



CAPACITY STATEMENT:

**OUR WORK WITH REFUGEES AND
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE**

November 2015

About Plan International

Plan International is an independent child rights and humanitarian organisation committed to children living a life free of poverty, violence and injustice.

We actively unite children, communities and other people who share our mission to make positive lasting changes in children's and young people's lives.

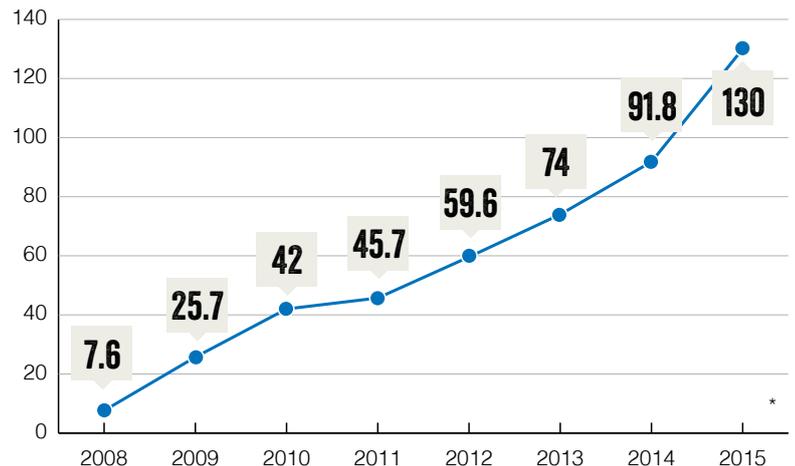
We support children to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to claim their rights to a fulfilling life, today and in the future. We place a specific focus on girls and women, who are most often left behind.

We have been building powerful partnerships for children for more than 75 years, and are now active in more than 70 countries.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

During disasters and conflict, local communities are the first to respond in saving lives. Plan International's approach puts the rights and needs of children, youth and their care-givers at the centre, encouraging them to be agents of change in their communities. Plan International works with children, youth and communities to develop appropriate ways to protect themselves before, during and after disasters and conflict.

PLAN INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT – GLOBAL SPEND (€M)



* figures for 2015 provisional

REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE: OUR APPROACH

Plan International's programming focuses on both refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). We balance our work with local host communities, so that they themselves can also benefit and ensure our work is sensitive to local realities.

In particular, the dynamics of conflicts are complex and diverse. Wars, conflict and persecution have forced more people to flee their homes and seek refuge within their countries and across borders. Refugee and internally displaced children and young people (especially unaccompanied or separated children and adolescent girls) are at greater risk than adults of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, malnutrition and diseases. At the same time, education may be disrupted and family and other social support networks may be weakened.

UNHCR's annual global trends report: *World at War*¹ indicates that the number of people forcibly displaced at the end of 2014 had risen to 59.5 million compared to 51.2 million the year earlier, and 37.5 million a decade ago. Evidence shows half of refugees are children. The increase represents the biggest leap ever seen in a single year. Moreover, the report said the situation is likely to get worse.

WHAT WE DO

Education in emergencies

- Formal education for children aged 5-18 years through the establishment of temporary learning spaces, provision of teaching and learning materials, and strengthening the capacity of teachers, ministry of education and parents/ community.
- Non-formal education for adolescents, youth, out-of-school, drop-out children and young people (10-24 years) through the use of accelerated learning, bridging/catch up programmes, modular/flexible learning and mobile approaches.
- Early learning/pre-school education for children (0-5 years) through formal pre-schools/kindergartens, non-formal learning through mobile or community based approaches and strengthening capacity and education of parents.

Child protection in emergencies

- Strengthening community-based and national child protection systems to prevent and respond to violence against children, as well as support reintegration of child survivors of violence.
- Providing access to quality services and appropriate response interventions to children who have experienced abuse, violence and exploitation.
- Strengthening psychosocial well-being of children affected by emergencies and their families.
- Prioritising child protection in all humanitarian action to ensure children are not exposed to programmes designed without proper consideration of children's safety or well-being.

Our approach

- Emphasis on adolescent girls and excluded and vulnerable children (such as children with disabilities).
- Integrated education, child protection, psychosocial, health, nutrition and cash transfer programming to address children's needs in a holistic way.
- Our programming on refugees and IDPs integrates core humanitarian needs, including food, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Other areas of activity

Plan International has an interest in other programmatic areas, including child labour and civil registration. Plan International undertook a review of good practice in several agencies (including Plan International, UNHCR and UNICEF) on birth registration in emergencies, including refugee situations, and produced guidance for birth registration in emergencies.

1. UNHCR (2015). *Global trends – Forced displacement in 2014: World at War*. Available from <http://unhcr.org/556725e69.html>. Accessed October 2015.

GLOBALLY, ONE IN EVERY 122 HUMANS IS NOW EITHER A REFUGEE, INTERNALLY DISPLACED OR SEEKING ASYLUM. IF THIS WERE THE POPULATION OF A COUNTRY, IT WOULD BE THE WORLD'S 24TH LARGEST.

Since early 2011, the main reason for the acceleration has been the war in Syria, now the world's single-largest driver of displacement. Every day last year on average 42,500 people became refugees, asylum seekers, or internally displaced, a four-fold increase in just four years².

2. UNHCR (18 June 2015). *Worldwide displacement hits all-time high as war and persecution increase* [online]. Available from <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>. Accessed October 2015.



Photo © Olmo Calvo
Syrian father and daughter
running away, Hungary

KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Plan International is an active member of the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies
- Co-lead the regional Education in Emergencies working group in West and Central Africa with UNICEF
- Plan International is an active member of the Global Education Cluster
- Plan International is an active member of the Child Protection Working Group
- Actively involved in the Global Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)
- A member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Emergency settings
- Partner in United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) initiatives
- Partner in Children in a Changing Climate Coalition
- Plan International holds Global MoU with the United Nations Refugee Agency for birth registration.
- A Plan International Staff member is Chair of the Board of the Sphere Project
- Board member of International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- Plan International staff member is a board member of Core Humanitarian Standards Alliance
- Member of the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and UK AID's Rapid Response Facility (RRF)
- Member of Samenwerkenda Hulp Organisaties (SHO). SHO is the Dutch platform for emergency and disaster response organisations
- Member of the VENRO Working Group on Humanitarian Aid. VENRO is the umbrella organisation of development non-governmental organisations in Germany
- Several Plan International offices hold a Framework Partnership Agreement with ECHO
- Plan International USA is a member of the Humanitarian Policy and Practice Community
- Plan International has a number of corporate partnerships
- Plan International Ireland is the founder and leading member of the Irish Children's Rights Alliance
- Member of the Irish NGO Network Dochas and chaired for two years the Humanitarian Aid Working Group
- Co-lead of EiE cluster in West and Central Africa with UNICEF

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Photo © Plan International / Sala Lewis
Burundian families queue to transit from
Nyarugusu to Nduta camp, Tanzania