

FY19 annual Programme & Influencing narrative report

Country: Kenya

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A. Progress & Achievements on AOGD, Quality Education

a) Improved access to learning

- Poverty and inaccessibility of learning facilities are some of the barriers that hamper access to learning in Kenya. Many needy deserving students from marginalised and disadvantaged families who pass examination fail to transit to secondary schools as they lack school fees. Invariably such children are frequently sent home by school authorities with some missing out up to three months without attending classes. In the event they proceed, they do so in schools that they were never invited, instead settling for less in smaller schools characterised with inadequate learning facilities, poor infrastructure and inadequate qualified trained teachers. In addition, some children travel up to 3 kilometres to access schools with great risk especially girls who have to walk early morning along bushes and thickets.
- During this period, there was improvement in access to learning through support to needy deserving children with school fees. In Machakos PU alone, 409 students (87 girls and 47 boys) were supported. In Tharaka (193 Girls & 82 Boys) from needy families were supported. In Kisumu hub, Ksh 5.4 Million worth of bursaries was awarded to 345 needy students across the hub. In Kilifi PU, a region with very poor learning outcomes, 120 needy and bright Sponsored Children (55 boys and 65 girls) enrolled in secondary schools were supported.
- The bursary program has been enhanced with a mentorship component that provides life skills and soft skills that builds students personal esteem, confidence and motivation for learning.
- To reduce the vulnerability of girls to sex offenders especially the motorbike riders, popularly as *boda boda*, girls in Kisumu benefitted from bicycles through the Bicycle for Education Empowerment Programme (BEEP) project. To date 5,626 bicycles have been distributed including an additional 288 in the FY 19. The project has received an approval from education stakeholders who have applauded it as 'an outstanding' project that has enhanced access and simultaneously improved on the safety of girls as they make their way to schools.

b) Greater parental involvement in learning

- Inadequate participation of parents in the learning of children has been cited as a contributory factor in quality of education that children receive. This is particularly so in the early childhood education. Male parents have often remained aloof. Through multiple interventions, there has been an improved participation of parents.
- In Machakos education project 400 parents (310 mothers and 90 fathers) were empowered with skilful parenting sensitization and outreach forums focused on building the parent capacity on play and art materials for learners and supporting learning in schools. In addition, 126 parents and caregivers of sponsored children in secondary schools were taken through mentorship 'clinics' which has resulted to those parents being more involved in the learning of their children.
- Engagement sessions with parents across the PUs has seen greater involvement of parents in learning that has improved children school attendance and retention.

c) Improvement in physical learning environment

- Whereas the free primary education has ensured higher enrolment rates in Kenyan schools, the learning facilities are still inappropriate for learning with many characterised with dilapidated walls, lack of chairs, poor latrines and dusty floors. Plan International worked with communities in selected deserving school to improve the learning environment for children and set up models that other schools could replicate.

- In the period, Plan International worked with the communities of Tharaka to establish eight Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines benefitting a total of 1,203 (464B; 739G) pupils. In Machakos PU through a JNO grant support, 4 classrooms and two units of 3-door VIP latrines were supported benefitting 420 children (220 girls, 200 boys). A further 150 students in 75 school benefited from desks and a 10,000litres water tank for ECD learners. In Kilifi PU, the construction of a 4 door VIP latrine for girls in Matolani primary school that had started in FY18 was also completed and in use.
- The result of these initiatives is an improved learning environment characterised by better sanitary facilities, better learning infrastructure, motivated students and teachers that impact on quality of learning.

d) Improvement in disability inclusion in learning

- A large percentage of children with disability which according to latest statistics by Plan International is at 67% are out of school due to discrimination, lack of assistive devices, and poverty among other factors. Plan International worked with education stakeholders to improve learning among children with disability.
- In Kisumu hub, over 200 children across the hub were screened and provided with assistive devices. These included wheel chairs, hearing aids and spectacles. During follow up, some of the children with disability and their caregivers attested to an improved lifestyle for the children both at home and at school. All of the classrooms and VIP toilets constructed during the financial year were fitted with disability friendly facilities that enhance access and use.

e) Improved health of school children

- The integration of health in learning is important in ensuring children are healthy and stay in school.
- In Machakos, the education project continued supported comprehensive school health promotion program (CSHP) in 22 schools during the reporting period. Further, 35 schools benefited from two handwashing kits each distributed by the project during the period. In Kisumu hub, health project reached 11,328 beneficiaries
- These efforts have promoted good hygiene practices among the students who were observed to be keen on washing their hands after visiting the toilets. It has also instilled a sense of responsibility among the children who refill the handwashing tanks with clean water as they also carry out routine maintenance of the tanks.
- Over 20 VIP toilets were constructed across schools during the FY. Handwashing facilities and tanks were also distributed. Data quality assessments across schools in Bondo and Homa Bay showed that diarrhoeal diseases and cases of absenteeism had gone down as a result of the interventions. Children also spent less time queuing to use toilet facilities
- Over 300 latrines were constructed across communities in the Kisumu hub target areas. This was part of a Plan International collaborative effort with the Ministry of Health to certify communities as Open Defecation Free (ODF).

