

*Your*  
**IMPACT**

# Thank you

## FOR HELPING TO STOP THE CLOCK FOR GIRLS.

Over the past year and a half, you've helped to keep millions of children and families safe and healthy. You've also protected girls from the side effects of the pandemic, which are just as dangerous as the disease itself. COVID-19 is threatening to unravel decades of progress, but together, we're doing all we can to stop the setback.

When a girl faces violence and oppression, her path is blocked. Together, we're collaborating with girls around the world to remove the hurdles in their way, so that they are free to take the next step toward the future they deserve. Here are just some of the girls you've supported through these challenging times.



SIERRA LEONE  
JOSEPHINE, 16

Josephine, one of more than 2,000 students in Sierra Leone who received a radio set from Plan, credits the solar-powered radio with helping her pass her secondary school exams. Thank you for helping to provide the tools that girls like Josephine need to make their dreams a reality.

**"I was born with the desire and passion to be educated and want to become an advocate and a lawyer. ... I love my new class and I won't stop listening to the radio teaching programs."**



ECUADOR  
YADIRA, 19

Yadira is a member of Plan International Ecuador's Youth Girls' Movement, a group of young women promoting gender equality and girls' rights. With your support, girls like Yadira are confidently advocating for real change in their homes and their communities.

**"With the help of my brother, my parents tried to make things more equal in the home, as did my grandparents. ... We share the chores equally; if my brother has to cook, he does it. If it's my dad's or my mom's turn, they do it too, which means me and my sister have time to study, so they are helping us achieve our goals. ... My fight is to change my present and my future, and that of my younger sister and her generation."**



INDONESIA | ETI, 13

Lack of internet access makes learning from home nearly impossible for children living in remote areas. But, thanks to the hand-held radio transceiver Eti received from Plan, she is able to communicate with her teachers and classmates. The radio communication devices also help communities in Indonesia develop safe operating models and coordinate good hygiene practices to enable schools to reopen safely.

**"My friends and I can continue our learning using the walkie-talkies. It helps, as my schoolmates and I can hear the voices of our teachers which motivates us to continue our studies."**



MALI | SITAN, 16

When schools closed due to the pandemic, Sitan's uncles decided she should marry. In Mali, 54% of girls marry before the age of 18. Plan held an awareness raising meeting in Sitan's community, focused on the importance of education for girls and the consequences of child marriage. Sitan was determined to continue with her studies, and her mother supported her. After passing her secondary school entrance exam, her uncles changed their minds, and Sitan was able to stay in school.

**"I see a bright future for me and all the girls who have the chance to continue their studies until graduation. Today I dream of graduating and becoming a civil servant to support my family and community. As for marriage, it will come later."**



PERU | ASTRID, 15

After migrating to Peru from Venezuela with her family in 2018, Astrid joined Plan's Safe Environments project, a program committed to ensuring girls, migrants and refugees are protected and aware of their rights. Thank you for supporting young leaders like Astrid, who are changing the world for the better!

**"I seek to promote gender equality and consequently prevent gender-based violence. I want to study medicine and be a specialist in gynecology to help all women who have a disease. I want to help improve and look after women's health."**

A Syrian refugee living in Jordan, Fatima participates in Plan's Himayati project, currently run via WhatsApp because of the pandemic. The program helps girls stay connected and provides a safe space to discuss important issues affecting their lives, like harassment, discrimination and gender-based violence.

**"We always discuss frustrating things and negative stigmas and collective behaviors like harassment, discrimination and gender-based violence. We talk about how we can address these issues and inflect positive change in our community."**



JORDAN  
FATIMA, 14

## They needed your help, and you were there.

On March 22, massive fires broke out in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee settlement in Bangladesh, quickly raging across four camps and affecting 10,000 Rohingya refugee families. In fragile places like this, it can take years to recover from disasters — especially when the families living there were already being set back by COVID-19. But with your support, Plan was able to respond swiftly, creating safe temporary shelters, reuniting children with their families and providing food and psychosocial support.

You make it possible for us to respond immediately when crisis strikes — thank you.



*You reunited children, like sisters Kalima, 6, and Habiba, 4, with their families after the devastating fires in Cox's Bazar.*



JEANNE

# A once in a lifetime friendship



PEGGY

The year was 1951. Jeanne Merritt saw an ad in a magazine that grabbed her attention.

“For \$15 a month you could sponsor a child, mostly out of war-torn Europe,” Jeanne recalls.

She chose a 12-year-old girl from England named Peggy, and they began exchanging letters.

“I do remember the wonderful packages she sent us, and the excitement of rushing home from school when we had been notified that one was on its way,” Peggy says.

Over the years, a friendship blossomed. “It was easy to stay in touch because

when Peggy graduated I sponsored her youngest brother.”

Then, during a trip to England in 1960, they met in person. “Meeting for the first time was for me an experience of a lifetime,” Jeanne recalls.

And that was just the beginning. “I’ve been there, she and her husband have been here. And it has been absolutely wonderful. We both marvel at it.”

A lot has changed since 1951, but their friendship is going strong. Now, instead of exchanging letters, Jeanne and Peggy catch up with monthly video chats.

Another thing that hasn’t changed is Jeanne’s dedication to giving back —

she’s been a Plan supporter for 70 years now. “You not only have an opportunity to create a relationship, but you’re also learning about other cultures from a child’s perspective. All children need someone to look up to. ... And I think the rewards of that for the sponsor are tremendous.”

