average of 33,000 girls are forced into child marriage<sup>10</sup>, and globally, around 120 million girls have been raped or subjected to other forced sexual acts during their lives, many at the hands of their partners<sup>11</sup>. In many countries, SRHR services are often not inclusive, gender-responsive nor adolescent- and youth friendly, and more than 220 million women and girls, mostly in the poorest countries, still do not have access to modern contraceptive methods<sup>12</sup>.

Complex and deeply rooted political, social, cultural, and economic factors, such as gender inequality, control of youth sexuality and other deeply held values, attitudes, and entrenched social and gender norms often limit the realization of SRHR of adolescent girls even more. Often, these norms are interlinked and reinforced by power dynamics and binary gendered inequalities. Poverty and lack of access to SRHR education and services in turn, tend to create a vicious cycle where poverty is both a root cause for and a result from unrealized SRHR. Discriminatory and restrictive laws and policies or weak implementation and enforcement of the more progressive ones also limit the realization of SRHR of adolescent girls.

Climate risks such as environmental degradation, agricultural losses, storms, and floods further increase the risk of poor SRHR outcomes among adolescent girls and the dynamics driving poverty and inequality, including those resulting from climate change, are often gendered. Shocks and stresses and negative coping mechanisms to them undermine girls' rights by increasing the rates of early marriage or by diverting national resources away from vital SRHR services. Vulnerability to climate risks is also highly intersectional, meaning that people with various identities and vulnerabilities have differing abilities to prepare for and cope with shocks and stresses. Since girls are already in a worse position in society, they are also likely to suffer the most.

<sup>9</sup> Vogel, J.P., Pileggi-Castro, C. et al. 2015. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4316852/>

<sup>10</sup> UNFPA. 2020. <https://pacific.unfpa.org/en/news/editorial-pacific-can-become-global-leader-ending-child-marriage>

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF. 2014. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/statistical-snapshot-violence-adolescent-girls/>

<sup>12</sup> UNFPA. 2016. <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/facing-facts>



And, due to growing restrictions towards civil society organizations and signs of a shrinking civil society space, the operating space of youth groups is often highly limited: although youth constitute almost half of the world's population, youth is often not regarded as an active age in many societies. Young people are often expected to be "seen and not heard" and to "do as they are told". Adolescent girls and those belonging to marginalized groups even more so. As a result, youth groups often go underfunded with limited direct access to formal decision-making processes.

My Body. My Future. 2 (MBMF2) is a 4-year long programme that is a continuation to the My Body. My Future. 1 (MBMF1) -programme that was implemented between 2018 and 2021 and funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Over four years from 2022 to 2025, the programme seeks to advance girls' rights and gender equality, especially through promoting SRHR, with the aim of improving understanding and practices related to SRHR amongst adolescents both in and out of school.

The MBMF2 -programme takes a human rights and gender transformative approach to development, seeking to address social and gender norms and barriers that limit the participation of adolescent girls in society and restrict their access to quality, adolescent friendly SRHR services, and place them in risk of diverse forms of violence. Additionally, the programme aims to improve CAY's resources, skills, and opportunities by supporting livelihoods and employment especially for girls, providing young people with life- and employment skills, creating spaces for young people to act as drivers of change, and ensuring that young people and communities have knowledge of risks and climate resilience.

MBMF2 delivers progress in Sustainable Development Goals in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) (SDG 3.7) and gender equality (SDG 5) in six countries: Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Laos, and Myanmar. It will also support strategic communications, participatory advocacy, and global citizenship education in Finland. Global citizenship education will directly contribute to the SDG on education (SDG 4.7).

Through the programme, Plan International Finland supports a consortium of civil society partners in each country, coordinated by the Plan International country offices, to empower individuals, engage communities to support gender equality and SRHR, use climate and economic resilience approaches to increase the resilience of SRHR services, and improve policies for gender equality with the inclusive engagement of civil society.

As a result, CAY in all their diversity, especially girls, will have support and confidence to make informed, responsible, positive and healthy choices about their SRHR and future; improved access to quality, inclusive, gender-responsive and adolescent- and youth-friendly SRHR services; live in safe and supportive communities that transform gender roles and challenge harmful social and gender norms and stigma around SRHR; and participate and benefit from a vibrant civil society that advocates for increased public investment and improved SRHR policy and promotes equality for and agency of girls.

Together this unique package delivers country projects which will add value by networking a unique combination of partners in each country who will pool technical knowledge about SRHR, bring direct links to communities, and platform persons with disabilities or other highly marginalized groups. As well as its expertise in gender transformation, SRHR expertise and its experience through My Body My Future 1, Plan International Finland also contributes its expertise in economic safety nets, disaster risk management and resilience. Each country uses relevant strategies which promote climate and economic resilience to meet community needs and secure their engagement in transformative SRHR and gender strategies.

Finally, the programme also has inclusion at the core of its civil society approach. Each country in the programme engages with local organizations of people with disabilities (OPDs) to promote equality in fulfilling SRHR rights and secure non-discrimination. In the countries where the context enables to do so with due regard to Do No Harm principles, the programme also engages with local LGBTIQ+ organizations.



### 1.3 PLAN'S THEORY OF CHANGE

The MBMF2 -programme is based on Plan International's global approach and theory of change. The theory of change (TOC) explains Plan's approach to achieving its purpose of "creating a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls" at individual, family, community, national, and global levels, focusing on three main dimensions of change:

1. Influencing international and national laws, policies, and investments
2. Helping to change harmful social norms, attitudes, and behaviours
3. Building social and economic resources and establishing the safety nets needed in times of crisis

To achieve these dimensions of change, Plan's programmes and projects in all contexts seek to:

1. Promote positive attitudes, behaviours, and practices
2. Strengthen and mobilise civil society
3. Develop stakeholder capacities
4. Influence power holders
5. Provide direct support in emergencies and fragile settings

Through this, vulnerable and excluded children, and particularly girls, from birth into young adulthood enjoy greater realization of rights and less discrimination, are safe, more resilient, and able to thrive, and have a more effective voice.

In line with the theory of change and Plan International's global commitments to be rights-based and gender transformative, the MBMF2 -programme aims to renegotiate power to obtain more equitable opportunities for children, adolescent, and youth (CAY) to realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights. In so doing, Plan and its partners will be able to improve gender equality at the societal level and advance the interests of girls in all their diversity. These specific interests of girls include, for instance, girls' freedom from violence and the freedom to make their own sexual and reproductive choices.

Plan International's position paper on SRHR, approved in 2017, laid further groundwork on SRHR work within Plan International and the projects it supports. Plan International believes that "all children, adolescents and young people should have the right to make their own free and informed choices and to have control over their sexual and reproductive health and lives, free from coercion, violence, discrimination and abuse". While cultural traditions, religious beliefs and social norms should be respected, they should not constitute reasons for countries to disregard international treaties and conventions in relation to SRHR.



## 2. COUNTRY CONTEXT AND CONTEXT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

**P**lan International is outward-looking and recognizes that it cannot achieve sustainable development outcomes by working alone. This requires building relationships with a variety of civil society actors, such as organizations, institutions, and others, who have an impact on the changes the organization is seeking. Plan collaborates so that it can benefit from the skills, knowledge, and resources of others and so that they, in turn, can benefit from the ones of Plan. Plan collaborates so that its voice and the voices of children and young people are heard more loudly. Plan collaborates so that it can reach more people in more places and deliver programmes of better quality. Partnerships with civil society actors therefore enable Plan to collaborate with others with intention and in an accountable way.

Vulnerable groups and individuals, including girls, LGBTQIA+ adolescents and other marginalized CAY are often among those who are most affected by legal and political restrictions, threats, pressure, and harmful social beliefs and norms in the context of shrinking or closed space for civil society. Therefore, the goal of the MBMF2 -programme is to platform the voices of CAY in all their diversity, in policy development, and to create a safe enabling environment so that young people can speak with security.

2022 was a challenging year for many. In all the countries where MBMF2 has been implemented, a shrinking democratic space for civil society and its actors was evident throughout the year, and transnational movements, such as the anti-rights/anti-gender movement, harmfully impacted the rights of girls and LGBTQIA+ adolescents to live freely and safely in their body and identity, many of whom tend to rely on the support and protection provided by the civil society<sup>13</sup>. In 2022, the civil society space in four of the programme countries was characterized as repressed (Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, and Zimbabwe)<sup>14</sup>. In two of the countries, the civil society space was closed (Myanmar, Laos)<sup>15</sup>.

Security challenges, in societies that have been fragmented by conflicts and insecurity, were also present in some of the countries in 2022, which, in turn, had an impact on the operating environment and programme implementation. The operating environment in Ethiopia and Myanmar for instance, changed in 2021 with political conflicts affecting Plan's operations also in 2022.

<sup>13</sup> Denkovski, Damjan, Bernarding, Nina and Lunz, Kristina. 2021. Power over rights. Understanding and countering the transnational anti-gender movement. [https://centreforffp.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/PowerOverRights\\_Volume1\\_web.pdf](https://centreforffp.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/PowerOverRights_Volume1_web.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/ethiopia/> (accessed: 25.6.2023); CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/mozambique/> (accessed: 25.6.2023); CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/uganda/> (accessed: 25.6.2023); CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/zimbabwe/> (accessed: 25.6.2023).

<sup>15</sup> CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/laos/> (accessed: 25.6.2023); CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/myanmar/> (accessed: 25.6.2023).

During the reporting period, the MBMF2 -programme continued to maintain a constructive relationship with governments in most of the countries <sup>16</sup>, and work with civil society actors was implemented at different levels, from youth groups and smaller, community-based organizations (CBOs) to larger, national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The MBMF2 -programme sees partnership work as an ongoing journey, and effective and fruitful partnerships are central to the quality of the programme. Yet, making partnerships work well for everyone takes careful effort. Therefore, the programme will continue to strive to continuously improve its understanding of partnerships and of how it builds and nurtures them in practice.



## 2.1 ETHIOPIA

In 2022, the civil society space in Ethiopia was repressed according to CIVICUS Monitor. Previously, when the CSO law was in place in Ethiopia, CSOs were not allowed to work on issues related to rights and good governance. With the new government, these rules were lifted in 2019. This made the environment for CSOs more enabling in the country and CSOs have since gained more space and opportunities to operate<sup>17</sup>. Yet, although less government supervision is now required for CSO work in Ethiopia, this type of change takes time, and the progress has still been rather slow. Also, since the civil society in the country is not yet as developed and active as in some neighbouring countries, paying attention to equal partnerships with different local actors is of crucial importance.

While advancing human rights has become possible for CSOs in Ethiopia, working on issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) is still very difficult due to the current legislation and strong taboos that tend to persist within the society. However, even when the context is restrictive, the MBMF2 -programme follows through with Plan International's global safeguarding policy, implementation standards and guidelines as well as centring the Do No Harm principle which provides an important framework for keeping LGBTQIA+ and all children and young people safe and protected. In practice, this means that effective safeguarding requires staff and partners to actively champion inclusive, non-discriminatory safe spaces and practices, in which children and young people feel safe and respected. Furthermore, Plan seeks to challenge discrimination or exclusion, upholding principles of rights-based development, including rights to equal protection from all forms of violence.

On the other hand, the conflict in Tigray and Oromia regions created heightened political instability in the country, which again, caused tension to the civil society space and its actors. Due to the conflict, the government in Ethiopia started to prioritize the two regions, and budget was shifted more towards these areas. Donors also started funding more lifesaving and emergency support activities because of the conflict. This, in turn, has hampered the work of some CSOs to some extent since resources for their work have become more limited.

<sup>16</sup> Except in Myanmar, due to the military coup that took place in 2021.

<sup>17</sup> ICNL. 2023. <https://www.icnl.org/resources/civic-freedom-monitor/ethiopia>



## 2.2 LAOS

In 2022, the civil society space in Laos was rated as closed according to the CIVICUS Monitor<sup>18</sup>. Throughout the year, restrictions that were placed in the country limited freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. The society in Laos was closely monitored during the reporting period and the state had strict control over the media. The human rights situation remained the same in the country as in previous years. While no major political changes took

place in Laos in 2022, inflation, devaluation of local currency and shrinking funding opportunities did have an impact on the civil society and its actors in the country.

During the reporting period, a factor that notably impacted the MBMF2 project in Laos was the approval of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the new project, which took six months more than what was originally planned. The approval process itself was rather long and iterative as it required consultation with multiple government departments from multiple provinces, incorporating feedback from all the stakeholders and finally approval by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Due to the delay in the approval process, some project activities had to be shifted from 2022 to 2023.

## 2.3 MOZAMBIQUE

In 2022, the civil society space in Mozambique was classified as repressed according to CIVICUS Monitor. Nevertheless, no major changes took place during the year that would have directly influenced or affected the planning and implementation of the project.

Participation of civil society in public decision making in Mozambique tends, however, to be weak and CSOs in the country operate in a rather limited environment where multiple restrictions and barriers can occur. In 2022, for example, the government decided to undergo a revision of the Law of Associations, and the result of this revision is currently under public consultation. If passed, the revised law would limit the civic space in the country and give stronger power to the government to place new regulations on CSOs<sup>19</sup>. The law would also cause a notable reduction in the space for dialogue and advocacy in the country.

Then again, the Cabo Delgado province in northern Mozambique has been the site of insecurity and conflict since 2017<sup>20</sup>. According to Human Rights Watch (2023), the humanitarian situation in the region got worse during 2022, and several people have been internally displaced from the conflict-affected areas<sup>21</sup>. Freedom of expression and press were also under pressure in the country during the past year, and CSOs and media have been given limited possibilities to report on the northern part of the country<sup>22</sup>.

Due to the situation in the north, donors have placed more emphasis on the central- and northern part of the country where the level of poverty is higher. In the north, mainly in Cabo Delgado, the situation of insurgency is exacerbating the levels of poverty, demanding therefore more resources for support. This, in turn, has reduced SRHR actors in the southern Inhambane province, where the MBMF2 project is implemented, and therefore left less possibilities for CSOs and others for networking.



<sup>18</sup> CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/laos/> (accessed: 25.6.2023)

<sup>19</sup> Amnesty International. 2023. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en/>; Freedom House. 2023. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/mozambique/freedom-world/2023>

<sup>20</sup> CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/2021-bad-year-freedom-expression-mozambique-amid-human-rights-and-humanitarian-crisis-i/> (accessed: 9.6.2023); International Crisis Group. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/east-and-southern-africa/mozambique> (accessed: 11.6.2023)

<sup>21</sup> Freedom House. 2023. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/mozambique/freedom-world/2023>; Human Rights Watch. 2023. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/mozambique>; UNICEF. 2023. <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/unicel-mozambique-humanitarian-situation-report-no-4-april-2023>

<sup>22</sup> CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/2021-bad-year-freedom-expression-mozambique-amid-human-rights-and-humanitarian-crisis-i/> (accessed: 8.6.2023); Human Rights Watch. 2023. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/mozambique>

## 2.4 MYANMAR

In 2022, the civil society space in Myanmar remained closed, due to the military coup that took place in February 2021<sup>23</sup>. The military coup has had multiple impacts on the civic space in the country: the country has experienced political and economic turmoil, crackdown against those who have opposed the military rule increased during the reporting period and several people, including opposition politicians, political activists, journalists, and human rights defenders have been detained<sup>24</sup>. According to UNHCR (2022), the security situation continued as unstable in 2022 in multiple areas, causing internal displacement among civilians and refugee movement to neighbouring countries, such as Thailand and India<sup>25</sup>. And while local CSOs have played an important role in providing humanitarian assistance to people in need, the delivery of humanitarian aid was limited or restricted in some parts of the country throughout the year<sup>26</sup>. After the military coup took place, Myanmar has also fallen into an economic crisis, increasing the country's poverty rate, and limiting existing employment opportunities<sup>27</sup>.



