PLAN UK
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2007

Plan
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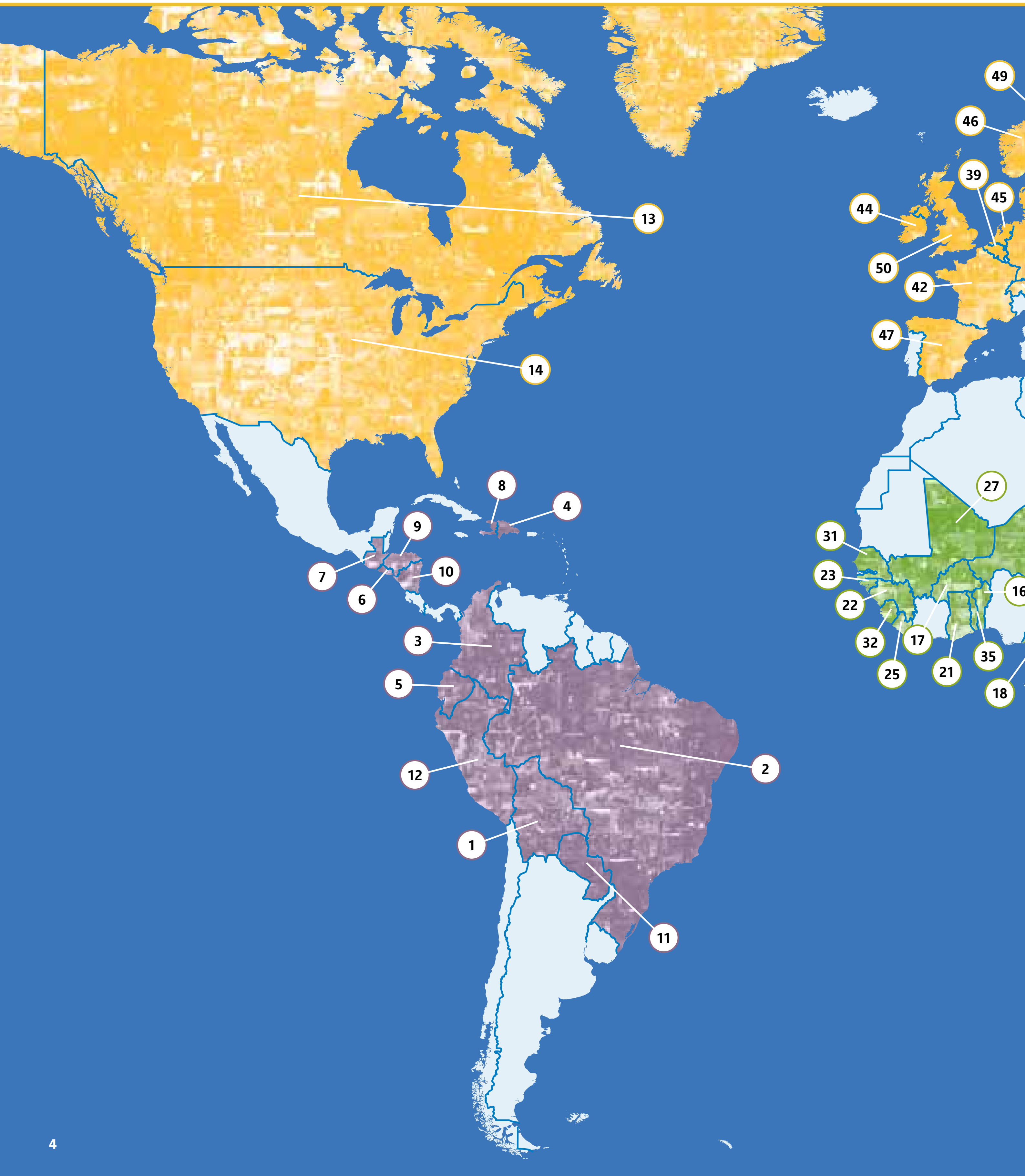

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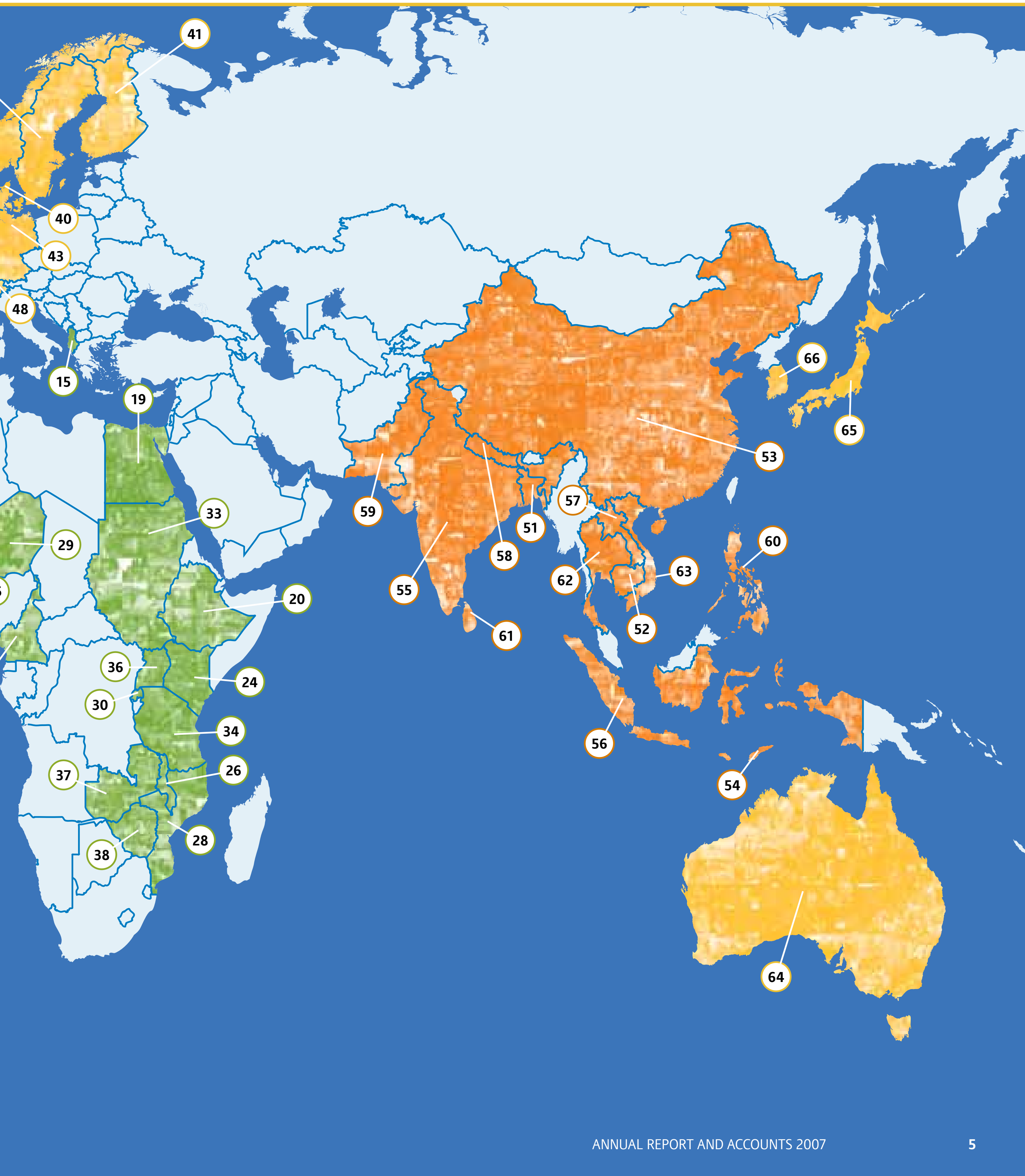


TOWARDS A BRIGHTER LIFE, **TOGETHER**

"I am Anowar Hossain from Angarpara Union. I was one of five children in my family but two of my sisters died because there was no money for medical treatment. Now I have two sisters and I am the only son.

"My parents dreamed of educating me and expected me to take financial responsibility for the family. Although I passed the admission test for Dinajpur Government college my parents could not afford the fees, so I continued my BA at the Pakerhat degree college. I failed to pass the BA exam twice.

"Since my father was the only earning member of the family, it became very stressful for him to maintain the family and to fund my education. I was dependent on my parents as I had no job. I was mentally distressed and very disheartened. My father's health was deteriorating and so was the family's financial state.

"Eventually I started to teach primary school students at home. In this way I helped my father financially for a few years. In 2001 I was chosen as a tutor for C.L.A.P. (the Community Learning Assistance Project).

"When I was fully trained I started working in the primary school as a teacher for pupils who had dropped out of school. I realised that primary education is essential; it is vitally important to make sure that no children become drop-outs.

"I dedicated myself to teaching the primary curriculum and began regular communication with the students, teachers, parents, the School Management Committee and the Village Development Committee. For my active work in social development, I have been recognised by the local people. They now respect me, value my words and take my advice very seriously.

"This might not seem important to extremely successful people, but, for a person like me, this recognition worked like an energising tonic that enabled me to work harder. People who had ignored me, and questioned my ability, started to acknowledge my skills.

"My job enabled me to escape poverty, but when I got married my expenses started to shoot up again. I was worried about my future, but I also felt that my willpower was stronger and that I would be able to overcome any problem.

"In 2004 I was chosen to be an education technical supervisor. This ensured a monthly salary that allowed me to run my household smoothly. It also gave me more opportunity to work actively in the development sector. This effort to improve society is appreciated and is actually making a difference, and this gives me self-contentment which is very valuable to me.

"My wife was selected to run an early childhood development centre and she now looks after young children, aged around three years, by providing early care and educational play in our home. I am so happy that she could use the training she received and is able to apply it to the development of the children. This allows us to have a better standard of living while working for a good cause. I have also started a night school to help elderly people who are illiterate.

"My parents are relieved that they don't have to worry about how they will survive in their old age. They are happy to know that their son is there to support them. This is very satisfying for me. My hard work has paid off, and I see how my work is appreciated from the honour I receive."

C.L.A.P. as a social development strategy

The Community Learning Assistance Project (C.L.A.P.) is a programme which aims to address poor quality teaching and lack of community participation in schools. Local young people get trained in child-friendly, participatory teaching methods to tutor a group of 20 students who collectively pay for their tutoring. The positive results achieved by the students then encourage their families to be involved in their education, motivate the students to stay in school and their parents to follow their performance and attitude at school and home.

Some of the results achieved by the C.L.A.P. programme include: increased children's interest towards learning, regularity in their attendance, engagement of the community in the education of their children and in the assessment of the impact of the project, and an overall movement within the community towards quality education.

A MESSAGE FROM
PLAN UK CHAIR

Just before Christmas our family received a lovely handmade card from our sponsored child in the Philippines, Catherine, who is thirteen years old and attends her local school. After reassuring us she was in good health and being a "responsible student", she listed what Plan was helping them bring to her community: a health centre, books, rainwater catchments, school latrines and medicines. "These things", she said, "were only a dream before for me, but now it is a dream come true".

At Plan's 70th anniversary celebrations we heard vividly from Harriet, who is older than Catherine, and comes from Sierra Leone. A young girl from the second poorest country in the world, she also went to school, and has now helped her community set up a vibrant local radio station which has programmes which enable mothers and young women to get access to education and health services.

Two young women, thousands of miles apart, with common hopes and aspirations.

Stories like Catherine's and Harriet's are the raw material for the ground-breaking report, "Because I am a Girl", commissioned by Plan UK and shared widely with Plan colleagues across the world, and other NGOs and governments. It traces both the adverse impacts of poverty on the world's girls and the progress being made to undermine a cycle which means often passing on those miseries from grandmother to mother to daughter as uneducated, underage women give birth to underweight babies with little chance of going to school. The sheer physical effort of what is often a long two way daily trek to their local school can be overwhelming if a child has an empty belly and little energy. Having books as Catherine said is wonderful, but you need food to understand them.

As the "Because I am a Girl" report makes clear, there are some positive signs that all our efforts are bearing some fruit. In 2006, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday – the age many of them would start school – has fallen below 10 millions.

There has been significant progress in tackling the child killers of measles and malaria. Over the past six years, deaths from these diseases in Africa have fallen by over 50%.

Gender parity between boys and girls in primary and secondary education has been achieved in around 80% of the developing countries where data is available.

But there is still so much to do to enable women like Catherine and Harriet to fulfil their dreams. We are at the halfway stage in terms of the time we have set ourselves to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In some societies, there has been relatively little progress towards enabling its citizens to live a healthy life with access to education. Indeed, in far too many cases, just staying alive is proving impossible.

As Plan celebrates its 70th year, and remembers its proud roots in the conflict of the Spanish Civil War, I ask you all to be as generous as you can afford to be to enable Plan to push harder still to enable the dreams of children to be realised. The founders of the charity did a remarkable thing in 1937 in enabling child refugees to avoid the worst impacts of a conflict they had no political part in. We owe it to them to continue and intensify their work in a new century.

Now Plan operates on a global scale. This report brings to life the hard work and commitment of thousands of Plan volunteers and communities who are making a difference. My thanks to all of them, and let's make sure we support the Plan teams across the world as they battle to release many millions of children from poverty and fulfil their potential to invigorate their own societies.

N.C. Chapman

Nigel Chapman
Plan UK Chair

A report from Plan UK Children's Advisory Panel

"We are here to inform and raise awareness about the issues surrounding children, about Plan and its work and about what can be done to change things in the world.

"Last year was an important year for us; we learnt more about each other, young people from other countries and the issues they face. We met with Chernor from Sierra Leone who told us his experience of civil war and his fight to promote children's rights in his country. Last year we learnt about issues Plan works with, attended conferences and debated on world issues.

"In particular, we took part in the Global Campaign for Education, to pressure world leaders to help the 77 million children out of school get an education, by joining thousands of others around the world, who sent the Prime Minister cut-outs of teachers to emphasise the need for teachers and their training in developing countries.

"We also had the opportunity to meet Undersecretary of International Development, Gareth Thomas. We made a presentation to him and his colleagues about HIV/Aids to show how that affects the lives of young people across developing countries. We wanted to illustrate how people with HIV/Aids are largely ignored. We put the people in the meeting into four groups and asked them questions about HIV/Aids. The groups could put their hands up to answer questions but we deliberately ignored Gareth Thomas' group, despite them putting their hands up quite frequently. At the end of the quiz we asked the groups if they had noticed anything unusual. Gareth was quick to comment that he and his group felt left out. We explained that we did that to show how people suffering with HIV/Aids are ignored.

"In addition to getting influential adults thinking about issues affecting children all over the world we did our share to increase public awareness of children's rights and Plan's work and collected money for the Tsunami appeal in our spare time.

"Last year, through education, meetings and discussions it's made us realise why we are part of Plan CAP. We believe in young people playing a more active role in shaping their future. Politics and caring aren't just adults' jobs, young people should have their say, too. After all, no-one knows children better than we do.

"The intention to be in CAP isn't to get something out of it but to put something into it. It's taught us more about the world and issues like HIV/Aids, gender, children's rights and poverty. Being in CAP helps me to raise awareness about these issues.

"It's really important that adults listen to children's views, particularly children who don't usually get a chance to voice their opinions, and especially when they intend to make decisions that influence us. We spoke out on BBC Manchester Radio recently on behalf of CAP and the work we do."

Durgha, Elly, Kate, Katie, Kurtis, Leon, Nia, Maurice, Olivia and Sarah.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Disasters, particularly natural disasters, are inevitable. Loss of life and livelihood in disasters is not. Children living in our changing climate learnt to map and reduce the risks affecting their communities this year as the disaster risk reduction programme was rolled out in four Plan countries.

The impact of disasters and future changes in climate extremes have long-term repercussions on the lives of children Plan works with. Disasters affect the development progress made by poor countries; their infrastructures, livelihoods and their achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially their fight to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Major disasters such as Darfur and Uganda flared briefly in the media this year, highlighting the immediate humanitarian response. Long after the cameras have gone Plan is still there, developing long term programmes with children and their communities to mitigate their losses. We were working with communities hit by an increasing number of extensive local disasters such as floods, forest fires and landslides which wiped out lives and livelihoods.