f) Increased uptake of Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) programs

- The government of Kenya is increasingly promoting TVET education to help a number of unemployed youths acquire skills that can enable them to access gainful employment.
- A total of 94 trainees have joined various vocation-training colleges courtesy of the GIZ program to acquire technical skills hopefully becoming employable in the coming days.
- The Kisumu hub through the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) project also facilitated 20 young women to go for vocational training in various courses. The most preferred were beauty and hairdressing and catering. The beneficiaries are excited at the opportunity to train and obtain skills that will provide an opportunity for self-employment and income generation.
- In Kajiado for instance, Silvia Simel got a boost from her husband who upon her graduation, bought a sewing machine for her enabling her to open a small tailoring shop in Oltepesi. She says, that *“ before I went for vocational training, I was a housewife and was only engaged with domestic chores but now I have a skill and I do not idle any more. I have learnt to balance domestic chores and my small dressmaking business. I agreed with my husband the timings and he allowed me to open at 8am and close*

at 6pm so that I can attend to family matters as well". Because of the vocational training and transformational skills acquired in the course of training, young women have gained financial independence and are not lured into unhealthy relationships that often result to teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence.

g) Enhanced education governance

- Poor governance of public institutions has often been cited as a reason for deteriorating quality of education. Plan International is aware of this and has been engaging education stakeholders to improve on governance in schools.
- Plan International also partnered with the Ministry of Education (MOE) to deliver a training program for Boards of Management (BOMs) on their roles and responsibilities. The training was delivered across 89 schools and reached 440 participants (194M/246F). The impact of the BOM training was evident in the significantly increased levels of knowledge around positive discipline and gender sensitivity in schools. The average pre-test scores were 67% (64%F /68%) M post-test scores were 80% F / 84% M. Men have traditionally held more seats within school management bodies and therefore the high participation of women was a success of mobilization efforts to encourage women to engage as leaders. In terms of infrastructure, the project made progress on construction, resulting in all 40 classroom structures complete, pending drainage works. The project also managed to procure all 88 book boxes and deliver them to the respective project schools.
- Within the education outcome, teachers previously trained under the project on school related gender-based violence (SRGBV) and positive discipline demonstrated an ability to apply their knowledge through coordinating and participating in teacher reflection circles (5 sessions – 146, 78M/68F). These platforms, supported by the Teacher Service Commission (TSC), provided the teachers with an opportunity to share experiences and challenges, as well as support each other to develop action plans.

B. Progress & Achievements on AOGD, SOYEE

- There have been limited initiatives under the YOYEE during the period however there has been deliberate efforts to empower young people with skills for employability
- In Kilifi, 30 women entrepreneurs received mentorship on entrepreneurship skills including basic record keeping and through dialogues with the project team and mentors formed 4 clusters that will enable them engage in business with the product providers after the end of the project. Each cluster has identified a secure store where they will be stocking their products for ease of access by the cluster members.

A. Progress & Achievements on AOGD, Lead

a) Girls engaging actors in child rights violation

- Through the Girls Advocacy Alliance project lobby groups comprising of girls aged between 18 and 24 years who had dropped out of school as a result of teenage pregnancy engaged the boda boda riders that have been among the lead perpetrators of right violation for the girls. The project facilitated the girl's lobby groups to organise first ever girls Summit at the county level during the 16 days of gender Activism. Through this summit, girls from across Plan International programme areas engaged different stakeholders, including government, discussing their plight and possible solutions that could address these issues.

b) Support to robust policies, frameworks and development plans

- Through the CIDA funded grant of Tulinde Tusome, Plan International collaborated with the Ministry of education to amend the National Education Sector Plan (NESP). The collaborative venture between Plan International, the Ministry of Education and Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICD) through a national forum that aimed to review proposed amendments to the NESSP 2018-2022. Plan International proposed amendments on school safety and security, particularly in lobbying for an increment in the budget, and closer collaboration between Department of Children Services, and MoE aimed at strengthening the Child Protection Management Information Systems (CPMIS) and provision

of psychosocial support for children within school settings, enhancing mentorship programs within schools, equitable distribution of teachers, timely provision of quality learning, and reviewing school safety standards among other items.