Jeanne has sponsored children from all over the world, but her first sponsored child will always have a special place in her heart. “Our friendship has enriched my life greatly,” Jeanne says.

Peggy couldn’t agree more. “My life has really been broadened by knowing this lovely, generous, kind lady.”

## Inspiring change, one extraordinary story at a time

Together, our supporters and partners are helping to tear down the barriers keeping girls from reaching their full potential. Some of our donors sponsor children, making a connection of the heart; others donate to specific projects, supporting the direct change that they would like to see in the world.

Our partner ViacomCBS has made a very special contribution of their own: inspiration.

Through their international Nickelodeon channels in dozens of countries, ViacomCBS is sharing a message of hope with a global community of children, centered on the inspiring stories of determined girls who are defying stereotypes and excelling in male-dominated disciplines.




Launched on April 5, the “Extraordinary Me” campaign spotlights extraordinary girls doing extraordinary things, including: Mahiro, a karate champion from Japan; Sahara, a junior golfing champion from Australia; Milana, a weightlifting champion in Russia; and Karla, a rugby player and girls’ rights activist from Colombia, who overcame physical challenges and defied gender and racial stereotypes to become captain of her regional rugby team.

Plan works to give girls the tools they need to take control of their lives. We’re grateful to our partners at ViacomCBS and Nickelodeon for making sure that girls’ stories are heard all over the world, and for inspiring young people everywhere to believe in their own extraordinary potential.



Karla, from Colombia, is captain of her rugby team.



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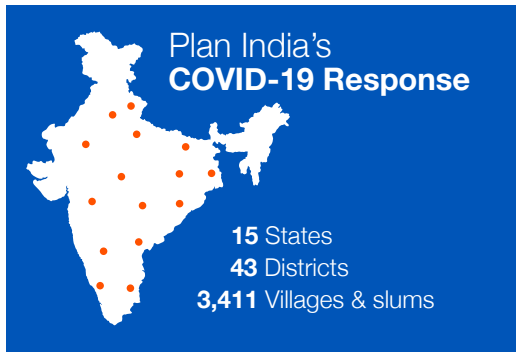
Discover more about these extraordinary young women at [me.nickelodeon.tv](http://me.nickelodeon.tv).





# YOUR IMPACT IN INDIA

With the help of supporters like you, Plan International was one of the first responders to the COVID-19 crisis in India in early 2020, which impacted one million people across 15 states. Thank you.



## Emergency relief

**465,400+** People reached with **2,210+** tons of food.

## Awareness

**929,800+** People reached with COVID-19 messaging, including people living with HIV.

## Education

**52,100+** Secondary school girls reached with education kits.

## Medicines delivered to people living with HIV

**28,220+** HIV+ people

**9,980+** HIV+ pregnant women

**5,950+** HIV+ exposed babies

## Protection and hygiene

**828,600+** People reached with hygiene kits.

**2,071,500+** Menstrual pads distributed among girls & women.

**447,900+** Soap bars distributed.

**39,700+** Frontline health workers reached with PPE kits.

**105,500+** Medical staff reached with PPE kits.

Dates as on March 15, 2021



## Responding to the pandemic ACROSS THE GLOBE

Your support is changing girls' and children's lives around the world. **Nearly 82 million people have been reached through Plan's COVID-19 global response.**

# Helping India heal

India was already reeling from a devastating second wave of COVID-19. Hospitals were overrun, and oxygen supplies were running out. Patients were being turned away from facilities, many dying at home, or right outside hospital doors. Hundreds of corpses floated down the holy Ganges river.

Then, in May, two cyclones struck a week apart — Cyclone Tauktae battered the west coast and Cyclone Yaas hit the east coast hard, washing away homes and flooding communities. More than a million people were displaced by the two storms, many seeking refuge in camps and shelters.

We asked you to help the country survive this nightmare, and once again, you were there. Here are some of the ways donors like you continue to provide lifesaving support for India.



## Food aid for vulnerable families

Distributing food baskets to 100,000 vulnerable families, with a focus on:

- Families in both urban and rural communities with one or more family member suffering from COVID-19.
- Daily wage earners and migrant labor families who have suffered a loss of income because of COVID-19 restrictions.



## Protection for frontline workers

Distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline workers so they can safely continue delivering services to COVID-19 patients.

- The PPE includes N-95 masks, gloves and body and shoe covers.



## COVID-19 awareness campaign

Reaching 1M girls, boys, women and men in 1,800 villages through an awareness campaign on prevention measures and vaccine eligibility.

- The campaign will be delivered through posters, public announcements, SMS outreach and social media.
- Vaccination kiosks will be set up in all 1,800 villages to support registration.



## Oxygen for COVID-19 patients

Distributing oxygen concentrators to 500 COVID-19 treatment centers.

- Three types of oxygen concentrators are being procured: oxygen flow of 2-10 liters/minute; oxygen flow of 10 liters/minute; and oxygen flow of 20 liters/minute.



## Temporary COVID-19 treatment centers

Setting up 20 temporary care centers to support 10,000 COVID-19 patients from vulnerable communities.

- Care centers will have 100 beds each and will operate for three months. Patients with mild symptoms will receive care as well as nutritional support as they recover.

*Girl with her family's dry food rations, provided by Plan.*



Plan India's #HelpIndiaHeal appeal aims to directly support nearly 200,000 COVID-19 affected families over the next three months. Additionally, one million vulnerable families will be indirectly supported through prevention measures, vaccination and food security interventions.

Visit [planusa.org/where-needed-most-india](https://planusa.org/where-needed-most-india) to help India heal today.