Last year Plan UK not only assisted communities in the immediate relief efforts in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Niger, Philippines and Burkina Faso, but also assisted families in the long-term effort of rebuilding their lives in India, Sri Lanka, El Salvador and East Timor and reducing their vulnerability to future disasters. Working with young people and communities to prepare them for future emergencies and to reduce their vulnerability is a long-term, relatively low-visibility process, with little media interest.

But it was the commitment of young people to make a real difference and assist their communities that was at the centre stage at last year's United National global conference on disaster risk reduction in Geneva. At the conference, Plan's young speakers showed the world the importance of their right to participate in efforts to protect them from hazards and vulnerabilities.

2007 was an exceptional year for Plan UK – not only did we celebrate 70 years of working with and for children, but thanks to the increased support of individuals, companies, trusts and institutional donors, we linked more children, supporters, and campaigners around children's needs across the world.

Last May, we launched our first 'State of the World's Girls' report. The report looks at the situation of girls in developing countries and evidences how they are discriminated against even before they are born. Thousands of UK supporters and campaigners, from girl scouts to teachers, to supporters and campaigners, responded to our 'Because I am a Girl' campaign and showed their commitment to fight girls' discrimination, together.

During the year, we increased our influence by actively participating in a number of important partnerships, including Grow up Free from Poverty coalition, becoming a member of VOICE, the main network of European Humanitarian Agencies and our first Partnership Programme Agreement with the Department for International Development, which allows us to accelerate our programme impact in the world by encouraging young people's participation in local governance.

These partnerships, together with our recent transparency and accountability award for our online accounts, and Plan's compliance to ICFO standards for good governance, management, fiscal control, and reporting, are the marks of the growing recognition of the quality of our work by an increased number of individuals, companies, trusts and institutional donors.

Travel Counsellors, was one such company. Through their support, they enabled Plan to establish our school linking programme. The programme enables schools in the UK to link up with schools in Africa with a safe online forum for teachers and students to learn from each other and bring about change together.

We continued to listen to our supporters' feedback and recommendations and last year introduced new supporters' communications, enabling our sponsors to receive appropriate and relevant information about their impact and their contribution to our work. We are also developing a new supporter database system that will help strengthen relationships with our supporters and partners.

Last year was also an important year for linking young people on their participation in decision-making in the UK and the countries where we work through our 'Make the Link, Break the Chain' project and the work of our Children Advisory Panel.

Through the 'Make the Link, Break the Chain' project Plan UK facilitated the exchange of online communications between students in different countries, including Brazil, Haiti, Senegal and the UK to explore their views and opinions on slavery and how that has shaped their history and societies.

Our Children Advisory Panel, a group of young people from the UK, has been instrumental in offering Plan UK a youth child-perspective on our work, as well as being a medium through which Plan has been able to foster young people's right to participate. Last year, the group participated in debates and campaigns to improve children's rights and travelled to Berlin where they joined young people from 7 countries to debate the effect of gender discrimination and draw up recommendations for policy-makers at the G8 summit.

These are only some of the achievements made possible last year thanks to the support of our sponsors, supporters, corporate partners and donors. This report highlights the year's successes and the impact of our work with communities, parents and children themselves to enable every child realise their potential.

Thanks for your continued support.

Marie Staunton

Marie Staunton
Plan UK Chief Executive

OUR **VISION** AND **MISSION**

About Plan

PLAN International UK ("Plan UK[1]") is a child-centred community development organisation with no religious or political affiliations. We make long-term commitments to children in poverty and assist as many children as possible, by working in partnerships and alliances with them, their families, communities, civil society and government, building productive relationships and enabling their voices to be heard and recognised in issues that affect them.

Our structure

Plan UK is a registered charity in the United Kingdom, number 276035 and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered number 1364201.

One of 17 national organisations[2] working for the rights of children, families and communities in some of the world's poorest countries, Plan UK is internationally associated with Plan International, Inc. ("Plan Inc").

The funds raised through Plan UK and the other 16 national organisations are pooled and allocated by Plan Inc to the management of development programmes in 49 developing countries[3]. A small International Headquarters is located in the United Kingdom and supervises the programme operations.

This structure allows Plan to invest as much of our funds in development projects as possible, which directly supports the beneficiary children, their families and communities, whilst keeping costs at a minimum and reducing the risk of duplication.

Our vision

Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realise their full potential, in societies which respect people's rights and dignity.

Our mission

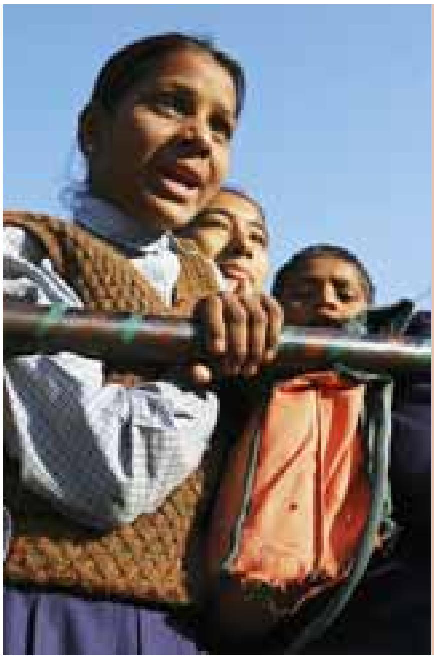
Plan strives to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning and value to their lives by:

1. Enabling deprived children, their families and their communities to meet their basic needs and to increase their ability to participate in and benefit from their societies;
2. Fostering relationships to increase understanding and unity among people of different cultures and countries;
3. Promoting the rights and interests of the world's children.

[1] In this report, PLAN International UK is to be referred to as "Plan UK", and Plan International Inc. and the 17 national organisations as "Plan" or "Plan Worldwide".

[2] National organisations: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

[3] Programme countries: Albania, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



Conforming to International Fundraising Standards

To give the public reassurance that they can make donations with confidence, many countries have developed national accrediting bodies for charities and non-governmental organisations and, if they meet high standards of probity and integrity, will award a public certificate confirming that the organisation is well-run and deserving of support. The ICFO helps to harmonise accreditation procedures and standards across boundaries and has developed a set of International Standards for good governance and management covering areas, including the responsibilities of the governing body, fulfilment of public benefit goals, fiscal control, management, reporting, fundraising practices and the provision of information.

The management and operations of Plan's central organisation have been independently assessed by the ICFO (International Committee on Fundraising Organisations) and found to be in compliance with ICFO standards.

OUR **OBJECTIVES**

Originally Plan worked with the adults of its partner communities to implement development programmes aimed at addressing the needs of disadvantaged children.

Over the last decades, with an increased focus on children's rights, Plan has seen how children's participation and putting children's interests at the centre of their own development helps break the cycle of child poverty. For this reason, at the beginning of the 2000s Plan further defined and expanded its identity and role as a 'child-centred community development organisation', approving Strategic Directions that reflect this approach and has adopted the following as its objectives:

To practise a child-centred approach to community development. Plan believes children, together with their families and communities should be active participants in their own development; from programme inception through to implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Children's realities, hopes and aspirations are guidelines for our work and thanks to their participation Plan can learn more about their realities and thereby help create a more child-friendly world in the future.

To make long-term commitments to children living in poverty. Plan's development programme aims to benefit the poorer population groups within the poorer areas of some of the world's poorest countries. Within these groups Plan works with children and families in especially difficult circumstances, including street children, AIDS orphans and working children and those affected by disasters and emergencies.

To mobilise resources to assist as many children as possible. Plan works to maximise its income in the UK in order to assist more children and facilitate the generation of local resources in the countries where we work, assisting communities and local organisations in mobilising and managing them.

To build relationships. Plan aims to enable children and adults across the world to communicate, to develop mutual understanding and to work together to address the needs and rights of children living in developing countries. Plan is investing in development education programmes in the UK and in programme countries to raise awareness of children, families, communities, partners and supporters of development issues and facilitate opportunities for children to engage in action to address their needs and rights.

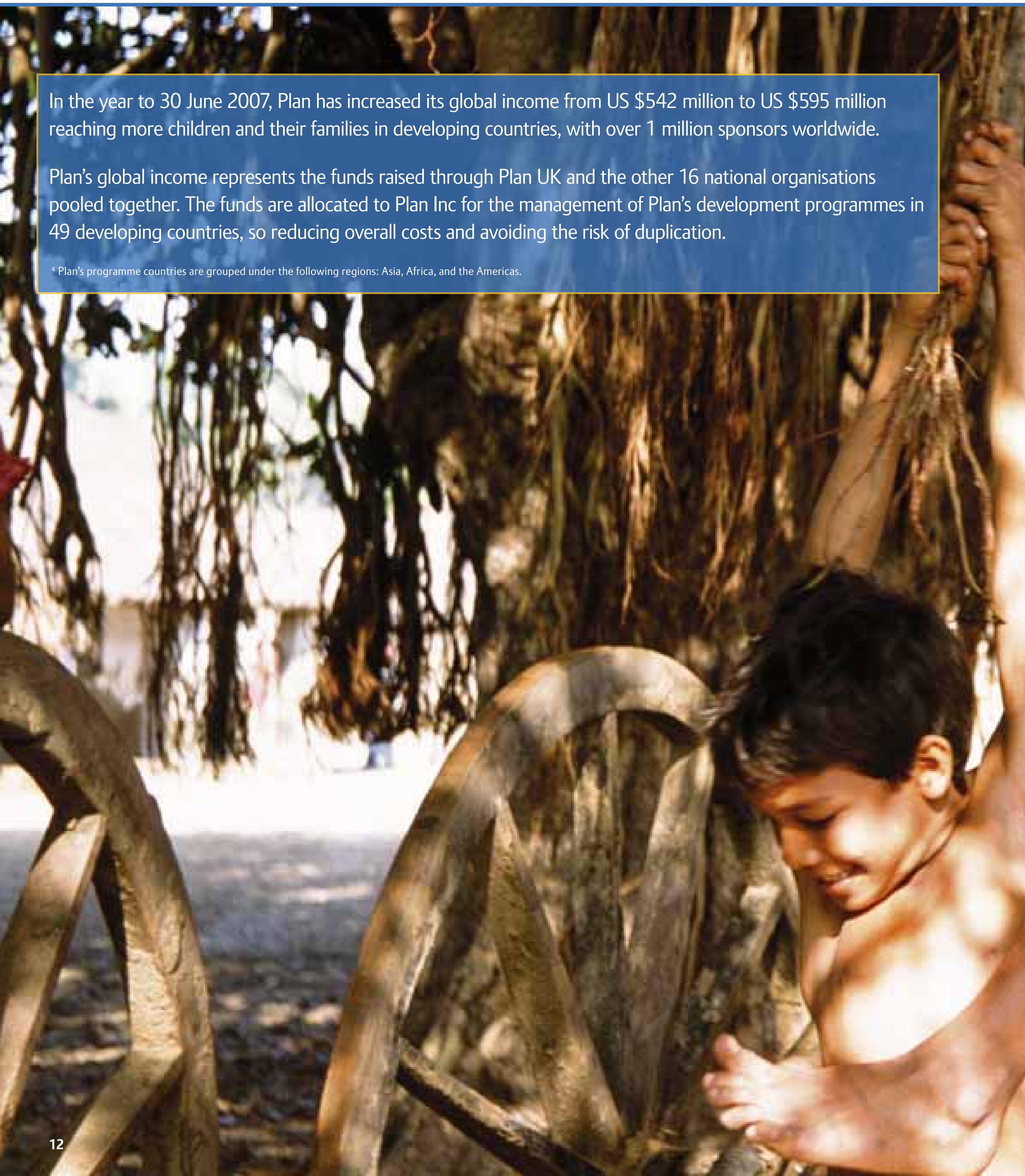
To work in partnerships and alliances. Plan works with local partners and governments in providing communities with the skills and resources necessary to implement their development plan, linking them to stakeholders in the UK – through partnerships and alliances – and work together on issues preventing children from realising their potential.

To ensure the voices of children are heard. Plan builds the competence of children, communities, sponsors and other partners to influence decisions and priorities of institutions at local, national and international levels on poverty and wellbeing of children, and develops policies to guide our supporters in the UK in policy debates.

Plan UK's objectives, together with other constitutional matters, are set out in our Memorandum and Articles of Associations. These are:

- To provide for the care, maintenance, education, training and wellbeing of deprived children in some of the world's poorest countries;
- To strengthen the capacities of children, their families and communities in providing for their life;
- To interest people throughout the world in Plan's work and to obtain their support and assistance.

PLAN’S PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES[4]



In the year to 30 June 2007, Plan has increased its global income from US $542 million to US $595 million reaching more children and their families in developing countries, with over 1 million sponsors worldwide.

Plan’s global income represents the funds raised through Plan UK and the other 16 national organisations pooled together. The funds are allocated to Plan Inc for the management of Plan’s development programmes in 49 developing countries, so reducing overall costs and avoiding the risk of duplication.

[4] Plan’s programme countries are grouped under the following regions: Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

IN **ASIA**

In Asia, Plan works in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The situation

As in previous years, Plan's interventions in the region last year were supported to alleviate poverty, develop the capacity of local organisations, protecting children and improving their education, as well as lobbying activities to influence policies affecting children and their families at the regional, district and local levels. All Plan interventions are embedded in and linked to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During the year, Plan:

- Continued to collaborate with the 50 organisations making up the Child Workers Asia Network (CWA) in 12 Asian countries, creating safe and appropriate environments for working children to participate in local governance and combatting the worst forms of child labour in the region. In the Philippines, Plan encouraged individuals, groups and institutions to create a protective environment for working children, increased awareness of their issues, worked with over 38,500 child labourers and children at risk, aged 5 to 17, who were engaged in mining, quarrying, pyrotechnics, sugar plantations, domestic work or commercial sexual exploitation. Parents received training in effective parenting; together with their children they attended literacy and numeracy classes and summer learning camps; teachers were trained on how to teach working children; families and youths were assisted in developing alternative livelihoods and some families developed their capacity to run small businesses with the assistance of microfinance institutions;
- Promoted the importance of early childhood care and development (ECCD) centres in enhancing the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of children, and increased awareness about child rights amongst community members, as well as encouraged the involvement of parents and communities in the care and development of their children;
- Strengthened the capability of women's savings and credit co-operatives in the region, developing mechanisms to market local crops, provide financial and complementary services through co-operatives run by women, increase food security and families income. The position of women in the region in general is often secondary to the one of men, due to traditional and discriminatory practices and inadequate laws. In Nepal, for example women don't enjoy the same property rights as men and it is almost impossible for women to obtain credit;
- Carried on its work for the promotion of universal birth registration in the region with the objective of establishing a sustainable birth registration system, ensuring that all children between the age of 0 and 5 are documented and registered. Plan worked with the governments and local organisations ensuring birth registration activities were integrated with routine immunisation activities. Plan's successes include: in the Philippines significant gains have included the passage of a law that allows children born out of wedlock to use their father's name, the suspension of birth registration fees and penalties for late registration; and in Timor-Leste, Plan is in discussions with the government to ensure children are registered when they enrol in school;
- Improved the quality of education by improving teachers' training and adopting child-centred teaching and learning methodologies;
- Bettered the living conditions, sanitation and health of rural communities. In Indonesia, for example, infant and child mortality rates are 34 and 46 per 1,000 live births respectively. These figures are remarkably higher than those in neighbouring countries like Thailand. According to the Indonesian Ministry of Health, of the 5 million deliveries each year, an estimated 20,000 women die due to complications related to pregnancy and delivery. Poor access to basic sanitation and improper disposal of waste from household and industries also contribute adversely to the health of women and children. Plan collaborated with community members to improve hygiene practices in households, pre-schools and maternity delivery centres, and community water supply and waste-disposal facilities – thus having a positive impact on the living conditions, sanitation and health of rural communities and schools;
- Improved the health of children under five and pregnant women in the region. In India, for example, Plan improved the health of women and their children by providing them with opportunities for education and overall development such as access to reproductive health services, safe motherhood, care and support and child health care services;
- Continued to combat the spread of HIV/Aids and contributed to sexual behaviour change – reduced infection by sexually transmitted diseases among the population – changed the risk behaviour of the community in relation to HIV and any sexually transmitted diseases (STD), strengthened existing clinical services and provided supplies to the referral clinics and local health facilities to prevent and control HIV/STDs;
- Assisted those communities affected by disasters and emergencies, including earthquakes in Yogyakarta and Central Java, mudslides in the Philippines and worked to rebuild communities affected by the Tsunami in Indonesia and Sri Lanka and by the Pakistan earthquake in the Siran Valley;

- Assisted children and young people in conflict with the law. Children in conflict with the law are generally children who run away from their home and are likely to experience some form of neglect or physical or sexual abuse. Plan aims to decrease the number of children in conflict with the law and last year worked with 270 street and other children at risk as active community participants in 35 communities to establish programmes that provide alternative and child-appropriate treatment to children in conflict with the law.