- In Machakos PU, a launch was organised where the chief guest was of the day Zuhura Rajab-Chief Officer Social Welfare, Machakos County. She committed to support girls and women who undergo gender based violence as well as committing resources in empowering girls and women to get equal. So far, the department is working closely with the PU in the Masinga and Matungulu in creating awareness and advocating for justice on gender violence. The PU has continued to support discussions among girls and women as well as boys & men in interrogating further on the cultural issues affecting girls. Machakos PU has gone ahead to support formation of girl clubs outside the school and supported them with balls and nets so that they can play
- Plan International worked with local communities and stakeholders to celebrate the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in November 2018. In Kisumu, a girls' summit where girls drawn from girl-oriented projects such as Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and child protection engaged employers, Technical/Vocational Education Training managers and business community on emerging issues on inclusive and safe skills training, safer workplaces free from violence and policy enforcement on economic empowerment for girls and young women.
- Whereas the government of Kenya permits re-entry of girls dropping out of the school system, it lacked clarity in regards to integration of the girls into the school community. The GAA project worked with the MoE through the technical working group on Education and Directorate of Policy under Ministry of Education developed a comprehensive National implementation guideline for re-entry of learners. The guideline defines learners, sites steps to be taken for the learners regardless of reasons for drops, hold communities, CSO has and Parents accountable for creating safe space for all learners.
- The Young Health Project working in the informal settlements of Kibera collaborated with Jhpiego to support Nairobi City County to develop the first ever NCD Costed Implementation Plan (CIP). The Ministry of Health, Division of NCDs as well as other NCD stakeholders in Nairobi County, launched the CIP.
- Through the Yes I do Project in Kajiado county, Plan International supported a Meeting with Gender Committee of the County Assembly from Kajiado County to discuss the stalled County Child Protection policy on elimination of FGM/C, which stalled due to National elections. The meeting was therefore to sensitise Members of County Assembly (MCAs) on the content of the policy and to get their buy in. After the meeting the policy was taken to the County Assembly and was discussed.
- The Kisumu and Homa Bay PUs also facilitated the formation of children assemblies during FY18. The Kisumu program unit facilitated formation of children assemblies at sub county level. The PU additionally facilitated the inaugural sessions. A Sponsored child was elected speaker for the Seme sub county children assembly
- Plan International played a role in the development of the 2018-2011 Kilifi CIDP. We engaged through the entire process and lobbied CSOs and other partners to participate and ensure that final document reflects a programme-based budget approach and is all inclusive. We supported the training of government departmental heads on mainstreaming of SDGs and Gender in the CIDP process. The CP and Gender Technical Working Group members worked to ensure inclusion of CP and Gender specific budgets.

c) Awareness of plight of girls during international celebrations

- Additionally, during the 16 Days of Gender Activism against gender-based violence Plan International participated in a discussion forum organized by the Australian Embassy on activism against gender-based violence and empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring equality. Through its GAA partner Women Empowerment Link, (WEL), Plan International is a part of the National Gender Based Violence working group coordinated by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC). Plan International has through these partnerships been instrumental in the planning of the 16 Days of Gender Activism at the national level. Specifically, Plan international together with other CSO's organized an event which took place in Tana River County. Although Plan International did not participate in the event, it contributed immensely during the preparation meetings.
- During the International Day of the Girl, Plan International through Tharaka PU organized an engagement session between girls and the judicial officers. During this session, key issues relating to access to justice for girls in the county were discussed and methods of ensuring justice for girls identified. It is as a result of this meeting that the judiciary leadership organized a training of investigating officers to ensure that child abuse cases are managed effectively further, and through the court users committee, the judiciary has committed to ensure that all there is effective coordination of the various actors in the justice system.
- In Machakos PU, During the International day of the girls, Plan International supported a breakfast meeting between the girls and key department including County Department of children services, Probation, High Court, Police Commander, County Commissioner's office, Media and Health departments. The meeting was core in discussing issues affecting children and especially girls in Machakos and the need for the duty bearers (parents, government) to ensure all children are protected. The girls' advocates were given opportunity to take over children's court for the day in the capacity of Children's Magistrate, Children's advocate and the prosecutor.
- In Kilifi PU, During the International Women Day celebrations that were held in Ganze on 7th March 2019, 4 of the girl advocates participated and emphasized on the need for support to the girl child to help her achieve her potential in life. They collected signatures from dignitaries including the Kilifi Governor, Women Rep, 4 MPs and 3 MCAs among others who had pledged to support the GGE campaign.
- Plan International has been part of the SDG Kenya forum and participated in a meeting hosted by FEMNET on the country brief and dissemination of the equal measures 2030 SDG Gender Index which highlighted the evidence base and data bench marks.

d) Review of education policies advocating for improved learning environment for girls