Nevertheless, the civil disobedience movement (CDM) and pro-democracy forces have stayed strong, not accepting the military takeover. Non-violent and armed resistance continued against the military rule in 2022 and fighting between the military and ethnic armed organizations aggravated. Since February 2021, strikes have also taken place in the public sector together with protests<sup>28</sup>.

Majority of CSOs in the country on the other hand have shifted from rights-based implementation to less politically sensitive, low-profile project activities and remote management. This has allowed CSOs to keep delivering services to target communities. Additionally, in the areas where Plan International Myanmar (PIM) is currently working, collaboration with local CSOs and formation of youth-led groups has also been possible.

Yet, under the current situation, CSOs in the country continue to face uncertainty and unpredictability in terms of sustainability of their operations and engagement with partners. In October 2022, the civic space in Myanmar was further impacted by a new, organization registration law imposed by the military, that, according to ICNL for example, can be seen violating the freedom of association in the country and restricting civil society activities<sup>29</sup>. The new law made previous voluntary registration compulsory for all national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations. According to the new regulation, those organizations working without registration could face criminal penalties. Since the new law has a direct impact on the work of organizations, including local partners, PIM communicated regularly with all local implementing partners in 2022 to obtain updated news about their registration status. As the registration of one recent project partner had expired, for example, the partnership contract had to be terminated in December 2022. Due to this, the project was forced to start looking for a new partner.

Today, this civic space is under pressure. Repressive laws are spreading, with increased restrictions on freedoms to express, participate, assemble, and associate. New strategies, such as the CSO strengthening activity have helped civil society networks to grow, but they have also given government excuses to control civil society movements and media freedoms, often under security pretexts. Immediate impacts of the military coup on the CSOs are rampantly damaging multiple areas: operations and implementation, strategic level decision making, safeguarding CSOs, financial flows and donor relations.

<sup>23</sup> CIVICUS Monitor. <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/myanmar/> (accessed: 8.6.2023)

<sup>24</sup> Amnesty International. 2023. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en/>; CIVICUS Monitor. 2022. <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/journalists-and-activists-continue-be-given-long-jail-sentences-fabricated-charges-nearly-two-years-illegal-coup/>

<sup>25</sup> UNHCR. 2022. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/document/3834>

<sup>26</sup> Amnesty International. 2023. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en/>; OHCHR. 2022. <https://bangkok.ohchr.org/ngo-law-myanmar/>; UNHCR. 2022. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/document/3834>

<sup>27</sup> International Crisis Group. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-east-asia/myanmar> (accessed: 11.6.2023); OHCHR. 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/03/militarys-four-cuts-doctrine-drives-perpetual-human-rights-crisis-myanmar>

<sup>28</sup> Amnesty International. 2023. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en/>; International Crisis Group. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-east-asia/myanmar> (accessed: 11.6.2023); The New York Times. 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/myanmar-news-protests-coup.html>

<sup>29</sup> ICNL. 2023. <https://www.icnl.org/resources/civic-freedom-monitor/myanmar>

<sup>30</sup> ICNL. 2023. <https://www.icnl.org/resources/civic-freedom-monitor/myanmar>

<sup>31</sup> OHCHR. 2022. <https://bangkok.ohchr.org/ngo-law-myanmar/>

Furthermore, besides the new registration requirement, the current situation in Myanmar also had a wider impact on the MBMF2 project and its work in the country. Restriction on group gatherings was still active for example in 2022, which often caused frequently postponed orders of both Program Unit and Country Office for field implementation. Throughout the year, the project postponed or moved group activities depending on security concern of staff and community participants. And although activities concerning direct collaboration with de facto government have been removed, it is still necessary for the project to explore ways for SRHR service provision and consider doing more direct service delivery in light of the non-existent health system.



## 2.5 UGANDA

In 2022, Uganda's civil society space continued to be repressed according to CIVICUS Monitor. The country's human rights record was examined in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2022. Uganda accepted 139 of the 273 UPR recommendations, including the recommendation to implement the national human rights action plan and advance the rights to health and education for girls <sup>32</sup>.

Despite the UPR recommendations, the freedom of information in Uganda was restricted in 2022 and authorities in the country monitored the work of CSOs, media, and online communication. This was because of the Public Order Management Act and

Misuse of Computer Act which the government enacted to regulate and control the operations of CSOs. According to data collected by Human Rights Watch (2023), state agents also intimidated journalists and other activists for talking boldly on human rights issues in 2022, and restrictions were placed on social media <sup>33</sup>.

Yet, despite several challenges, the civil society continued to be active in Uganda in 2022, and CSOs were also able to address sensitive issues, including access to essential reproductive health services in the country. However, the operational space for CSOs remains rather vulnerable to legal restrictions, registration requirements, and intimidation<sup>34</sup>. In October 2022 for instance, CSOs in Uganda were required to register with the Personal Data Protection Office within only one month, which, according to Freedom House (2023), can be seen as one of the tactics the government has used since 2019 to shut down civil society groups <sup>35</sup>. In addition to this, CSOs are also required to keep renewing their permit to operate and register with financial intelligence authority <sup>36</sup>.

A national NGO board in Uganda continued to oversee operations of the civil society and guiding policies were in place for civil society actors. Depending on the work of the organization, a specific ministry is assigned to oversee their operations. For instance, organizations that work on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are overseen by the Ministry of Health. In turn, those who collaborate with schools are overseen by the Ministry of Education. As a result, any CSO organising school level engagement must consult and get approval from the Ministry of Education for any activity with learners. No materials or resources can be distributed in schools without prior approval from the ministry.

While CSOs did have space to operate in the country in 2022, several restrictions impacted their work in 2022. Lately, civil society actors, especially those who work on SRHR, have been under scrutiny, and some have been under investigation. This has had an impact on the work of specific organizations in the country. In 2022, the MBMF2 -programme for instance, was forced to delay the completion of CSE activity cards, since the programme was told to discuss with the Ministry of Education first and get their buy in to the implementation of the activity. To solve the situation, the programme decided to engage school management teams and District Level Education Officers, including teachers, instead of implementing CSE cards directly. This turned out to be helpful since it allowed the teachers and school management to better understand the aim of the programme.

<sup>32</sup> Amnesty International. 2023. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/east-africa-the-horn-and-great-lakes/uganda/report-uganda/#endnote-2>

<sup>33</sup> Human Rights Watch. 2023. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/uganda>; Amnesty International. 2023. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/east-africa-the-horn-and-great-lakes/uganda/report-uganda/#endnote-2>

<sup>34</sup> Freedom House. 2023. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/uganda/freedom-world/2023>

<sup>35</sup> Freedom House. 2023. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/uganda/freedom-world/2023>

<sup>36</sup> Freedom House. 2023. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/uganda/freedom-world/2023>

## 2.6 ZIMBABWE

Even though the civil society space in Zimbabwe was classified as repressed in 2022 by CIVICUS Monitor, the year was moderately stable in the country, though the operational environment appeared highly unpredictable throughout the year. The year 2022 in itself was a buildup to 2023 harmonized political elections which also saw civil society organizations (CSOs) come under heavy scrutiny by the government who is wary of their agenda to be in support of opposition politics. The launch of a new opposition in March 2022, the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), ushered in tensions between the ruling party and the CCC with cases of political violence with death being recorded in Kwekwe district. The project partners continued to remain apolitical to avoid being misconstrued by the government.



The pre-election period in the country was characterized by a visible reluctance to engage CSOs, especially those suspected of furthering political agendas or those advancing sexual minority rights. This reluctance had a negative unintended outcome for this reporting period as Kwekwe experienced stalled project implementation by MBMF project partner Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) due to delayed approval of an MOU application. In addition, most of the activities hosted by SRC in Bulawayo were subject to seat-in surveillance right through the activities and further request for activity reports. While the organization follows a no-harm approach which entails engaging relevant authorities prior to hosting activities, the presence of intelligence personnel may lead to participants feeling uncomfortable, particularly those who already live on the brink of the wrath of security personnel like sexual minority identities.

On the socio-economic front, Zimbabwe continues to rile under a strained economy characterized by hyper-inflation, cash shortages and high cost of living. There has been a remarkably sharp increase in the number of incidents of murder, road accidents, house robberies and theft cases in the year under review. Furthermore, the public health care and education systems have continued to deteriorate and suffer from poor financing and brain drain. The public health sector is on the verge of collapse with a serious staffing challenge as nurses and doctors leave the country in search of better income and standards of living. The cost of accessing public health care continues to rise with user fees for children and adults being pegged at US\$5 and US\$10 respectively. This has further pushed vulnerable CAY and adults out to the margins.

The government continued to flex its political muscle throughout 2022 on the amendment of the Private Voluntary Organization Act (PVO) which created a lot of anxiety amongst CSOs as it is anticipated to shrink civil society space with a negative impact on the vulnerable, marginalized, and key populations that we serve. Due to the amendment, the government would have a stronger control over civil society and this in turn, would require some CSOs to change their way of working or terminate their work in the future entirely, if they do not agree with the new requirements. The amendment might also limit international donors' interest to channel development funding to Zimbabwe. Despite calls and campaigns from human rights defenders and civil society organizations for the Government to stop the bill from sailing through, the government finally passed the Bill into law in December just before the Christmas Holiday. The persistent determination of the government to pursue its agenda without any indication of backing down makes the operating environment for CSOs in Zimbabwe highly unpredictable. Although the tenets of the PVO bill seem to stifle democratic space, it is the anticipation rather than the bill itself that is causing anxiety amongst the non-state actors in Zimbabwe.



### 3. PROGRAMME RESULTS

MBMF2 -programme includes two main components: 1) international programme component that includes gender transformative sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) projects implemented in Ethiopia, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, and Zimbabwe, and 2) domestic programme component that focuses on communication, youth-led activism, and global citizenship education in Finland.

Since the year 2022 was the first year of the MBMF2 -programme, the year started with an inception period for both programme components. The inception period was undertaken between January 2022 and June 2022. After completing the inception period, the programme started the implementation towards outcomes. In 2022, the implementation period took place between July 2022 and December 2022.

Both the international programme component and the domestic programme component have defined specific outcome result areas that will enable the MBMF2 -programme to achieve the overall programme impact by 2025. The progress made by the two programme components towards these results in 2022 is presented in this chapter.

Yet, as this annual report concerns the first year of the programme and the first half of the year was dedicated to the inception period, it should be noted that results related to each outcome are not yet clearly visible. Hence, the analysis in this chapter highlights more activity- and output-level achievements from the first year and, when possible, describes how early stages of implementation and results received at activity- and output-level in 2022 have contributed towards the results the programme aims to achieve under each specific outcome.

In addition, since 2022 was an inception year during which the programme developed and finalized its monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) strategy, monitoring data was not yet collected systematically during the reporting period in the programme countries. What is described in the following sections is therefore based more on observations made by country project staff on what can be seen as early progress towards results.

The chapter will first present the progress towards results by the SRHR projects in 2022. After this, the chapter will turn to look at progress towards results under the domestic programme component in Finland in 2022. Work done during the inception period in both programme components is also presented in this chapter.

## 3.1 SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS PROJECTS

The international programme component of the MBMF2 -programme includes six SRHR projects implemented in Ethiopia, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. MBMF2 incorporates a multicomponent approach and a set of core values that inform all the country-level projects included in the programme. Evidence and experience from previous project implementation and partners, as well as scientific research, show that a multicomponent approach is essential to improve SRHR outcomes for CAY. The MBMF2 -programme approach therefore integrates gender transformation at its heart in combination with scaling up SRHR education, improving quality and youth-friendliness of SRH services, and encouraging increased societal and political acceptance of CAY's sexuality. In addition, the SRHR projects focus on improving young people's access to skills, resources and opportunities and reducing the impact of climate risks on the SRHR of young people. Together these multiple components link up to four specific outcomes that the SRHR projects aim to achieve between the years 2022 and 2025 under the international programme component.

This chapter presents the progress made by the SRHR projects under each of the four outcomes in 2022. The chapter will begin with a section that describes what was done in the international programme component during the inception period. After that the chapter will move on to analysing progress towards the outcomes.

### 3.1.1 Inception period

In the first half of the year 2022, the international programme component focused on the programme start up at country level. A common understanding was created across projects and countries on the main strategies and approaches, including the core values of the programme as well as compliance. During the inception period, country teams and local implementing partners created detailed project and activity plans. Start-up activities for the programme were also finalized at country level. This included, among others, recruitment and on-boarding of project staff, establishment of partnership agreements, conducting capacity assessments, creating capacity building plans, development of procurement plans and project budgeting. Project kick-off workshops were also organized during the inception period.

An important part of the inception period was that the programme started to develop the MEAL strategy for the programme and began setting up the monitoring system with updated result framework and tools. During the inception period, a MEAL strategy and a monitoring system with updated result framework was finalized in each country. Afterwards, baseline data was collected at country level, and targets for outcomes were specified.

To realise SRHR for CAY, it is essential to change negative social and gender norms, including breaking taboos and stigma about their sexuality, and adolescent pregnancy. Therefore, the programme begun conducting a social and gender norm diagnosis and analysis during the inception period. The analysis process continued throughout 2022 and Plan Finland supported the entire process, with a team of Technical Specialists on SRHR, and Gender and Inclusion. The aim of the norms diagnosis and analysis was to determine the most relevant social and gender norms affecting access and use of contraception among adolescents (15 – 18 years old) in a specific setting, inform MBMF2 projects as to how strong or weak norms are, understand the relative influence of one norm over another, comprehend which norms are most amenable to change, and to inform a programme of action. This behaviour of interest was chosen, as the use of contraceptives among adolescents is a proxy for many areas of SRHR: access to SRHR information by adolescents, services, bodily autonomy, as well as perceptions about sex, relationships, and their link to gender roles, for example. From norms point of view, it is a concrete behaviour the programme will be able to study as it allows one to look at what are some of the underlying social norms that affect adolescent sexuality.

Climate risk assessment conducted in 2021, provided a basis for youth consultations on iterating the impact of climate change on SRHR. All six countries conducted a consultation with a diverse group of youth using a participatory methodology. Consultations helped to iterate intersections between climate change impact and SRHR in the specific context of each project implemented under the programme. The process of conducting the consultations increased the capacity of the implementing teams to talk about climate change in the context of SRHR. Increased capacities are also demonstrated by the country-level strategies to promote climate resilience, which are no longer standalone components of the project, but clearly in line with the overall goal of supporting the SRHR outcomes.