Some results achieved last year were:

- 142 networks were established to identify early signals of child abuse and exploitation at local level in India, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Vietnam;
- 13,600 children in need of special protection – street children, working children, children in conflict with the law and children in conflict areas – were better protected by preventive activities, education, physical check-ups, psychosocial support, relief and rehabilitation;
- About 1.1 million children called the 7 child-lines set up by Plan in partnership with Child Helpline International in India, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam and received support;
- 8,397 marginalised children received formal or informal education and 11,932 children obtained access to early childhood care and development centres. In India and Nepal, the health of children aged five and younger improved thanks to regular check-ups. Their parents were trained on issues, including hygiene, food preparation and food intake.

Last year, Plan spent US $115 million on child-centred community projects across the region.

Below are some of the outputs in the region:

- 26,514 community health workers were trained;
- 1,012 training courses were run for community health workers;
- 26 health centres were constructed and 87 equipped;
- 14,056 patients received medical treatment;
- 129,824 children were immunised;
- 107,180 children under-5 received supplementary micronutrients;
- 42,455 primary schools were provided with educational supplies and furniture;
- 19,686 girls and 8,538 boys received primary school scholarships;
- 261 water systems were installed and connected and 26,482 home latrines were constructed;
- 32,778 farmers received agricultural training;
- 5,821 women received vocational training.

PLAN'S IMPACT
CASE STUDIES

In response to the massive flood in Dhaka city, Bangladesh, in 2004 Plan undertook emergency relief and post-flood rehabilitation work for water and sanitation services. In 2005 Plan further developed a four-year project to improve the quality of people's lives by increasing their access to healthy sanitation and safe water supply facilities.

The objectives of the project were to achieve total sanitation in the area, by raising awareness of good hygiene practices, safe water and environmental sanitation, by strengthening community members' knowledge and skills in managing, maintaining and monitoring sanitation facilities and activities in the area.

The mid-term evaluation carried out in June 2007 found the project has:

- Increased 25% of the communities access to safe water. The project has also made remarkable progress in sanitation coverage, with access to sanitary latrines increased to 50%;
- An average of 96% community members understand and can clearly explain the importance of hygiene behaviours for better health and for their overall wellbeing;
- 90% of community members could clearly explain the importance of behaviour change regarding health and hygiene with emphasis being placed on hand-washing after defecation and before handling foods;
- Over 80% of community members are aware of the need of a safe environment and stressed the importance of educating children on hygiene practices for securing their good health and uninterrupted growth.

COORDINATED EFFORTS FOR TOTAL SANITATION

A group of 30 children and adolescents from Bangladesh brought about extraordinary change in the sanitation and health of their community. Shiuli, an adolescent girl and an active member of the group, tells the story:

"There are around 2,800 adults and children in our community. It is one of the most under-developed villages, with public health being particularly poor. One of the reasons was the traditional practice of defecating anywhere and everywhere – in the fields, by paths and by the roads.

"Government agencies and other organisations had tried to bring about change through awareness programmes and supplying the materials to build latrines. Yet any success was short-lived as the villagers reverted to their traditional ways.

"When Plan came to our community, it was a ray of hope. Staff held meetings with the community to find out what major issues were hampering our development. The villagers were clear that health was the most burning issue, so Plan encouraged them to form a village representative group that included men, women and children.

"After almost a year, this group declared that, from then on, no one should defecate outside the homes and everyone would build their own latrine. To build a latrine digging is not enough. The group organised an awareness campaign with Plan staff and the help of the children.

"We children started work. We raised awareness by beating drums during the weekly bazaar declaring that anybody found defecating in the field would have their name displayed publicly to humiliate them. We also went to each school to perform drama, to motivate the students, and told parents how harmful open defecation can be to their children. We went from door to door in the village saying: 'No, no, not to be naked outside."

Seventeen families led the way by building latrines for their own use. And others soon followed suit. This marvellous result was achieved through the collective and co-ordinated efforts of the villagers and shows how motivation can bring about change.

To download our latest Community Led Total Sanitation handbook visit www.plan-uk.org

IN THE FUTURE PLAN WILL:

- Continue to work with local governments in the promotion of potable water and sanitation system, while encouraging Plan communities to claim their rights to safe water. In Indonesia, for example, Plan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Planning Development Agency to formally provide strategic support to the government in the areas of water and environmental sanitation reform, programme planning procedures and guidelines. Plan will place emphasis on scaling up and working with governments to influencing policies affecting children and their families;
- Continue to invest in early childhood and engage with the relevant government ministry on gender issues in the region. In Bangladesh, for example, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education have identified Plan as one of the two key agencies to be consulted for any policy issues on early childhood care and development. In Bangladesh alone the ECCD model is now being implemented in 2,700 centres, reaching over 36,000 children with the target of reaching 1 million in the next five years;
- Education is the largest sector of Plan's investment globally since 2004. Plan countries are increasingly engaging with the early childhood care and development agenda, developing programme interventions which address needs and rights in an integrated manner, reflecting the physical, mental and psychosocial aspects of child development, and focusing on gender equality. Recognising the need to reach beyond the Millennium Development Goal of primary enrolment, Plan will be focusing their efforts mainly on school quality at primary and secondary level, offering Plan's expertise and knowledge to support partner governments. In China, for example, the Schools Quality Index[5] is used in Shaanxi province in partnership with the local Department of Education, as part of the Shaanxi school improvement project at middle and elementary levels. This has been evaluated by officials from Beijing University and the China Ministry of Education. Their evaluation found that after two years the project has significantly improved learning conditions in schools; has had positive impacts on education, significantly improved school management, including female representation and has secured support and engagement from local education officials;
- Advocate and protect children from violence and abuse in the region. In the Philippines, Plan's Protecting Children at Risk programme aims to build comprehensive mechanisms and systems for child protection among governmental and non-governmental partners. In 2006 Plan Philippines helped to intercept over 1,800 victims of child trafficking, opened two safe havens for abused children and set up 6 more, and promoted universal birth registration in 17 regions;
- Expand its work on child and community participation towards empowerment and governance. In Bangladesh, Plan in collaboration with other organisations and the Ministry of Local Government, aims to strengthen weak governance and address issues of social exclusion, including early marriage, dowry and child protection;
- Create a climate for innovation to combat HIV/Aids.

[5] School Quality Index is an instrument designed to measure the different elements that influence schools performance such as infrastructures, learning process, learning outputs and the school's relationships with the parents, the community at large and the local Ministry of Education. To find out more about School Quality Index, see page 30.

IN **AFRICA**

In Africa, Plan works in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Albania is organisationally grouped with this region.

The situation

In recent years, conflict, HIV/Aids, hunger crises and poverty in the African continent have been grabbing global attention.

Last year, most attention was given to the HIV/Aids pandemic and the conflict zones of Darfur, Chad, Congo, North-Uganda and Ivory Coast. In spite of some positive developments, such as the stabilisation of the situation in Liberia, the peace talks in North-Uganda and improved access to affordable medication in some African countries, the overall picture of the continent's situation deteriorated last year. Noteworthy is the Zimbabwean economy and the bleak forecast of not meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially the eradication of hunger as 1/3 of the children up to five years old show signs of stunted growth. Progress on other MDGs, notably education and child survival are insufficient, with vast areas of the continent with under-five mortality rate exceeding 200 or even 250 per 1,000 live births.

The growing number of orphaned and other vulnerable children is alarming – 60% of all HIV/Aids victims and 90% of all infected children live in Sub-Sahara Africa. Africa houses 80% of all HIV/Aids orphans, with 12 million children in Sub Sahara Africa.

In addition to conflict, HIV, difficult economic and political conditions and the failure to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, migration to urban areas in search of work often leaves rural communities without the support of their extended families. Young Africans tend to concentrate on their own nuclear family, weakening their ties with and responsibilities for their relatives in rural areas. Economic migration is also affecting the care given to children, increasing their vulnerability to be abused or trafficked.

Plan's activities in the region

Plan's focus last year was on interventions for the most vulnerable groups in society. Fortunately, most African governments have now recognised the HIV/Aids problem and increasingly shown their belief that something can and should be done about the situation, creating opportunities for addressing the pandemic in communities that used to be impossible to reach. Plan's programmes last year aimed to address: child rights and child protection, direct poverty alleviation and strengthening civil society and the sustainable use of locally sourced and maintained services and resources.

During the year, Plan:

- Collaborated with the 'Hope for African Children Initiative' to build awareness, reduce stigma around HIV/Aids and assist families affected by the disease to ensure the future of their children, extend the parent-child life relationship, and encourage positive living;
- Worked to eliminate child trafficking – as more families struggle to feed and care for their children – many fall victims to traffickers who lure parents into handing over their children to work in cities or abroad. Plan has been working to build a vibrant civil society in which children's rights to protection and participation are valued and respected. In Benin, for example, Plan has promoted and facilitated community-managed pre-school education – supporting child reintegration into their family and community – and facilitating non-formal education and vocational skills training;
- Provided access to safe drinking water all year around for children and their families, increasing the percentage of families with basic sanitary facilities and the number of villages organised to improve their environment;
- Improved schools enrolment through better educational materials, appropriate infrastructures and teachers' training. In Burkina Faso, for example, factors hindering children's access to school include the lack of school infrastructure – only half of the villages have a school and less than half of all schools have electricity. Plan has been working with the Ministry of Education and local organisations to provide suitable living/working conditions for teachers, electricity and educational infrastructures;
- Ensured more children received free basic immunisation to protect them against child killers, and providing pre and post-natal care. In Burkina Faso the infant mortality rate is 107 per 1,000 lives. Children often die from preventable diseases. Maternal mortality is also very high as a result of low pre-natal and post-natal care, complications during home birth delivery without medical care, and the persistence of harmful traditional practices (female genital cutting, early marriage and too-frequent pregnancies). And although the number of public healthcare facilities is increasing in the country, the quality of services is poor and there is a lack of essential equipment, medicines and qualified staff. Plan has been collaborating with the Ministry of Health and community-based organisations to improve awareness of child rights and the importance of immunisation, and to strengthen the capacity of communities to respond to the health needs of children and their mothers;
- Promoted and advocated for birth registration – as birth registration is critical in order to secure the recognition of every person's rights before the law, to safeguard their protection and to ensure that violation of these rights does not go unnoticed. When a child is not registered they become invisible to the state. This may have serious consequences, such as denial of school and healthcare access, property and citizen rights;
- Helped communities managed childhood diseases and causes of death. Malaria, malnutrition, diarrhoea, acute respiratory tract infection, HIV/Aids and vaccine preventable diseases remain the leading causes of illness and death in children below the age of five. Immuno-preventable diseases, such as measles are still a problem in some African countries. In Cameroon for example, Plan enhanced the capacity of health personnel, health facilities, knowledge of caretakers, community health workers and reinforced partnerships with local organisations to promote child health and outreach services;

- Created child helplines to assist and provide support to children in crisis. Inspired by similar projects and successes in the Asian continent, Plan has worked with Child Helpline International (CHI), a global network of telephone and outreach services for children and young people, to set up child helplines in Africa. The helplines provide services like referral system, counselling and advice to children and young people; and facilitate the establishment of a network of child welfare organisations advocating issues concerning children;
- Increased food production and productivity amongst families. In Malawi, for example, 60% of the population is suffering from chronic food insecurity. Little crop diversification and production are linked to low soil fertility and insufficient and irregular rainfalls. Severe droughts in one area are combined with heavy showers and devastating floods elsewhere. In addition, the effect of HIV/Aids is restricting household productivity, due to the caring or absence of family members. Inadequacy in the quantity and quality of food is one of the major causes of malnutrition in Malawi. Plan assisted communities with the provision of ox-drawn ploughs that facilitate farming operations, promoted winter cropping of various produce (i.e. maize and beans) to reduce dependency on rain-fed farming, provided training in small-scale irrigation by canalisation and the provision of water pumps, and activities aimed at increasing soil fertility, like composting, and promoted fruit tree planting;
- Lobbied and worked with communities to eradicate harmful practices, like female genital cutting (FGC). In Mali, for example, Plan worked with communities to openly talk about the issue. The practice was outlawed in a number of villages in the country, whilst others are still resistant to its abolition;
- Enhanced the participation of community members in the running of schools. In Niger, for example, children have little access to education, and perform poorly at school with many communities excluded from formal education. Enrolment rates are statistically among the lowest in the world, especially for girls. And even when children do succeed in enrolling, most of them fail to complete the six-year primary curriculum. This is reflected in the high dropout rates and poor performance among higher-grade pupils. Most schools are generally poorly managed and have little contact with the community. Plan Niger launched a community school project involving the entire community in making quality education available for children to increase enrolment rate, improve school completion rates, and building new classrooms using environmentally friendly, locally-sourced non-wood materials (in the Sahelian environment trees are a genuine asset to village life);
- Promoted early childhood development centres to improve the health, nutrition, cognitive, social and emotional development and protection of children to prepare them to lead a healthy and productive life. Research has shown that children acquire 60% of their capacity to learn before they are four years of age, highlighting the need for strategies that promote stimulation and development of children during their first years of life, long before they reach primary school. In Senegal, for example, Plan supported integrated early childhood care and development services, by establishing community-based centres for children of 3-6 years of age, which became a priority for the government of Senegal;
- Improved child participation and stimulated changes in parents and communities in relation to children's rights through the effective use of radio and other media by children themselves. In Sierra Leone, for example, Plan is working with children and young people to produce radio programmes, allowing them to express their opinions and views, contributing to a democratic way of decision-making;
- Assisted young people with vocational training, aiming to reduce youth unemployment. In Mwanza, Tanzania, for example, unemployment figures for youths are high, and productivity rates are low, leading to minimal possibilities to break the cycle of poverty. The limited pool of skilled labour in Mwanza prompts mining and fishing companies to look for expertise elsewhere. As a result, the local population has not benefited from economic activities and investments by the companies. Plan has been establishing vocational training centres to create employment opportunities for youth, upgrading skills within communities to ensure the availability of skilled labour appropriate to local market requests and thus linking entrepreneurs to community development.

Last year, Plan spent US $188 million on child-centred community projects across the region.

Below are some of the outputs in the region:

- 9,132 community health workers were trained;
- 7,219 patients received medical treatment;
- 273,451 class sets for primary schools were distributed;
- 7,883 girls and 2,534 boys received primary school scholarships;
- 235 primary schools were provided with furniture and equipments;
- 1,647 families were connected to water systems;
- 5,387 home latrines were renovated or constructed;
- 11,058 farmers received agricultural training;
- 2,701 women received vocational training;
- 2,127 people received business skills training.

PLAN'S IMPACT
CASE STUDIES

One of the issues identified by the communities Plan works in Malawi is the poor health service. Currently 65% of Plan communities have no access to such essential services. This situation is worsened by the fact that the Ministry of Health, the main healthcare provider, does not have enough personnel and drugs to meet the needs of the communities. Untrained care-givers treat 70% of the communities in unhygienic conditions and referral of serious conditions are usually done very late or not done at all because of lack of transport and other communication facilities.