- Plan participated in the review of the Ministry of Education's National Education Sector Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2022 for review through gender lenses. Plan also works closely with the Ministry of Public Service Youth and Gender Affairs – State Department of Gender Affairs in the National Gender Sector Working Group. In the year Plan was part of the partners who participated in the review of progress on thematic progress in the State Department of Gender Affairs while planning for future strategies.
- In Kisumu, Plan International has worked with county and national government to develop a task force that will align into a synchronized harmony and coordinate the functions of the two governments for better service delivery to citizens.
- In Plan Bondo, the Children's assembly was supported together with Keyogo youth group to present to the Siaya county Government a memorandum requiring the county to enact necessary laws to address issues of menstrual hygiene management and youth unemployment. The child protection project supported a dialogue session between boys, girl's youth officials and county leaders who shared their position papers on teenage pregnancy and youth unemployment in Siaya County. As a result, the county leadership agreed to push and include provision of sanitary towels for school girls in the county budget.

- Based on the findings of the youth friendly study conducted in the period, Plan facilitated the Siaya county health team to come up with an ASRH policy codenamed '*Siaya roadmap towards zero tolerance to teenage pregnancy and control of spread of HIV/AIDS*'. A draft policy has already been developed and was presented by the core formulation team and discussed during the Siaya youth conference for additional inputs from the youth. The core team consist of County health management teams, partners implementing youth and adolescent projects.
- Plan international and the departments for disaster reduction engaged with the members of Homa Bay county assembly to fine tune the draft county policy and incorporate the views of the members of county assembly as well as agree on timelines towards development of the final copy of the policy.
- A similar activity was implemented in Kisumu where Plan collaborated with the county Government of Kisumu in organizing a stakeholders meeting to domesticate the National DRR policy. Additionally, Kisumu program unit influenced the establishment of two sub county disaster management committees. The committees are headed by the sub county administrators

e) Improved Media engagement and collaboration to highlight issues affecting the girl child

- A media panel discussion was held in Homa Bay PU between girl advocates and journalists from various media houses. The Girl advocates engaged the media on their role in advocating for gender equality and child protection.
- In Kilifi PU during the pre-day of the African Child activities, 5 schools participated in pre-recorded radio talks that highlighted challenges faced by children in the community especially girls. 3 live radio talk shows were conducted that involved 2 DCS Officers, 2 Plan staff and 1 Zana Africa staff. 2 girls successfully took over as Deputy County Commissioner- Ganze and Head Teacher respectively during IDG celebrations.
- Because of the engagements the media has been picking up issues highlighting progress in realization of children rights and concerns. Local media houses from Nyanza region covered the launch of ultra-modern classrooms at Pith Kabonyo primary school and consistently followed on activities implemented by Plan International that support the girl child.
- Through the Norad funded project in Kisumu, child journalists and club members were engaged to design and deliver radio programs on child rights and responsibilities. Girls also demonstrated strengthened personal behaviour and attributes, through strong aspirations and confidence to become leaders, an anecdote which is supported by girls competing for positions in student governments. In addition to the 1,710 students (860M/850F) who participated in refresher sessions on safe spaces, 2,700 new students (1,350M/1,350F) were trained.

B. Progress & Achievements on AOGD, SRHR

a) Improved access to adolescent and youth friendly services

- Plan International has recognised that adolescents have challenges accessing formal health facilities for services. In the reporting period Plan International worked with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to commit to provision of youth friendly services in the facilities.
- In Machakos PU an assessment was conducted in 396 health facilities to establish the level of friendliness of the facilities to the youths and adolescents. Based on the findings, 20 health workers were trained and certified to offer youth friendly services in Masinga and Matungulu health facilities. This was replicated in other PUs and the youths have started to enjoy friendly accessible services.
- In Kisumu after the survey, four model youth friendly centres were identified and supported by Plan International through infrastructural development.

- In Kilifi PU, 19 Health Facility Heads attended a 1 week training on provision of Adolescents and Youth (AY) Friendly SRH services. This training was carried out by a trained and certified team from the county department of health. After their training the facility heads carried out an 8-day facility orientation for all staff and some youth in their catchment areas. They now have teams that are ready to roll out facility based and outreach AY friendly SRH services.

b) Better menstrual hygiene management (MHM)

