

PPA Self-Assessment Review¹

Complete areas within white boxes only

Reporting Year	2009/2010
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Part A – Basic Information²

PPA partner	Plan International (Plan UK)
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Niche statement	<p>Plan International is one of the leading international, child-centred community development organisations in the world with no religious or political affiliations. It supports interventions in 49 developing countries, benefiting over 11 million children and young people, their families and communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.</p> <p>Its work, informed by the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, is based on the recognition of children and young people as citizens with their own rights and responsibilities. In partnership with them, their families, civil society and government, Plan supports their voices to be heard in issues that affect them, thus building understanding and promoting their rights to participate in and benefit from their societies.</p>
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	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
PPA funding (£)			1,800,000	1,800,000	2,250,000	2,281,875	1,389,375
As % of total organisational income			4.6	5.1	5.5	5.2	2.8*

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Other DFID funding (£)	93,718	428,617	222,758	622,780	1,387,341	1,199,779*	872,103*

*projections only

¹ This self assessment review is only part of the reporting story. Organisations will be able to supply evidence, case studies and other material they feel will show impact on the ground

² Part A is a useful snapshot of the full relationship between DFID and each PPA holder.

There is an opportunity to expand on some of the non-financial aspects in Part D ‘Partnership with DFID’ but we wanted to expand Part A to reflect the fact that our partnership with DFID is not purely financial.

Summary of partnership with DFID and other DFID funding³

In addition to the PPA, other DFID funded projects that are currently being implemented by Plan UK include:

Children and Young People at the Centre of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
(El Salvador, Ecuador, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, and Sierra Leone)

Value - £2,017,488

Dates - October 2005 – December 2010

Citizens Right to Public Finance Programme (Malawi)

Value - £460,000

Dates - March 2008 – December 2011

Hygiene Sanitation and Water Supply in Port Loco and Moyamba (Sierra Leone)

Value - £1,600,000

Dates - April 2008 – March 2013

Practice of Conflict Sensitivity

Value - £42,336

Dates - April 2008 – March 2012

Plan has also engaged with DFID in the following ways:

- Submitted feedback through consultations on the White Paper and Education Strategy
- Maintained regular contact with the Civil Society department on PPA issues (including through the BOND PPA group) and discussions on development effectiveness
- Engaged with DFID and the Nike Foundation on the Girl Hub
- Engaged with the DFID Senior Gender Advisor directly and through the Gender and Development Network
- Actively participated in the DFID - CSO Children and Youth Network
- As a member of the Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies and the Emergency Relief Fund

³ This is intended to be a cumulative list of DFID contracts etc. from when your PPA began. If there is a large amount of information, please summarise by e.g. department and add any additional information to an appendix. We wanted to leave this section quite open to interpretation by each organisation. Note the wording has changed from 'relationship' to 'partnership'.

Approximate % of total organisational expenditure allocated by sector or theme⁴

Plan UK's total grants expenditure allocated by theme is provided in the table below.

Themes	%
Education	5%
Emergency/DRR	19%
Governance	21%
Health & HIV/AIDS	10%
Household Economic Security	30%
WATSAN	13%
Protection	4%
Total	100%

Plan's worldwide programme expenditure in 2009 by key theme⁵:

Themes	%
Growing up healthy (food aid, health and HIV/AIDS)	11.9%
Learning (education)	12.6%
Habitat (WATSAN, shelter, natural resource management)	7.7%
Livelihood (agriculture, microfinance, vocational training)	3.8%
Building relationships	11.5%
Programme support	15.4%
Field administration	8.9%
Development education	1.9%
Technical support	2.1%
Advocacy	1.1%
Total Programme expenditure	76.9%

⁴ This should provide an indication of your overall organisational allocations by sector or theme (i.e. not limited to your PPA).

The % breakdown may change from year to year and is intended to reflect key organisational priorities for the Reporting Year under assessment.

⁵ Figures from Plan UK Annual Report and Accounts, 2009

Part B - Progress against PPA Strategic Objectives⁶

Progress to date against PPA purpose statement

To realise improved development outcomes through the active engagement of young citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, in public policy, planning and resource decision-making.

Plan UK's PPA-supported programme seeks to demonstrate that by supporting children and young people to engage in formal and informal governance processes their access to quality basic services can be increased. To date the programme has strengthened engagement between young people and their governments, supported the development of more responsive policies, plans and budgets and contributed to **increased access for over 147,500 young people across 15 countries to sexual and reproductive health, education, sanitation and child protection services.**

Over the past year the programme has continued to support children and young people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the UK to engage with and demand accountability from their governments on the delivery of basic services. As the programme enters its final year, these engagements are deepening. In some cases, emerging democratic outcomes such as changes in young people's citizenship practice, formal and informal institutions, and local and national policies are contributing to increased access to basic services and improved development outcomes. Across all countries, the programme has fostered increased understanding amongst communities and governments of young people's citizenship rights. It has enabled young people to organise and network, provided information on local governance processes and created formal and informal spaces for young people to participate in decision-making.

Young people have grasped these opportunities. In **Malawi** and **Kenya** youth groups have used tools such as community score cards and social audits to assess the quality of education services and demand improvements. In **Senegal**, **Uganda** and **Cambodia** children have established school councils as platforms for engaging authorities on concerns such as teacher absenteeism and violence in schools. In **Nicaragua** and **El Salvador** young people have worked with municipal authorities to design youth-friendly health services. In **Kenya**, **Tanzania** and **Ethiopia** young people have drawn attention to and demanded change in local sanitation practices and facilities. Networks of young people in the **UK** and abroad have worked together to lobby policy-makers on issues such as girl's rights as part of Plan's *Because I am a Girl* campaign and climate change with support from the global *Children and a Changing Climate* coalition.

The programme's achievements to date highlight the critical role young people can play in mobilising their peers and wider civil society to hold government to account. Where political will and institutional frameworks allow, more participatory governance structures and processes have been embedded. This has enabled the design and delivery of services that better address young people's concerns and contributed to increased access to these services. With continued support this engagement between young people and their governments can be institutionalised, ensuring further and sustained improvements in the wellbeing of young people.

⁶ The phrasing in this section is intended not to preclude referencing back to previous work in a different reporting period.

This is also an opportunity to generate a rich picture of PPA funding and demonstrate its value.

Progress against PPA Performance Framework by each Strategic Objective

Strategic Objective 1:

Young citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, are engaging in and have increased access to service delivery systems and related policy processes in 15 countries reflecting a range of different governance contexts including fragile states.⁷

Please explain choice of indicators reported on below⁸

The PPA programme aims to realise objective one by building the knowledge, skills and confidence of young people to participate in public decision-making; raising awareness of government/service providers and other duty bearers of the value of youth participation in governance processes; and fostering formal and informal spaces for young people to mobilise and demand greater accountability. The selected indicators seek to capture progress in these areas across a range of different geographic contexts and service sectors. LAPP Objective are covered in further detail in Annex 1 and a summary of progress achieved for all indicators is given in Annex 2.

The figures below provide progress to date for the period covered by the revised performance framework (2008 – 2010). Specific examples are taken from the 2009/10 reporting period unless stated otherwise.