Plan started a 4-year project in 2003 initially covering 4 communities in the Mzuzu District, which was expanded to cover Lilongwe, Kasungu and the remaining communities in the Mzuzu District. The project aims to reduce the incidence of malnutrition amongst under-five children to less than 10%, reach 80% immunisation coverage in the areas, ensure that 65% of mothers with under-five children are able to manage and assist cases of diarrhoea in their families, ensure that 60% of sexual active adults in Plan impact areas have access to modern family planning methods, ensure that 80% of families have access to community pharmacies, increase the percentage of families with children younger than 3 years who have been using insecticide-treated nets to 60% and ensure that 80% of new-born babies have normal weight.

Fighting HIV together

The mid-term evaluation – for the first two years of the project – carried out in 2006 shows that:

- Immunisation coverage is at 72% against a target of 80%;
- The number of mothers who are able to manage diarrhoea at home has increased to 81%, well above the target of 65%;
- The incidence of malnutrition is at 06% against a target of less than 10%;
- The usage of insecticide treated nets, which is at 49% against 60% and accessibility of community pharmacies through the primary healthcare system, which is at 19% against 80%;
- The rate of utilisation of family planning services has gone up to 53% against a target of 60%.

Mavuto is a member of the Chenjewazi PLWA (People Living with HIV and Aids) support group. He comes from the Kasungu district in Malawi. A husband and father, Mavuto thought his life had come to an end when he became chronically ill and could no longer earn a living.

Mavuto had sleepless nights trying to figure out what to do with his only daughter now that he was not able to provide for his household; he recalls how painful it was to send her away to live with a relative in Lilongwe, so that she could at least have some food and go to school.

In October 2006 all of that was about to change thanks to the partnership between Plan and the National Association of People Living with HIV/Aids in Malawi (NAPHAM), a local NGO specialising in the provision of post-test psychosocial support to people living with HIV/Aids and their families.

Mavuto became one of 38 people living with HIV/Aids who were provided small livestock – 2 goats and 15 chickens – to improve their livelihood.

As part of the project Mavuto became an active member of his support group and became involved in awareness activities, including:

- Educational outreach sessions;
- Home-based care;
- Counselling;
- Group therapy sessions;
- Child care sessions for children of members and other affected children;
- Distribution of condoms;
- Income generating activities.

Thanks to the project, Mavuto now has 4 goats and several chickens.

"When I received these chickens I did not realise the difference they would make in my life, now I am able to sell eggs and chickens locally to meet some of my family's needs."

"I have regained weight and strength such that I am now able to work in my garden and I also participate in our communal garden and our daughter has returned from Lilongwe."

IN THE FUTURE PLAN WILL:

- Continue its efforts in promoting universal birth registration – recent achievements include Kenya, where Plan is one of the key organisations involved in reviewing the current Birth and Death Registration Act, while in Malawi, Plan is part of the review team for the draft of the National Registration Bill. In Mali a national action plan has been drawn up, jointly designed by the Ministry of Interior, Child Welfare, Education and Health, Plan and UNICEF, aiming to reach 100% registration within 10 years; in Ethiopia, for example, where there is currently no official birth registration system, Plan will focus on influencing legislation and policy;
- Strengthen the community and country management of childhood illnesses to improve child health from birth to five years of age. The integrated management of childhood illnesses targets the five principal killer diseases of the 0 to 5 age group, promoting gender equality and encouraging the roles of mothers in child health. In Cameroon, Plan has worked with the government, WHO and UNICEF to introduce a successful primary health care strategy in 12 health districts within 3 provinces, aiming to scale the integrated management of childhood illnesses approach in the future;
- Collaborate with communities to provide expertise, resources and knowledge for their children's nutrition and food security. Rather than solely focusing on delivering food supplies, an increasing number of Plan programmes across the continent are incorporating links to education and learning, in order to engage more effectively the communities affected, not just in the short-term address, but the long-term solution;
- Promote communities' ownership of sanitation practices and participation in service delivery and management;
- Continue to promote improved access to basic services such as quality education, water and sanitation and community based health interventions;
- Develop programmes on HIV/Aids and Food Security in Southern Africa, aiming to increase the coping capacity of communities, as well as raising awareness of the rights of vulnerable groups and communities.

IN **THE AMERICAS**

In the Americas, Plan works in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru.

The situation

Progress in Latin America and the Caribbean has generally been slow, especially with regards to electricity coverage, and infrastructures like roads and telecommunication. The region's economic activity did however pick up during the course of 2006, reflecting favourable international conditions, with low interest rates, high commodity prices and strong import demand. Several countries have made impressive progress on social indicators, including the number of children (both girls and boys) completing primary school, infant mortality rate went down from 43 to 24 per 1,000 live births from 1990 to 2004, and child mortality in the same period decreased to 31 from 51 per 1,000 live births and the region is close to meeting the Millennium Development Goal on child mortality (World Development Indicators 2006).

And although over the past 20 years Latin American and Caribbean countries have made significant progress in promoting gender equality, inequalities remain an obstacle to their full development. Such inequality results, amongst other things, in unrealised potential of women, lack of integration into the economy (women form only 35.2% of the total labour force) and the social and economic cost of violence against women.

Poverty remains an unresolved problem. The region's main development challenge continues to be persistent poverty and inequalities. In a region still rich in natural resources and human capital, nearly a quarter of the population lives on less than $2 a day.

Plan's activities in the region

Child protection remained one of the focuses of Plan's programme work in the region. Interventions in this area were last year directed towards the prevention of household and sexual violence (Colombia, Ecuador, and Honduras); mobilisation of civilians for the enforcement of child protection laws; birth registration (Bolivia); and psycho-social support and reconstruction for displaced people (Colombia).

Quality learning has been the central focus in all education programmes in the region in 2006 with the objectives of increasing the number of children attending schools and improving the education they receive. In order to improve the quality of education, pupils and parents have been involved in school management, the teaching capacities of teachers have been improved, child-friendly environments have been created, and curricula have been adapted to reflect local circumstances. Programmes are carried out in cooperation with local governments and public educational services.

Programmes aimed at providing better food security and improve livelihood were run in Peru and Nicaragua, and interventions integrating environmental and food security aspects were carried out in Ecuador and Bolivia.

Plan also executed programmes on HIV/Aids prevention targeted at young people and school-age children in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Paraguay, benefiting a total of 13,750 children and adolescents, 3,000 adults and 500 professionals.

During the year, Plan:

- Promoted quality learning. The right to enjoy good-quality primary education is not guaranteed for many children in the region. Enrolment rates in most of the countries have increased but the learning process and results remain poor in several and too many children do not finish primary school;
- Promoted universal birth registration. The fulfilment of the most elementary human right – the right to an identity – is considered fundamental to the protection of children. In Bolivia, 45% of young children are not registered and 95% of adolescents from 12 to 19 years of age do not have legal identity documents. The lack of legal documents generates serious obstacles in life as it hinders the fulfilment of other rights like healthcare and education and complicates efforts to protect children from rights violations such as abuse and exploitation as these children don't exist in the eyes of the local governments and protection and enforcement agencies;
- Worked with children and young people for the prevention of HIV/Aids/STDs. Clear strategies for sexual reproductive education are absent in the majority of the countries in the region, despite many sexual and reproductive health problems among adolescents and young adults across the continent. This situation is reflected in increasing infections, unwanted teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), abortions, sexual violence and HIV/Aids. Cases of HIV/Aids are still low compared to Africa or Asia, but factors known to influence HIV/Aids infection patterns, such as gender inequalities and inadequate sex education are present. Plan worked to support the empowerment of school-age girls and boys through the development of skills and capacities for a healthy sexuality and to promote the commitment and involvement of the educational community, health and protection services, and the full participation of fathers, mothers, community members and school-age girls and boys as the main social actors in their own right;
- Assisted internally displaced people in war-torn countries. In Colombia, for example, the number of civilian victims of the country's ongoing internal war is steadily increasing; over 3,000,000 people are estimated to be living as refugees in their own country. The victims have fled to the closest secure areas in an effort to rebuild their lives, but many of these areas are already very impoverished and the authorities can scarcely cope with the new influx of people. Chocó Department, the poorest in Colombia, has about 90,000 inhabitants. In the past few years this number has increased by 40,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Plan is working with the community members and the internally displaced persons to increase awareness among recipient communities of displacement, provide the displaced with safe space to allow them to integrate at their own pace, find support and to reclaim control of their lives;

- Empowered women and young people to respond to the aggression that many women face in the region. Particularly in the poorer areas domestic violence is commonly practised and accepted. This widespread use and acceptance of violence has been linked to poverty. Plan's work not only focused on women and children, but on households and communities, and tackled all types of rights violations that stop children fulfilling their need for a dignified life, promoting non-violent methods of conflict resolution among families and households and increased awareness of children's and women's rights;
- Built children participation in decision-making. In Ecuador, for example discrimination against girls and boys is still part of adult behaviour, especially in public spaces. Plan has worked to create cultural, social, and political conditions in order to hold local and national governments accountable to foster child rights as one of their main obligations, establishing information, education and communication networks around child rights and by creating spaces where children can express their views and opinions;
- Improved schools and education. Across the region educational systems often do not respond to the needs of the school population. The almost non-existent ability of the educational system to enrol and keep children and young people at school is a result of deficient teaching and inadequate infrastructure. Plan has been working to improve the potential, abilities and capacities of school-age children through the provision of adequate learning environments, and increase the capacity of teachers;
- Promoted early childhood care and development. The poor achievements of primary education in many countries, in terms of coverage, completion and quality are to a large extent caused by the late inclusion of children into a stimulating learning environment. In Guatemala, for example, 44% of children aged five and six attend pre-school compared to only 17% of children up to the age of four who stay at home until they reach six. Early childhood and development activities encourage the cognitive and emotional development of young children, also providing nutritional meals for the children's development. Plan worked with communities in Guatemala to improve pre-school, build the local capacity to control and monitor the development of young children, create appropriate teaching practices and environments and integrate nutrition and child protection into early childhood care;
- Improved the nutritional status of children through the promotion of food security and increase of family income. In Nicaragua's rural areas, for example, many families engage in subsistence farming, with small-scale cash crops to supplement their income. Despite their low market value, Nicaraguan farmers mostly produce rice, beans, maize or some seasonal fruits. These products are easier to grow and less susceptible to weather. However, deteriorating terms of trade, together with international competition, have limited the markets for these products, and many farmers have seen their cash income fall. Plan has been working with these communities to address the increasing number of undernourished children through: produce diversification to have continuous access to food, and decrease their dependence on cash crops; improve their knowledge of food preparation and nutrition intake to reduce cases of malnutrition; and the introduction of environmentally sound practices;
- Encouraged microcredit and education for women. Unemployment and under-employment remain among the highest causes of poverty in many countries in the region. For example, in Peru, many Peruvians work as farmers and lack access to credit and other financial services. Plan has been working to provide poor families, especially women from Lima and Cusco areas with access to sustainable financial, credit and savings services, enabling them to invest in healthcare and education for their children. Numerous studies have shown that when an increase in family income is handled by women, their children benefit directly. Plan established a partnership with local institutions engaged in financial services and access to credit for poor women, and trained families in business management.

Last year, Plan spent US $103 million on child-centred community projects across the region.

Below are some of the outputs in the region:

- 1,844 training courses were run for community health workers;
- 21 health centres were constructed;
- 4,480 patients received medical treatment;
- Immunisation activities were carried out in 345 communities;
- 17,452 girls and 16,602 boys received primary school scholarships;
- 5,653 home latrines were constructed and upgraded;
- 1,152 women received vocational training.

PLAN'S IMPACT
CASE STUDIES

Bolivia has been implementing successful educational reforms since 1994. However too many children, in particular those living in rural indigenous communities, drop out or complete school without achieving good results. Plan, in collaboration with communities in the Altiplano, Sucre, Tarija and Santa Cruz started a 5-year quality learning programme in 2004.

The project is geared towards the improvement of quality education – which is measured by School Quality Index (SQI), an instrument designed to measure the different elements that influence school performance such as infrastructure, the learning process, learning outputs and the school's relationship with parents, communities and the Ministry of Education. The programme targets 346 schools, benefiting 12,796 girls and 12,577 boys.

Involving parents and children in the education system

Last year, Plan carried out a mid-term evaluation, looking at the project relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the results generated so far and the report showed:

- 44% of intervention schools (school part of the project) have reached the category of 'high quality' in relation to their SQI – compared to only 25% of the school not part of the project. SQI is the sum of the different aspects related to school performance and intervention. Intervention schools obtained higher scores in those aspects related to the availability of good school equipment, materials, the presence and performance of school councils and committees composed by children, the presence of trained teachers, the participation of parents and communities, and the occurrence of community meetings to discuss and analyse school performance;
- 90% of the intervention schools developed their project in a participatory manner, with the collaboration of local municipalities and the Ministry of Education;
- Everyone involved recognises the importance and value of the programme;
- The programme has been effective in creating a better-equipped learning environment and in building good relationships between children, parents, teachers and school directors through the creation of school committees;
- The evaluation also reveals that the project has been successful in embedding new ways of teaching and learning at school;
- Gender and child rights elements are incorporated into the activities and implemented at school level – attention is given to equal participation of girls and boys in school councils and committees and the inclusion of gender and child rights aspects in teacher training; but it also shows that more work needed to be done on behavioural change of parents with regards to the willingness to keep their daughters in school.

"With the quality school project, since last year I have seen principals, teachers and parents associations getting organised...there are even students' committees and councils. Their attitude is different now, not like in other schools," says Alejandro Mamni, Major in the Municipality of Pucarani.

One of the main concerns in Pucarani was the quality of teaching and learning experiences for the children and teachers. In collaboration with the community Plan started a quality learning programme and some of the activities carried out included the election of students' councils, training of school reporters, formation of educational information committees, the promotion of healthy school environment, school orchards, resource centres, building new classrooms, latrines and teachers' training. In addition, the community project administration committee was formed and made up of local community members responsible for the on-going running of the project.

"Before this project, the school was very dirty; when we started the project we brought in rubbish bins, new furniture and other things. Since then, everything has been clean – there hasn't been one piece of rubbish anywhere and they have given us tables, chairs, and books to study," says Elena, 10.

Within the project, the management team – made up of community members and teachers – leads the drafting of an action plan which establishes the steps towards quality programme, and lists how municipal authorities, education and local authorities, as well as school principals, teachers and students would take an active part in the process.

"Since the quality school project has been implemented, our learning has improved. With these changes, the children have lost their shyness, and they participate more in all activities," says Rumaldo Moya, management team member and parent.

The project also promotes active participation from children, adolescents and parents in every process.

"Now boys and girls can speak their mind, and this gives them more opportunities to participate and speak out. We parents want this type of activity for our children, so that they learn well. What's more, now there is much closer coordination with parents. Before, only the teacher talked at parents association and teacher-parent meetings; the children did not participate. Now the children come to the meetings and even participate and all of this is great," says Rumaldo Moya.

"First we learned to respect our cultures, learned about participation. We learned that teachers will accept a project if it is feasible, but if it isn't they reject it," says Giullermo, 13.

Sonia, a teacher at the school, says, "education has to have an aim, in this case quality, for the good of our children, for the good of education and this community. And we won't stop here, but will spread the word to other people about our experience. I know that we have made mistakes, not listened to students, parents, but we will learn from them. What we have to improve as teachers is our ability to innovate, saving what is good and improving on what we couldn't before this project."

IN THE FUTURE PLAN WILL:

- Campaign and advocate for universal birth registration – in Bolivia Plan has worked closely with the National Electoral Court and UNICEF and successfully advocated for a gratuity clause to make birth registration free for children up to 12 years, a 3-year amnesty period to register children aged 12 to 18, and a change in legislation to allow single mothers to register their children with the family name of a relative. In Peru, working in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Social Development, Plan has worked to secure the suspension of fees for birth certificates in more than 400 municipalities. In addition, the law has been modified so that either the father or the mother, not necessarily both – can register the child;
- Assist communities implement community-based healthcare system. In Peru, Plan is working alongside the Ministry of Health, and local and international non-governmental organisations to develop a coordinated plan for local health promotion. This has resulted in the formation of national networks and federations;
- Promote nutrition and food security in the region and continue to work with communities to find ways to improve their livelihood by respecting their local environment;
- Work to improve child protection measures. In Peru, Plan conducted a major research study alongside the Peruvian Ministry of Women and Social Development, UNICEF and a coalition of non-governmental organisations. This was the first national-level study to address the strengths, weaknesses and gaps of Peru's political and justice system and will act as a key advocacy tool in lobbying the government for improved child protection measures.