- Adolescent girls have challenges during menses. Lack of sanitary towels and inadequate understanding of good hygiene practices during menses has been identified as issues that needs to be addressed.
- In Tharaka PU, the project increased awareness of SRHR and MHM and the capacity to make informed decisions amongst boys, girls and families on their sexuality. This was achieved through, MHM and SRHR awareness sessions. Further, 450 girls participated in commemoration of MHM day that brought together girls and duty bearers from the County government to dialogue on menstrual hygiene needs of girls. Resulting from these sessions, there is increased openness in discussing issues of menstrual hygiene within the target locations and commitment from the county government to continue providing sanitary towels to all schools.
- Further, youths out of school where made aware of various SRHR services available , how they can access them and where these services can be accessed. In Kisumu, a total of 17,562 girls have been reached. Another 1,928 sanitary towels were distributed to needy girls across the hub. This was in efforts to enhance their dignity and ability to access their education uninterrupted due to absenteeism caused by the menstrual periods.
- Still in Kisumu PU, 3,403 youth from across the hub were reached with MHM messages. Over 2000 dignity packs were distributed to needy adolescent girls across the hub. The beneficiary girls indicated that the packs would help them manage menses in a better and dignified way, and would also reduce instances where they miss school because of lack of sanitary pads.
- In Machakos PU, sixteen primary schools received 80 puberty textbooks for girls that are useful guide in menstrual hygiene management among adolescent girls. As result, the girls are now able to manage the menstrual period and with the support of both boys and teacher. In addition, both boys and girls are self-aware and careful not to engage in sexual relationships that would lead to unwanted pregnancies.

c) Access to SRHR messages for health choices by adolescents

- Inadequate information on sexual reproductive health issues predispose adolescents to sexually transmitted diseases, drug and substance abuse, unhealthy life choices and vulnerability to teenage pregnancies and child marriages. Conscious of this, in the reporting period, Plan International worked with stakeholders to package adolescent friendly messages aimed at addressing these issues.
- In Machakos PU, Plan International reached 3,566 adolescent youths both in school (3,382) and out of school (184) with packaged SRHR messages. In addition, ASRHR project in Machakos supported 46 young mothers with life skills training to develop life skills, enable them improve their status and positively embrace life. In addition nine young mothers that graduated in the previous year were supported with business start-up kit that has enhanced their disposable income. The project has also created opportunity for sixteen other young mothers to access technical/vocational institutions for training on beauty therapy and dress making courses.
- In Kwale PU, focus was laid on passing information on teenage pregnancies and how to avoid them given the county was identified as a high prevalence zone, especially Mkongani Ward that was hardest hit.
- In total, Plan International reached 1,534 Boys and 1,550 Girls during the sexual reproductive health rights sessions. 10 Schools were engaged in this intensive outreach activities. The peak of the process brought together parents from the involved school catchments to have discussions on the growing concern of teenage pregnancies among adolescent girls. In attendance were 450 parents (210M and 240F). The

forum provided a reality check on parents-children relationship and why it is necessary for parents to be active participants in children matters and development. Caregivers were shocked with statistics on child pregnancies recorded in 2018 (387 children pregnant with 11 under the age of 14 years) and resolved to tackle teenage pregnancies as an urgent advocacy issue

C. Progress & Achievements on AOGD, ECD

- Through interventions in the ECD, Plan International worked with stakeholders to enhance parental involvement in learning. So far there is evidence of growing involvement of parents in the learning of children especially fathers that had been less involved.
- Plan continued to support the general improvement of the physical learning environment of some select needy and deserving ECD centres with infrastructure including reading tables, chairs and play and art materials. In Kilifi PU, Plan International supported the provision of furniture in 53 ECCDs and assorted play and learning materials. 70 ECCD centres were supported with hand washing equipment and water storage tanks. This has improved access to drinking water and improved hygiene.
- Parents were empowered to participate in the learning of their children through development of play and learning materials using locally available materials
- Plan International supported the roll out of the competency-based curriculum by facilitating the training of 120 teachers
- Through the NIA project implemented in Kilifi PU, 35 Community Own Resource Persons drawn from CHVs, Child mentors, Religious leaders and opinion leaders were trained on Positive Parenting and carried out community dialogue sessions on positive parenting with 2,700 women, 1,124 men, 294 boys and 239 girls. During these sessions parents openly acknowledged a gap in parenting and pledged to be more supportive of their children.

D. Progress & Achievements on AOGD, Protection from violence

a) Increased participation of children in self protection

- In an environment where children are increasingly predisposed to rights violation, equipping them with skills for self-protection is of paramount importance.
- Through the Girls Advocacy Alliance project there has been increased participation of children in their own protection through the provision of speak out boxes across the seventy target schools. School management and teachers attested to receiving valuable feedback on children welfare through the speak out boxes. Abuse cases have also been reported through the boxes.
- In the Norad child protection project in Kisumu, a total of 54, 859 children (26, 261 boys and 28,598 girls) were reached on child protection through peer education training, participation in child clubs and assemblies, use of speak out boxes and development and implementation of child friendly policies at school level. An increase in the level of awareness on child rights has led to increased reporting on child abuse cases and improved response to these cases in the family and school environment.
- The relationship between teachers and pupils has improved due to capacity enhancement on positive discipline leading to reduced violence and cases of child abuse, even though most schools are yet to finalize the development of nonviolence code of conduct. The teachers have been working in collaboration with the Board of Management. A total of 615 board members and 465 teachers were trained on child protection, roles and responsibilities and disability inclusion in Norad funded child protection project.
- During the reporting period, Machakos PU Child Protection project promoted self- protection and increased the level of reporting of child abuse cases using the due reporting procedure by boys and girls. The project managed to engage a total 3,734 children (1,958 girls, 1,776 boys). This was done through