To create a shared vision for the country-level projects, the programme provided spaces for reflection on partnership and civil society strengthening to project staff and partners during the inception period. Similarly, guidance and tools were provided to help transform partnering practices in a principled, effective, and quality-driven way, and partners were oriented in programme theory of change and other elements of the programme. Finally, training in different thematic areas was also conducted for local partner organizations at country level.

### 3.1.2 Outcome 1

**OUTCOME 1:** Children, adolescents and youth in all their diversity have the support and the confidence to make informed, responsible, positive and healthy choices about their SRHR and future

During the reporting period, in Ethiopia, adolescent girls participated in formal and informal school clubs, including gender clubs, sports clubs and environmental clubs, and learned about menstrual health and hygiene, effects of child marriage, teenage pregnancy and abortion. School gender club members also increased their knowledge in reusable sanitary pads preparation through training sessions given by the project. The MBMF2 project in Ethiopia also established 30 Champions of Change (CoC) groups in 2022, and trained 30 CoC facilitators, who, as a result, started implementing the CoC training sessions. At the same time, 60 CSE facilitators in Ethiopia gained training in CSE facilitation skills and CAY in the project areas shared knowledge among each other regarding SRHR in awareness raising sessions arranged by the project during the reporting period.

In Laos, secondary school teachers from 10 schools in Pakbeng increased their knowledge on CSE through training sessions given by the project team in 2022. The training sessions covered topics, such as sexuality, gender, and reproductive system.

In Mozambique, 178 adolescents between 14 to 19 years old (95 girls and 83 boys) learned about gender equality, SRHR, prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and child early marriage and forced unions through CoC trainings given to them in 2022. During the trainings, the participants also gained knowledge about how to influence rooted gender-based social norms and how to take informed decisions and choices about their SRHR. Compared with the baseline values, there was an increase in the knowledge on core SRHR topics (from 39% of adolescents with correct level of knowledge on core SRHR topics in the baseline to 72% in the post test), in the ability to make informed decisions over their body (from 65% of adolescents with core abilities to make decisions in the baseline to 78% in the post test), in the abilities to challenge gender stereotype and harmful social and gender norms (from 22% of the adolescents in the baseline to 78% in the post test), in their demand for SRHR services (with only 37% of the adolescents who had used an SRH services in the last 12 months in the baseline

**IN MOZAMBIQUE, 178 ADOLESCENTS BETWEEN 14 TO 19 YEARS OLD LEARNED ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY, SRHR, PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND CHILD EARLY MARRIAGE AND FORCED UNIONS THROUGH CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE TRAININGS GIVEN TO THEM IN 2022. DURING THE TRAININGS, THE PARTICIPANTS ALSO GAINED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HOW TO INFLUENCE ROOTED GENDER-BASED SOCIAL NORMS AND HOW TO TAKE INFORMED DECISIONS AND CHOICES ABOUT THEIR SRHR.**



against 72% in the post test). Through the training, the adolescents learned about adolescent- and youth friendly SRH service provision available in health centres at community level. During the reporting period, the CoC members also started conducting lectures and theatre sessions on gender equality and SRHR to their peers at school. According to the feedback given by the adolescents themselves, the CoC sessions improved their understanding of themselves and their wishes towards the future. One of the participants mentioned: “My parents have always been open to talk to me, but never about sexual and reproductive health and rights. Through the sessions we had at the club, I already feel confident in starting the conversation at home”.

In Myanmar, MBMF2 project staff and partner staff, including 30 peer leaders, took part in training of trainers (ToT) and learned how to implement CSE curriculum for early adolescents (10-14 years old) and late adolescents (15-24 years old). After completing the ToT, all the CSE modules were finalized, and the peer leaders started piloting the CSE curriculum by delivering the first module of the early adolescent CSE training to children, adolescent, and youth (CAY) in areas covered by the project. In addition, in 2022, peer leaders in Myanmar also strengthened their capacity to work as peer educators to adolescents in their home villages, and the project started implementing sensitization meetings about the project and its contents. Furthermore, MBMF2 Project Officers in Myanmar shared best practices on CSE delivery in a workshop organized with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and other actors. In 2022, the Project Officers also participated in a 5-day long ToT on Ready for Work curriculum.

**TO ENHANCE CAY’S SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ON SRHR, HEALTHY AND POSITIVE SEXUALITY, INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS AND GENDER ROLES, THE PROJECT TEAM IN ZIMBABWE IDENTIFIED AND TRAINED 50 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS IN 2022 ON COMMUNITY-BASED FACILITATION OF CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE AND COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION.**

Project partners in Uganda also gained knowledge on the nexus between climate change and SRHR through a training that was organized by the MBMF2 project in 2022. Feedback collected from the training participants indicates that after the training, the partner staff saw a clearer connection between SRHR, climate change and pledged action. One of the participants for example indicated: “Previously I didn’t know that there is a relationship that exists between Climate Change and

SRHR. Too much drought can affect access to SRHR services due to low productivity and incomes. But now I have learnt that it is a reality.”

To enhance CAY’s skills and knowledge on SRHR, healthy and positive sexuality, intimate relationships and gender roles, the project team in Zimbabwe identified and trained 50 Community volunteers (26 females and 24 males) in 2022 on community-based facilitation of Champions of Change (CoC) and CSE to facilitate out of school Comprehensive Sexuality Education. 26 Mentor Teachers also received training on CSE Delivery in Schools to conduct in school CSE sessions. Reflections from the mentors highlighted that CSE will go a long way in equipping out of school and in school CAY with correct SRHR information as such discussions were considered taboo at household level <sup>37</sup>. This means that the CSE sessions conducted by the project are an important source of SRHR information and in most cases, the only source that children and adolescents might have. The project in Zimbabwe continued to also offer mentorship support throughout the year for the community-based mentors to enhance their facilitation skills for CSE.

At the end of the year, the project in Zimbabwe begun implementing out of school CSE sessions reaching in total 2447 (1376 Female/1071 Males) adolescents. Although the whole CSE sessions had not finished yet with the first cohort of CAY in Zimbabwe, the facilitators noted in their attitudes that there were changes in their knowledge and attitudes towards SRHR, and more expressed their interests and will to access them, which was facilitated by the mobile brigades that were also conducted in their communities. In addition, it was interesting to note that in some instances, some parents were accompanying them which is very unusual in Zimbabwe. The hypothesis of MBMF2 is that these parents were part of the community dialogues, and that the adolescents and youth had been more able to talk about their needs for being part of the CSE sessions.

Furthermore, to strengthen the climate resilience and DRR component in out of school CSE sessions in Zimbabwe, the project in partnership with Young People’s Network on SRH, HIV and AIDS, Dot Youth and Environmental Management Agency trained 36 mentors (19 females/17 males) on Climate change and SRHR. The training workshop enabled young people to understand what climate change is and how it impacts health, including SRHR. The workshop also enhanced young people’s knowledge of the impact of climate change on their lives and helped them to identify positive coping- and mitigation strategies against climate change, including how to live healthily and protect their SRHR during disasters. The discussions held demonstrate that the workshop provided the participants with a better understanding on how climate

<sup>37</sup> The social and gender norms diagnosis conducted during the inception period in Zimbabwe demonstrated that peer to peer discussions were the most common sources of SRHR information amongst CAY and this Mentor approach was commended as CAY depend on their peers for information.

change disproportionately affects people based on their gender and disability status and why targeted interventions that reduce the impacts of climate change across different social groups are needed <sup>38</sup>. The participants indicated that due to the workshop, they could now link SRHR with climate change better. One of the participants for example mentioned: “We have understood that climate change is not only an environmental issue, but it is a humanitarian, health and economic issue as well”

**GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA, GAINED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ON HOW TO BETTER INVOLVE CAY IN THE DESIGN AND MONITORING OF LOCAL SRHR SERVICES.**

Finally, to ensure that adolescents and young people, especially adolescent girls most at risk, have skills and increased links to pursue economic opportunities, including alternative livelihood opportunities and green solutions, a youth-led labour market assessment was also conducted in Zimbabwe in 2022. The assessment enabled the project and the youth participants to gain firsthand knowledge about local labour market opportunities, hiring trends, skills in demand, as well as a deeper understanding of the constraints young people face when entering the local economy. As a result, a report was produced during the reporting period, that provided market- and demand driven insights that have been used to inform the design and implementation of youth economic empowerment interventions.

### 3.1.3 Outcome 2

**OUTCOME 2:** Children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity have improved access to quality, inclusive, gender-responsive, and adolescent- and youth-friendly SRHR services

During the reporting period, a health facility gaps and needs assessment was conducted by the MBMF2 project in Ethiopia, after which higher officials of district and zonal health offices took responsibility for gap filling activities, and office furniture, material, medical supplies and SRH guidelines were provided to the health facilities. In 2022, youth friendly corners were also established to the health facilities and service providers received training in youth friendly SRH services. Health facility staff in Ethiopia also agreed to start providing SRH services based on the guidelines provided by the project.

Government institutions in Ethiopia in turn, gained knowledge and skills on how to better involve CAY in the design and monitoring of local SRHR services. This was made possible by capacity building training organized during the reporting period. Technical working group meetings were held in 2022 between CSOs and other actors, such as Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (FGAE) and higher officials of Ministry of Health (MOH) to improve joint understanding on gaps in the implementation of laws and policies related to CSE, AYFS and ASRHR. A policy monitoring team was also established in Ethiopia during the reporting period and monitoring visits were conducted at government health facilities that are part of the project in Amhara and Oromia regions. Through the visits, gaps in SRH policies, SRH guidelines and SOP availability were identified. The visits also indicated limited orientation among staff in SRH policies. As a result, the Zonal- and District Health Officials and facility heads started to discuss organizing staff awareness raising sessions on SRHR policies and updating SRH policy guidelines and SOPs on regular basis.

**IN MYANMAR, THE MBMF2 PROJECT ENHANCED ADOLESCENT ACCESS TO AND AWARENESS OF SRHR SERVICES. THE PROJECT MAPPED AVAILABLE SRHR SERVICES TOGETHER WITH DISABILITY- AND RESILIENCE SUPPORTING GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND ESTABLISHED SRHR SERVICE PROVISION DIRECTORY BOARDS TO YOUTH FRIENDLY CORNERS, SCHOOLS, AND OTHER COMMON PLACES IN 20 VILLAGES.**

In Laos, Plan discussed with PFHA and UNFPA about the possibility of further strengthening health system capacity to deliver adolescent friendly health services in partnership with Ministry of Health (MoH). The MoH also started to revise the AFHS manual in 2022.

In Mozambique, diverse strategic actors, such as religious leaders, community leaders, maternal- and child health providers and school health focal points in Jangamo district strengthened their capacity in 2022 in the provision

and access to SRH services through training given by an implementing partner AMODEFA. The training provided the participants with knowledge and skills to mobilize, raise awareness and provide adolescent- and youth friendly and quality SRH services. In addition, 42 health service providers improved their knowledge to provide inclusive, gender responsive and age appropriate SRH services to adolescent and youth through disability and inclusion training provided by the project.

In Myanmar, the MBMF2 project enhanced adolescent access to and awareness of SRHR services in 2022. During the reporting period, the project mapped available SRHR services together with disability- and resilience supporting groups and organizations, and established SRHR service provision directory

<sup>38</sup> The participants also pointed out that women, particularly those in rural areas, are the most affected by climate change as rural areas are prone to natural disasters.

boards to youth friendly corners, schools, and other common places in 20 villages. In addition, youth friendly corners were also established in 10 new communities. Through the corners, adolescents and youth are given access to SRHR resources and provided with a safe and enabling environment to discuss issues and needs regarding SRHR. In addition, 10 new youth friendly SRHR corners were set up in 10 villages in school libraries, village halls and village libraries. The SRHR corners are equipped with IEC material, such as contraception IEC material, SRHR key messages, GBV booklets and books that offer information on SRHR and youth.

In Uganda, the quality of SRHR service provision and outreach was improved in 2022 by training health care workers in health facilities. The training covered topics such as adolescent friendly service (AFS) provision, procurement of essential buffer stock and commodities, and CBO mobilization. In addition, the project team in Uganda selected and trained disability inclusion facilitators (DIFs) to work at local health facilities. In the upcoming project implementation years, the skills and knowledge provided to the facilitators through the training is expected to improve the access of persons with disabilities (PWDs) to SRHR services in the health facilities.

In Zimbabwe, the capacity of service providers to provide adolescent-friendly, gender-responsive and disability inclusive SRH services was enhanced during the reporting period by training 186 health service providers and village health workers on provision of adolescent-friendly, gender-responsive and disability inclusive SRH services. Before the training, many service providers tended to approach adolescent and youth service provision more from a parental perspective, denying counselling or reporting their cases, such as those related to post-abortion care, contraception use and STI treatment. The project team noticed that this happened especially in the rural Kwekwe region, and it occurred mainly due to the age gap between the CAY and the service providers and social norms that tend to persist within society. Therefore, through the training, the project gave the service providers an opportunity to self-introspect and reflect on how they provided services to adolescents.

Timely, safe, and confidential referrals to primary maternal health care were also conducted in Zimbabwe for girls and young women, pregnant girls and young mothers, and, in total, 264 CAY received services through mobile outreaches and static clinics during the reporting period. As a result, CAY were given greater access to SRH information and services such as HIV testing and treatment, safer sex commodities, family planning, counselling, psychosocial support and STI screening among others.

Finally, in 2022, the project in Zimbabwe also supported and monitored job trainings given for primary health care workers on the delivery of inclusive, gender-responsive and adolescent-friendly services. Afterwards, the trained service providers started to cascade the trainings to other staff at health centres including general hands. It is expected that this will yield positive results by creating a more conducive, safe, and confidential environment to accommodate adolescents and young people in their diversity.

**IN ETHIOPIA, BOYS, AND MEN AS WELL AS RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL LEADERS, CBOs, WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT GROUPS AND INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCILS LEARNED ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND PREVENTION OF EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY, PREVENTION OF OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES, SUCH AS GBV, AND CONCERNS RELATING TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**

### 3.1.4 Outcome 3

**OUTCOME 3:** Children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity live in safe and supportive communities that transform gender roles and challenge harmful social and gender norms and stigma around SRHR

In 2022 in Ethiopia, boys, and men as well as religious and cultural leaders, CBOs, women's development groups and inter-religious councils learned about the negative impacts and prevention of early and forced marriage and teenage pregnancy, prevention of other harmful practices, such as GBV, and concerns relating to people with disabilities. This was made possible by capacity building and awareness raising sessions organized by the project during the reporting period. At the same time, CSOs in Ethiopia gained skills and knowledge to advocate for SRH issues, including gender equality through SRHR training that was provided to them. And, to support the resilience of parents to overcome shocks and stress that influence SRH services for vulnerable CAYs, seven VSLA groups with 78 female members were established in Ethiopia in 2022, who also started their saving practices during the reporting period.