Indicator 1:

From 535,801 young citizens in Plan supported communities in 15 countries accessing livelihood, health, education, water and sanitation or child protection services to 974,084 by March 2011.

Disaggregated as: from 2,315 young citizens with access to livelihood services to 6,930 by March 2011 (Kenya and Malawi); from 14,220 young citizens enrolled at schools providing access to improved learning environments and governance spaces to 42,600 by March 2011 (Senegal, Uganda and Cambodia); from 0 young citizens with access to child-friendly health services including HIV/AIDS services to 72,894 by March 2011 (Nicaragua); and from 519,238 young citizens with access to sanitation facilities to 851,210 by March 2011 (Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania).

Progress achieved and challenges faced⁹

To date, Plan has supported 147,582 children and young people in 15 countries to access services they did not have access to before the programme began. This increased access to basic services is the result of a number of changes in young people and governments/service providers, as well as changes in systems and processes.

This includes 63,308 young citizens accessing health and HIV/AIDS services in **Nicaragua**; 5,315 more young citizens accessing improved learning environments and school governance spaces in **Senegal, Uganda and Cambodia**; 3,585 young citizens in **Kenya** with access to livelihoods services; and 75,374 children and young people who now have access to sanitation facilities in **Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania**. These achievements go a long way towards meeting the overall target. Projects in **Malawi, Indonesia and Ecuador** have yet to deliver increased access to services for children and young people. However, achievements in other areas such as strengthened youth groups and improvements in policy frameworks (reported below against other

⁷ The 15 countries are: Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone and Senegal in Africa; Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala in Latin America; Indonesia, India and Cambodia in Asia.

⁸ Agencies should report against a sufficiently full set of indicators (including LAPP objectives).

⁹ Indicate the period referred to: in some cases it may be artificial to focus just on the prior year, and a focus on overall progress may be more helpful

indicators) are laying the foundations for the expected increase in access to services.

Despite problems with the over-ambitious numerical target, the Community-Led Total Sanitation Project (CLTS) in **Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania** has had an impressive impact. In total, 37,326 new latrines have been built, at an average cost of \$7 compared to approximately \$100 for the cost of traditional input-orientated sanitation projects and with much greater benefits in terms of youth engagement and sustainability. In Ethiopia, health extension workers have reported a reduction in the incidence of diarrhoea among the 175 villages declared 'Open Defecation Free'. Plan is increasingly recognised as a focal point for learning and partnerships in East Africa.

Notable increases in access to services have occurred where the demands of young people and their groups have been met by interested and engaged government authorities. For example, in **Nicaragua** 126 young people trained as peer educators in sexual and reproductive rights and health (SRHR) are now currently training a total of 1,230 young people. Some of these young people have taken part in discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Health on how to design and deliver youth-friendly SRHR services. In a number of municipalities, basic SRHR services have been devolved to local youth clubs, where young people can now receive advice and contraception. It is estimated that these activities are enabling 63,300 young people in the target communities to access SRHR services.

In **Uganda**, 33 schools in Luwero (the target District) have established new or strengthened existing student councils. In 11 of these schools the council has secured changes in school policy, plans and/or budgets to address student concerns. This includes the introduction of systems to monitor teacher attendance and new approaches to encourage girls to return to school after pregnancy. In one school a particularly successful campaign encouraged 135 children to return to school by the end of its first week. The council is now working with students, parents, teachers and the School Management Committee to ensure this success is sustained. In **Senegal**, eight of the targeted 26 schools are now satisfying the School Quality Index, meaning that 2,963 children have access to improved learning environments.

In **Indonesia** involvement in Plan's community-based child protection project has prompted the General Hospital in Kefamenanu (one of the four target Districts) to establish a special unit and staff for treating children who have been abused. In the same District, the child protection referral centre received 39 child protection cases in the first quarter of 2010 (including cases of child rape, domestic violence, and violence at school). This compares with 50 cases for the whole of the previous year. This outcome demonstrates the increased awareness in the community and the growing responsiveness of government services.

List any documentary evidence of achievements¹⁰

- Annex 3: Nicaragua SRHR Message
- Annex 4: Uganda CPPR
- Annex 5: Indonesia CPPR
- Annex 6: CLTS Kenyan Case Study

Indicator 2:

From 17 active groups or organisations established by young citizens to 415 by March 2011.

Progress achieved and challenges faced

Young citizens have established 345 new groups or organisations. This covers 102 young people's groups or organisations in **El Salvador**, 30 in **Guatemala**, 60 in **India**, 130 in **Kenya**, and 23 new youth groups in **Sierra Leone**.

¹⁰ This can also be used as an opportunity to provide DFID with case studies, YouTube clips etc for 'building support for development'.

In **India** 60 children's groups have been established as part of the PPA-funded project to strengthen children's voices in local governance. Groups have been taught about formal governance structures and trained on communication and advocacy skills, including radio production and cartooning. The groups provide children with a platform to interact with each other, community members and local government. At quarterly Gram Sabha meetings children raised issues such as early marriage and child labour, demanding and, in some cases, securing commitment of support from Panchayat members. This includes reopening locked public toilets, removing rubbish that blocks a school entrance, and providing the space and story books to establish a Children's Centre.

A key challenge posed by working with children's groups relates to representation and inclusion. In India Plan partners noted that members of children's groups tend to be the most articulate and motivated in a community, with supportive and wealthier parents. Girls and young women are often under represented. However, as the project built momentum, and the strength of youth groups became apparent within communities, it became possible to engage a greater number of marginalised children – this included children from slums and from lower castes.

In **Sierra Leone** 35 youth organisations across four Districts are now established, collaborating on livelihood initiatives and participating in local decision-making. One youth representative has been elected as a Chiefdom Councillor, another has been elected as a Town Chief, and several more serve on Chiefdom Development Committees. Youth marginalisation and unemployment were widely recognised as key drivers in Sierra Leone's eleven year civil war. The role of many young people as combatants in the conflict led to the stigmatisation of young people. In this context, increased participation of young people in local decision-making is a significant achievement.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 7: India: Nikhar: Strengthening Children Voices in Local Governance, Final Evaluation Project Report
- Annex 8: Narrow cast from Children's Group in India
- Annex 9: Image of cartoon from India

Indicator 3:

From 0 awareness-raising activities conducted by young citizens on issues that concern them (e.g. HIV and AIDS, child protection, education) to 584 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced¹¹

To date, the PPA has enabled children and young people to design and deliver over 852 activities to raise the awareness of peers, community and government on a range of issues using innovative approaches.

In **India**, young people produced 125 local radio shows and 593 street shows on child rights and their right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. These activities involved over 7,260 young people, including children from lower castes and slum areas in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (the two target states). Translating raised awareness amongst children, communities and government into action has proved to be a gradual process. Limited willingness amongst government officials at the Block and District levels to involve children is a key challenge. Moving forward, Plan India is combining continued efforts at the local level with a renewed focus on legislative changes required to create spaces for children in local government processes.