PLAN UK'S ACTIVITIES: FUNDRAISING

In 2005/06 Plan UK said it would:

- Consolidate the 5-year plan to build awareness and diversify income in the UK;
- Build on the results of the supporters' satisfaction survey to deepen their knowledge of development issues and their link with the children and communities with whom we work;
- Further expand the selection of alternative gifts for individuals and companies wanting to support Plan's projects;
- Continue to integrate global IT systems to engage cost-effectively more supporters in the UK;
- Strengthen the relationships and partnerships with institutional bodies to benefit more children and their families.

In 2006/07, Plan UK raised in excess of £38.2 million. This exceeded the Board's internal target of £34.6 million.

Responding to emergencies

Plan's long-term presence among communities in 49 of some of the poorest countries in the world enables us to better respond to emergencies when these effect the lives of children and families Plan works with. In partnership with these communities and with the generous contributions of our supporters, Plan UK last year responded to emergencies in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Niger, Philippines and Burkina Faso, and continued to assist families in the long-term effort of rebuilding their lives in India, Sri Lanka, El Salvador and East Timor after floods, earthquakes, mudslides and tsunami had devastated their livelihood.

In 2006/07 Plan UK raised funds through:

Child sponsorship

Core to Plan UK's fundraising success is the continued loyalty and generosity of its sponsors – more than 118,000 households across the UK sponsor a child with Plan.

Plan's version of child sponsorship is a unique way for people in the UK to get involved in the development process of poor communities. Sponsors, through detailed reports, see clear examples of the way their involvement is helping to make a lasting difference to the lives of poor children and their families across the world. The contributions that sponsors give help fund long-term child-centred community development projects[6]. As well as giving tangible feedback, sponsorship links can encourage children's participation, generate awareness and understanding of development issues and build global solidarity. Plan is committed to evolving sponsorship so that those involved in the UK and developing countries benefit in the most effective and efficient way.

Objectives: to practise a child-centred approach to community development; to make long-term commitments to children living in poverty, to mobilise resources to assist as many children as possible, and to build relationships.

During the year:

- 68 per cent of Plan UK's income came from sponsors' regular contributions (including Gift Aid on donations from the UK government), enabling Plan to make long-term commitments to the communities it works with;
- Over 80 per cent of UK sponsors gave tax efficiently via 'Gift Aid', allowing Plan UK to claim nearly £5.5m from the Inland Revenue;
- Following last year's supporter satisfaction survey, and discussions with children's groups in developing countries, Plan introduced new communication materials aimed at further engaging our supporters in development education and Plan's work in general and reflecting the feedback received;
- Collaborated with other Plan offices in the overhauling and upgrading of Plan's technology and information systems to accurately and effectively communicate with Plan's stakeholders in the UK and developing countries.

"We want our voices to be heard and we want to make a stand on what we see as best for us."

Mariecon Malinao, President of the Municipal Children's Association of Daram, Philippines

[6] Plan's Child-Centred Community Development Approach is explained on page 11.

PLAN UK'S ACTIVITIES: FUNDRAISING

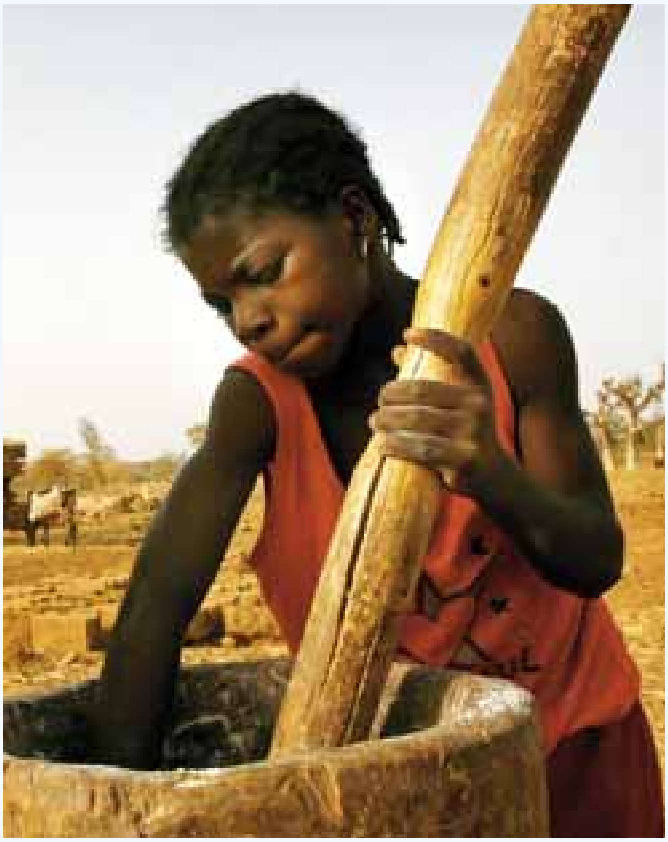
Contributions from official bodies[7]

Collaborations with institutional bodies in the UK through grants, contributions and partnerships enable Plan UK to allocate funds to address issues such malaria in Africa, domestic violence and violence against women in the Americas, promoting universal birth registration in Asia, preventing HIV/Aids, fostering children's participation in shaping policies affecting their lives and other child-centred community development programmes.

Objectives: to work in partnerships and alliances, to mobilise resources to assist as many children as possible, and to make long-term commitments to children living in poverty.

During the year, Plan UK:

- Was successful in attracting funds from ECHO (European Commission Humanitarian Office), Department for International Development (DfID), the Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, the Big Lottery Fund and Comic Relief;
- Strengthened Plan's Partnership Programme Agreement with DfID to promote young people's governance in their countries.



Other donations and appeals

Plan UK also receives funds from trusts and foundations, companies and generous individuals supporting our projects, responding to our appeals and leaving legacies in their wills.

Objectives: to mobilise resources to assist as many children as possible, to make long-term commitments to children living in poverty, and to build relationships.

During the year:

- Plan sponsors and supporters responded generously to emergency appeals for Burkina Faso, South East Asia, West Africa, and increased their contributions to particular projects;
- Over £340,000 was received via legacy bequests – an increase of 49% on previous year;
- Different ways for supporters to get engaged with Plan were developed: for schools with the creation of lesson plans centred around development issues and the creation of a school linking facility enabling students in the UK to link with their peers in African countries; for families wanting to create a link between their children and children in developing countries; and for those wanting to assist children living in exceptionally difficult circumstances, like street-children, child labourers, and AIDS orphans;
- Plan UK continued to receive funds for project work from trusts and foundations, companies and generous individuals;
- A growing number of companies supported our work. For the full list of our corporate supporters, see page 63;
- Expanded the list of alternative gifts and personal gifts (available through Plan UK's trading arm), raising a total of £425,000;
- Received over £542,000 from charitable foundations.

In the future, Plan UK's fundraising activities will:

- Continue to consolidate its position as the leading child sponsorship agency in the UK;
- Further promote and build on ways supporters can engage with Plan UK – promoting our school linking with schools across the world and increase the number of interchanges between countries; expanding our information to families, and the selection of personal and alternative gifts;
- Continue its successful partnership with institutional bodies, including DfID and foster relations between Plan offices and the local DfID offices;
- Collaborate with the Institute of Development Studies – University of Sussex – on a research on the challenges facing child sponsorship in a globalised and changing world.

[7] Plan UK classifies Official Bodies as government departments, international governmental organisations (such as the European Commission) and grant givers who work within a broad ranging institutional framework (such as the Big Lottery Fund). Donations in-kind are classified within both Official Bodies and Other Donations, depending on the donor. For further information on these classifications, see the paragraph at the top of page 56.


UNION FAIT LA FORCE

PLAN UK'S ACTIVITIES: DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Plan UK believes education has a key role to play in the UK and developing countries to help people understand the world around them and to enable them to improve it in the face of global poverty, climate change, racial and religious tensions, a lack of democracy and children's participation.

The development education unit at Plan UK uses a number of tools to increase support for development education, cooperation and child rights in the UK by promoting the participation and sharing of lives and problems of people and young people in developing countries, thus helping them to become world citizens and contributing to the protection of the rights of the child worldwide.

In 2005/06 Plan UK said it would:

- Ensure that the development education website is effectively used by a significant number of schools;
- Link schools from the UK and Plan's programme countries and work with schools in Malawi, Sierra Leone and Kenya, and schools in the United Kingdom on a trial linking project;
- Facilitate a development education project involving schools, producing resources to be used as educational materials;
- Produce materials on life in the UK by Plan UK's Children's Advisory Panel to be circulated to schools in developing countries and Plan supporters.

Objectives: to build relationships, to practise a child-centred approach to community development, and to ensure the voices of children are heard.

During the year, Plan UK:

- Consolidated the use of our free schools' resources with increased number of lesson plans and free resources, including photos and videos available to teachers;
- Linked schools from the UK with schools in Malawi, Sierra Leone and Kenya through Plan UK's school linking programme. The programme was successfully launched in September with an online element, allowing teachers and pupils to communicate, exchange and contribute to lesson plans and documents, and access useful teaching resources;
- Facilitated the exchange of communications between students in different countries, including Brazil, Haiti, Senegal and the UK to explore their views and opinions on slavery. At the end of the project, 'Make the Link, Break the Chain,' the materials created by the pupils from the schools taking part in the project were made into educational resources and accessible online;
- Encouraged young people to express their thoughts on issues of power, control and participation through photography and drawings. The aim of the project, 'Shoot Nations' was to engage young people of all backgrounds from around the world to question the choices that govern their own lives. Using photography as a tool, Shoot Nations enabled young people to creatively express their views using a tangible and accessible format. Exhibition of the entries submitted was held at the United Nations in New York on International Youth Day;
- Facilitated the creation of educational materials on life in the UK by the members of Plan UK's Children Advisory Panel to be circulated to supporters and schools in the UK and developing countries.

Plan UK and National Museums Liverpool received the 'Museums and Heritage award for excellence' 2008 for the Make the Link, Break the Chain development education project.

In future, Plan UK will:

- Ensure that development education materials are certified for e-learning credits – an essential requirement for online teachers' resource centres – by the relevant curriculum authorities in the UK;
- Ensure that Plan UK's development education message reaches at least 3,000 schools in the UK;
- Deliver a development education and youth engagement project around the theme of governance and young people;
- Organise a focus group composed of teachers to facilitate the dissemination of development education messages and increase traffic to the development education website;
- Draw learning from Plan's Children's Advisory Panels worldwide.

"Before Plan started to support my village there was nobody interested in taking responsibility for the school, not even me. I never paid any attention to how the school was run and it was pretty bad. But now we students are thinking differently and we are taking an interest in our school. We even try to contribute financially when we can and have lent a hand in making two rooms, one for us students and one for our teachers. We now realise that we should come to school and try to solve problems so we can make it a better place for all!"

A student member of a School Representative Council, in Chakwal District, India

PLAN UK'S ACTIVITIES: ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

Plan UK brings experts, children and young people in developing countries into discussion with representatives of the UK Government, international organisations and ministers in order to influence the shaping of policies affecting the lives of those Plan works to benefit: disadvantaged children and their families.

Plan UK keeps politicians, ministers and policy-makers up-to-date with important information, lessons learned, and proposes its recommendations via expert meetings, reliable reports, and direct contacts.

Plan UK also cooperates with other Plan offices in Europe with the aim to become a recognised voice, influencing EU policy in Plan's area of work and carrying out Plan's advocacy actions aimed at EU institutions.

In 2005/06, Plan UK said it would:

- Continue to influence policy development in the area of child participation, governance, accountability and social protection, in particular by encouraging DfID to commit a specific share of expenditure to such initiatives;
- Follow up with DfID on promises made in the 'White Paper' on all aspects which affect children;
- Document and reflect on Plan's experience in developing governance and social protection in Plan programmes in poor countries;
- Work with the 'Grow Up Free From Poverty' coalition to organise the launch of their social protection campaign;
- Promote the involvement of children and young people in governance initiatives in poor countries;
- Contribute evidence to various hearings by the UK Parliament's International Development Select Committee and advocate for children to participate in these hearings.

Objectives: to ensure the voices of children are heard and to build relationships.

During the year, Plan UK:

- Provided written input into the UK government's consultation for their new HIV/Aids strategy, pulling together information from across Plan's programmes and regional offices and from a consultation carried out with young people in 17 countries;
- Presented written evidence for parliamentary hearings into HIV/Aids, water and sanitation and the Department for International Development's (DFID) annual report;
- Accompanied Mark Simmonds, MP and former Shadow Minister for International Development, on a trip to Bangladesh when he visited Plan's programmes in the north-east of the country. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to highlight Plan's key policy issues to a senior member of the Conservative Party, whilst they were in the process of drafting their international development strategy;
- Attended the Labour and Conservative Party conferences to meet with key MPs and advisors to discuss what the UK Government can do to help alleviate child poverty across the world;
- Researched and launched the 'Because I am a Girl – State of the World's Girls' 2007 report and campaign. The report looked at the situation of girls in developing countries and explored issues, including forced marriage, child trafficking, and girls' education;
- Organised 3 breakfast meetings with a group of 12 influential parliamentarians of all parties from the House of Commons and House of Lords on various topics, including social protection and the 2007 State of the World's Girls report;
- Worked with the Children's Advisory Panel (CAP) to lobby various policy-makers, including John Prescott, on issues such as HIV/Aids and child slavery;
- Organised and chaired a conference on social protection, bringing together representatives from the South including a Minister from Botswana as well as civil society and UK parliamentarians;
- Worked with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to help draft their child rights strategy;
- Became an active member of the newly formed DFID/NGO working groups on children and youth;
- Continued to work with other international NGOs on various coalitions in the UK, including the Grow Up Free From Poverty coalition, Global Campaign for Education, Orphans and Vulnerable Children working group, Development Policy and Lobbying Group and Inter-Agency Group for Rights-Based Approaches.

In the future, Plan UK will:

- Continue to influence policy development in the area of child participation, child rights, governance, accountability and social protection;
- Continue to put pressure on the UK Government to ensure that child rights and child poverty remain a key focus of their international development work;
- Commission, publish and disseminate a number of briefing papers to further compile evidence on child participation and the child-centred community development approach;
- Provide policy input on the 2008 State of the World's Girls report, and develop and implement an advocacy strategy for the release of the report;
- Work to increase the involvement of the Children's Advisory Panel and other young people in the UK and overseas in Plan's policy and advocacy work.

PLAN UK'S ACTIVITIES: **REDUCING PEOPLE'S VULNERABILITY TO DISASTERS**

During 2007, Plan strengthened its commitment to emergency work worldwide by finalising its global disaster management strategy. This includes disaster risk reduction and its emergency response capabilities.

Disaster risk reduction is assuming greater importance within the international development agenda. This was emphasised in the concluding statements of the first UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) Global Platform event held in June 2007, with John Holmes, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, stating that it was clear that: "Investment in risk reduction needs to be substantially increased."

In 2005/06, Plan UK said it would:

- Provide support to those in urgent need where it has the capacity and the mandate to do so;
- Keep its supporters fully informed as to the progress of its disaster response work and seek to find improved ways of ensuring accountability towards its supporters;
- Place children at the centre of its disaster management work. Plan will seek to identify and implement best practice for making children active participants in risk reduction, preparedness and response, both to improve its own programmes and shape others' policy.

Objectives: to make long-term commitment to children living in poverty, and to work in partnerships and alliances.