Media involvement was also one of the implementation strategies the project in Ethiopia applied in 2022 to spread information about SRH and GBV. A contract was, for example, signed between FGAE and the Amhara and Oromia media corporations. And, in order to foster an environment that is supportive of AYSRH in Oromia, the area office recorded and disseminated audio messages on various SRH programs, such as the Adolescent/Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health discussion with experts on GBV.

**IN UGANDA, COMMUNITY-, CULTURAL- AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS WERE ORIENTED ON NORM CHANGE AND VALUE CLARIFICATION IN A WORKSHOP THAT WAS ORGANIZED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. ALL TOGETHER 91 LEADERS INCREASED THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON SRHR AND SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS, WITH THE AIM THAT IN THE FUTURE, THEY WOULD BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO CHALLENGE NEGATIVE AND HARMFUL NORMS THAT OFTEN PREVENT UPTAKE OF SRHR SERVICES AND LIMIT CAY'S ACCESS TO AGE-APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ON SRH.**

In Mozambique, 10 networks of Agents of Change were formed at community level in 2022, consisting of 260 (136 female and 124 male) members trained in gender equality and SRHR. Throughout the year, these networks held 44 intergenerational community dialogue sessions with 2832 participants at community level, through which parents and caregivers discussed with their children about gender equality and SRHR and aimed to reshape existing gender and social norms. The feedback received from the parents and caregivers indicates that due to the dialogue sessions they now feel more able to approach these kinds of conversations with their children at the family level. The parents and caregivers also mentioned that after the dialogue sessions they have started to support their children and guide them to seek for sexual health services <sup>34</sup>.

In Myanmar, in turn, the project team begun implementing activities related to sensitization of parents during the reporting period. Distribution of sanitary pads, including reusable sanitary pads also begun in 2022. In addition, to contribute to changing harmful social practices, the project team participated in the celebration of two campaigns during the reporting period: International Day of the Girl (IDG) and International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. Likewise, a dialogue session was also held in 2022 that focused on harmful social and gender norms, including those that are challenging youths and girls' equal participation in decision-making at community- and national level. While celebrating the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, a photo contest was also arranged for adolescents to reflect on community members' attitudes related to gender equality.

In Uganda, the MBMF2 project started working with communities in 2022. Through this work, community-, cultural- and religious leaders were oriented on norm change and value clarification in a workshop that was organized during the reporting period. Through the workshop, all together 91 leaders (82 male and 9 female) increased their knowledge on SRHR and social and gender norms, with the aim that in the future, they would be better equipped to challenge negative and harmful norms that often prevent uptake of SRHR services and limit CAY's access to age-appropriate information on SRH. One of the project partners in Uganda, ACTADE, also trained partner staff in 2022 and raised awareness through radio on climate risks and resilience measures. The aim of this work is that in the upcoming implementation years, the level of preparedness will be increased.

In Zimbabwe, 192 parents and caregivers gained knowledge on positive parenting and life skills through training sessions conducted in Bulawayo during the reporting period. Through the trainings, parents and caregivers increased their understanding on SRHR and discussed SRHR, SGBV, disability inclusion and social norms among each other. The aim of the training was to contribute towards more positive parental support for CAY and offer parents and caregivers skills that allow them to guide CAY to make informed, responsible, positive, and healthy choices about their SRHR.

At the same time, 245 traditional leaders (150 female and 95 male) in Kwekwe, Zimbabwe participated in sensitization meetings on SRHR and SGBV. During the sensitization meetings it became evident that socio-cultural norms that enhance gender inequality and reduce women to second class citizens were still entrenched within the communities. The same socio-cultural norms tend to also act as barriers that limit CAY's access to SRHR and restrict their ability to enjoy their bodily autonomy. Therefore, during the next implementation year, the project will work with selected community leaders who demonstrate support for SRHR and SGBV interventions as SRHR and SGBV champions.

Quarterly intergenerational community dialogues on SRHR and SGBV were also conducted in Zimbabwe in 2022. All together 223 parents and 176 CAY took part in the dialogues and increased their knowledge on SRHR, HIV and GBV. Through this activity, a platform was created for CAY, parents and guardians that allowed them to openly interact with each other and share their experiences on dialogue topics. Parents that participated in the sessions also acknowledged that they often lacked skills in initiating open conversations on SRHR with their children at home. Therefore, many of the parents mentioned having appreciated such an initiative and that similar sessions in the future would be useful.

<sup>39</sup> The feedback received from parents and caregivers came out from a focus group discussion conducted for a learning harvesting workshop in Mozambique.

### 3.1.5 Outcome 4

**OUTCOME 4:** Children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity participate and benefit from a vibrant civil society that advocates for increased public investment and improved SRHR policy and promotes equality for and agency of girls

To advance young people's right to access and use SRHR information and services, and to remove barriers for adolescent and youth SRH service provision, CSOs, particularly youth-led or youth-focused organizations, are crucial. Thus, during the reporting period, the MBMF2 project in Ethiopia identified CSOs that encourage young people's participation in the social accountability process and that promote advocacy for policies and strategies that focus on adolescent- and youth health. These CSOs include implementing partners, youth associations, women associations, and OPDs. The CSOs were also given social accountability capacity building training in 2022, through which they learned how to effectively engage CAY in the project intervention areas.

**THE MBMF2 PROJECT IN ETHIOPIA IDENTIFIED CSOS THAT ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS AND THAT PROMOTE ADVOCACY FOR POLICIES AND STRATEGIES THAT FOCUS ON ADOLESCENT- AND YOUTH HEALTH.**

In Laos, Plan partnered with diverse international and local actors, such as UNFPA, MOES, MOH, MOLSW, NCAWMC UNICEF, LWU, other INGOs, NPAs and other members of Adolescent Girls Working Group to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child in October and the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls' week <sup>40</sup> in November. For example, a total of 345 people took part in the International Day of the Girl Child event, including representatives from various line ministries, UN agencies, INGOs and NPAs. The event also had adolescent participants from secondary schools in Vientiane. One area of focus in the event was LGBTQIA+ rights and sexual abuse and harassment, and during the event, a discussion was held on how to overcome discriminatory social and gender norms, body rights and online safety. Young people with disabilities from Women with Disability Association and Hands of Home also performed and participated at the event to highlight the potential of girls with disabilities.

During the reporting period, 404539 people/time were also reached in Laos through online talk shows that were streamed via Facebook Live through the Plan Laos and Merlin Phahoo Facebook pages. The topics of these talk shows included for example, safe sexual relationships, use of contraception, puberty changes and gender equality. In 2022, MBMF2 project in Laos also supported the second phase of data collection for the national study on drivers of early marriage and adolescent pregnancy in Lao PDR <sup>41</sup>. Additionally, a number of consultation meetings with local line ministries were also held during the reporting period. Finally, one significant achievement in 2022 for Plan Laos was the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Oudomxay. With the approval process completed, the project can start full implementation of planned activities from January 2023 onwards.

In Mozambique in turn, AMODEFA <sup>42</sup> (MBMF2 local partner organization) strengthened partnerships with government partners such as the provincial government of Inhambane, the district government of Jangamo and the Provincial Council for combat of AIDS, with the aim of participating in strategic spaces of dialogue for advocacy and lobbying actions. And, to promote SRHR of adolescents and youth and to improve young people's access to gender responsive and youth friendly SRH services, the MBMF2 project in Mozambique engaged in civil society platforms that act in the area of health, namely PLASOC-M (Civil Society Platform for Health), and in the prevention and combat of child and early marriage and forced unions, namely CECAP (Coalition to Eliminate premature Marriages).

During the reporting period, Plan Mozambique and MAHLAHLE <sup>43</sup> (MBMF2 implementing partner) participated in the district multisectoral referral group and proposed that a sub-group would be established that focuses on adolescent- and youth SRHR as a strategy to prevent CEMFU. The proposal was warmly welcomed by the district Attorney Officer who coordinates the group. The Attorney Officer mentioned: "We realized today that without focusing our actions on promoting adolescent- and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights and preventing early pregnancies, it will be difficult to combat premature marriages and forced Unions. I agree with the proposal brought today by the partners to integrate in the reference group a subgroup that works in this area, where a health technician should be part".

In Myanmar, an annual workshop was organized in 2022 together with partners and civil society actors, including village development committees, youth leaders and CBOs to discuss lessons learned, project progress, adolescents SRHR needs and harmful gender norms and practices. During the workshop, the

<sup>40</sup> 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

<sup>41</sup> Plan International Laos has coordinated the study since 2021 with National Commission for Advancement of Women, Mother and Children (NCAWMC) of Government of Laos, UN Agencies and other INGOs. The main objective of the study is to gain an in-depth understanding of the drivers/root causes, contexts and interactions of factors that lead to early marriage/unions and adolescent pregnancy in Lao PDR. The study will be completed in 2023.

<sup>42</sup> Mozambican Association for Family Development (AMODEFA)

<sup>43</sup> Association for the Promotion and Development of Women (MAHLAHLE)

**IN UGANDA, LOCAL PARTNER CSOS BEGUN TO MOBILIZE CAY TO ACCESS SRHR SERVICES, MAKE REFERRALS FOR ADOLESCENTS TO ACCESS SRHR SERVICES FROM SERVICE POINTS AND ASSESS HEALTH CLINICS FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND ADOLESCENT FRIENDLINESS.**

participants also reflected on how to overcome challenges and barriers encountered during the project timeframe. Afterwards, action plans were created that focus on supporting adolescent SRHR needs, accessibility of services, and empowerment of adolescents and young women in all their diversity to enjoy their SRHR. And, while an SRHR awareness session was organized in Myanmar for LGBTQIA+ adolescents by a partner CSO: Mee-Eain-Shin-Lay Myar (MESLM), 600 CAYs (270 male and 330 female) from 20 villages participated in a dialogue session to explore space and support for CAY's participation by respective CSOs.

In Uganda, local partner CSOs in the project areas began to mobilize CAY to access SRHR services, make referrals for adolescents to access SRHR services from service points and assess health clinics for accessibility and adolescent friendliness. In 2022, 83% (15/18) of the supported CSOs also gave training to their staff in SRHR. And 56% (10 out of 18) of the CSOs developed advocacy strategies that address



problems related to lack of CSE in schools, non-implemented climate change policies and non-reviewed school health policies.

In 2022, the MBMF2 project in Zimbabwe continued to also support a digital media advocacy initiative called “Amplify Girls’ Voices Through Digital Arts” which was funded and piloted through an Innovation Challenge in 2021. During the pilot phase, the initiative built an online platform to discuss issues that girls face in their lives and share relevant information for girls in creative ways. In 2022, the initiative focused on creating engaging audio and video programmes and written content for girls by girls, covering topics such as SRHR and GBV. Throughout the year, the initiative recorded 559 548 views through social media platforms, such as YouTube, TikTok and Facebook. A total of 289 people were also reached through community screening activities that displayed short films produced by the initiative. What was notable during the reporting period was that by using social media, the initiative not only reached people in communities in the targeted areas, but viewers from other countries as well.

## 3.2 COMMUNICATIONS, YOUTH-LED ACTIVISM AND PARTICIPATORY ADVOCACY AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN FINLAND

The domestic programme component of the MBMF2 -programme aims to enhance children's and young people's active participation on the themes of sustainable development, global gender equality and climate solutions. By focusing on three main elements: 1) Global Citizenship education, 2) Youth-led Activism and Participatory Advocacy, and 3) Communication and Public Engagement, the domestic programme aims to engage children and young people to actively strengthen civil society, increase public awareness about development and gender equality, and to ensure that children and youth in all their diversity have a safe and inclusive environment to learn and express their opinions.

Between the years 2022 and 2025 the domestic programme aims to achieve five specific outcomes. This chapter presents the progress made by the domestic programme under each of these outcomes in 2022. The chapter will first describe what was done under the domestic programme component during the inception period. After that, the chapter turns into analysing the implementation period



### 3.2.1 Inception period

The inception period of the domestic programme component focused on programme start up and undertook preparatory work necessary to build a good foundation for the programme to ensure a smooth operation over the coming four years. During the 6-month long inception period, the domestic programme team planned school outreach, recruited volunteers, identified partners, kicked off a communication plan and set policy/communications objectives for the first year. With the technical support provided by Plan International Finland's MEAL Specialist, a monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) strategy and a monitoring system for the domestic programme component was also established during the inception period. A roadmap on accessibility for the programme period was also created during the inception period.

### 3.2.2 Outcome 1

**OUTCOME 1:** Children and young people in schools and other learning environments reached by Plan have the knowledge, skills, and motivation to promote global justice.

#### THE CHILD RIGHTS AMBASSADORS OF THE GLOBAL SCHOOL COMPONENT CONDUCTED 298 SCHOOL VISITS, REACHING ALTOGETHER 9270 PUPILS.

Outcome 1 of the domestic programme component aims to improve the knowledge, skills and motivation of children and youth around the topic of global justice by offering them engaging and age-appropriate information about sustainable future, equality and equity, and skills to become active citizens. In 2022, this meant developing action-oriented and participatory learning materials on five different school visit concepts (focusing on climate justice, children's rights, preventing hate speech in social media, gender equality), as well as recruiting 40 Child Rights Ambassadors who then started conducting the school visits.

Throughout the year, The Child Rights Ambassadors of The Global School component conducted 298 school visits, reaching altogether 9270 pupils. The online workshops were popular despite the easement of the Covid-19 situation and the geographical coverage of the work was above expectations: there were workshops in over a hundred different schools and other learning environments in 39 municipalities. The quality of the visits was good, with 79 % of teachers in the classes visited evaluating the overall quality of the lessons and workshops as 4/5 or better.

The themes of the visits included Children's Rights convention, gender stereotypes, climate justice and opposing hate speech. To bring forward Plan's strategic priority to focus its domestic programme work to youth, the school visits were promoted especially for subject teachers in secondary schools. Feedback that was collected from the teachers after the visits and self-evaluations written by the Child Rights Ambassadors demonstrate that the school visit methodology encouraged participants to think and reflect on the subjects at hand to enhance both the understanding of the substance as well as the capacity to act towards the issues.

### 3.2.3 Outcome 2

**OUTCOME 2:** Education professionals practice high-quality global citizenship education that follows the national curricula and supports the active participation of children and young people.

During the reporting period, Plan Global School strengthened the capacity of 192 teachers, other educational professionals, and teacher students to practice quality global citizenship education by giving 26 in-service trainings and by producing teaching resources. The teacher training sessions focused on four topics: 1) anti-hate speech education and social norms, 2) gender equality, 3) sustainable development and climate change education and 4) equality and antiracism. Due to the high demand for online in-service training, out of the 26 training sessions, 23 were given online and 3 were conducted in-person. Out of the education professionals who gave immediate feedback on the in-service training sessions, 79,5 % judged that the training gave them insight and tools for their work.