trainings, group discussions, campaigns, provision of IEC materials with messages on child abuse reporting procedure as well as exposure visit for peer-to-peer learning. The impacts have been seen in declining trend in teenage pregnancies in Ndithini location.

b) Strengthened community-based child protection mechanisms

- In the wake of increased cases of child rights violation, having an effective community-based child protection system is necessary for detection, prevention and response to the cases of rights violation. In the reporting period Plan International worked with stakeholders to strengthen the structures and make them more responsive.
- One result of the interventions was improved coordination of state and non-state actors in child protection resulting in enhanced child protection efforts and better coordination and effective handling of child protection cases. The coordination involved key NGOs, and CBOs. The National and County Governments, schools and other key structures including AACs, Court Users associations were engaged throughout the year.
- In addition, there was increased knowledge on child protection at community level and the duty bearers became more responsive.
- During the period, groups often associated with child rights violation such as motor bike riders and the fisher folk were targeted with information. As a result of these initiatives for instance the children department in Bondo PU, reported that *boda boda* operators had reached out to them and the Police and reported suspected perpetrators of child abuse. Additionally, a Beach Management Unit (BMU) in Sirongo- Bondo reported to the Plan International office a case where the beach management unit members ensured a father who was neglecting his child provided for him and took him back to school.
- In Homa Bay PU a high-risk area for child rights violation, the PU worked on a tool for documenting and reporting all detected and handled child abuse cases. The cases will be compiled and shared during quarterly meetings. Another tool to assist paralegals and volunteer children officers to document, store, analyse and report child abuse cases is under preparation in Homa Bay.
- In Tharaka, 32 VCOs were trained, 40 investigations officers (IOs) from Marimanti, Gatunga and Makutano police stations trained on case management. A reflection meeting bringing together key actors in the criminal justice system was convened to reflect on how to improve the provision of justice for communities in Tharaka. As a result of these efforts, reporting and management of child related cases has greatly improved at Marimanti law courts increasing access to justice for boys and girls in Tharaka.
- The establishment of Child Protection Units (CPU) in Police stations has enabled the provision of child friendly services. In Bondo, a 10000 litre water tank has been fitted for Usenge and Aram CPU. The tank has enabled the police station and especially children using the CPU to have access to clean water. “The money I have been using to purchase water I will now direct it towards improving the diet for the children held in the CPUs” said OCs Usenge police station during an interview. Similar unit has been established in Maseno while in Siaya in Bondo PU, a portable children’s witness box complete with a sound system was donated to the Siaya Magistrates court. The box will provide for children to testify while hidden from the perpetrators who could potentially scare them through non-verbal communication
- In the GAA project, teachers were identified and trained on child protection alongside establishment of functional community-based child protection structures that include paralegals, child protection committees, case managers and parenting groups GAA
- In Kisumu through the Norad Project, the Area Advisory Councils and Court Users Associations were supported to provide safe space for children in conflict with the law, abandoned or lost children who find their way to station before getting reunited with their caregivers.
- In Kilifi PU, during the CUC review meetings that we supported, the CUC members agreed to plan for Children Judicial Service week to speed up handling of defilement cases that had been pending since

2013. As a result of the good performance during that service week, the National Judicial children service week was launched in Kilifi and attended by High Court Judges William Ouko and Martha Koome. During this week 5 out of the 13 pending cases since 2013 were successfully closed and 2 convictions realized.