During the year, Plan UK:

- Contributed to strengthening Plan's disaster management capacity: supporting training for Plan staff in Asia and West Africa on 'Sphere', the minimum standards for humanitarian response work; and contributing to the development of Plan's International Disaster Management strategy launched in March 2007;
- Supported Plan's Regional Humanitarian Coordinators in Plan's 4 regional offices to be responsible for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the respective regions and provided support to Plan offices in developing their strategy programmes to reduce people's vulnerability to disasters;
- Launched disaster risk reduction projects in three countries: Philippines, El Salvador and Sierra Leone aiming to: 1) increase the capacity of Plan communities and partners to manage child-centred processes to reduce disaster risks, integrating children and young people's participation into the planning, implementation and evaluation process of these projects; 2) increase recognition among international and national policy-makers and other actors (humanitarian INGOs, academia, media etc) of the importance of children and young people's participation in risk reduction and the management of disasters;
- Promoted children's rights to protection and participation at international events, including the UNISDR's Global Platform held in June 2007 in Geneva.
- Worked through its Inter-agency networks in the UK (BOND), EU (VOICE) and internationally (INEE, UNISDR) to promote disaster risk reduction (DRR) and also on promoting the value of child-centred DRR.

In the future, Plan UK will:

- Implement an action research programme entitled 'Children in a Changing Climate', in partnership with IDS Sussex University, the Centre for Disaster Preparedness and RMIT, and other partners, which will gather evidence for Plan's work on child-centred disaster risk reduction;
- Raise awareness of children's role in reducing their communities vulnerability to disaster through a four series documentary programme being produced by the Thomson Foundation, covering Plan's work in the Philippines, El Salvador, Sierra Leone and Pakistan. The documentary has been aired by the BBC World;
- Place children at the heart of policy debate on disaster management and climate change, supporting their participation at international events such as the UNFCC's COP meetings;
- Engage with UK schools through our Development Education Programme, on the issue of climate change and its impact on future generations;
- Expand Plan's programme on disaster preparedness to other countries, including Indonesia, Niger, Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic;
- Expand training on Sphere standards to reach relevant Plan staff in all Plan regions;
- Work in collaboration with our country offices to better understand the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities where we work, and how best Plan can support climate adaptation and disaster mitigation through our work.

"We are the community leaders of the future and by having a voice, and exercising our rights we show and receive respect. It's not always easy to talk, so the drama groups have been a good way to get messages across. We re-create situations so people can learn from them. Not just children, but parents and teachers as well."

Obdulio (13), child media project, Honduras

PLAN UK'S ACTIVITIES: **MOBILISING YOUNG CITIZENS FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE**

Plan believes that all children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect them and so we support a wide range of work by young people all over the world to do just that. The Programme Partnership Agreement that Plan (PPA) has entered into with the Department for International Development (DfID) is a five-year-programme that provides the core support for Plan UK's Governance Programme.

The programme provides the resources to create more opportunities for young people to engage in governance processes all over the world. Focusing on 'young citizens' the PPA allows Plan to pursue opportunities to:

- Increase the participation and representation of young citizens in governance processes;
- Increase young citizens' access to better services because of their participation in governance processes;
- Ensure greater inclusion for typically marginalised groups like orphans, other vulnerable children, and women; and
- Generate and share knowledge about addressing the root causes of child poverty.

Objectives: to practise a child-centred approach to community development, to work in partnerships and alliances, and to make long-term commitments to children living in poverty.

During the year, Plan UK:

- Continued to work closely with Plan regional and country offices to develop and manage projects that have been supported by the Governance Programme. The projects include those that are intended to:
  (a) strengthen young people's voice and action so that they are able to exercise their right to participate in governance processes;
  (b) work with local authorities to provide clear roles for and benefits to young people for the services they deliver;
  (c) strengthen advocacy initiatives around social protection issues especially in contexts where these have direct benefits to children and young people;
  (d) strengthen the awareness of global development of young people in the UK through various development education, school linking initiatives, and the activities of Plan UK's Children's Advisory Panel;
- Developed systems for managing the programme, including developing open and transparent ways for identifying and selecting projects for support; establishing coordination and information sharing mechanisms among those involved in the various aspects of the Governance Programme both with the UK office and in other Plan offices overseas; and generating a framework for institutional learning from the programme;
- Continued to collaborate with Plan offices on a common Global Youth Engagement agenda.

In the future, Plan UK will:

- Continue to work with Plan regional and country offices to deliver the quality of all projects underway, responding to and addressing the challenges that their implementation encounter, and setting up the mechanisms to ensure Plan learns from dealing with these challenges;
- Work with Plan regional and country offices to develop new projects and undertakings that will contribute to the realisation of the outcomes that the Governance Programme has set to realise;
- Continue to collaborate with other Plan offices on a common Global Youth Engagement agenda.

"The mayor took our message seriously and announced that our school would be upgraded. He said that he would support and push our case in the District Assembly until we get the school that we long for. We realised then that we could do something for our community, that our voices could be heard. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Child to Child Health programme, for building our capacity to identify our needs, look for solutions and to work together to improve our lives."

Nighat Bashir, Pakistan

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF PLAN UK

How Plan UK is managed

A Board of Directors governs Plan UK. The Board is responsible for determining the policies and the strategic directions of the Charity. It meets regularly and delegates the day-to-day operations of the organisation to the Chief Executive and a team of senior officers.

The members of the Board of Directors are shown on page 50. New Directors are chosen in consultation with the full UK Board and with a view to ensuring that all the skills and experience needed to govern an organisation like Plan UK are fully represented. It has become the practice for Director appointments to be advertised nationally and be subject to a formal selection and interview process. New Directors are invited to attend a full induction with a full agenda covering all areas of the charity's activities.

Plan UK has an Audit Committee currently comprising three Directors. In accordance with its terms of reference, it reviews the financial statements of the organisation, assesses the internal financial control systems and monitors the risk management processes. During 2005-06 the audit committee approved the appointment of Plan's Global Assurance function to commence an internal audit programme. The programme is based principally on risks identified by management but also includes major compliance issues. The internal audit programme commenced in 2006-07 with an audit of gift aid processes and a review of the Programme Department. The audits produced a number of useful recommendations that are in the course of being implemented.

Plan Inc is composed of Members, and the Members are the National Organisations. The Members' Assembly is the highest decision-making authority of Plan Inc with respect to all matters. The business of Plan Inc is managed by the Board of Directors, which is accountable to the Members' Assembly for the performance of its functions. The Board of Directors is composed of not more than eleven (11) individual directors elected by the Members' Assembly of which a majority plus one (7) shall serve on the Board of Directors or equivalent bodies of the Members of Plan Inc. Not more than one person may be appointed a director from any one Member. A minimum of two (2) directors shall come from developing countries and shall not serve on the Board of Directors or equivalent bodies of any National Organisation.

Plan UK has one representative on the International Board of Plan Inc.

The members of Plan UK are the current Board of Directors whose liability is limited to £10 each. No Director has any interest in the Company's contracts or any interest in the Company's funds.

Responsibilities of Plan UK's Directors

Company and Charity Law require the Directors of Plan UK to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charitable Company and of the Group's net incoming (or outgoing) resources, including its income and expenditure for that period. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on an ongoing concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue in operation.

The Board of Directors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company, and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

The Directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charitable Company has an appropriate system of controls, both financial and non-financial.

The Directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors confirm that, for all Directors in office at the date of this report:

- So far as each Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware. For this purpose, "relevant audit information" comprises the information needed by the Company's auditors in connection with preparing their report;
- Each Director has taken all the steps (such as making enquiries of other Directors and the auditors and any other steps required by the Director's duty to exercise due care, skill and diligence) that they ought to have taken in their duty as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Risk Management

Key risks within Plan UK have been reviewed by management and the Directors. Plan UK has been running a risk register for several years listing all current identified risks. Each item is analysed according to its perceived potential impact together with actions that either have or will be taken in mitigation. The current risk register resulted from a workshop held in August 2006. It is reviewed quarterly by management and bi-annually by directors, and is amended following these discussions. The internal audit programme has been designed to provide assurance over the procedures in place to manage the risks. The risk register is also updated to reflect the results of these audits. The risk management process has resulted in a high priority being placed upon ensuring the following:

- Child protection is at the heart of our work;
- Field capacity and expertise are maximised;
- Global information technology projects are fully supported by Plan UK;
- Income continues to grow in line with Plan UK's strategy of providing more support to our programmes; and
- Sufficient attention is given to the way in which Plan is portrayed in the media and by opinion formers.

The following statements summarise the Charity's position in managing identified forms of financial risk:

Plan UK has no exposure to investment price risk as it currently holds no listed or other equity investments. Prices of materials and services purchased are subject to contracts with suppliers, based on current market prices. Other price risks are not considered to be significant to Plan due to the nature of its activities.

The majority of the Charity's income is derived from long term committed giving which results in a strong predictable positive cashflow (see description of reserves policy on page 49). Most donors pay by direct debit and as a consequence Plan UK has immaterial arrears of contributions. Plan UK receives the majority of its funds on a monthly basis, and therefore debts can be met as they fall due. The Charity also receives grants awarded to finance Plan's activities and incorporates this information into its business plans.

The Charity is able to place any surplus funds on short term deposit account with the Company's bankers. Cash placed on deposit attracts interest at a variable rate of interest.

The company does not use derivatives to hedge any of the risks it faces.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Year to 30 June 2007

Total incoming resources for the year (£38.2m) were in line with results for 2006 (£38.6m). However in 2006 there were two significant donations of Food Aid to Zimbabwe and Malawi by the World Food Programme (totalling £3.3m in value), which, if excluded, indicate a healthy underlying growth in Plan UK's income. In addition, from July 2006, Plan Ireland became an independent entity and is no longer consolidated with Plan UK for 2007. Excluding the impact of these items, the resources expended on charitable activities increased in 2007 by 3.2 per cent compared to the previous year and are in line with the general upward trend in charitable expenditure indicated by the table below. A year on year comparison adjusted for the impact of Food Aid and the change in the status of Plan Ireland is included on the next page.

Group Five Year History	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*
Sponsors in the UK and Ireland	109,134	114,364	118,487	121,036	118,149
Increase / (decrease) %	6%	5%	4%	2%	(2)%
Income					
Sponsor pledges	21,432	21,883	23,581	25,399	26,009
Contributions from official bodies	2,489	1,760	2,382	7,087	6,624
Other donations, appeals, trading subsidiary and Interest	4,473	4,201	5,220	6,106	5,518
Total Income	**28,394**	**27,844**	**31,183**	**38,592**	**38,151**
Expenditure					
Costs of generating voluntary income	4,385	4,530	5,205	5,746	6,183
Trading subsidiary	169	145	178	269	156
Governance costs and exceptional Item**		95	88	95	286
Direct charitable expenditure	20,178	26,226	24,985	32,781	29,179
Total Expenditure	**24,732**	**30,996**	**30,456**	**38,891**	**35,804**
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources	**3,662**	**(3,152)**	**727**	**(299)**	**2,347**
Increase / (decrease) in incoming resources (%)	17%	(2%)	12%	24%	(1)%
Increase / (decrease) in expenditure on charitable activities (%)	2%	30%	(5)%	31%	(11)%

*2007 excludes Plan Ireland which became an independent entity on 1st July 2006.

**The exceptional item (only applying to 2007) relates to Plan Ireland and represents a disposal of assets of £200,000 previously consolidated by Plan UK. The costs for 2003 are based on the figures presented in the accounts for that year. No attempt has been made to re-analyse them according to SORP 2005 as the Charity considers that the costs would outweigh the benefits of redoing detailed calculations.

Total income reduced by £0.4m year on year (1.1%). Adjusted for the impact of Food Aid in 2006 (£3.3m) and Ireland income in 2006 (£1.3m), the percentage change in income year on year is an increase of 12.3%.

Sponsorship income increased by 2.4% (4.7% adjusting for the impact of Ireland). This increase relates to growth in both the average sponsorship amount and the total UK-based number of sponsors.

Income and Expenditure Adjusted for Non-Recurring Items	2006 £'000	2007 £'000	Adjusted Year on Year Change
Sponsor pledges	25,399	26,009	
Ireland	(553)		
Adjusted Sub-total	**24,846**	**26,009**	**4.7%**
Contributions from official bodies	7,087	6,624	
Food Aid	(3,288)		
Adjusted Sub-total	**3,799**	**6,624**	**74,4%**
Other donations, appeals, trading subsidiary and Interest	6,106	5,518	
Ireland	(783)		
Adjusted Sub-total	**5,323**	**5,518**	**3.7%**
Total Unadjusted Income	38,592	38,151	(1.1)%
Adjusted Total Income	**33,968**	**38,151**	**12.3%**
Expenditure	38,891	35,604	
Ireland	(1,106)		
Food Aid	(3,288)		
Adjusted Total Expenditure	**34,497**	**35,604**	**3.2%**

The percentage of voluntary income spent on fundraising and governance is 16.6% (2006 - 15.3%) this ratio remains well within our aspiration of spending at least 80p in every pound we raise on programme activities.

Other donations and appeals income has decreased by 7.1% from £5.6m to £5.2m largely due to the large amounts of emergency funds received in 2006.

Income from official bodies reduced from £7.1m to £6.6m due to the absence of the Food Aid, as discussed above. On an adjusted basis income has risen from £3.8m to £6.6m, an increase of 74.4% over 2006.

In July 2006 Plan UK's Programme Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the UK Department for International Development (DfID) commenced. DfID contributed £1,800,000 to Plan UK's work in 2006/07 and a minimum of £1,800,000 is contracted to be provided in 2007/08 and £1,350,000 in 2008/09. In 2005/06 £816,502 was provided by DfID for equivalent programmes which were funded through individual project grants. For information about how PPA funds are spent, see page 42.

DfID also provided funding for Disaster Risk Reduction programmes in the Philippines, El Salvador and Sierra Leone. In 2006/07 this funding amounted to £295,909 (£33,343 in 2005/06) which was matched by £98,636 of funds from Plan.

The European Commission grants totalled £2,400,531 (2006 - £413,648)

Project Name	Country	EC	Plan	Total
Water and Sanitation	Burkina Faso	227,839	125,312	353,151
Internally Displaced Persons	Colombia	163,523	163,523	327,046
Disability	Egypt	89,678	30,559	120,237
Governance	Guinea	46,780	6,549	53,329
School Improvement	Senegal	194,883	110,912	305,795
Malaria	Sierra Leone	212,343	70,781	283,124
Water and Sanitation	Togo	121,323	109,190	230,513
Water and Sanitation	El Salvador	191,208	134,419	325,627
Food Security	Zimbabwe	312,868	55,212	368,080
Malaria	Zimbabwe	678,025	75,336	753,361
Education	Albania	162,061	54,020	216,081
	Total	**2,400,531**	**935,814**	**3,336,344**

The European Commission Humanitarian Organisation (ECHO) grants totalled £545,133 (2006 - £617,730)

Project Name	Country	ECHO	Plan	Total
Flood response	Bolivia	65,213	-	65,213
Disaster preparedness	El Salvador	29,846	6,865	36,711
Emergency	India	212,017	-	212,017
Emergency	Timor Leste	149,480	-	149,480
Emergency	Timor Leste	88,577	-	88,577
	Total	**545,133**	**6,865**	**551,998**

The Big Lottery Fund grants totalled £181,684 (2006 - £192,194):

Project Name	Country	BLF	Plan	Total
HIV/AIDS	Guatemala	66,506	-	66,506
Education	Sierra Leone	115,178	-	115,178
	Total	**181,684**	**-**	**181,684**

Comic Relief grants totalled £96,048 (2006 - £157,393):

Project Name	Country	Comic Relief	Plan	Total
Girls Education	Togo	96,048	19,210	115,258
	Total	**96,048**	**19,210**	**115,258**

Save the Children Grants totalled £875,705 (2006 - £845,743)

Project Name	Country	Save the Children	Plan	Total
Emergency (Tsunami)	India	384,815	-	384,815
Education (Tsunami)	Sri Lanka	490,890	-	490,890
	Total	**875,705**	**-**	**875,705**

Jersey Overseas Aid grants totalled £263,680 (2006 - £24,730)

Project Name	Country	JOA	Plan	Total
School construction	Burkina Faso	65,000	36,753	101,753
Nafa centres	Guinea	38,297	21,276	59,573
School reconstruction	Indonesia	49,504	6,188	55,692
Flood response	Niger	25,000	1,596	26,596
Typhoon Response	Philippines	35,000	-	35,000
Water system	Paraguay	50,879	-	50,879
	Total	**263,680**	**65,813**	**329,493**

Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee grants totalled £114,893 (2006 - £nil)

Project Name	Country	GOAC	Plan	Total
Water system	Benin	40,000	10,000	50,000
School construction	Guinea	37,433	-	37,433
Latrine Construction	Guinea Bissau	37,460	-	37,460
	Total	**114,893**	**10,000**	**124,893**

Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee grants totalled £50,000 (2006 - £nil)

Project Name	Country	IoMOAC	Plan	Total
Water System	Burkina Faso	20,000	6,390	26,390
Flood response	Ethiopia	20,000	-	20,000
Health Clinic Rehabilitation	Peru	10,000	-	10,000
	Total	**50,000**	**6,390**	**56,390**

Income from our two largest institutional donors increased significantly from 2006 to 2007. DfID income increased from £849,845 to £2,095,909, an increase of 146.6%, and EC/ECHO income increased from £1,031,378 to £2,945,665, an increase of 185.6%.