Plan has supported 32 sensitisation campaigns on Universal Birth Registration across three Districts in **Kenya** with PPA support. Working closely with District Registrars, young people have

¹¹ Indicate the period referred to: in some cases it may be artificial to focus just on the prior year, and a focus on overall progress may be more helpful

played a key role in sharing information in their communities about the registration process and its benefits. These campaigns have contributed to a 50 per cent increase in the number of registered births. This increase will ensure that more children and young people are safe and able to access basic services. Plan Kenya and its partners are now exploring innovative ways of capturing registration data through the use of mobile phones.

Annual events to raise awareness of child protection concerns have been held in 28 schools in **Cambodia**. The decline in corporal punishment in targeted schools noted in last year's self-assessment has continued. Children's groups have conducted awareness-raising activities on child protection in **Indonesia**, while in **Ethiopia, Kenya** and **Tanzania** children's groups have used drama to raise awareness of the health implications of open defecation and the need for community-wide sanitation services.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 8: Narrow cast from Children's Group in India
- Annex 10: Kenya CPPR
- Annex 11: Universal Birth Registration Campaign Report: Count Every Child

Indicator 4:

From 0 service delivery monitoring initiatives (e.g. social audits, community score cards) implemented by young citizens to 2,619 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced

775 monitoring initiatives have been carried out in four countries. Although this is only one third of the target, these initiatives represent some of the most challenging areas of work, with efforts in many countries due to be scaled up over the next year.

In **Malawi**, youth have participated in 259 score carding exercises to assess the quality of education, health, and water and sanitation services. This is part of a national programme initiated by the government and coordinated by Plan, ActionAid and CONGOMA. A network of local NGOs trained in the use of score cards has been established. These NGOs have worked with communities to raise awareness on their entitlements and oversee score carding exercises, including facilitating dialogue between communities and service providers. The score carding process has strengthened relationships between communities and government authorities and influenced the allocation of resources. For example, following the first score card exercise the government committed additional teachers to rural schools in Mulanje and an ambulance to serve rural health centres in Machinga. In a number of communities, discussions between communities and service providers are resulting in greater transparency and accountability. A key challenge is the limited experience of both communities and local NGOs in advocacy. Plan, ActionAid and CONGOMA are looking at ways to build capacity in this area so that the wealth of information being generated can be used to leverage change at national level.

Young people, local authorities and service providers in **Bolivia** are being trained on local governance and the community score card approach. Plan Bolivia is currently reviewing the possibility of using score cards to monitor the quality of its own programmes as a way of strengthening the organisation's accountability to its various stakeholders.

In **Ethiopia, Kenya** and **Tanzania** young people have played a key role in monitoring the use of locally constructed latrines as part a regional Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programme. This has involved undertaking 485 separate monitoring initiatives, including publicised transect walks and interface meetings with local leaders. The resulting increase in access to services has already been noted. An additional benefit is that youth have emerged as 'natural leaders' through these activities and their engagement in community development and governance has increased.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 12: Quarterly Report for Community Based Monitoring Project, ActionAid, CONGOMA, Plan Malawi, submitted to DFID Malawi April 2010

What is the likelihood that Strategic Objective 1 will be achieved? Rate 1 to 5.¹²

2

Strategic Objective 2:

Key government decision-makers are taking action to include and engage young citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, in the governance of basic services.¹³

Please explain choice of indicators reported on below

In order to realise objective two the PPA programme is creating new and/or strengthening existing spaces at different levels for young people to engage with key government decision-makers to discuss, question and collaborate on the delivery of public services. The selected indicators reflect progress in these areas across a range of different geographic contexts and service sectors. The indicators capture changes in government policies, mechanisms, plans and budgets as well the citizen-state dynamics underpinning these changes.

The figures below provide progress to date for the period covered by the revised performance framework (2008 – 2010). Specific examples are taken from the 2009/10 reporting period unless stated otherwise.

Indicator 1:

From 3 governance policies or plans made or revised which support the rights of young citizens in Plan communities to 242 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced¹⁴

To date, Plan's work has contributed to the development or revision of 203 policies or plans at local, regional and national levels which support the rights of children and young people. In many cases, Plan has enabled young people themselves to identify and present their priorities for inclusion in government policy and plans.

In a number of countries Plan has supported young people to lobby for new and or use existing spaces opened up by decentralisation to engage in formal participatory planning processes at the local level. In **El Salvador** children in 106 target communities contributed to the elaboration of annual community development plans. In **Senegal** children's participation resulted in 18 of the projects proposed by children being included in annual development plans and in 29 schools incorporating activities relating to Plan's global *Learn Without Fear* campaign into their curricula. In **Cambodia** Plan has supported young people in 28 (instead of a planned 10) communities to participate in the development of 'Commune Investment Plans'. This includes training young people in participatory planning, supporting them to draft plans and facilitating dialogue between young people and local authorities. As a result, government attitudes towards children's

¹² Ratings to be applied:

1. = Likely to be **completely** achieved, i.e. well on the way to completion (or completed)
2. = Likely to be **largely** achieved, i.e. good progress made
3. = Likely to be **partly** achieved, i.e. partial progress made
4. = Only likely to be achieved **to a very limited extent**
5. = **Unlikely** to be achieved

¹³ The basic services targeted by this programme relate to the education, livelihood, water and sanitation, child protection and health sectors.

¹⁴ Indicate the period referred to: in some cases it may be artificial to focus just on the prior year, and a focus on overall progress may be more helpful

participation are slowly changing and children's priorities are being reflected in Commune plans. In both **Ecuador** and **Bolivia** young people in target communities are yet to engage in local planning.

In terms of policy change, child protection has been a key focus in many countries. Child protection policies have been formulated with Plan's support in 10 out of 12 target municipalities in **El Salvador** and in all four targeted municipalities in **Guatemala**. In **Indonesia** child protection policies have been introduced in five villages and local networks will work to ensure these policies are implemented over the coming year.

Plan has also worked, largely in partnership with other organisations, to secure changes in policies and plans at the national level that allow for the greater articulation of children's voices. In **El Salvador** young people worked with the government to revise the National Code for Children. In **Kenya** young people supported the revision of the National Youth Council Bill and in **Sierra Leone** Plan supported young people to work with the Ministry of Youth and Sports on the development of the National Youth Commission Act and a review of the National Youth Policy. The new National Youth Commission Act (2009) aims "to empower the youth to develop their potential, creativity and skills for national development". Plan is now working with youth groups to ensure the details of the Act are widely disseminated.

As Chair of the Grow Up Free From Poverty Coalition, Plan has advocated for national and international policies that support the right to social protection. This includes hosting an international conference on social protection in London, twice leading delegations to the Secretary of State for International Development on the role of social protection in accessing basic services and the justification for a social minimum, and speaking at European roundtables on this issue. Plan has also provided institutional support to the Africa Civil Society Platform for Social Protection.

List any documentary evidence of achievements¹⁵

- Annex 13: Senegal School Improvement Case Study
- Annex 14: Learn Without Fear progress report
- Annex 47: Sierra Leone National Youth Commission Act 2009
- Annex 48: Grow Up Free From Poverty Coalition, Social Protection report

Indicator 2:

From 2 sources of devolved funding accessible to young citizens to 10 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced

To date, six additional sources of devolved funding have been made accessible to young people with support from the programme.