The Global School maintained, updated, and distributed pedagogical resources both in digital and printed format. One of the Global Schools' key products in 2022 was STOP! Ilmastopeli <sup>44</sup>, an educational board game on climate justice. In March, Plan also published a new learning material that looks at democratic participation and maintaining a good online discussion culture (Materiaali vaikuttamisesta nettikeskusteluihin). In 2022, all together 13 750 visitors visited Plan Finland's global education website: [www.gloaalikoulu.net](http://www.gloaalikoulu.net), including the virtual reality learning environment "Uusi kotini". During the reporting period, the website was updated, by improving its accessibility and usability. Plan also made the website more appealing to educators by improving its visual features.

**PLAN GLOBAL SCHOOL STRENGTHENED THE CAPACITY OF 192 TEACHERS, OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, AND TEACHER STUDENTS TO PRACTICE QUALITY GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION BY GIVING 26 IN-SERVICE TRAININGS AND BY PRODUCING TEACHING RESOURCES.**

The Uganda-Finland school cooperation project, that brought upper secondary school students from the two countries together to discuss gender roles and stereotypes, came to an end in 2022. In December 2022, a publication: "Observing youth – Menetelmiä nuorten tasa-arvo- ja globaalikasvatukseen" <sup>45</sup> was published. The publication sums up key methodologies and learnings from the project. Feedback collected from the participant schools during the reporting period illustrates that the project opened a space to discuss sensitive issues, such as gender roles and norms related to teaching practices and school culture. The feedback also indicates that through the project, participating schools gained valuable contacts and relevant content for their global citizenship education, especially related to the subject teaching of history, health education, home economics and languages. Altogether 500 pupils and 15 teachers participated in the project activities. The project also gave Plan Global School valuable experience in working with secondary school subject teachers on a strategically relevant topic through the project.

Throughout the year, Plan's Global School experts also participated in different networks and advocacy processes relevant to maintaining the quality of the global citizenship education among education professionals in Finland (e.g., Fingo, Ministry of Education, UNESCO, Lastensuojelun Keskusliitto). One Global School expert also took part in formulating Plan's recommendation for Government Resolution on Finnish Democracy Policy in the 2020s, from the viewpoint of human rights and democracy education.

Finally, in 2022, Plan cooperated with Etelä-Karjalan museo in 2022, and produced an exhibition called "Esihistoriallisten asenteiden museo". The exhibition invites people to reflect on gender roles and norms in Finland and globally. During the reporting period, Plan's Global School expert provided content support to the museum staff and produced a pop-up workshop in the exhibition opening event.

### 3.2.4 Outcome 3

**OUTCOME 3:** Young and adult volunteers advocate actively and raise awareness of gender equality, equity, climate solutions and sustainable development.

In 2022, Plan's Children's Board made progress in bringing forward children's and youth's active citizenship and an estimate of 3700 people were reached through the Children's Board activities. During the reporting period, the Board offered a forum for 23 children between the ages of 11 and 18 to learn about children's rights and gender equality and practice influencing in an encouraging environment. The Children's Board also published a new podcast series for young people. The podcast looks at climate change, its effects and how young people can influence climate actions. The Board also raised young people's awareness on global issues through its own social media channels in TikTok and Instagram. On the International Day of the Girl Child (IDG), the Board conducted activism on gender equality by holding morning opening

<sup>44</sup> The board game was originally launched in 2021.

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.gloaalikoulu.net/materiaalit/observing-youth-menetelmia-nuorten-tasa-arvo-ja-gloaalikasvatukseen/>

**PLAN'S CHILDREN'S BOARD MADE PROGRESS IN BRINGING FORWARD CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH'S ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND AN ESTIMATE OF 3700 PEOPLE WERE REACHED THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S BOARD ACTIVITIES.**

sessions at school and by publishing an influencing agenda about girls' rights. The influencing agenda was shared through the Board's social media channels and in Plan Finland's IDG breakfast venue. In 2022, 83% of the Children's Board members reported having significantly enhanced their knowledge and skills required in

promoting gender equality and sustainable development goals.

In April, over 1500 young people participated in the livestreamed youth event: "Nuorten timantti" through different schools in Finland. During the event, young people discussed good discussion culture in Finland and globally. The event also encouraged young people to reflect on how they themselves can build good discussion culture in their everyday lives.

In 2022, the domestic programme team gathered young people and volunteers for various events and campaigns, such as the International Menstrual Health Day and the International Day of the Girl Child. The International Day of the Girl Child was the main event of the year, raising awareness about girls' rights in 100 locations throughout Finland. The theme of the day was the impact of the economy on gender equality. All in all, 21,050 people were reached through 163 different activities and events, including live and virtual photo events, webinars, art exhibitions, as well as book displays in 99 libraries. Plan Finland's young volunteers planned and organized 18 of those events in 9 different cities by themselves

**THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD EVENT RAISED AWARENESS ABOUT GIRLS' RIGHTS IN 100 LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT FINLAND.**

Plan's global #GirlsTakeover campaign was also organized in 2022 around the International Day of the Girl. This year, through the campaign, six young girls stepped into the roles of private- and public sector leaders for a day to influence high level positions of power. The #GirlsTakeover is an annual campaign, and in 2022, the campaign focused on the topic of girls and finance. Through the campaign, the girls raised up important issues for young girls related to the campaign topic and received training in equality and girl's rights. Having the opportunity to participate in the campaign and express one's own opinions was considered empowering. One of the girls for example, mentioned: "The best feeling was that I was listened to and the people I met were interested in what I said. As a young girl you get used to the feeling that what you say is often put down. It was empowering to notice that what I said had an influence."

Throughout the year, the domestic programme component coordinated several thematic youth groups. The Youth Climate Group, "Ilmastotsempparit" participated in "Futures Frequency" workshops together with youth from Laos, Myanmar, and Uganda in the spring of 2022. Futures Frequency is a workshop method created by Sitra, Finnish Innovation Fund, that aims to increase people's ability to envisage different futures and take action towards the realisation of a preferred future. Plan International's theme in the workshops was the climate crisis and in total, 42 young people from four countries attended the workshops facilitated by Plan International Finland's staff. The workshops culminated in an action at the Parliament house in August 2022 during which 36 young people met Finnish members of parliament. The youth shared with the MPs different visions of the future where decision-makers and citizens globally had been successful in tackling the climate crisis.

Together with The National Council of Women of Finland, Plan Finland also organized The Young Equality Influencers group in 2022. The group engaged 23 young people to deepen their understanding of global equality issues. During the year, the participants gained practical knowledge on how to influence global equality issues by executing diverse equality actions, including organizing an art exhibition and a workshop, creating a social media campaign, and writing opinion pieces and online blogs.

In 2022, Plan Finland coordinated the Generation Equality -youth group together with UN Women Finland and continued to actively bring young people's voices and opinions to matters concerning technology and innovation. During the reporting period, the group launched a campaign: "Right to be Online", wrote an opinion piece for the Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat, provided input for the STEM strategy of the Ministry of Education and Culture, and published a manifesto for the technology sector to tackle online gender-based violence. The group also met with various people and organizations, including the Finnish Foreign Ministry, MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, and Women's Line, a helpline for women and girls who have experienced violence or abuse. In 2022, one of the youth group members was selected as a delegate to the Generation Equality Youth Forum in Istanbul.

During the reporting period, Plan Finland also continued supporting a volunteer group that offers young people with immigrant background an easier way to become acquainted with global issues and influencing. In 2022, 44 young people with immigrant background participated in the group. The group wrote an opinion piece for the blog of the Central Union for Child Welfare and planned and implemented two workshops for an adult high school on the topic of identity crisis.

### 3.2.5 Outcome 4

**OUTCOME 4:** Decision-makers in Finland promote global gender equality, human rights and climate solutions, and young people are involved in decision-making processes

In 2022, Plan Finland advocated for effective implementation of Government's commitment to gender equality and rights and status of women and girls in the Finnish development policy as well as in the overall foreign policy. During the reporting period, Plan had three key priorities for its advocacy work: 1) influencing development cooperation as a part of foreign policy, 2) increasing the official development assistance (ODA) to 0,7 % of Finland's GNI and 3) promoting feminist foreign policy. And, finally, after two years effected by Covid-19 restrictions, in 2022 Plan was able to arrange and take part in live meetings, discussions, and seminars.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine changed the security situation in Europe. Therefore, during the reporting period, Plan kept raising awareness on the rights and status of girls and women, especially in humanitarian crisis, due to the situation in Ukraine. Plan emphasized the repercussions of the humanitarian crisis on gender equality and human development through means such as letters to the editors of, for example, Helsingin Sanomat, and position papers sent to decision-makers.

Under Outcome 4, one of the domestic programme's main priorities for the year 2022 was to influence the parliamentary elections that took place in Finland in 2023. Therefore, Plan composed goals during the reporting period for the future Government programme 2023-2027. Plan's main goal for the future government was to update Finnish foreign policy to provide more coherent answers to complex and quick phenomena, such as the status and rights of girls in humanitarian crises, backlash of gender equality and the climate crisis. To tackle this progress, Plan stressed the role of Finnish development cooperation and its funding as the fundamental basis. Plan also raised awareness on the topic of climate justice and gendered effects of climate crisis by arranging an action in the parliament with Plan's youth group: "Ilmastotsempparit" (See Outcome 3).

**PLAN CONDUCTED 36 MEETINGS AND INTERACTIONS WITH OVERALL 200 DECISION-MAKERS AND EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF FINLAND AS AN ACTIVE PARTNER IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND AN ENHANCER OF GENDER EQUALITY, AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' RIGHTS.**

In 2022, Plan conducted 36 meetings and interactions with overall 200 decision-makers and emphasized the role of Finland as an active partner in development cooperation and an enhancer of gender equality, and women's and girls' rights. Through the meetings, Plan also stressed the alarming rise of backlash of gender equality, recalled the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and highlighted its goals for the new upcoming Government Programme. The importance of topics, such as feminist foreign policy, financing for development cooperation, SRHR, climate justice and climate finance were also brought up

in the meetings. By the end of the year, Plan had met members from all the political parties, which shows the effectiveness of its advocacy work.

**ONE OF THE DOMESTIC PROGRAMME'S MAIN PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2022 WAS TO INFLUENCE THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THAT TOOK PLACE IN FINLAND IN 2023. PLAN'S MAIN GOAL FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT WAS TO UPDATE FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY TO PROVIDE MORE COHERENT ANSWERS TO COMPLEX AND QUICK PHENOMENA, SUCH AS THE STATUS AND RIGHTS OF GIRLS IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES, BACKLASH OF GENDER EQUALITY AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**



During the reporting period, Plan Finland also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl together with parliamentarians by arranging a meeting in the parliament and inviting members of Parliament to hear about the development of girls' rights. Over 66 parliamentarians, their assistants and other staff of the parliament visited the celebration. Before the meeting, Plan released a video on social media with seven MPs from several political groups. In the video, the MPs introduced their political groups' solutions to improve the global status and rights of girls.

## 63 MEANINGFUL INTERACTIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN YOUNG ACTIVISTS AND DECISION-MAKERS IN 2022.

Commenting and giving recommendations to policy papers also continued to be at the core of the Plan Finland's advocacy in 2022. Plan made recommendations to Government Report on Human Rights Policy, Government report on changes in the security environment, National climate and energy strategy, and Government Resolution on Finnish Democracy Policy in the 2020s. In its comments, Plan emphasized the rights and status of women and girls in conflicts, need to pay coherent attention to gender equality, causal connection between climate crisis, security and gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and rights (SRHR), and feminist foreign policy.

### PLAN FINLAND REINFORCED ITS POSITION AS A SPECIALIST OF GENDER EQUALITY IN FOREIGN POLICY AND COMMENTED ON THE ONGOING CLIMATE CRISIS AND ITS EFFECTS ON GIRLS AND THEIR RIGHTS ON DISCUSSIONS IN TV BROADCAST AND WITH OFFICIALS OF THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

And, while the Covid-19 pandemic did no longer extensively restrict youth-led participatory advocacy in 2022, it still had some effects on young people's advocacy work, especially during the first 6 months of the year. Yet, despite that, 63 meaningful interactions took place between young activists and decision-makers in 2022. The impact of the youth activists

was significant, since several of the activists were invited to represent their group in events, news, and seminars. One of Plan's long-term activists was also invited by Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen to take part in Policy Dialogues discussions in Brussels.

In 2022, Plan Finland reinforced its position as a specialist of gender equality in foreign policy and commented on the ongoing climate crisis and its effects on girls and their rights on discussions in TV broadcast and with officials of the environment ministry. Plan's study of gender equality in Finnish foreign policy in turn, gave guidance in drafting recommendations of National Advisory Board for International Human Rights (Plan International Finland as a member of it) as the Board published its own recommendations for feminist foreign policy.<sup>46</sup> In 2022, Plan Finland also translated the publication "Tasa-arvo ilmastokriisissä" ("Equality in the Climate Crisis") to English and introduced its results to international colleagues in Plan International.

In addition, Plan Finland continued to serve as a secretariat of All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)<sup>47</sup> on girls' rights and development in 2022. Plan provided the group with information on gendered impacts of foreign policy processes and decisions throughout the year.<sup>48</sup>

It needs to be also highlighted that during the reporting period, Plan Finland received positive feedback from policymakers and public officers in Finland due to its active efforts to continue advocating for the inclusion of gender-based aspects in foreign policy, including development cooperation.

## 3.2.6 Outcome 5

**OUTCOME 5.** The general public understands the importance of equality and equity in achieving sustainable development goals and is motivated to support them

In 2022, Plan Finland continued its objective to raise awareness of the status and rights of girls and women. This was achieved through effective communication and advocacy, emphasising the profound connection between equality, girls' and women's rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### IN 2022, PLAN FINLAND CONTINUED ITS OBJECTIVE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE STATUS AND RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN.

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact Plan's communication work in 2022, and possibilities to arrange reporting trips to programme countries remained limited throughout the year.

However, due to global co-operation efforts and ability to produce content with local partners, Plan managed to produce engaging communications in 2022 as well. When travel restrictions began to be lifted at the end of the year, Plan was able to return to full communications material production, which will allow its content to fully meet the needs of local audience and media from 2023 onwards again.

<sup>46</sup> PhD Leena Vastapuu published a study (2020) for Plan International Finland on how to enhance gender equality in Finnish foreign policy.

<sup>47</sup> In 2022, altogether 26 members from seven parliamentary groups were part of the APPG.

<sup>48</sup> Plan also actively provided points to parliamentary discussions (e.g., for the report on Development Policy) for the APPG members to utilize.

Despite the pandemic-related challenges, Plan Finland managed to gain media visibility in 2022. While in 2021, Plan had 205 media hits and a potential reach of 182 million, in 2022 Plan engaged in active media work, and reached 399 media hits, with the potential reach of 111 million. The increase in media hits indicates that Plan's persistent efforts in media work is yielding tangible results. Plan primarily focuses its media work on the largest and the most important media channels. While the potential reach was lower than the year before, Plan was nevertheless able to reach the target level again in 2022.