c) Enhanced safety of children in urban centres, communities and schools

- The safety of children especially girls in the urban areas has been of concern to child protection agencies in Kenya. Public spaces including the transport sector has been characterised by child rights violation. Through advocacy initiatives in the urban centres of Nairobi and Kisumu, the safer cities project has made milestones in making the cities safer for girls.
- In Kisumu, the Safe and Inclusive Cities project successfully lobbied the Kenya National Highways Authority to erect speed bumps in Kisumu-Kakamega Highway near three target schools i.e., Arya Primary school, Highway Primary school and Highway Secondary schools. The areas were hot spots of accidents for children crossing over to school.
- In two separate trainings, Safe and Inclusive Cities successfully trained 19 law enforcement officers from the Kenya Police service and 188 youth ambassadors in Nairobi and Kisumu on how to report, intervene and handle sexual harassment cases while on transit. The trained officers and youth ambassadors have become key change agents through which community awareness and sensitisation sessions were conducted.
- Further, the trained police officers collaborated with trained youth road safety ambassadors to carry out an assessment of the safety situation in their respective communities. Subsequently, they proposed strategies and initiatives for finding lasting solutions. Overall, these efforts have resulted in reduced cases of sexual harassment, less overloading of public vehicles and general improvement in road safety in target areas.
- Separately, the Safe and Inclusive Cities trained 836 young youth on their civic rights and responsibilities, the functions of National and county governments and on public participation. As a result of this training, young people in targeted areas have organised themselves in groups that have been seen to exercise their right by demanding for action from duty bearers towards making public transport safe and secure for all.

d) Awareness creation to tackle harmful cultural practices

- Harmful cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage remain a big concern in the communities where Plan International works. Child marriage is accelerated by high teen pregnancies that have equally increased during the latter part of the reporting year. Many of the girls that suffer child marriage have ruined lives and face challenges of diverse proportions.
- Through the GAA project, girls that were once in child marriage were traced and readmitted to complete their learning. A tool to track such girls has been developed and is currently in use. Similar initiative happened in Kajiado a place where girls face forced marriages. In partnership with Government line ministries and other stakeholders, YID project Strengthened Kajiado West Beacon Teachers Movement resulting in 18 girls being re-enrolled to school and a further nine, saved from early marriage. Eighteen cases of teenage pregnancies have been reported; with ongoing follow ups to ensure the girls get justice and are re-enrolled back to school.
- The movement continues to create awareness at grassroots and are keeping track of affected pupils school retention rates. The Beacon teachers have also been instrumental in building trust between teachers and pupils, which has in turn resulted in free communication and flow of ideas between teachers and the students. An example is of a girl who ran to Oldepe Primary School to escape FGM. In the school, she met a beacon teacher Jackline Tuwei who assisted her and she was placed at a rescue centre, as her case was being heard resolve
- In Kajiado, the “*Yes I Do*” project conducted a series of dialogue sessions among the male populace (young and old) on the need for them to appreciate the ills of FGM, Child Marriage (CM) and Teenage Pregnancy (TP) and their role in ending these trends and practices. This has resulted in positive behaviour

change among the males who were initially, defensive and protective of the cultural practices that fuel these problems. They can now openly discuss issues touching on FGM, CM and TP and propose solutions. A case in point is of Iyes Mapi from Iltareto village of Sairashie aged 70 who made a confession and said “My first girl is not circumcised and this is a decision I made as a parent.”

E. Right to water sanitation and hygiene

- Through the Takeda project, Plan International Kwale recorded a significant civic registration drive which realised a total number of 7,142 (4,446 girls and 2,696 boys) registered during the mobile registration drives. The success was realized amidst the Government mandatory requirement to implore parents to ensure all school going children have a birth certificate to enable them get registered under the National Education Management Information System (EMIS) program in learning institutions. Kwale Takeda
- To increase immunization for children in Lungalunga sub county, the Smart paper technology was one of the significant milestones that contributed to increased digital registration of children receiving vaccines. 3,047(1382 Boys and 1665 Girls) children were registered at the facility with a high turn out on vaccination services. The outcome of this input includes reduced administration time of health workers by a minimum of 60%, digitization of health records that helped to improve data accuracy and produce data that is 99% accurate, timeliness and y, consistency t and complete. The program has seen the County department of health integrate 83% of work processes and scanning centre into existing health system structure. Kwale Takeda
- As an integral part of sponsorship commitments, 169 sponsored children, (109 girls and 60 boys) were registered) during a mop up exercise of late Birth registration for sponsored children who did not have Birth Certificates in Kwale.
- The Smart Paper Technology was successfully submitted to compete in the World Health Organization Innovation Exhibitions. The event took place in Cape Verde on March 26th, 2019. The theme was “Achieving Universal Health Coverage and Health Security in Africa: The Africa We Want to See” The submission was to demonstrate the pilot potential and invite interested stakeholders to support the scalability of the Innovation. The WHO Innovation Challenge received a total of 2,471 applications from 77 countries – 44 countries in Africa. A panel of independent evaluators assessed and profiled the innovations in terms of the potential for making impact as well as ability to be scaled up in a sustainable way. More than a third of the submissions came from women. The Smart Paper Technology was successfully submitted to compete in the World Health Organization Innovation Exhibitions. The theme was “Achieving Universal Health Coverage and Health Security in Africa: The Africa We Want to See” The submission was to demonstrate the pilot potential and invite interested stakeholders to support the scalability of the Innovation. The ranking of the Innovations placed the SPT as a leader in the African Title in all categories and will proceed for the Global Challenge subsequently.
- The Young Health Program commissioned Mid-term Evaluation in December 2018. The evaluation gave evidence of reduced engagement by targeted youth in non-communicable disease (NCD) risk behaviours. This was attributed to the project intervention where massive awareness was created through sharing of information and resources on NCD risk behaviours, SRHR and gender equality. The evaluation showed that; 1)there is reduction in current smokers from 47.2% (Baseline, 2016) to 7.0%) 2) reduction in the number of alcohol drinkers (those who have drunk in the past 30 days) from 66.3% (Baseline, 2016) to 41.4% and, 3) increased knowledge of balanced diet among young people from 70.0% (Baseline, 2016) to 76.6%.
- 500 Solar Water treatment kits were distributed to 25 schools and 125 homes in Ganze sub county in Kilifi PU. Training was done on use and maintenance of the kits to school health club patrons, Public Health Officers and CHVs. During a follow up visit in one school (Mwarandinda primary school) the head teacher remarked that he has witnessed decrease in number of pupils being absent from school due to water related illnesses compared to the time before the kits were introduced.