In **Malawi** Plan has worked closely with local partners and District Youth Officers to lobby for the inclusion of young people in the governance structure of the new national Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). In response, the government has created two youth seats on its national fund board for youth and two on its district fund committees. At the local level, youth groups in the four target Districts have been trained on resource mobilisation. Following the training, two youth groups in Mzimba secured funds from the National AIDS Commission (NAC) and one youth group formed a partnership with the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) to deliver an awareness-raising campaign on democracy for young people.

In **Kenya** Plan completed a research study mapping devolved funds. This study highlighted a number of disparities in fund dispersal, such as between rural and urban youth groups. The results

¹⁵ This can also be used as an opportunity to provide DFID with case studies, YouTube clips etc for 'building support for development'.

have been shared with youth groups and will be further discussed at a national youth conference later this month bringing together youth, government, CSOs, UN agencies and donors. A combination of lobbying and awareness-raising has enabled 153 Plan-supported youth groups in Kenya to access three new sources of devolved funds (the Local Authority Trust Fund, the Constituency HIV/AIDS Fund, and the Women Enterprise Fund). This has benefited over 5,900 young people. Plan has continued to support youth groups to access funds from the National Youth Fund and the Constituency Development Fund. Youth groups have used their funding for a variety of livelihood projects and income earning opportunities, including starting new businesses and securing government tenders for construction projects.

Although not originally planned for, activities elsewhere have also led to more funding being made available for young people's services. For example, following lobbying by young people, Plan and other stakeholders, municipalities in El Salvador and Guatemala have committed to allocate a percentage of their budgets to child protection. This is a real achievement as previously there was no funding for child protection services in these municipalities.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 15: Report on youth engagement in the implementation of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Malawi
- Annex 16: YEDF Operational Guidelines
- Annex 10: Kenya CPPR

Indicator 3:

From 0 service delivery mechanisms established and/or strengthened to respond to the needs and rights of young citizens to 32 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced¹⁶

To date 22 service delivery mechanisms have been established and/or strengthened to respond to the needs and rights of young citizens.

In **Nicaragua** a Health Information System (HIS) has been established to capture data on service delivery in two localities. This system is providing more accurate data to the national Ministry of Health and therefore enabling more efficient and effective management of resources. Plan has trained health workers in monitoring systems and IT skills. It has also supported municipal health centres to develop new youth data collection sheets. This follows lobbying from young people, supported by Plan, highlighting the need to record separately information relating to young people's health rather than as part of a family record. This ensures confidentiality and prevents stigmatisation. This is particularly important in the two targeted areas with high levels of teenage pregnancy and where HIV is prevalent.

In **El Salvador** six doctors have been trained as specialists on the specific sexual and reproductive health concerns of young people, the barriers they face in accessing health services and different ways health care professionals can address some of these barriers.

In **India** five of the six targeted District Administrations have taken action based on report card feedback on children's rights. The report cards were used by children to assess local government bodies and district administrations. At district level meetings, the children presented evidence of poor immunisation coverage, problems such as locked toilet blocks, a backlog in birth registration applications, and insufficient numbers of school meals which reduces school attendance. Following the children's feedback and their use of media for wider advocacy, many of these issues have been resolved.

¹⁶ Indicate the period referred to: in some cases it may be artificial to focus just on the prior year, and a focus on overall progress may be more helpful

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 17: El Salvador CPPR

Indicator 4:

From 17 local governance mechanisms (e.g. district development committees, budget management boards) in which young citizens are engaged to 504 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced

To date young people have engaged in 370 local governance mechanisms across nine countries. While the degree of this participation varies, in many cases young people are using these opportunities to secure changes in government policy, plans and budgets.

In **El Salvador** 105 Adesquitos (junior Community Development Associations which mirror adult, legally recognised ADESCOs) have been established and engaged with municipal governments. Plan has also worked with local authorities to ensure that 17 Mayors in El Salvador meet the criteria required of “child-friendly” Mayors, this includes commitment to policies, plans and budgets that address children’s rights. Plan has also continued to support the Central American Child-friendly Mayor’s Network and their regional level lobbying on children’s rights. In **Guatemala** Plan has supported 120 young people to participate in 30 COCODITOS. These groups involve young people in community development, including linking them to local authorities.

In **Cambodia** lobbying from youth, Plan and local partner Child Rights Federation has ensured that the Women’s Committee in all four target Communes now include children at their meetings. In **India** 27 seats have been created for young people in Gram Panchayats. These influential village level governance bodies are not legally required to incorporate the views of young people and so issues concerning young people are not commonly identified and addressed. Institutionalising a role for young people in these institutions is a significant achievement, paving the way for the increased participation of young people over the longer term. In **Sierra Leone** all four target Districts now have formal youth structures at the village, section and Chiefdom level. Furthermore, five (of the targeted eight) youth groups are actively engaging in district level decision-making processes. In **Malawi** 14 Village Development Committees and/or Area Development Committees now include a youth representative.

The number of young people in **Kenya** represented on the management boards of devolved funds in 3 Administrative Districts has increased from 15 to 90 (out of a targeted 150). In **Senegal** eight of the targeted 12 local budget meetings are held with children’s participation across six Rural Councils.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 18: Guatemala CPPR

**What is the likelihood that Strategic Objective 2 will be achieved?
Rate 1 to 5.**

2

Strategic Objective 3:

Increased public awareness and action among young citizens in the UK, their families and communities in support of child centred development.

Please explain choice of indicators reported on below

The PPA programme aims to realise objective three by raising awareness among young people of development issues; strengthening the critical skills young people require to engage in our globalising world; and providing young people with platforms to take action. Work in this area focuses on the themes of gender equality (as part of Plan's global *Because I Am a Girl* campaign) and climate change, while also facilitating broader awareness of development issues through Plan UK's School Linking programme. The indicators selected aim to capture these different areas of work, including highlighting particular achievements and challenges relating to youth engagement in internal governance mechanisms.

The figures below provide progress to date for the period covered by the revised performance framework. Specific examples are taken from the 2009/10 reporting period unless stated otherwise.

Indicator 1:

From 0 national or international lobbying activity conducted by young citizens working with Plan UK on key development issues (e.g. climate change, girl's rights) to 915 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced¹⁷

Young people carried out 273 lobbying activities supported by Plan UK over the past year with a particular focus on girl's rights, disaster risk reduction and climate change. Staff turnover meant that plans to engage prospective Parliamentary candidates had to be revised and so it is unlikely the target for this indicator will be achieved. However, the lobbying which we have undertaken has engaged key national and international decision-makers, contributing to changes in government policy and practice.

In December 2009 **11 young journalists from Kenya, Indonesia, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK reported from the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15)** with support from Plan UK. This engagement is part of a long term strategy to ensure young people's voices are heard in climate change negotiations. This process of engagement began in 2007 when a group of young people attended the COP-13 UN Climate Change Conference and is linked to the *Children in a Changing Climate* action research programme (www.childreninachangingclimate.org) coordinated by IDS. At COP-15 young people interviewed Heads of State and senior policy-makers, produced daily blogs encouraging online discussion, and secured coverage in local and national media. At the national level, **young people raised questions about carbon trading and other concerns at a Parliamentary breakfast meeting with the Minister of State for the Environment. In addition, children in four schools involved in the School Linking programme met their MPs to discuss climate change issues.**

Plan's annual *Because I Am A Girl* report has proved to be a useful resource for lobbying on girls' rights and has been shared in a youth-friendly format in UK schools, youth groups and networks. Members of **Plan UK's Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) secured 266 signatories to a pledge in support of girls' rights** at the 2010 Conservative Spring Forum and **coordinated a petition signed by over 2,000 young people** calling on the Secretary of State for International Development to support girls in developing countries to access secondary school.