**PLAN ENGAGED IN ACTIVE MEDIA WORK,  
AND REACHED 399 MEDIA HITS, WITH THE  
POTENTIAL REACH OF 111 MILLION.**

**IN SOCIAL MEDIA, PLAN CONTINUED TO  
PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY CONTENT AND  
RAISE DISCUSSION AND ENGAGEMENT.  
THE REACH IN PLAN'S OWN SOCIAL MEDIA  
CHANNELS WAS 2,6 MILLION IN 2022.**

In social media, Plan continued to produce high quality content and raise discussion and engagement. The reach in Plan's own social media channels was 2,6 million in 2022. Plan's social media content was also widely shared outside its own channels: Plan Finland had altogether 5 411 earned social media hits with the potential reach of 14,2 million. Yet, it has become evident that social

media's organic way to reach people has become more challenging. Since platforms tend to favour paid social media posts, organizations can find it difficult to reach their audience. In 2022, Plan also continued its ongoing discussions on the future of different social media channels and how to design its own social media communications strategy well ahead for the near future. For example, the popularity of Instagram, Facebook and Twitter has been going downhill since TikTok was released. The change of ownership in Twitter and the following moral and ethical questions have also made Plan consider whether it should leave Twitter in order to refrain from endorsing unsafe online spaces.

In 2022, Plan Finland produced a wide variety of dynamic and diverse communication material to its own channels and for external use. For the International Day of the Girl (IDG), Plan produced a series of videos from Uganda, that tell the stories of adolescent girls and focus on youth participation and economic empowerment <sup>49</sup>. As part of the IDG activities, Plan Finland, through its social media channels and website, also highlighted its research report on the global progress of the state of the girls over the past 10 years. A series of videos were also created in 2022 for the youth event: "Nuorten timantti" (see Outcome 3), for which Plan's youth groups planned and wrote the scripts for the videos themselves. The videos were also published on Finnish National Broadcasting Company Yle's Triplet educational platform. <sup>50</sup>

Finally, during the reporting period, Plan Finland produced a podcast- and video discussion series that focused on common questions and the discussion held around development work and the development organisation sector. The podcast- and video discussions focused, for example, on the monitoring and financing work of the development organizations, the role of boys in advancing gender equality, and the role of organizations in humanitarian work.



<sup>49</sup> Plan's theme for the International Day of the Girl 2022 was economy and equality.

<sup>50</sup> Additionally, on the International Day of the Girl, Plan highlighted the research and report on the progress in advancing girls' rights during the last 10 years on the Day of the Girl. The Finnish finance media: "Talouselämä" was also one of the participant companies in the #GirlsTakeover -campaign (see Outcome 3) in 2022.



## 4. THEMATIC AND CROSS-CUTTING WORK

### 4.1 GENDER AND SRHR

In 2022, Plan Finland invested in strategic knowledge creation, capacity building of staff and partner representatives, and development of cutting-edge thematic tools for programming in gender equality and SRHR with dedicated technical human resources. The work carried out during the year was conducted on two general levels:

1. Supporting country offices in implementing high-quality gender transformative SRHR projects, with a focus on supporting inception of projects and implementation, including a detailed approach to diagnosis social and gender norms.
2. Actively engaging with the gender and SRHR development work within Plan International globally to support the creation of harmonised global practices that benefit both the programme and the organisation, as well as the wider sector in general.

To continue advancing thought-leader in gender transformative SRHR, in 2022, we actively influenced and contributed to Plan International's global networks – namely the SRHR Area of Global Distinctiveness Network and the Global Gender and Inclusion Group. Both the SRHR Specialist and the Gender and Inclusion Specialist participated in these technical networks as core members and engaged with other thematic specialists to ensure good information sharing, collaboration, and technical development that benefit Plan International's work globally as well as the sector in general. At the same time, Plan International Finland was also directly involved in steering and co-leading a global working group on masculinities and the LGBTQIA+ champions network internally. In 2022, Plan Finland contributed to the development of a technical paper that addresses Plan International's approach to transforming masculinities for gender equality and unpacks key notions and practical concepts for a better understanding of masculinities and its correlation to different topics such as: power and privilege, fatherhood and care work, diversities, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, violence, sexual and reproductive rights, masculinities in conflict and humanitarian crisis, as well as understanding men in feminism movements. Likewise, Plan Finland actively contributed to the development of an organisational position paper on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) inclusion. As such, Plan Finland was a member of the core reference group for the development of the position paper which is a key document for the organisation which articulates shared global positions

and set high standards for addressing specific needs of children, young people, and staff globally. The position paper is relevant to Plan International's operating contexts and capacities and responsive to key challenges and risks in this specific area of work. Indeed, Plan Finland's work on this area is linked to the aim to advance children's rights and gender equality, which cannot be achieved without justice for all, looking closely, investing equally, and speaking loudly about the rights of LGBTQIA+ children and youth being fulfilled. The development of the position paper has served as an excellent opportunity to enhance our gender transformative edge, the reach and depth of our initiatives, as well as to foster strategic engagement with partner organisations. As part of the process of developing the position paper, an in-person three-day validation workshop was coordinated in 2022, bringing together the reference group accompanying this process and other key stakeholders to work together through the first draft and the inputs received through the inception and consultation phases. The workshop provided a platform for participants to resolve any contending issues, unpack key themes brought up during consultations with key stakeholders, strategize together, gather key ideas and devise an initial plan for the socialisation and operationalisation of the position paper in 2023. The validation workshop brought together representatives from LGBTQIA+ organisations currently supporting MBMF2, from Mozambique (LAMBDA), Zimbabwe (Sexual Rights Centre), and Laos (Proud to Be Us) and offered a platform for collective decision-making, influencing as well as building of team synergies and solidarity. Learnings sessions and strategic discussions with teams and partners were carried out in 2022 on LGBTQIA+ issues, particularly with those countries where this component is present in programming. This has also supported with the mapping of activities and strategies to ensure technical support is tailored to specific needs.



In 2022, all of our projects were assessed using Plan International's Gender Transformative Marker and all of our projects scored a high level of potential to contribute to gender transformation. The Marker has provided the MBMF2 -programme with a clear understanding of how gender transformative and inclusive our projects are and has, therefore, enhanced our understanding on what priority areas projects should focus on moving forward (which will be further integrated in the following implementation years). By reflecting on our projects at the start of the programme, we have also been able to develop project-specific roadmaps to ensure we continue in the right path towards contributing to transformative change and track incremental improvements. The MBMF2 -programme's explicit intention is to transform unequal power relations so our focus will go beyond treating symptoms of inequality to ensure we tackle the root causes. Thus, as part of our continuous improvement, the programme has developed complementary practical guidance for the Marker with description of what type of strategies and activities are key for advancing gender

transformative SRHR in projects (as well as in other thematic areas which are also relevant to Plan International's thematic work). In addition, the programme also finalised the gamification of a social and gender norms learning module, Defy Normal, and launched this resource across the organisation which enables continued learning using an innovative, engaging, and fun digital solution. The gamified learning module strengthens knowledge and practical skills needed to plan, design, implement, and evaluate strategies aimed at changing social and gender norms to promote changes in harmful, negative behaviours and practices. In 2022, MBMF2 also established partnership work with Sonke Gender Justice and MenEngage Africa to support our component on positive masculinities. Sonke provided technical support by organising a comprehensive webinar and reflection space on issues related to masculinities, assessing, and reviewing all project documents to identify area of improvements, and developing country-specific capacity strengthening plans that will be followed up in the forthcoming years.

In 2022, the MBMF2 -programme also coordinated a comprehensive process for diagnosing social and gender norms around access and use of contraception among adolescent (aged 15-18). In this regard, Plan Finland effectively supported project staff and partners to implement and operationalise a key

element of Plan International's Gender Transformative Approach and contributed to building a more nuanced understanding on how to advance normative change and ensure our work is impactful and sustainable. Diagnostic approaches are useful for rapidly determining the most relevant social and gender norms affecting the behaviour of interest in a specific setting and to inform a programme of action, as well as monitoring and evaluation early on in a project lifecycle. This specific process provided practitioners with information about when and under what conditions social and gender norms affect behaviour, whether sanctions influence a behaviour, what those sanctions are, and who the relevant reference groups are. The norm diagnosis and analysis process has served as a good basis for centring the importance of tackling root causes of inequality in an intentional and systematic way. In 2022, the programme advanced 3 specific steps in relation to this process, which included creating common understanding of what social and gender norms are and how this affects behaviour by convening structured spaces for learning and reflection with online sessions and self-directed activities by country teams (Step 1). We also planned and implemented data collection after developing programme-specific tools for diagnosis and analysis, including social network mapping and vignette tools (Step 2). Based on qualitative data that was collected by project staff and partners, we analysed data together and identified key findings and as such all projects developed country-specific analysis briefs (Step 3). A final step (Step 4) which includes the strategizing and integration of specific actions to be incorporated in projects will be conducted in 2023. To support process, Plan Finland has developed a detailed Process Description to document approach and embed learning, as well as a specific package that can be used as a model as it integrates nuanced description of the approach taken, templates and additional resources for practitioners. To ensure effectiveness during this specific process, Plan Finland's Gender and Inclusion Specialist and SRHR Specialist focused on direct technical support to country teams and provided coaching throughout.



## Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

In 2022 MBMF2 -programme continued to strengthen SRHR programming, implementation and capacity development of staff and partners in various ways.

For comprehensive sexuality education, the programme supported the finalization of the programme model development, as well as the development of new CSE curricula that can be used at the project levels. Building Bridges is a curriculum developed for parents of adolescents to develop their parenting and relationship skills by becoming “askable” parents, building confidence and skills to have conversations with their adolescents about sexuality and relationships, and to support them in their adolescence. The second CSE curriculum that was developed was CSE Activity Cards, a set of activities of all key topics of the CSE Topic Tables that define age-appropriate content for CSE. The Activity Cards have 3 sets of cards for different age groups, 9–12-year-old, 12-15-year-old, and 15-19-year-old. The Activity Cards are a short curriculum but rich in messaging and methodology, aimed to be easy to implement either as a complete curriculum or as individual activities when integrated into other activities. Both curriculums were rolled out to the programme countries for translations and contextualization and the process was supported by trainings on the implementation. In addition, the programme technically supported Zimbabwe to tailor a shorter version for CSE implementation of the National CSE out of school curriculum.

The programme supported the development of SRH service provider training package, which is being piloted in 2023. The training package focuses on Value Clarification Attitudes Transformation (VCAT) process for the service providers so that they are better able to provide responsive SRH services to adolescents in all their diversity without discrimination. The training package explores values, attitudes, and norms around adolescent sexuality in general and it also has a strong element of disability and LGBTQIA+ inclusion.

The programme also supported the development of guidance on SRHR influencing in restrictive contexts, which has been requested by the programme countries due to shrinking civil society space combined with the influence of anti-gender movement on rising conservatism, which hit gender transformative SRHR influencing and programming hard due to its social and gender norm change dimension.

[Say it Out Loud research report](#) was launched on Valentines Day 2022, which explores young people’s perceptions of sexual wellbeing and consent in Uganda and Ecuador. The report is a key piece at Plan International and for adolescent SRHR programming at large, focusing on young people’s own perceptions and definitions on sexual wellbeing and consent. It is also a conversation starter for ASRHR practitioners to move away from fear and risk-based programming and to further explore what the concepts of sexual wellbeing, consent, skills building to communicate consent, and pleasure could look like in ASRHR programming. The launch of the research was accompanied by comics that shared key research findings, targeted to adolescents and young people.

For capacity development, the programme’s MEESA Regional SRHR and Gender Specialist completed a total of four deployments in the region: 2 in Ethiopia, 1 in Uganda and 1 shorter one in Zimbabwe. The deployments were on average a month-long technical support to project teams that combined elements of capacity development, clarification of roles and responsibilities between the project team, partners, and the Country office, working on some of the context specific SRHR issues, as well as VCAT training in the form of Conversations that Matter (CtM), which is a training package developed by Plan International for staff value clarification on SRHR. The shorter Zimbabwe deployment only consisted of the CtM training.

The programme also supported a Training of Trainers on Conversations that Matter in the APAC region, and sponsored the project teams to participate in the face-to-face training that will enable the programme countries to cascade the VCAT activities among their Colleagues. Furthermore, the programme financed the participation of a few project team members to represent Plan International and to represent experiences and lessons learnt from MBMF2 programming in the International Conference on Family Planning. In addition, the MBMF2 project in Myanmar presented their CSE work in challenging context in the UNESCO’s CSE Symposium.



## 4.2 DISABILITY INCLUSION

Plan Finland takes disability inclusion as a crosscutting objective in all the actions that are supported as part of the MBMF2 -programme. As such, in 2022, the programme contributed to the enhancement of inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities through programme level coordination and country project-specific actions. The programme advanced planning of both mainstream and targeted actions to ensure the specific needs and interests of children, adolescents, and youth with disabilities are integrated across all projects in order to support their empowerment and have a wider impact. To do this, the MBMF2 -programme worked hand in hand with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) across contexts to enhance their pivotal role in developing and implementing gender transformative SRHR projects that are disability inclusive. Thus, to enhance this aim, the MBMF2 -programme developed a comprehensive guidance document for country teams with concrete ideas and strategies on how to engage OPDs to support planning and inception phase. This document and its specific components were socialised with teams throughout the year and has also informed the approach to building better partnership practices with these local representative organisations.

In addition, to strengthen capacity building on disability inclusion, the MBMF2 -programme coordinated a series of sessions to support learning and reflection on this area. Indeed, in 2022, Plan Finland coordinated and led on the development and co-creation of a webinar series that covered essential principles and practices around disability inclusion drawn from our own experiences and those of the wider development and humanitarian sector. The webinar series was open to all staff from the entire global organisation as well as to representatives from partner organisations; on average each session included the participation of 150 participants. The series covered three general topics and, as a whole, they have strategically assisted in the promotion of disability inclusion across Plan International in programming, advocacy, and partnership development. Likewise, this action has contributed to improving the confidence and capacity of practitioners to act as agents of change, by being better able to identify opportunities and entry points for disability inclusion and has also provided a safe space to explore ideas, concerns, and questions. The three topics that were covered included: 1. Disability from a rights-based perspective to broaden our reach and enhance our programming; 2. Collecting disability specific disaggregated data using the Washington Group question sets to focus on the most widely used, robust and reliable method for collecting disability disaggregated data and specific considerations on how and when to use them as well as applicability of information they generate for practitioners; and 3. Inclusive research and monitoring to ensure we hear the voice of persons with disabilities at all points in the project cycle, with considerations on the different roles persons with disabilities can undertake during research and monitoring as well as the designing of research and consultation processes that are inclusive and safe (e.g. advancing robust safeguarding measures to ensure research is ethical and meaningful).

