

MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR - RASHID JAVED



Plan International Uganda marks its 25th year of working with and for children and youth of Uganda – an achievement of great pride and well worth celebrating.

Our story started in 1992 as we opened our first programme office in Luwero, transforming lives of children and communities to reach their full potential.

As we continued to expand our presence and reach to the most marginalised and excluded of society, we continued to deliver with high quality programmes having long lasting impact.

Moving from service delivery to a right based approach, one thing remained constant – the child was kept at the centre of all that we did. With our long-term grass roots presence, we continued to focus on root causes of poverty and rights violations.

Today, with an integrated and multi-sectoral approach, Plan International Uganda delivers programmes that have a lasting impact in the lives of millions of children and youth in Uganda by helping them break the cycle of poverty.

Today as we celebrate great progress and success for the rights of all children and equality for girls, we recognize the fact that this success is not ours alone. This proud moment would not have been possible without the trust, confidence and continued support of our partners.

I would like to recognize those that have made the past 25 years a success:

- The dedicated and committed staff of Plan International Uganda, for their enduring passion and drive to improve lives of Ugandan children.
- Various levels of Government and duty bearers for taking ownership.
- The volunteers and Community Development Associations for leading the change
- Our sponsors and National Offices around the globe for believing in us.
- Civil Society partners who provided the synergy and innovation to deliver on our promise.
- Last but not least, the children, families and communities for being our champions over the past 25 years and allowing us to accompany them in their walk towards a better future.



Children in an early learning centre in one of the refugee camp in Adjumani district.

OUR STORY IN UGANDA

In 1992, there were hardly any structures left in place like health centres, schools, water sources and child protection mechanisms in Luwero district after the five year war that brought the National Resistance Movement in power in 1986. Hundreds of children were left as orphans and others under the care of aging grandparents. Many children were involved in child labour to make ends meet.

With this background, Plan International Uganda started its operations as a purely relief programme. Over the next two decades, we continued to grow and expand to other regions. We ultimately assumed a more development-oriented approach with focus on strengthening capacity for community participation and development, social service provision, governance and policy influence.

In 1998, Plan International adapted the Child-Centred Community Development (C CCD) approach to its programmes. A rights-based approach in which children, youth, families and communities take active roles and lead in their own development. Enhancing their capacity and opportunity to work together to address the structural and root causes, as well as consequences of child poverty. To date we celebrate the success of change from poverty to prosperity of communities achieved by the C CCD approach.

In 2010, we adapted a Rights-based programming of a life cycle approach to promote and enhance the rights of children. This strategy recognises and focuses on three stages of growth: A Good Start in Life (0-6 years), The Next Steps (7-13 years), and Ready for the Future (14 -24 years). This

life cycle approach works to ensure all children access their rights to survival, development, protection and participation. To achieve this goal we implemented low cost/high impact interventions along eight programme impact areas: Early Childhood Care and Development, Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV, Quality Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Child Protection, Governance and Participation, Economic Security and Disaster Risk Reduction.

The 2016 Country Programme is strategically designed to reach out to thousands of more vulnerable children with high quality and high impact programmes in Youth Economic Empowerment; Education and Early Childhood; Health; Child Protection; Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH); and Disaster Risk Management (DRM). During the next five years (2016-2021), we will expand our geographical coverage by increasing our presence in these new locations: 1) West Nile (Nebbi) 2) Karamoja (Napak); 3) Eastern (Bukedea); 4) East Central Buyende).

Over the two decades we have used evidence based research and tools to influence key stakeholders and duty bearers to ensure adequate laws and policies exist to protect and provide a safe environment for children.

Today we celebrate a great milestone of 25 dedicated years of working with and for the children of Uganda. We have seen an entire generation and transition of communities owning their own developmental processes and children grow into adulthood with confidence and skills to realize their true potential.



Plan International Uganda staff and sponsors visit one of the sponsored child-headed family in Luwero district in the late 1990s.



A woman with disability uses an inclusive borehole constructed by Plan International Uganda in Buyende districts.