On International Women's Day **two Young Global Education Campaigners of the Year (awarded by the Global Campaign for Education) spoke as part of a panel discussion** organised by Plan in partnership with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Africa to raise awareness of the importance of girls' education. Young people also met with the Minister of State for International Development to discuss girls' rights and **young people lobbied decision-makers**

¹⁷ Indicate the period referred to: in some cases it may be artificial to focus just on the prior year, and a focus on overall progress may be more helpful

at the parliamentary launch of Plan's 2009 *Because I Am A Girl* report. DFID's Education Strategy, released in March 2010, committed to supporting nine years of 'basic education' and referenced Plan's *Because I am a Girl* report.

Over 100 young people engaged with decision-makers at a Parliamentary meeting on School Linking coordinated by Plan UK and attended by Baroness Morris Labour and the Shadow Minister for International Development. Over the coming months Plan UK's YAP will launch and coordinate a campaign focusing on the MDGs.

List any documentary evidence of achievements¹⁸

- Annex 19: Plan and youth reporters' coverage of COP15: <http://plan-international.org/what-we-do/child-participation/child-media/copenhagen-climate-talks-giving-children-a-voice>
- Annex 20: Summary of media impact of youth reporters at COP 15: <http://plan-international.org/about-plan/resources/news/young-journalists-make-big-media-impact-at-copenhagen>
- Annex 21: Global Warning: Children's Right to be Heard in Global Climate Change Negotiations
- Annex 22: Photo of YAP members delivering a petition to DFID
- Annex 23: Letter from YAP to DFID accompanying the petition
- Annex 24: Because I am a Girl 2009 Report
- Annex 25: Because I am a Girl 2009 Youth Summary

Indicator 2:

From 5 awareness-raising activities carried out by young citizens on key development issues to 160,040 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced

Young people in the UK have carried out 74,322 awareness-raising activities supported by Plan and engaged thousands of children and adults in the UK and overseas. This relatively new and growing area of Plan UK's work is prompting new partnerships with organisations such as the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP).

Through Plan UK's 'Make the Link, Be the Change' development education project, **52,000 children in the UK and overseas participated in online discussion and learning events** including school assemblies, special exhibitions and open days involving the school and wider community. Over **2,500 of these young people volunteered to be 'Catalysts on Climate Change'**, leading debates and other activities to raise awareness on climate change issues. Online resources are fully integrated into the UK national curriculum and many are translated into French and Spanish to support foreign language lessons. **Plan UK's Youth Advisory Panel gave a keynote speech and delivered four climate change workshops to over 120 young people** at a post-Copenhagen "Climate Revolution" event held at the British Museum and attended by the Minister for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

Over the last year **young people from 84 countries raised awareness of local and global gender issues through Plan UK's Shoot Nations photography project.** Over 5,000 young people submitted a photograph or drawing exploring what it means to be a girl or a boy in today's world. The exhibition for the 2009 entrants was held in the OXO Gallery in London, opened by the Minister for Women and Equality and seen by over 2,000 people. The photographs were also exhibited at the Museum of Slavery in Liverpool, the UN secretariat in New York and the EU parliament buildings in Strasburg. They were also used by the Girl Guides, the Royal Geographic Society, DFID and DECC. The Shoot Nations Brochure includes many of the photographs.

¹⁸ This can also be used as an opportunity to provide DFID with case studies, YouTube clips etc for 'building support for development'.

Members of Plan UK's Youth Advisory Panel delivered workshops on girl's rights and climate change in a variety of settings including 17 schools, the Girl Guides' Centenary celebrations and UK Youth Parliament regional meetings. One YAP member worked with six youth groups in Leicester to organise an evening of song, dance and drama based on the findings of Plan's 2009 *Because I am a Girl* report. Attended by over 200 people, the event was a powerful way to highlight the challenges facing girls around the world.

17,310 UK students participating in Plan UK's School Linking programme communicated by letter writing with their counterparts in linked schools in China, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Kenya and Malawi. Over the next year the linked schools will work on collaborative projects.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 26: Make the Link web platform: <http://www.planmtl.org/>
- Annex 27: Shoot Nations website: <http://www.shootnations.org/>
- Annex 28: Shoot Nations Brochure
- Annex 29: Shoot Nations 2009 YouTube Video Slideshow: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tY3hRsQtibM>
- Annex 30: YAP Website: <http://www.plan-uk.org/involved/YAP/news/>

Indicator 3:

From 0 links established between schools in UK and Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, and Sierra Leone to 600 links by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced

317 schools in the UK have been linked with 100 schools in Kenya, 85 in Sierra Leone, 59 in Malawi, 9 in Senegal and 64 schools in China. Recruiting schools to the programme has proved to be a slower process than expected. According to recruitment rates achieved in the last 12 months, we are unlikely to reach the target and are currently reviewing the programme's business plan to identify ways to address this.

School Linking initiatives are widely recognised as a valuable opportunity for young people to learn about and develop an increased awareness of global issues. To measure the outcomes of the programme, Plan UK commissioned the Institute of Education (IoE) to carry out a three-year study. The study's year-two report provides detailed quantitative survey findings. **The research demonstrates that the majority of students engaging in the programme are developing a deeper understanding of their role in the world, are more motivated to learn, and are improving academically at various levels.** In addition, a number of schools in overseas countries report improved emotional development of students and increased participation of students both in school and in their communities.

Plan UK's **education resources produced for linked schools were shortlisted for the 2010 Education Resource Awards** organised by the British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA) in the category 'Primary Resources – Non-ICT'. Feedback from students, parents and teachers in the UK has also been extremely positive. As one pupil in year seven noted during research for the IoE report, being part of the programme *"shows we care for people who have lived totally different lives from us. Also it's interesting to communicate with them and understand they are not so different from us."*

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 31: Institute of Education Year Two Report
- Annex 32: School Linking Guide and Educational Resource
- Annex 33: BESA Press Release: The Education Resource Awards 2010 Shortlist
- Annex 34: Introduction to Plan-ed School Linking, YouTube Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rhRjbb9rR4>

Indicator 4:

From 0 organisational governance mechanisms in which young people are actively engaged to 33 by March 2011

Progress achieved and challenges faced

Over the last year, Plan has supported young people to engage in four organisational governance mechanisms in the UK relating to Plan and government departments. Work outstanding under this indicator relates to the engagement of young people in school governance mechanisms, a planned output of the final year of Plan's development education work.