In 2022, Plan Finland also actively contributed to the development and enhancement of a strategic framework on tackling exclusion which will be a key document that would continue to inform the MBMF2 -programme in the next years. This framework explains how staff and offices can make all aspects of our work tackle exclusion and sets aspirations for its work on inclusion, by establishing three interdependent priority focus areas: (1) inclusive programmes and influencing; (2) inclusive marketing and communications; (3) inclusive workplaces. This framework also highlights approaches and best practices that can improve our work and provides clarity on key concepts. The overall objective of the framework is to establish

how Plan International, its staff and partners, can effectively tackle the exclusion of children and young people in all their diversity and contribute to Plan International's vision for change. Likewise, in 2022, the MBMF2 -programme also invested resources in developing a nuanced programme guidance on disability inclusion which integrates how staff and partners can strengthen and bring to scale projects that include children and youth with disabilities whilst making specific efforts to work with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in the process. This guidance aims to strengthen the full cycle of design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and learning stages of projects that support children and youth with disabilities. The guidance is a direct response to requests from staff across contexts to improve their own knowledge and attitudes regarding disability and intersecting factors. It aims to strengthen their skills and competencies to implement quality projects that are sustainable, scalable, and impactful, and which support vulnerable and excluded young people in all their diversity, particularly those with disabilities. Moreover, this guidance document gives an overview of important concepts on disability inclusion, explains power and barrier analyses as complementary and intersectional tools to use for disability inclusion, provides examples of how disability inclusion relates to key elements of Plan International's Gender Transformative Approach, and highlights the key building blocks of disability inclusion that are transferable and relevant for any project and any thematic area. The guidance includes a detailed, if not exhaustive, checklist to help practitioners integrate needed steps for planning, implementing, and assessing a disability-inclusive project. Based on this guidance document, the outline and content for an online course was also developed and in the coming year it will be integrated into Plan International's online learning platform, Plan Academy, and be launched.

In 2022, Plan Finland also advocated for a stronger disability inclusion lens in key organisational documents such as the Global Policy on Gender Equality and Inclusion. The policy will be updated in 2023 and Plan Finland, as member of the technical reference group established for this task, has already been directly involved in consultations and strategic discussions advocating for this crosscutting area and



influencing for the need to strengthen it in the refreshed global policy. More work in this regard is expected in the next year but so far good strides forward have been achieved. Similarly, with the development of the SOGIESC position (as described in the previous section – Gender and SRHR), Plan Finland has also created strong links between SOGIESC and disability inclusion. With our participation in the process and direct technical involvement for its development, this interlinkage between specific inclusion areas has been ensured. This integration is pivotal for advancing an intersectional approach and developing holistic programming that addresses the needs of youth and children in all their diversity in a systematic way and not in a manner that is fragmented.

In 2022, Plan International Finland continued to act as co-chair of the Disability Inclusion Working Group (DIWG) in the global organisation with the direct involvement of the Gender and Inclusion Specialist. The DIWG contributes to the development of policies, standards, knowledge management, advocacy and capacity building initiatives supporting disability inclusion. In addition, the DIWG also fosters a space for sharing knowledge and experience on disability inclusive initiatives internally and externally and contributes to collaborative efforts with networks such as the IDDC (International Disability and Development Consortium) and DRG (Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action).

## 4.3 CLIMATE RESILIENCE

In 2022 Plan International Finland assisted all projects in integrating climate resilience to support the overall SRHR outcomes of the programme. The critical activity was the analysis of the interlinkages between the climate change impact and SRHR outcomes, which was based on the youth consultation in all six programme countries. Through quarterly meetings with country offices, we discussed the educational materials for climate and resilience education and shared the strategies and ideas from implementation across the countries. FLNO also supported the Green Skills review led by the global organisation, which will now provide a basis for country-level support in three countries, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, to bring forward green skills in youth economic empowerment activities.

### Gender Transformative and Inclusive Youth-Led Climate Action for SRHR

In line with the strategic objective to promote youth-led action for climate change and SRHR, it was essential to start by consulting the youth in the programme area. The aim was to build the programme strategy responding to the needs and aspirations of adolescents and youth and understand better how young people participating in the project experience the impact of climate change in their everyday lives. Likewise, it was essential to build the capacity of the staff working on SRHR and disaster risk reduction/ climate change to understand how these two thematic areas can work hand in hand to promote SRHR instead of being implemented as separate project clusters.

Between August-December 2022, Plan International Finland supported a consultancy on SRHR and climate change to advise youth consultations. In consultation with the country teams, international SRHR expert Anjalee Kohli and ACTADE local project partner from Uganda created a methodology and supported groups who undertook the consultations.

A two-part participatory approach (body mapping, harvesting session) was implemented to understand diverse youth experiences and concerns at the intersection of SRHR and climate change and to map their aspirations for gender transformative and inclusive SRHR in the context of climate change. After the harvesting, Plan International Finland conducted a two-day training for the project staff, involving both SRHR and climate change/DRR technical personnel. In this training, people implementing the projects had an opportunity to learn more about the linkages between SRHR and climate change impact and discuss the findings of the consultation and its implications for the project strategy. More details of the methodology are available in the written deliverable of the consultancy.

#### **Practise Blog: Using body mapping with youth to learn about the intersection of sexual and reproductive health and rights and climate change.**

Based on the findings of the consultancy, youth and communities included in MBMF2 are facing multiple acute and chronic environmental hazards. There is no external publication of the conclusions because the consultation was conducted for the project planning. However, the *internal briefing paper: Exploring diverse youth experiences, concerns, and aspirations at the intersection of sexual and reproductive health and rights and climate change*, summarises the findings.

### Young People and Green Skills

Youth economic empowerment supports the realisation of the SRHR outcomes. In alignment with the MBMF programme Plan International has supported the Smartup Factory – Digital Innovation Hub concept in Uganda and Ethiopia since 2016. Furthermore, Zimbabwe, a new programme country, has long been involved in youth economic empowerment. The youth-led market analysis conducted in Zimbabwe in the context of MBMF2 in 2022 showcases the potential to strengthen the focus on green skills.

Plan International Finland supported the global organisation in conducting a [global online survey](#) on mapping the youth aspirations and needs for strengthening green skills and preparing them for the opportunities and challenges posed by climate change.

According to the survey results, including responses from 2229 adolescent and youth participants, young people are experiencing extremely high levels of exposure to climate change, and the vast majority are worried about its impacts. Ninety-four per cent of the young people surveyed have been directly exposed to climate change, primarily through temperature changes, rainfall patterns or seasons. Ninety-five per cent of respondents say they are worried about the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

The main barriers identified to accessing green jobs or work were a need for start-up capital and skills. Increased training and education on green skills and climate change and increased opportunities in the green economy were seen as priorities for future action. Young women were likelier to indicate a lack of skills as a primary barrier. In contrast, young men were more likely to identify the requirement for start-up capital as the main barrier to accessing opportunities in the green economy.

In 2022 Plan International Finland facilitated discussions with Uganda, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe country teams to iterate on the findings of the global survey and decide how to bring forward the green skills in the MBMF2. As a result of these joint discussions, the team produced a plan for the following year, which would inform the three countries on the country-specific needs and support the development of educational materials to be integrated into the existing strategies of youth economic empowerment in 2023.

### Climate Change and Resilience Education for SRHR

In 2022 all countries started to test how to use the existing project structures to integrate content on climate change. Depending on the project's focus, Champions of Change, students and out-of-school adolescents and youth receiving the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), Village Savings and Loan Associations, and community and school-based disaster risk response groups received education on climate change. Project teams partnered with local organisations and government institutions to deliver the content.

However, as discussed in the quarterly meetings in 2022, materials that link to gender and SRHR content are limited. For easy application in the ongoing programme, climate change and resilience content should be in the same format as the materials already used in the projects.

It was acknowledged that MBMF2 has an opportunity to test different ways to conduct climate change education in non-formal settings. Therefore, countries involved in the programme have already started experimenting with how to complement the existing curriculum and materials (e.g. CSE activity cards) to talk about the impacts of climate change on SRHR and gender equality.

GREEN SKILLS include specific, generic, and transformative capacities needed to contribute to a socially-, economically-and environmentally-just human society.

- Specific capacities: those needed to thrive in green jobs (e.g. technical skills).
- Generic capacities: so-called green life skills
- Transformative capacities: those needed to disrupt and change both the individual behaviours and structural factors that exacerbate the climate crisis

Ref. A new green learning agenda -Brookings 2021

## 4.4 YOUTH INNOVATION

As part of the MBMF2 -programme, a Youth Innovation Challenge (YIC) was implemented in Zimbabwe between July 2022 and January 2023, across five project locations: Bulawayo, Manicaland, Midlands, Chiredzi and Harare. The YIC was based on the idea that young people, who account for 62% of Zimbabwe's total population<sup>51</sup>, have innovative potential and ideas to address their own challenges. The YIC therefore popularized a human centered design methodology through which young people from rural and urban areas took the lead in identifying challenges they themselves face and exploring solutions that were tailored to their specific needs. The goal of the YIC was to trigger and support innovation by youth and strengthen a culture of innovation within Plan International Zimbabwe (PIZ)<sup>52</sup>.

All in all, the innovation challenge received 121 diverse proposals from youth across Zimbabwe. Out of those proposals, Plan International Zimbabwe selected 14 innovations to be piloted through the initiative in 2022. The youth groups who were selected to pilot the innovations received training and support for the development of their innovations from Plan throughout the entire innovation challenge process.

The innovations created through the challenge in 2022 focused on the following four key thematic areas:

- 1. Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR):** Families and communities support adolescents and young people around their sexuality and reproductive health; model respectful gender relationships; and mobilize to change harmful beliefs and norms related to SRHR.
- 2. Youth Economic Empowerment:** Young women and men develop their skills and knowledge, confidence and engagement in economic activities, employment, and entrepreneurship.
- 3. Advocacy and Influencing:** Girls, boys and youth are active drivers of change.
- 4. Climate Smart Solutions:** Children, young people and their communities are resilient to climatic shocks and stresses.

<sup>51</sup> UNFPA. <https://zimbabwe.unfpa.org/en/topics/young-people-2> (accessed: 28.6.2023)

<sup>52</sup> Plan International Zimbabwe (PIZ) embarked on its Innovation journey in March 2021, a move, that was meant to encourage the organization to explore innovative approaches and ways of programming that have greater impact. For PIZ, the journey started with the launch of an Innovation hub which was inspired by various changes within the PIZ country office, the most important being the Country Strategy (2019 to 2024) development process, learnings from the transformation journey and response to the ever-changing operational environment.

Through the YIC, the youth innovators who took part in the challenge were able to come up with an innovation, operationalize the innovation and demonstrate its efficacy. In 2022 the YIC received multiple immediate results at output level. Some examples of these results are illustrated below.

- Through the innovations that focused on SRHR, the youth created a street quiz on SRHR and shared the quiz with local community members on social media platforms. Cartoons were also developed for SRHR information dissemination, as well as websites that are meant to disseminate information on SRHR.
- In the area of youth economic empowerment, the youth used their innovations to produce re-usable sanitary pads and create a platform to market music products. Through these innovations, the youth also produced baskets from bamboo trees and developed a website through which young writers can advertise their own products. Additionally, products, such as caps and flowerpots were also developed from waste material under the economic empowerment thematic area.
- Through the innovations that focused on the area of advocacy and influencing, the youth engaged for example with the Africa University to initiate a research project that aims to find a natural remedy to overcome drug addiction.
- In the area of climate smart solutions, two innovations were developed by the youth. The first one focused on designing a flood warning system gadget, which will warn local communities of upcoming floods, allowing the community members to evacuate into safe spaces on time. In 2022, the youth who took part in this area of innovation, designed, and tested a prototype for the gadget. The prototype was also submitted to business development, so that it can be further refined and scaled up for funding opportunities. The second innovation sought to demonstrate the production of bio char and its application for soil carbonisation. This is an agriculture related innovation called soil carbonization. Climate smart practice is a better way of storing and increasing carbon in the soil for increased water retention and nutrient content in crops. Hence, it works towards improvement of plant health and better yields. During the YIC, the youth tested the soil carbonization initiative they had invented. The initiative yielded positive results in one village, with the hope that in the future it will be adopted in other regions in the country.

Finally, Plan International Zimbabwe staff capacity development on culture of innovation was done at various stages across program areas during the reporting period. As Plan International embraces the culture of innovation, capacity building sessions were deliberately created or dovetailed in other horizontal learning circles at various workstations. This is seen as critical since the organization believes that innovation should be everyone's involuntary area of interest to improve ways of doing business and yield improved results.





## 5. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

### 5.1 MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

**T**he first semester of 2022 was dedicated to building strong Results and M&E frameworks for the program and six countries as the core elements structuring the whole program MEAL strategy for the four years to come. At the program level, the outcome and output indicators were reviewed and refined/adjusted and then streamlined in the six countries. At the country level, the logics of intervention and the country specific indicators were also reviewed and refined/adjusted with Plan teams from each country. This allows the program to count with an indicator matrix of more than 80 indicators, among which 33 are the core programme indicators reported to the MFA and around 60 are measured in 2 or more countries.

As part of the programme's joint monitoring strategy, program level data collection tools were designed in a participative way with countries' MEAL coordinators who received inputs from each country's technical advisors. This was a thorough process of conceptual definition of the indicators, reflecting on what each indicator meant according to the programme's Theory of Change and the different countries' contexts. Through this joint effort, a set of surveys and assessment tools were created for each target group (children, adolescents and youths, adults, leaders, health facilities' services providers, health facilities, teachers, CSOs, schools), which were later adapted to fit the countries' specificities when needed. All the tools were then piloted and adjusted accordingly, and data was set to be disaggregated by sex, age, and disability (using the Washington Group short set of questions for children, adolescents, and youths). These tools will be used throughout the whole program, for baseline, pre-tests, and post assessments (post-tests, midline, endline) to allow more consistent and comparable data on outcome-level and some output-level results and assess progress against targets across all projects. The aim is to ensure we capture the different levels of change experienced by the participants in terms of knowledge, attitudes, and practices, and from a longer-term perspective to better understand the shifts in the harmful social and gender norms in the projects' communities.

Building on the system created in My Body. My Future. 1, the programme kept on strengthening its digital system of data collection, analysis, and visualization, using three main digital tools: Commcare, Ombea and Power BI, to facilitate and enhance the quality and timeliness of the whole process. Through this, the system is digitalised and automated, ensuring that data is instantly available, safely stored, easily accessible and presented in a visualised format on a dynamic, interactive dashboard, permitting easier exploring, deep-diving and sharing of data. The system automatically aggregates results data across all projects and allows crossing variables and comparing results through disaggregation.

The second semester's main milestone was the baseline data collection itself, with the indicator measurement and the country reports drafting. Consultants were hired in the six countries to conduct mixed-methods baseline studies with random sampling strategies to measure the indicators' baseline values, which were validated by calculation system set in power BI progressively during the year. In total, 6589 records were made as part of the baseline across the six countries, with 1218 children, 2646 adolescents and youths, 1792 community members, 279 leaders, 252 teachers, 222 health facilities' services providers, 81 youths participating from two Smart Up Factories also assessed, 66 health facilities, 36 CSOs, and five schools. In addition, the consultants also conducted Focus Groups Discussions to collect qualitative data, triangulate the information and provide contextualized information.