The Board of Directors wishes to thank all those who have supported Plan UK's work over the past year.

Total worldwide expenditure split

The categorisation of program expenditure represents the way in which programs were managed during 2007. Prior year data has been restated on a comparable basis, with the result that $6 million of expenditure previously categorised as "Building Relationships" is now categorised as "Advocacy". This represents the work undertaken in field countries to campaign for universal birth registration (UBR).

Total worldwide expenditure split	2007	2006
Growing up healthy	10.1%	13.1%
Learning	16.4%	16.2%
Habitat	9.6%	11.9%
Livelihood	3.9%	5.0%
Building relationships	11.4%	9.9%
Program support	16.0%	14.2%
Field administration	8.5%	7.6%
Development education	1.9%	1.4%
Technical support	1.9%	1.7%
Advocacy	1.4%	1.4%
Program expenditure	81.1%	82.4%
Fundraising costs	9.8%	8.9%
Other operating costs	9.1%	8.7%
Total Expenditure	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Total expenditure worldwide has slightly reduced from US $587.2m in 2005/06 to US $571.8m in 2006/07 (a 2.7% reduction) although total worldwide income rose from $541.9m to $594.8m (a 9.7% increase). The aggregate fund balances have increased by $25.3m to $174.9m.

Examples of the types of expenditure included within each of the above categories are:

Growing up healthy: vaccination programs, training health workers, building and equipping clinics.
Learning: teacher training, building and equipping classrooms, adult education.
Habitat: building wells, building latrines, housing improvements, training communities in planning and managing projects.
Livelihood: microfinance, grain production improvement, job skills training.
Building relationships: organising communications between sponsors and sponsored children including associated logistical costs.

Program support: field program management and logistics, vehicles for visiting communities, coordinating field programs, costs of centrally developed computer software for field programs.
Field administration: rent of offices, office equipment and supplies, accounting staff, audit staff, secretaries, guards, communication costs.
Development education: activities to increase public knowledge and understanding of poverty and vulnerability issues which prevent disadvantaged children from realising their full potential.
Technical support: professional and specialist advice provided by NOs to support the technical quality of program work in the field.
Advocacy: campaigns to change legal frameworks, policies or behaviour to improve the lives of disadvantaged children.
Fundraising costs: marketing costs associated with attracting new sponsors and other donors.
Other operating costs: general management, finance, human resource and information technology costs in NOs and the Central organisation, cost of handling funds received.
Where applicable, each of the above categories includes salaries.

Reserves

The Directors have reviewed the reserves of the Charity. The term 'reserve' (unless otherwise indicated) is used to describe that part of the Charity's Consolidated funds that is freely available for its general purposes. These were £1.4m at 30 June 2007 (2006 - £0.5m).

As a child sponsorship organisation, Plan UK is able to predict a large proportion of its total monthly income with a high degree of confidence. The reserves policy is based on maintaining sufficient working capital to cover its anticipated needs for at least two months. The remaining funds are passed across to Plan Inc where the treasury function controls the flow of funds to the programme countries.

Under this policy, reserves are expected to be in the range of £1.0m to £1.5m with the most significant fluctuations around the start and the end of each calendar month due to significant volumes of receipts and payments.

Any reserves above or below this operating level arise from a timing difference between receiving the cash and passing it to Plan Inc. In the unlikely event that an unanticipated expenditure was to occur for which funds were insufficient, cash could be called back from Plan Inc. Such action has never been required.

The financial position of Plan UK is sound. Net current assets at year end were £4.0m which means Plan UK has sufficient liquidity to continue to manage its operations efficiently whilst maintaining a continuous and sizable flow of funds to Plan Inc.

Subsidiary Companies

Plan UK has established a subsidiary (note 12) to deal with trading activities of the Charity, which include a Gift and Christmas Card catalogue. The results are consolidated in accordance with the recommendations of the SORP. Plan UK owns 100% of the issued share capital (£2).

The main activity of the trading subsidiary (note 12) is the sale of merchandise to sponsors of Plan UK and third parties. Trading turnover in 2007 was £252,849 (2006 - £313,357). It is the policy of the subsidiary to make a charitable donation of any financial surplus to Plan UK (2007 - £97,228 and 2006 - £44,475).

Plan Ireland Charitable Assistance Limited, which trades as Plan Ireland, is not consolidated with Plan UK in the 2006/07 annual review for the first time. Plan UK relinquished its control over Plan Ireland on 1 July 2006 and Plan Ireland is now a separate national organisation in its own right. Children sponsored from the Irish Republic are no longer attributed to Plan UK, which meant that as at 1 July, 4,824 sponsors were transferred to Plan Ireland.

There were also £200,000 of net assets that were transferred to the control of Plan Ireland on the same date.

Taxation status

The Company is a registered charity within the definition of Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. The Company's income is accordingly exempt from taxation on its charitable activities.

Human Resources

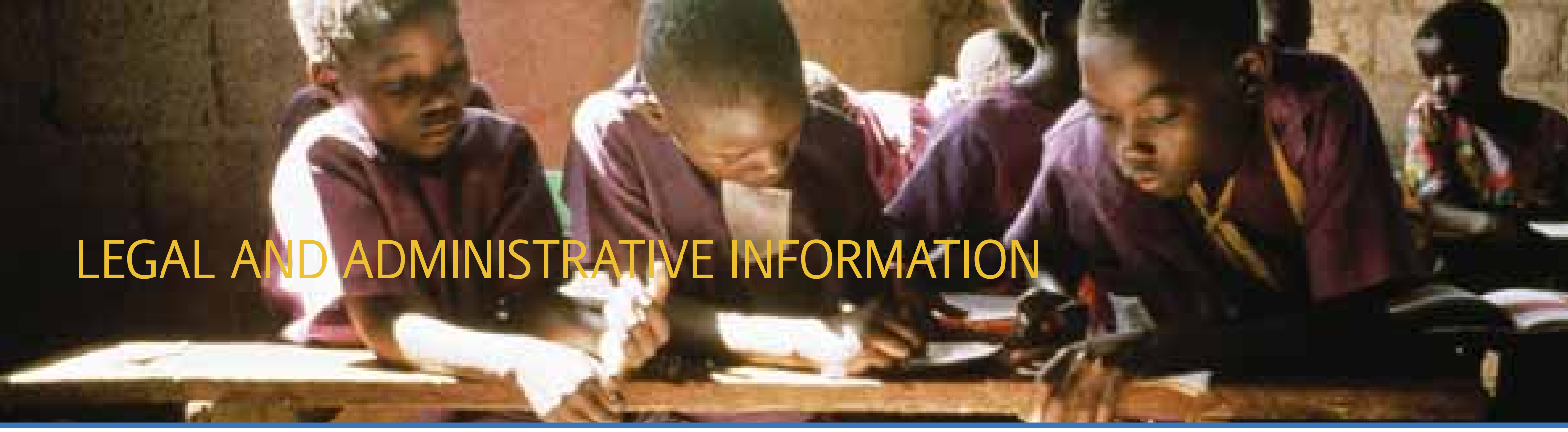
Plan UK increased its staff numbers from 65 full-time and 3 part time employees at the start of the financial year to 83 full time and 3 part time employees at the end. This significant increase related to improving Plan's capacity to exploit opportunities in fundraising and programme spheres. Areas that have received additional human resources include programme staff to manage the DfID Programme Partnership Agreement and Disaster Risk Reduction programme, a team to promote and manage the school linking programme, and additional fundraising capacity in the areas of institutional grants, virtual gifts, corporate partnerships, sponsor acquisitions and donor development.

Plan UK is also fortunate to benefit from the support of a number of volunteers, interns and work placements, who provided approximately 17,855 working hours based on recorded attendance (2006 - 14,655 hours). Their dedication has enabled Plan UK to carry out research, improve its administration systems and provides essential support to the Operations function which in turn enhances the relationship between the Charity, its supporters and beneficiaries.

Both staff and volunteers are valued by Plan UK, which is keen to involve them in its work as much as possible, by holding regular communication events, including discussions and presentations, and by offering training and work placements.

We rely heavily on community volunteers in the programme countries where Plan works. There are about 10 volunteers for each paid worker. They perform an invaluable role in liaising with families, helping to plan and manage projects, delivering gifts and helping with correspondence. In return they receive training in issues such as project management, child participation and administration.

The Board of Directors is grateful to all staff and volunteers for their commitment to Plan UK and their efforts over the last year.



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Patrons:

Michael Aspel OBE
Marie Helvin
Virginia McKenna
The Lord Paul
Ruth Rendell
Dr Miriam Stoppard
Baroness Warnock of Weeke
Len Woodley QC
Baroness Rendell of Barergh
Julie Pankhurst
Baroness Morris of Yardley

Directors:

Janet O Boateng
Ian JLF Buist CB
Nigel C Chapman - Chairman
John Clark
Peter J Drissell*
Thomas C Hoegh*
Javaid S Khan*
Anne Grant
Surina Narula
Angela M Penrose

*Members of the Audit Committee

Registered Office:

5/6 Underhill Street,
London NW1 7HS
Tel: 020 7482 9777, Fax: 020 7482 9778
Email: mail@plan-international.org.uk

Principal Officers:

Marie Staunton	Chief Executive
John Pinchard	Company Secretary and Finance Director
Claire Jarrold	Supporter Relations Manager
Jeremy Cooper	Marketing Manager
Stuart Mulholland	Programme Manager
Sharon Goulds	Communications Manager
Angela Beerman	Human Resources Manager
Christine Allison	Policy Manager

Auditors:

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
1 Embankment Place
London WC2N 6RH

Solicitors:

Russell-Cooke
2 Putney Hill
London SW15 6AB

Bankers:

Barclays Bank
Church Street East
Woking GU21 1AE

AUDITORS

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, have expressed their willingness to be re-appointed and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By order of the Board

John Pinchard
Company Secretary

Nigel Chapman
Chairman

16 April 2008

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 30 June 2007

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2007 Total	2006 Total
INCOMING RESOURCES		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income					
Sponsor pledges		26,009	-	26,009	25,399
Contributions from official bodies	Note 3(a)	233	6,391	6,624	7,087
Other donations and appeals	Note 3(b)	1,993	3,180	5,173	5,571
Activities for generating funds					
Trading subsidiary income	Note 12	253	-	253	313
Investment income					
Interest income		92	-	92	222
Total incoming resources		**28,580**	**9,571**	**38,151**	**38,592**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating funds					
Voluntary income					
Sponsor pledges		(4,081)	-	(4,081)	(3,904)
Contributions from official bodies		(720)	-	(720)	(592)
Other donations and appeals		(1,382)	-	(1,382)	(1,250)
Trading subsidiary costs	Note 12	(156)	-	(156)	(269)
Charitable activities					
Development education, advocacy and communications		(1,388)	-	(1,388)	(920)
Programme activities		(19,627)	(8,164)	(27,791)	(31,861)
Governance		(86)	-	(86)	(95)
Total resources expended	Note 4	**(27,440)**	**(8,164)**	**(35,604)**	**(38,891)**
Exceptional Item: Transfer of net assets to Plan Ireland	Note 13	(61)	(139)	(200)	-
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		1,079	1,268	2,347	(299)
Total funds brought forward		858	1,324	2,182	2,481
Total funds carried forward	Note 10	1,937	2,592	4,529	2,182

All income and expediture relates to continuing activities. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those included above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

CONSOLIDATED AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

		Group 2007		Group 2006		Charity 2007		Charity 2006
		£'000		£'000		£'000		£'000
Tangible assets (note 7)		548		329		548		320
Investments - shares in subsidiary undertakings (note 12)		-		-		-		-
		548		329		548		320
Current assets								
Stock	33		30		-		-	
Debtors (note 8)	1,697		2,254		1,735		2,350	
Cash at bank and in hand	3,622		2,238		3,608		1,751	
	5,352		4,522		5,343		4,101	
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year (note 9)	(1,371)		(2,669)		(1,362)		(2,445)	
Net current assets		3,981		1,853		3,981		1,656
Net assets		**4,529**		**2,182**		**4,529**		**1,976**
Funds: (note 10)								
Unrestricted funds								
General		1,389		529		1,389		472
Designated								
-Tangible fixed asset fund		548		329		548		320
Restricted funds		2,592		1,324		2,592		1,184
Total funds		**4,529**		**2,182**		**4,529**		**1,976**

Approved by the Board and signed on their behalf by:

N.C. Chapman

A Grant

Nigel Chapman
Director

Anne Grant
Director

16 April 2008

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

		2007	2006
		£'000	**£'000**
Net cash inflow from operating activities	(Note A)	1,583	458
Returns on investment and servicing of finance - interest received		92	152
Capital expenditure:			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(291)	(187)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(Note B)	**1,384**	**423**

Notes To The Cash Flow Statement

A) Reconciliation of changes in resources to net inflow from operating activities.			
Net (expenditure)/ income for the year		2,347	(299)
Interest income		(92)	(216)
Depreciation charges		63	72
Net disposal of fixed assets (Plan Ireland)	Note 7 & 13	9	-
Decrease in debtors		557	611
(Increase)\Decrease in stock		(3)	4
(Decrease)\Increase in creditors		(1,298)	286
Net cash inflow from operating activities		**1,583**	**458**

B) Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents during the year.		
Balance brought forward	2,238	1,815
Net cash inflow	1,384	423
Balance carried forward	**3,622**	**2,238**

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PLAN INTERNATIONAL (UK)

We have audited the group and parent charity financial statements ("the financial statements") of PLAN International (UK) for the year ended 30 June 2007 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The responsibilities of the directors (who are also the trustees of PLAN International (UK) for the purposes of charity law) for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of Plan UK's Directors.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the charitable company's members as a body in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Report of the Board of Directors is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the Report of Board of Directors, a Message from Plan UK Chair and the Chief Executive's Report. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the group and charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 30 June 2007 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including the group's income and expenditure and cash flows, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the Report of the Board of Directors is consistent with the financial statements.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
London

16 April 2008

Notes:

(a) The maintenance and integrity of the PLAN International (UK) website is the responsibility of the directors; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

(b) Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

1. Organisation and purpose

Plan is an association of global not-for-profit organisations ("Plan") formed for the purpose of providing material aid and services to needy families and their communities in the developing world. To accomplish this purpose it is organised into a number of separate legal entities which, in the year ended 30 June 2007, included Plan International, Inc ("Plan, Inc"), a not-for-profit organisation incorporated in the United States of America, Plan Ltd. and seventeen national organisations. The latter represent the work of Plan in their country, fundraise and contribute to the management of Plan. Plan International (UK) ("Plan UK") is one such national organisation. Funds raised by the national organisations are used for programmes to benefit sponsored children, their families and communities through Plan Inc which operates field offices in forty-nine countries. The results of Plan UK are included in the worldwide combined accounts prepared by Plan Inc which are publicly available.

2. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in March 2005 ("The 2005 SORP") and applicable United Kingdom accounting standards. The statement of financial activities (SOFA), group balance sheet and cash flow statement consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertakings. The Charity has availed itself of Paragraph 3 (3) of Schedule 4 of the Companies Act and has adapted the Companies Act formats to reflect the special nature of the Charity's activities. No separate SOFA has been presented for the Charity alone as permitted by Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985 and paragraph 304 of the 2005 SORP.