Three positions have been created on Plan UK's Board of Trustees for young people. These positions were elected from Plan UK's Youth Advisory Panel and consist of a full member aged over 18, a youth member under 18, and an observer. This panel reflects the organisation's commitment to fully integrating the voices of young people in its operations. It sets a new standard for international children's development organisations and has sparked considerable interest. For example, YAP was recently requested to present to the board of EveryChild following which the CEO remarked "Plan's work on child and young people's participation is really inspiring and it is clear it has been led and encouraged from the top of the organisation all the way through." An external review of YAP's work is planned for August 2010 and will be shared within Plan and with other organisations.

YAP members have regularly attended the DFID-CSO Youth Working Group meetings and made submissions to DFID consultation calls, including the Education Strategy. YAP advocated increased support for girls' education, including secondary school. YAP also coordinated a petition signed by young people calling for increased support for girls' education. This was received by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development who reconfirmed his commitment to girls' education. These recommendations were reflected in the final strategy.

YAP members were also catalysts behind the decision made by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to establish a youth panel to ensure the voices of young people are heard in decisions on climate change. Over the next year YAP and Plan UK will continue to support the development of this panel.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

- Annex 35: Plan UK Press Release 'Government Department Pilots YAP Equivalent' <http://www.plan-uk.org/involved/YAP/news/DECCyouthboard/>
- Annex 36: Plan Board Meeting, 5th November 2009: Youth Participation on UKNO Board Item 4.1

What is the likelihood that Strategic Objective 3 will be achieved? Rate 1 to 5.

2

Part C – Lessons Learned¹⁹**What lessons are being learned from this PPA?**

Supporting young people to engage with and demand accountability from their governments requires flexible, context-specific and long-term support. Facilitating this citizen-state engagement so that it translates into improvements in basic services is a further challenge. The lessons

¹⁹ We left this section fairly open to interpretation.

Additionally, it's an opportunity to show the reach and value PPA money has.

emerging from Plan's governance programme are complex and over the programme's final year significant resources will be invested in consolidating and communicating our learning to different audiences.

One area of particular interest is the interface between young people and government. While it is commonly recognised that improving governance requires strengthening civil society and government capacity, what happens when the two are brought together in joint initiatives and how organisations such as Plan can best support this citizen-state engagement are areas much less explored. Looking across the different PPA-supported initiatives several key issues can be drawn out:

- **Young people's participation in decision-making can make a difference** where political will, government capacity and institutional frameworks allow. Young people often have an excellent understanding of local power dynamics and, with appropriate support, can be very effective at mobilising peers and the wider community. Discussion and deliberation between young people and government can foster policy, plans and budgets that better reflect young people's concerns. It can also increase understanding of constraints faced on both sides. When youth groups in Kenya interacted with officials from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) they gained a better understanding of how the politicisation of the fund during the elections contributed to its slow dispersal, while YEDF officials realised they were not adequately disseminating information on the fund to youth, particularly those in rural areas.
- **Decentralisation processes can create new opportunities for young people's participation and local accountability.** In Indonesia, local government authorities with new responsibilities but limited capacity routinely turn to Plan for support on how to plan, budget and deliver services. However, decentralisation can also present barriers as power may become concentrated in local elites with little interest in engaging young people. Organisations such as Plan need to analyse and be sensitive to local political dynamics during programme design and implementation.
- **Governments are more eager to engage with young people if it is within their interests to do so.** Threat of exposure and political fallout can be a useful driver in creating spaces for participation. However, this is a high risk strategy. A collaborative approach, where possible, can be more successful over the long-term. Working with government officials to change the way they view young people and their role in governance is critical. Fostering strategic alliances with child rights or participation "champions", as Plan has done in Senegal with key Parliamentarians, can drive change from within. However, progress can falter when governments change or civil servants leave. It is therefore crucial that organisations such as Plan seek to institutionalise opportunities for young people's participation in government structures, mechanisms and processes.
- **Government support for young people's participation has to be interrogated.** While government may create spaces for young people to engage in governance processes, the parameters for participation are often limited. Young people may be present in local authority boards and councils but unable to voice their opinions and/or influence decisions. Equally, young people are often involved in the early planning stages but excluded from key tasks such as budgeting for and monitoring the delivery of basic services. Young people's interest is more likely to be sustained where they take the lead in deciding what issues they address and in what ways. Organisations such as Plan must provide ongoing support to both young people and governments to ensure their engagement deepens rather than falters at ad-hoc achievements furthering frustration amongst both parties.
- **Meaningful engagement of young people in the development of policies and plans requires sustained support from government;** a clear and legally recognised framework for their participation (including plans for follow up); and effective mobilisation by young people. Organisations such as Plan must take a multi-pronged approach that addresses not only the capacity of young people and government to engage but also the broader, institutional framework within which this engagement takes place.

To date the PPA has generated learning in a number of areas. In terms of the **conceptual frameworks used to support children's participation in governance**, the PPA has produced a literature review on children and governance, a discussion paper on children's citizenship and a scoping study highlighting governance initiatives supported by Plan (Annexes 37 to 39). These papers highlight the need to improve understanding of local political contexts amongst those promoting children's rights and have provided a useful framework for Plan's governance programming. A set of case studies documenting stories of change resulting from young people's participation is being finalised, a review of young people's experiences with different social accountability tools and a synthesis report on lessons learned will be completed by early 2011.

Significant learning has also been generated on children's participation in the governance of specific public services. For example, a regional programme on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) supported by the PPA has highlighted the role children can play in driving behavioural change and improving sanitation facilities. Plan is recognised as a focal point for learning and partnerships on CLTS in East Africa, forging connections with governments, UNICEF and other agencies. Some of this learning will shortly be shared in a special edition of the journal 'Participatory Learning and Action' published by IIED and reaching over 20,000 readers in 121 countries. In West Africa, Plan has supported the establishment of a regional research platform on children's migration that includes IOM, Plan, Save the Children and UNICEF (Annex 49). The PPA has also supported the global 'Children in Changing Climate' programme hosted by IDS which disseminates learning and good practice on engaging young people in climate change issues (Annex 40 and 41).

Plan's PPA has sparked **innovation and learning on how to support government and other key decision-makers to more effectively engage young people** in decision-making processes. A key aspect has been supporting local Plan offices and partners to undertake the research required for designing governance initiatives and doing evidence-based advocacy. Examples include an analysis of devolved funds in Kenya, a mapping of youth groups in Malawi, and a national assessment of children's rights in Cambodia. In the UK Plan has played a key role in the DFID-CSO Youth Working Group, including drawing on learning generated from the programme to produce a Youth Participation Guide for governments, donors and policy makers.

Finally, the PPA is also generating **lessons in relation to supporting increased awareness and action on development issues** in the UK. This includes working with the Institute of Education to conduct a three-year study on the impact of Plan UK's School Linking Programme (Annex 31).

Specifically describe innovative learning, e.g. specific knowledge generation about new issues encountered or discovery of new means of solving specific problems

In addition to the innovations outlined above, the PPA has also enabled us to develop learning in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of governance initiatives. As noted in DFID working paper 34 '*Measuring Change and Results in Voice and Accountability Work*', monitoring changes realised through governance initiatives is challenging and the evidence base for the impact of governance work is often limited. Through the PPA we are piloting new ways of monitoring governance outcomes and impacts, with a particular focus on engaging young people (see Annex 44 for a resource generated by Plan UK based on experiences using Outcome Mapping).