F. Right to protection and assistance in emergencies and improved resilience to natural and man-made hazards

- The resilience programs sought to build capacity of the communities to effectively participate towards developing resilience for adaptation to climate change and also for them to be prepared in case of a disaster. The major aim of the resilience programs was to improve the resilience of the local population through different initiatives including livelihoods diversification which is critical for them to be able to cope and adapt.

a) Improved household income, food security and nutrition

- A total of 6998 households were reached through the distribution of improved/drought resistant and milk producing goats, distribution of drought resistant crops seeds and capacity building in crop and livestock management. This initiative reached 822 households with goats and bucks that were shared for upgrading and 6909 households with seeds. Livelihoods diversification was undertaken with 5649 H/H being trained on different livelihoods alternatives and 1755 reached with support to start alternative livelihoods like seaweed farming, seed capital business, orchard or fruit farming like water melon. 1119 H/H are now having IGA that is aimed improving household economic and enhancing child protection.
- During the FY Plan focused on supporting over 20 groups with inputs and associated infrastructure to facilitate commercial production. One group did water melons and had this to say *“We planted watermelon in one quarter of an acre and harvested more than 500 fruits weighing a total of 2,250 kgs. With farm gate price of Ksh.25 per kg, we earned over 56, 250.00 over the 3 months’ period. In the past, the same piece of land used to give us at most 3 bags maize. We can now buy more than 20 bags of maize from the proceeds of watermelon. In the next season we intend to lease more land and plant watermelon in not less than 6 acres of land”*, Martha Onyango, Farmer/group member- Nyabera CBO.
- Improved environment including coastal areas for good health among communities and school children and also to promote breeding areas for fish/income and inculcate a culture of environment protection among children in schools and enable schools to plant woodlots in schools and fruit trees for use by children and the school community. More than 150,000 tree seedlings were planted in both homes, schools and communities as a surface cover which prevents soil erosion, provide shades for children and for fruits in future.

b) Disaster preparedness

- Preparedness during disasters due to improved knowledge on disaster risk reduction and knowledge on different hazards and early warning systems. This has led to reduced mortality and morbidity during disasters. 469 community members were trained in disaster risk reduction, a Disaster preparedness plan reviewed to ensure Plan International is ready to respond to disasters.
- Emergency response to floods was undertaken to reduce the suffering of the people. A total of 19,662 people was reached with relief supplies and recovery initiatives and 400 H/H were reached with cash transfers in Kisumu and 532_ with recovery initiatives. The relief supplies distributed included, Hygiene kits for girls, WASH supplies, bedding (ITNs, plastic sheeting, blankets, soap etc). hygiene promotion and CPiE awareness and interventions were also implemented in Kilifi to mitigate disease outbreaks and reduce/address CPiE concerns.

c) Improving policy environment for disaster risk reduction

- County governments have a better understanding of the policies and allocate resources for DRR. Plan supported 2 counties in domesticating the policies. There are task forces that have been formed to develop a County disaster risk management policy and proposed road maps for DRM policy formulation. Minimum standards for Child protection was also undertaken to ensure the wellbeing during emergencies is addressed.
- To ensure gender was taken into consideration, there was involvement of both male and female, girls and boys in assessments, consultation for different initiatives for ownership. For response there was purposive identification of the needs of the girls and boys where we ended up providing personal hygiene kits. For resilience and recovery initiatives men were consulted as they are the custodian of the farms and traditionally own livestock to have an understanding of the benefit for the whole family and the role that each is to play in the project. Lasting impact was used to select some of the activities for recovery.