Afterwards, the baseline indicator values and reports were presented to Plan team and the CSO implementing partners, to generate reflections and discussions, receive feedback and validate the results and reports. Plan team and the CSOs also worked together to define the yearly targets for each indicator.

In Uganda, community leaders participated in a socialization workshop which contributed to being accountable of the baseline study and its analysis with the participating communities. In the first semester of 2023, youth-friendly illustrations will be developed to communicate the baseline main findings in each country and go further with the accountability and socialization strategy with the different stakeholders.

In addition, in the last quarter of the year, the programme created the first draft of the monitoring tools to collect/follow up on the attendances of participants in the different types of activities of the program and worked on a first proposal for a digital Activity tracker tool to aggregate and visualize the attendants' data easily. This will be finalized and used by the teams in 2023.

The above-mentioned processes were developed through constituting a MEAL community of practices and gathering the six countries' MEAL coordinators together through regular meetings, a co-creative and participative approach and capacity strengthening processes. During the reporting period, three MEAL workshops were conducted in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe, each one gathering the country Plan and implementing partners' teams, to review and discuss the Results framework, Theory of change, Baseline values and targets, to understand better the MEAL strategy and monitoring tools and to strengthen capacities on results-based thinking and reporting, through roleplaying.

Accountability and Learnings management strategies and their mechanisms were left to be discussed and designed in 2023. The first After-Action Review workshop will be held to harvest the lessons learnt and good practices at the end of the first semester of 2023.

## **5.2 COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

Adherence to Plan International's rules and regulations as well as compliance with the MFA regulations was constantly monitored as part of programme management. Plan International's rules and regulations on financial management, child protection policy and safeguarding guidelines, risk management strategy, amongst other relevant policies and processes, are applicable to all of Plan's offices and, for their part, guarantee effective grant compliance. No breach of the policies was reported in 2022 within the MBMF programme.

Globally, Plan International has a risk management system and Global Policy on Risk Management encourages all project implementing staff, including implementing partners, to engage in risk identification, assessment, and control over risks. The policy sets out common requirements and definitions and specifies staff and management responsibilities. In 2022, Plan International Finland's MBMF2 -programme team followed the risk management procedures embedded in its regular review processes. These procedures are described in more detail below.

During the reporting period, the risk matrices at project and programme levels were updated and risks as well as mitigation actions were regularly reviewed and assessed by country offices, implementing partners and Plan International Finland. The risk management procedures were discussed with the partners during the programme start-up phase.

Based on the updated risk analysis, the programme team closely monitored the situation in Ethiopia and Myanmar where the political situation was fragile or prone to acute conflicts in 2022. The situation in Ethiopia calmed down and did not cause major implications to the programme. Other effects have been analysed in Chapter 2 on the country context. The process for signing the MoU in Laos was, in turn, also closely monitored and protocols defined by the Lao Government followed, to avoid unnecessary delays in the process. Despite this, the signing of the MoU took much longer than anticipated due to processes that Plan was not able to influence.

Other risks that were monitored during the reporting period related to the Ebola outbreak in Uganda, draught in Ethiopia as well as the shrinking space of civil society, explained in more detail in Chapter 2. Eventually the Ebola outbreak did not spread to the project area in Uganda and did not cause implications for the project implementation. Due to the severe draught and hunger crises in eastern parts of Africa, Plan International declared a red alert in the area. Ethiopia was among the countries where Plan International focused its efforts to respond through humanitarian programmes. While the crises have not yet had direct implications to the MBMF programme in Ethiopia, as the project is not implemented in the most affected areas, there may be longer term effects in the livelihoods of the families.

On-going remote technical support was given to country teams throughout the year by Plan Finland, to support quality and to ensure that the project and financial management meets the MFA compliance requirements and adheres to Plan's global approach and guidelines, including child protection and safeguarding and prevention of sexual harassment, and the general principles of good governance. Monitoring visits to all the projects, except the project in Myanmar were also conducted in 2022 and technical support visits on SRHR were conducted in Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

Plan Finland also continued updating its project management manual to guarantee that all projects are implemented and monitored in a coherent manner. In addition, Plan International published an updated Project Management Manual which explains all steps of project management, introduces new project management minimum standards, and provides practical examples and tools.

### 5.3 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

There were no carryover funds from the previous funding period, and therefore the projects started from a clean slate. At the beginning of the year, the overall budget delivery of the projects was rather slow due to the preparatory tasks of the inception phase as well as finalizing the reporting of the previous funding period. However, the implementation started well after the inception phase and increased budget delivery. Inflation caused challenges and drastically weakened purchasing power in the programme countries. Similarly, the weakening exchange rate of the euro against the dollar had a significant impact on project budgets. The programme country budgets are drawn up in dollars and it is the main currency used. The country budgets were prepared when the euro was still strong against the dollar before the inflation. Previously unallocated funds in the annual budget were allocated to programme countries that were lacking funds, and funds were transferred between projects to eliminate budget gaps. Fortunately, the weakening of the euro has stopped but the inflation is still going strong and requires close monitoring.

The programme expenditure in 2022 was EUR 6.6 million, out of which the MFA funding consisted of EUR 5.6 million. The expenditure rate was at 93 %, which is a good achievement for a first funding agreement year. In the financial year Plan Finland took a new more robust approach to forecasting unused funds by increasing interaction with the country offices as well as requiring detailed monthly basis forecasting. As a result, the forecasting became more accurate.

In a budget reallocation request from Plan Finland to the MFA in October 2022, EUR 400,922 was forecasted to be unspent and transferred to the following year. After incurred expenses the amount slightly increased, to EUR 407 085. In addition, salary expenses amounting to EUR 166,933 were incorrectly recorded due to a system error, out of which the MFA funding consisted of EUR 141,893. A system error occurred at our outsourced payroll company Integrata, where some of our payroll records had been entered into the wrong cost centre between July and December 2022. The corrections have been made accordingly in 2023. Therefore, the total MFA carry-over from 2022 to 2023 was EUR 548 977.

# Financial report 2022

## MFA Financial Report 2022

|            |                                                             | Budget           | Expenditure      | Expenditure<br>vs. budget<br>% | MFA costs        | Self-<br>funding | Self-<br>funding % |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Mozambique | Mandziku - My Future (259PL149)                             | 800 000          | 806 546          | 101                            | 656 232          | 150 314          | 19 %               |
| Uganda     | An amoko tama - I Decide (285PL150)                         | 979 221          | 967 219          | 99                             | 827 051          | 140 168          | 14 %               |
| Ethiopia   | Yene Raey - My Future (238PL151)                            | 740 098          | 736 133          | 99                             | 629 453          | 106 680          | 14 %               |
| Zimbabwe   | My Body My Future (265PL153)                                | 713 421          | 712 081          | 100                            | 608 887          | 103 194          | 14 %               |
|            | <b>East and Southern Africa Total</b>                       | <b>3 232 740</b> | <b>3 221 979</b> | <b>100</b>                     | <b>2 721 623</b> | <b>500 356</b>   | <b>16 %</b>        |
| Laos       | Anakhot khong-khoi - My Future (745PL224)                   | 612 929          | 555 316          | 91                             | 474 840          | 80 476           | 14 %               |
| Myanmar    | Me Me Kanda, Me Me Anagat Pa - My Body My Future (635PL225) | 261 709          | 241 538          | 92                             | 206 535          | 35 003           | 14 %               |
|            | <b>Asia Total</b>                                           | <b>874 638</b>   | <b>796 854</b>   | <b>91</b>                      | <b>681 375</b>   | <b>115 479</b>   | <b>14 %</b>        |
| Global     | Gender and SRHR (998PL515)                                  | 170 000          | 180 149          | 106                            | 154 042          | 26 107           | 14 %               |
| Global     | Disability inclusion (998PL517)                             | 103 000          | 100 879          | 98                             | 86 260           | 14 619           | 14 %               |
| Global     | Climate resilience (998PL512)                               | 38 000           | 38 157           | 100                            | 32 627           | 5 530            | 14 %               |
| Finland    | Global citizenship education (998PL501)                     | 347 000          | 338 939          | 98                             | 289 820          | 49 119           | 14 %               |
| Finland    | Policy advocacy in Finland (998PL501)                       | 172 000          | 189 672          | 110                            | 162 185          | 27 487           | 14 %               |
|            | <b>Global thematic Total</b>                                | <b>830 000</b>   | <b>847 796</b>   | <b>102</b>                     | <b>724 934</b>   | <b>122 862</b>   | <b>14 %</b>        |
|            |                                                             |                  |                  |                                |                  |                  |                    |
|            | <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                                          | <b>4 937 378</b> | <b>4 866 629</b> | <b>99</b>                      | <b>4 127 932</b> | <b>738 697</b>   | <b>15 %</b>        |

| FINANCIAL SUMMARY                                                                                                           | Total<br>budget  |                  | “Expenditure<br>vs. budget<br>%” |                  |                |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Programme activities</b>                                                                                                 | <b>4 937 378</b> | <b>4 866 629</b> | <b>84</b>                        | <b>4 127 932</b> | <b>738 697</b> | <b>15 %</b> |
| <b>Plan Finland</b>                                                                                                         |                  |                  |                                  |                  |                |             |
| MEAL and Quality assurance (998PL406)                                                                                       | 90 000           | 97 972           | 109                              | 83 774           | 14 198         | 14 %        |
| Communications in Finland (998PL516)                                                                                        | 350 000          | 361 887          | 103                              | 309 443          | 52 444         | 14 %        |
| Administration (998PL01)                                                                                                    | 661 375          | 657 990          | 99                               | 562 635          | 95 355         | 14 %        |
| Plan Finland programme salaries: Programme management, thematic and MEAL support to the international programmes (998PL518) | 575 000          | 595 420          | 104                              | 509 132          | 86 288         | 14 %        |
| <b>Total Plan Finland</b>                                                                                                   | <b>1 676 375</b> | <b>1 713 269</b> | <b>102</b>                       | <b>1 464 984</b> | <b>248 285</b> | <b>14 %</b> |
| <b>TOTAL 2022</b>                                                                                                           | <b>6 613 753</b> | <b>6 579 898</b> | <b>99</b>                        | <b>5 592 915</b> | <b>986 982</b> | <b>15 %</b> |

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>MFA Financing</b>            | <b>€</b>          |
| Transferred from 2021           | -                 |
| Funds 2022                      | 6 000 000         |
| <b>MFA funds available</b>      | <b>6 000 000</b>  |
| <b>Expenditure 2022</b>         | <b>-5 592 915</b> |
|                                 |                   |
| <b>Carry over to 2023</b>       | <b>407 085</b>    |
| <b>Salary correction</b>        | <b>141 893</b>    |
| <b>Total carry over to 2023</b> | <b>548 977</b>    |

## MFA Financial report 2022

### Summary of Plan Finland costs

#### Quality Assurance

|                                                                   |           |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Planning, monitoring, technical support and programme development | 97 972,00 | 97 972,00 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|

#### Global Citizenship Education and Policy advocacy

|                              |                   |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Global Citizenship Education | 338 939,00        |                   |
| Policy advocacy in Finland   | 189 672,00        |                   |
|                              | <b>528 611,00</b> | <b>528 611,00</b> |

#### Communications in Finland

|                          |            |            |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Programme communications | 361 887,00 | 361 887,00 |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|

#### Administration

|                                                 |           |  |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Programme related costs of administrative staff | 65 899,00 |  |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|--|

|                        |            |  |
|------------------------|------------|--|
| Fundraising activities | 242 631,47 |  |
|------------------------|------------|--|

#### Share of

|                                                                   |                   |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Premises                                                          | 84 232,94         |  |
| IT                                                                | 101 230,88        |  |
| Administration cost of management, premises and HR                | 139 313,81        |  |
| Misc.: Organization communication, donor education public, audits | 42 780,88         |  |
|                                                                   | <b>367 558,52</b> |  |

|                                   |                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Administration costs total</b> | <b>676 088,99</b> |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|

|                                              |                   |                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>MFA approved administration costs 10%</b> | <b>657 989,78</b> | <b>657 989,78</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

|                                   |           |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Non-eligible administration costs | 18 099,21 |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|

|                                 |  |                     |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>PLAN FINLAND COSTS TOTAL</b> |  | <b>1 646 459,78</b> |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|

## Self-funding 2022

| <b>1. Project specific self-funding</b>                               | <b>Donations</b>  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mozambique - Mandziku - My Future (259PL149)                          | 150 313,84        |
| Ethiopia - Yene Raey - My Future (238PL151)                           | 53 339,84         |
| Zimbabwe - My Body My Future (265PL153)                               | 103 194,08        |
| Laos - Anakhot khong-khoi - My Future (745PL224)                      | 80 475,85         |
| Myanmar - Me Me Kanda, Me Me Anagat Pa - My Body My Future (635PL225) | 35 003,45         |
| Gender and SRHR (998PL515)                                            | 26 107,02         |
| Disability inclusion (998PL517)                                       | 14 619,29         |
| Climate resilience (998PL512)                                         | 5 529,68          |
| <b>PROJECT SPECIFIC SELF-FUNDING TOTAL</b>                            | <b>468 583,04</b> |
| <b>2. Project specific sponsorship funding</b>                        |                   |
| Uganda - An amoko tama - I Decide (285PL150)                          | 140 168,43        |
| Ethiopia - Yene Raey - My Future (238PL151)                           | 53 339,84         |
| <b>PROJECT SPECIFIC SPONSORSHIP FUNDING TOTAL</b>                     | <b>193 508,27</b> |
| <b>PROJECT SPECIFIC TOTAL</b>                                         | <b>662 091,31</b> |
| <b>3. Plan Finland self-funding</b>                                   |                   |
| MEAL and Quality assurance (998PL406)                                 | 14 198,01         |
| Communications in Finland (998PL516)                                  | 52 444,31         |
| Plan Finland administration (998PL01)                                 | 95 355,24         |
| Global citizenship education (998PL501)                               | 49 118,71         |
| Policy advocacy in Finland (998PL501)                                 | 27 487,08         |
| Plan Finland programme salaries (998PL518)                            | 86 287,68         |
| <b>PLAN FINLAND TOTAL</b>                                             | <b>324 891,03</b> |
| <b>SELF-FUNDING TOTAL</b>                                             | <b>986 982,34</b> |



### About Plan International

We strive to advance children's rights and equality for girls all over the world. We recognise the power and potential of every single child. But this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it's girls who are most affected. As an independent development and humanitarian organisation, we work alongside children, young people, our supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood, and enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge. For over 80 years we have been building powerful partnerships for children, and we are active in over 75 countries.

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#### Plan International Suomi

Teollisuuskatu 13  
00510 Helsinki, Finland

Tel: +358 9 6869 800  
Customer service: +358 9 6869 8030  
E-mail: [info@plan.fi](mailto:info@plan.fi)

[plan.fi](http://plan.fi)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/plansuomi\\_](https://facebook.com/plansuomi_)

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