The monitoring and evaluation system for Plan UK's PPA-funded programme is rooted in a clearly defined theory of change. Expected changes are differentiated between 'democratic' and 'development' outcomes and further disaggregated into different 'dimensions of change'. In addition there are different 'levels of change' which reflect different stakeholder groups (e.g. children and young people, families and community groups, local government). This framework provides quantitative data complemented by qualitative documentation using different approaches (e.g. Most Significant Change, participatory video etc). It allows the aggregation of data on global outcomes while still offering a nuanced analysis of specific contexts and power relations.

The programme's monitoring and evaluation framework sits within and is, in a number of countries, supporting the roll out of Plan's new global Programme Effectiveness Framework and Programme Learning and Accountability System (Annex 42 and 43). Finalised in 2009, these systems are currently being rolled out across Plan. A recent external review concluded "the development and application of a conceptually robust, tested and validated, rights-based programme effectiveness framework grounded in a theory of change, is an example of innovation. It sets out Plan's own model of transparency and accountability." (GPEF p. 112, Annex 45). Over the coming year we will continue to explore ways of supporting staff, partners and young people to monitor and evaluate their governance work. A **briefing note on monitoring and evaluating voice and accountability work**, drawing on our experiences is planned for early 2011.

Part D – Partnership with DFID²⁰

Partnership with DFID

Plan UK continues to value its partnership with DFID. Over the past year the PPA has facilitated useful engagement with stakeholders in the UK and overseas and offered a number of entry points for shared learning. However, there are aspects of the relationship that could be strengthened.

Discussion with DFID technical teams have been particularly valued by Plan. In the UK this has included engagement with DFID's Equity and Rights team and the Social Development Advisory Cadre, as well as the Girl Hub. Collaborations on gender and Plan's *Because I am a Girl* report have provided particularly useful opportunities for shared learning. For example, DFID's Senior Gender Advisor joined the report's expert advisory board and spoke at its corporate launch. In some countries the PPA has helped facilitate engagement with local DFID offices across different sectors of mutual interest, including education in Bangladesh, WASH in Kenya and Sierra Leone, and governance in Malawi. In Malawi, DFID and Plan are working together along with ActionAid and CONGOMA on a national Community Based Monitoring Project assessing the quality of basic services. In addition to the above, Plan UK would appreciate joint meetings of PPA agencies with DFID at the senior management level to strengthen this partnership.

Plan UK has also found the PPA a useful entry point for opportunities for **collaboration with other UK government departments**, particularly in relation to building support for development initiatives. A key example is the post-Copenhagen "Climate Revolution" event held at the British Museum in January this year. This involved DECC, the UK Youth Parliament, the British Youth Council and Plan UK. It built on the success of previous engagements such as last year's Millennium Summit which brought together 50 young people to discuss and debate DFID's White Paper and the Millennium Development Goals. This event was attended by representatives of Department of Schools, Children and Families (DSCF), DECC and DFID. Plan also contributed to the DCSF's International Strategy.

Plan UK has valued opportunities for **shared learning on mainstreaming young people's participation in DFID and other government departments**. Plan UK has always lobbied for an increased focus on children and young people within DFID. In 2007 this included seconding a child rights specialist to DFID's Equity and Rights team. More recently, Plan UK drew on experiences from the PPA programme and elsewhere to contribute to the recently published DFID Youth Participation Guide. While Plan UK took a lead role on the project committee, Plan Uganda participated in one of the three participatory workshops to develop the guide. Plan UK has also provided support to DECC on how to design and establish a Youth Advisory Panel. Plan UK would

²⁰ Again, we wanted to focus on partnership over relationship here and have left this section open to interpretation by each organisation, however, you might want to consider issues such as learning, accountability and communication with other parts of DFID beyond the Civil Society team.

This is an opportunity to expand on some of the information in Part A on the partnership between DFID and PPA holders and a chance to flag up issues.

encourage DFID to continue supporting and drawing on the expertise of the DFID CSO Children and Youth Working Group. In particular Plan UK would encourage DFID to ensure that the currently vacant position of the DFID focal point for the Youth Working Group is filled as soon possible.

Plan has benefited from **engaging with other PPA agencies** through the LA PPA sub-group which has continued to support shared learning and advocacy. This partnership is covered in more detail in the LA PPA Annex. The BOND PPA group also offers a platform for engagement with other PPA agencies. However, we feel that DFID could do more to highlight synergies between the work of the different agencies – particularly in the final year of the PPA. Plan UK would encourage DFID to consider requesting support from the PPA agencies to identify effective and innovative ways of disseminating learning from the various PPAs to different audiences.

With specific regards to **management of the PPA**, Plan UK has continued to appreciate the role of the BOND PPA Group and DFID's relationship with the Group. In recent months this has helped clarify issues arising as PPA agencies plan for final evaluations. However, at times communication from DFID has been unclear and delayed, such on feedback on the last self assessment. Plan UK was also surprised by the decision to separate the LAPPAs and global PPA in terms of reporting and final evaluation despite the fact that these are combined in our performance framework. Plan UK would question whether this represents the most efficient use of funds. Plan UK would encourage DFID to continue to engage agencies in discussion regarding management of the PPA and ensure clear communication regarding grant management issues.

Part E – Corporate Governance and Organisational Change²¹

Provide evidence of how your organisation demonstrates good corporate governance, whether this has changed as a result of the PPA, and if so how.

As a child-centred community development organisation, Plan sees good corporate governance as a priority. This is demonstrated by the organisation's commitment to robust child protection policies, internationally recognised agreements governing the design and delivery of aid, and high environmental standards (key agreements are listed below). Plan seeks to ensure transparency and accountability to all stakeholders at all levels. It is an area in which the PPA has contributed to organisational change, not only within Plan UK but across the global Plan family.

In particular, the PPA has enabled Plan UK to **interrogate and strengthen its accountability to the children, young people, communities and partners we work with**. This includes strengthening the Youth Advisory Panel in the UK and supporting other Plan offices to review and reflect upon the ways in which they engage young people in their work. Within Plan, the UK office is seen as a leader on youth participation in organisational governance. This is reflected in the

²¹ This section is about both ticking the basic legal compliance boxes and showing that PPA holders are pioneering dynamic new approaches to e.g. environmental standards.

This also provides an opportunity for PPA holders and other organisations in the sector to learn from each other and presents PPA holders as at the forefront of new approaches to good corporate governance, accountability, transparency, organisational change etc.

This is an opportunity to list which standards and codes you are signed up to (e.g. HAP, Sphere etc).

Emphasising how PPA funding has contributed to improving governance and change in your organisation and how this learning has been shared in order to strengthen the sector will also provide more material to demonstrate the reach and value that PPA funding has.

recent appointment of two young people to the Plan UK board of trustees, as well as efforts to ensure that information is provided in child-friendly formats and to engage young people in the management of UK-led youth engagement initiatives. Plan UK regularly shares its experiences on youth participation in organisational governance through the Youth Advisory Board Group (a network of over 15 agencies in the UK).