(b) Subsidiary undertakings

The accounts of subsidiaries are consolidated with the Charity on a line-by-line basis. Transactions and balances between the entities are eliminated on consolidation. Details on subsidiaries are given in note 12.

(c) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Directors for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(d) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the Charity is legally entitled to the income, there is reasonable certainty of receipt and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Income from sponsors is accounted for on a receipts basis except that the portion of annual sponsorship contributions which relates to future periods is carried forward in the balance sheet as deferred income.

Income tax refunds on donations are recognised as income on an accruals basis for all payments covered under a deed of covenant or gift aid certificate. Grants and other income are recognised when the agreed conditions for receipt have been met and there is reasonable certainty of receipt.

Trading subsidiary income represents the amounts invoiced to customers for goods supplied, excluding VAT.

Interest income includes interest earned by Plan Inc on funds remitted to it by Plan UK, which is subsequently passed back to Plan UK by Plan Inc.

No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers. Other gifts in kind are recognised at a reasonable estimate of their gross value to the charity.

(e) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, and is classified in the SOFA according to the activity to which it relates. Direct costs, including attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to the key strategic areas of activity. Irrecoverable VAT is applied to the cost from which it arises. Support costs, which include central functions such as general management, accounting, general post and communications, information technology and human resources, are allocated between activities on the basis of staff numbers employed during the period. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the Charity and include an estimate of management time spent on strategic activities as well as direct costs associated with governance.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Items costing less than £200 are not capitalised. The carrying value of fixed assets is reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances suggest that their carrying amount may not be recoverable.

Depreciation for all fixed assets except computer software is calculated on a straight-line basis at a rate of 20 per cent to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation of computer software is calculated on a straight-line basis at a rate of 33 per cent. Computer software under development is not depreciated until it is available for its intended use.

(g) Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(h) Pension costs

Pension contributions paid by the Company in respect of employees to a defined contribution scheme are charged to the SOFA as they become payable.

(i) Operating leases

Operating lease rentals are charged to the SOFA in the period in which they are incurred.

(j) Foreign exchange transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are taken to the SOFA.

The income and expenditure of the overseas subsidiary (Plan Ireland) were translated at average yearly rates. The assets and liabilities were translated at the year-end rate. Any translation differences arising were included in movements on fund balances.

(k) Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Company are the Directors named on page 50. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

3. Income analysis

The income classifications "Contributions from Official Bodies" and "Other Donations and Appeals" have been re-defined to represent more accurately the types of programme and fundraising methods employed. "Contributions from Official Bodies" previously included only UK government departments, European Union agencies, and the Governments of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. "Contributions from Official Bodies" is now defined as any income from governments and agencies of governments, supra-national governmental organisations (such as EC and UN) and their agencies, and grant givers who work within a broad ranging institutional framework that is intrinsically linked to governments or agencies of governments. This classification now also includes Comic Relief, the Big Lottery Fund, Save the Children and the World Food Programme (for prior year comparison). "Other Donations and Appeals" includes all income from private individuals, companies and private trusts and in future years will include any income that does not fall within other classifications. 2005/06 figures have been restated in line with the new classifications and in total £4.5m is now showing under Contributions from Official Bodies which was previously classified as Other Donations and Appeals.

(a) Contributions from Official Bodies			**2007**	**2006 Restated**
	Unrestricted	**Restricted**	**Total**	**Total**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
DfID	-	2,095	2,095	861
European Commission	195	2,751	2,946	1,031
Other public funding	-	429	429	712
Big Lottery	5	177	182	192
Comic Relief	3	93	96	157
SAVE	30	846	876	846
Sub-total	233	6,391	6,624	3,799
World Food Programme	-	-	-	3,288
Total	**233**	**6,391**	**6,624**	**7,087**

The World Food Programme donation for 2006 relates to the delivery of food aid in Malawi and Zimbabwe and as such is a non-cash donation.

(b) Other Donations and Appeals			**2007**	**2006 Restated**
	Unrestricted	**Restricted**	**Total**	**Total**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Plan Ltd	1,500	-	1,500	1,222
Trusts and major donors	2	1,170	1,172	1,242
Corporations	15	523	538	400
Emergency appeals	-	160	160	852
Gift Aid on restricted income	36	336	372	390
Trading donations and alternative gifts	53	425	478	379
Other donations	387	566	953	1,086
Total	**1,993**	**3,180**	**5,173**	**5,571**

The donation from Plan Ltd of £1.5m (2006 - £1.2m) is a donation received under deed of covenant in order to support the Company's charitable activities.

4. Resources expended

a) Analysis of total resources expended

GROUP	Support	Staff costs	Other Direct	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Costs of generating funds					
Sponsorship	606	693	2,782	4,081	3,904
Official bodies	310	332	78	720	592
Other donations	401	290	691	1,382	1,250
Trading	-	-	156	156	269
Charitable activities					
Development education, advocacy and communications	271	641	476	1,388	920
Programme activities	-	-	27,791	27,791	31,861
Governance costs	40	-	46	86	95
Grand total	**1,628**	**1,956**	**32,020**	**35,604**	**38,891**
Re-allocate salaries within support costs	(863)	863	-	-	-
Grand total	**765**	**2,819**	**32,020**	**35,604**	**38,891**

Staff costs initially included within Support are reallocated to Staff costs.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an additional exceptional item of £200,000 in respect of the transfer of net assets of Plan Ireland (see note 13).

Programme activities represent amounts passed to Plan Inc which are used to cover programme costs and related programme support costs, the costs of the central services for the programme countries and Plan Inc's administrative costs.

	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Net income/expenditure is stated after charging:		
Audit fee of consolidated financial statements (£24,760 for Charity. 2006 - £20,000)	28	23
Non-audit fees paid to our auditors	9	17
Depreciation	63	72
Operating lease rentals - buildings	198	192

b) Analysis of Support Costs

	Sponsorship	Official Bodies	Other Donations	Charitable Activities	Governance	2007 Total	2006 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Staff costs	314	161	208	140	40	863	699
Communication	47	24	31	21	-	123	118
Depreciation	24	13	15	11	-	63	72
Travel and meetings	4	2	3	2	-	11	21
Office and premises costs	217	110	144	97	-	568	488
Grand Total	**606**	**310**	**401**	**271**	**40**	**1,628**	**1,398**

Support costs have been allocated to each of the above activities on the basis of the number of staff employed during the period by the relevant activity. Governance staff costs are an estimate of time spent by management on clearly identified governance matters.

Analysis of Support Staff Costs	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Head office and central support	515	425
IT	127	100
Finance	221	174
	863	**699**

c) Analysis of Governance Costs

	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Audit and professional fees	46	55
Apportionment of staff costs	40	40
	86	**95**

5. Staff costs

	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Staff Costs		
Wages and salaries	2,324	1,869
Social security	239	186
Pension costs	53	50
Sub Total	2,616	2,105
Other staff costs	203	108
	2,819	**2,213**

Plan UK has a defined contribution pension scheme, which matches employee contributions up to a maximum of 5 per cent of pensionable salary. The resulting fund belongs to the employee and can be transported when leaving Plan. No employees receive benefits under a defined benefit pension scheme.

The number of employees whose emoluments, as defined for taxation purposes, amounted to over £50,000 in the year was as follows:

	2007	2006
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£50,001 - £60,000	2	-

The pension contributions for these higher paid employees to defined contribution schemes were £12,988 (2006 - £7,132).

The average number of employees, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, analysed by activity was:

	2007	2006
Sponsorship activities	18	18
Official bodies and grants	11	8
Other donation activities	15	10
Support activities	20	20
Charitable activities	22	12
Total	**86**	**68**

6. Directors' remuneration

None of the Directors received any remuneration during the year for services to the Company (2006 - nil). Expenses reimbursed to Directors (where claimed) were £1,152 (2006 - £185). These expenses related to 2 Directors and covered out-of-pocket expenses of £1,121 in respect of travel (2006 - £180) and £31 in respect of communications expenses (2006 - £5).

7. Tangible fixed assets

GROUP	Computer software £'000	Alterations to premises £'000	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings £'000	Computer and other office equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 July 2006	306	91	146	266	809
Disposal	(68)	-	(73)	(17)	(158)
Disposal of Plan Ireland Assets (Note13)	(3)	-	-	(10)	(13)
Additions	203	19	7	62	291
At 30 June 2007	**438**	**110**	**80**	**301**	**929**
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 July 2006	84	77	124	195	480
Disposals	(68)	-	(73)	(17)	(158)
Disposal of Plan Ireland Assets (Note13)	(1)	-	-	(3)	(4)
Charge for the year	5	15	10	33	63
At 30 June 2007	**20**	**92**	**61**	**208**	**381**
Net book amount					
At 30 June 2006	222	14	22	71	329
At 30 June 2007	**418**	**18**	**19**	**93**	**548**

CHARITY	Computer software £'000	Alterations to premises £'000	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings £'000	Computer and other office equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 July 2006	303	91	146	256	796
Disposals	(68)	-	(73)	(17)	(158)
Additions	203	19	7	62	291
At 30 June 2007	**438**	**110**	**80**	**301**	**929**
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 July 2006	83	77	124	192	476
Disposals	(68)	-	(73)	(17)	(158)
Charge for the year	5	15	10	33	63
At 30 June 2007	**20**	**92**	**61**	**208**	**381**
Net book amount					
At 30 June 2006	220	14	22	64	320
At 30 June 2007	**418**	**18**	**19**	**93**	**548**

Charity and Group additions to computer software include an amount of £201,186 (2006 - £140,891) in respect of assets in the course of construction. The closing net amount was £415,523. This amount has not been depreciated. The software under construction was the replacement donor relationship database for Plan UK which has been implemented successfully in September 2007.

8. Debtors

	Group 2007 £'000	Group 2006 £'000	Charity 2007 £'000	Charity 2006 £'000
Official Bodies	141	608	141	608
Income tax recoverable	436	547	436	547
Prepayments and accrued income	263	132	263	132
Plan Inc	660	777	660	777
Other debtors	197	190	235	286
	1,697	**2,254**	**1,735**	**2,350**

Other debtors for the Charity include an amount of £39,672 (2006 - £66,718) receivable from the trading subsidiary (see note 12).

9. Creditors

	Group 2007 £'000	Group 2006 £'000	Charity 2007 £'000	Charity 2006 £'000
Trade creditors	343	486	341	482
PAYE and NI	81	5	81	-
Deferred income	742	794	742	771
Accruals	189	505	183	363
Other creditors	16	879	15	829
	1,371	**2,669**	**1,362**	**2,445**

Other creditors include an amount payable to Plan Ltd of £nil (2006 - £777,767).
The movements in deferred income are analysed below:

GROUP AND CHARITY	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Deferred income at 1 July	794	955
Amounts released from previous years	(675)	(891)
Incoming resources deferred in the year	623	730
	742	**794**

Commitments under operating leases in respect of land and buildings in the following financial year are as follows:	£'000	£'000
Operating lease expiring: Within two to five years	**201**	**201**

10. Statement of funds

GROUP	Balance 1 July 2006 £'000	Plan Ireland Net Asset Disposal £'000	Total incoming resources £'000	Total resources expended £'000	Transfers £'000	Balance 30 June 2007 £'000
Unrestricted funds:						
General reserve	529	(52)	28,580	(27,440)	(228)	1,389
Designated funds						
Tangible fixed asset fund	329	(9)	-	-	228	548
	858	(61)	28,580	(27,440)	-	1,937
Restricted funds	1,324	(139)	9,571	(8,164)	-	2,592
Total funds	**2,182**	**(200)**	**38,151**	**(35,604)**	**-**	**4,529**

CHARITY	Balance 1 July 2006	Total incoming resources	Total resources expended	Transfers	Balance 30 June 2007
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Unrestricted funds:					
General reserve	472	28,425	(27,280)	(228)	1,389
Designated funds					
Tangible fixed asset fund	320	-	-	228	548
	792	28,425	(27,280)	-	1,937
Restricted funds	1,184	9,571	(8,163)	-	2,592
Total funds	**1,976**	**37,996**	**(35,443)**	**-**	**4,529**

The transfer made between general and designated funds is effected to match the net book value of fixed assets with a designated fund (see note 7).

Restricted funds comprise the following unexpended balances on donations and grants given for specific purposes:

Restricted Funds	Balance 1 July 2006	Total incoming resources	Total resources expended	Balance 30 June 2007
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DfID	389	2,095	(1,675)	809
European Community	741	2,946	(1,904)	1,783
Other Official Bodies	-	1,350	(1,350)	-
Other Donations and Appeals	55	3,180	(3,235)	-
Charity	**1,185**	**9,571**	**(8,164)**	**2,592**
Plan Ireland (Note 13)	139	-	(139)	-
Group	**1,324**	**9,571**	**(8,303)**	**2,592**

11. Analysis of assets and liabilities between funds

GROUP	General	Unrestricted funds Designated	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 30 June 2007 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	548	-	548
Current assets	2,674	-	2,678	5,352
Current liabilities	(1,285)	-	(86)	(1,371)
	1,389	548	2,592	4,529
Fund balances at 30 June 2006	**529**	**329**	**1,324**	**2,182**

CHARITY	General £'000	Unrestricted Funds Designated £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 30 June 2007 are represented by:				
Fixed assets	-	548	-	548
Current assets	2,665	-	2,678	5,343
Current liabilities	(1,276)	-	(86)	(1,362)
	1,389	548	2,592	4,529
Fund balances at 30 June 2006	472	320	1,184	1,976

The designated fund comprises amounts set aside to finance the future depreciation on fixed assets. Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes, and the tables above show those net assets at year-end which can be attributed to restricted activities.

12. Investments - Subsidiary undertakings

CHARITY	2007 £	2006 £
Shares in subsidiary undertakings	2	2

Plan UK owns the entire issued share capital of Foster Parents Plan International (UK) Ltd, a trading company whose business is the sale of merchandise to sponsors of Plan and third parties. It is the policy of the subsidiary to make a charitable donation of any financial surplus to Plan UK.

Plan Ireland Charitable Assistance Limited ("Plan Ireland"), a charity registered in Ireland, ceased to be treated as a subsidiary from 1st July 2006 (see note 13).

Subsidiary	Foster Parents Plan International (UK) Ltd		Plan Ireland[2]	
	2007 £'000	2006 £'000	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Total incoming resources	257[3]	313	-	1,869[1]
Total resources expended:				
Cost of generating funds	156	269	-	874
Cost of charitable activities		-	-	986
Governance costs	4	1	-	5
Total net assets	**-**	**-**	**-**	**200**

[1] Including a grant of £759,400 (2006 - £539,951) from Plan UK
[2] See note 13
[3] Incoming Resources includes £3,565 of interest

13. Exceptional Item: Transfer of Assets to Plan Ireland

On 1 July 2007, Plan UK relinquished control over Plan Ireland in order that Plan Ireland would become a national organisation in its own right. This change resulted in a charge of £200,000 in the group financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2007, representing transfer of the net assets held by Plan Ireland on the date that control was relinquished. There is no impact on the Charity's own financial statements.

14. Related Parties

Plan Inc allocates back to the national organisations the interest it earns on the funds transmitted to it by the national organisations. This allocation is based on the timing and size of the remittances from each National Organisation during the fiscal year in which the interest is earned. The accompanying statements of activities include allocated interest income of £60,084 and £195,051 for the years ended June 30 2007 and 2006, respectively. Note 3b) above describes the income received under a deed of covenant from Plan Ltd, Plan Inc's central service organisation.

Plan UK would like to thank the following trusts, statutory funders, corporate and individual donors who have supported our work over the past financial year:

Institutions:

DfID
European Commission
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office - ECHO
The Big Lottery Fund
Comic Relief
The Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee
The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission
The States of Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee

Trusts and Foundations:

The Band Aid Charitable Trust
The Casey Trust
The Four Acre Charitable Trust
The Freemasons' Grand Charity
The Mercury Phoenix Trust
The Mosse Charitable Settlement
The Sir Halley Stewart Trust

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And not least our Children's Advisory Panel

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