Over the past year, **the PPA has fostered new opportunities for young people to participate in the organisation's internal governance processes.** In a number of focus countries, this includes strengthening participatory monitoring and evaluation systems. For example, in Bolivia the PPA is training young people to use community score cards to provide regular feedback to Plan on its performance. In Malawi PPA-supported governance work is seen by external actors to be piloting new ways of engaging with partners and this learning is feeding into Plan Malawi's new partnership policy. At the global level, Plan UK has drawn on experiences from the governance programme to input on revisions to the global Plan partnership policy.

Plan UK has also continued to **strengthen its accountability to donors and supporters in the UK.** Efforts have included providing face-to-face and virtual opportunities for supporters to engage with Plan staff and ask questions about Plan's work as well as continuing to ensure that information is easily accessible, including our annual accounts (see micro site www.plan-uk.org/about/moneymatters). Plan has won both of the last two online charities accounts awards and is nominated for the 2010 awards.

With regards to standards and codes, Plan is committed to:

- All ethical guidelines in line with the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
- Plan International's *Child Centred Community Development approach*, our rights-based approach in which 'children, youth, families and communities are active and leading participants in their own development.
- A *comprehensive Equal Opportunities Policy* that commits Plan UK to promoting and developing equal opportunities for its employees and volunteers.
- The *International Non-Governmental Organisations Commitment to Accountability (INGO) Charter*, which outlines Plan's commitment to excellence, transparency and accountability.
- The *SPHERE standards* (Minimum Standards in Disaster Response covering water and sanitation, food security/nutrition, non-food items, shelter, health).
- The *INEE standards*, which are the minimum standards for education in emergencies.
- The *Hyogo Framework for Action* and its guide in the design and implementation of the disaster risk reduction programme.
- The *International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent code of conduct*. Plan's close partnership with the local Red Cross societies in various disaster responses demonstrates the commitment to maintaining these standards.
- *UNICEF and UNESCO guidelines in school rehabilitation and reconstruction*.
- The *International Committee on Fundraising Organisations (ICFO) standards* for which the management of Plan's central organisation have been independently assessed.
- Adopting a *conflict sensitive approach in developing programmes* as part of the Conflict Sensitivity Consortium funded by DFID.
- Regularly *auditing its own carbon footprint* and developing practical and effective ways of reducing its own impact on the environment.

Please provide any evidence to show how PPA funding allows you to take risks and innovate (if at all).

PPA funding has enabled Plan to support a range of innovative governance initiatives and encourage critical reflection on current practice in ways that would not have been possible with

other funding mechanisms.

The flexibility of **PPA funding has allowed Plan staff, partners and communities to revise/adapt their governance initiatives** in accordance with the shifting challenges and opportunities posed by different contexts. To take just two examples, in Malawi when a new National Youth Enterprise Development Fund was announced by the government, youth groups decided to refocus their advocacy efforts to lobby for spaces for youth on the fund's board. Meanwhile in Kenya, when the new draft constitution was published for civil society consultation youth groups mobilised quickly with Plan's support to coordinate meetings with local MPs. It is important to note that the flexibility of PPA funding has been critical to the changes achieved by the programme so far, not only because of the programme's focus (governance work requiring a sound understanding of the local context), but also because of the speed and creativity with which the programme's target group (youth) take action when provided with the opportunity. Any programme that seeks to support youth to engage in policy, planning and resource decision-making needs to be agile.

Governance is a relatively new and emerging area for Plan so the flexibility of **PPA funding has been critical in enabling the 16 Plan offices involved to reflect on current practice, explore and develop new partnerships and pilot innovative new ways of working.** For example, inspired by participatory budgeting work conducted by Manchester County Council (shared at the governance programme's annual learning event held in the UK), Plan Senegal identified an opportunity to pilot participatory budgeting with children as part of their ongoing education programme. In Malawi PPA funds supported Plan to conduct the exploratory research required to secure funds and political support for a national, four year community score card programme monitoring the quality of basic public services. The programme's success to date has enabled Plan Malawi to leverage further funds from the World Bank to support public expenditure tracking in the education sector.

Part F – Cross –cutting issues

Describe any work your organisation has done on Gender and Faith if applicable (this question will be limited for the period 2008-2011)

Gender – Please describe how your organisation is mainstreaming gender in its work, as well as any specific work your organisation has done to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Faith – Please describe how your organisation is working with faith groups and communities

Gender

Plan's rights-based approach seeks to address issues of inclusion and non-discrimination, including those related to gender equality. The rights of girls and young women to education and to protection from violence are two key areas. A recent mapping of Plan's work found that Plan *"...takes the needs of girls seriously, has increasingly integrated girls' needs and rights into programming, and is actively looking towards what can be done in the future to improve the lives of girls."* (Mapping Plan's Experiences, pg. 6, Annex 46) The global *Learn Without Fear* campaign focusing on violence in schools is driving forward work in both areas. This includes efforts to encourage behavioural change through work with boys and men; strengthening the capacity of CSOs and service providers; and providing access to medical, psychosocial and/or income-generating opportunities for girls and young women experiencing violence.

While good practice exists, gender equality has yet to be effectively mainstreamed across the organisation and over recent years Plan has invested significant resources in this area. Plan is

finalising a **new global Gender Equality Strategy this year** which highlights the need for girls' rights and gender equality to be mainstreamed across all our work – not only in our programmes and policy work but also within Plan offices. As part of the roll out of this strategy a comprehensive review of Plan's existing work in all sectors has been undertaken, new staff recruited and the capacity of existing staff strengthened, and new partnerships and learning networks focused on gender developed.

Gender has been integrated into Plan's new global Programme Framework and accompanying monitoring and evaluation system. The programme framework clearly states: "*Gender inequality remains one of the main causes of poverty and exclusion, since the relatively lower social status of women and girls in many societies results in differential access to power and resources.*" These efforts to embed gender equality across the organisation's structures, processes and practices are already contributing to changes on the ground as many more Plan offices seek to systematically address girl's rights and gender equality.

The PPA has been a critical driver in promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in Plan UK. PPA funding has enabled Plan UK to develop and launch its flagship annual *Because I am A Girl* report and campaign which has been adopted by the organisation as a whole. The report includes a ten year cohort study. This research started in 2006 and involves tracking 135 girls in 9 countries and the challenges and opportunities they face at different life stages. Each year the report takes a different theme and the 2010 report will focus on boys and young men. The PPA enabled the recruitment of a gender equality expert at the beginning of this year who has established a network of "gender champions" in the organisation and begun to foster relationships with local civil society organisations working on gender equality issues. Gender has also been recognised as one of three cross-cutting themes in Plan UK's new programme strategy.

Faith

Plan has no religious affiliations and, across its 49 programme countries, works with organisations and communities representing a variety of faiths. Plan recognises that in many contexts religious leaders, organisations and beliefs play a key role in shaping development processes. For example, in Senegal Koranic schools are an important part of many communities. In recognition of this, Plan Senegal has facilitated discussion on sensitive issues such as violence in schools as part of Plan's *Learn Without Fear* campaign. Through these discussions Plan has developed a strong relationship with this faith community, securing the support of Imams who have committed to disseminating messages on Islamic principles of non-violence. This collaboration is one example of how Plan seeks to engage with faith groups and communities through its work.