



Until we are all equal

Plan International / James Mbiri

**GIRLS' EDUCATION**

**COLLECTIVE**

**Invest in girls.**

**Unlock futures.**

Melisha, 13, has stayed in school against all odds with support from a Plan International project.



Briyit advocates for girls' education and ending violence against girls, as part of a Plan International project in Peru.



## THE GIRLS' EDUCATION COLLECTIVE...

...brings together a community of passionate philanthropists united by a shared purpose: removing the barriers that prevent girls from learning and shaping their own futures.

Together, we strategically support Plan International's education and learning work – helping girls stay in school, return to learning, and access education in all its forms.

## OUR GOAL

We're embarking on a mission to raise £300,000 by July 2028 to advance girls' education and learning. By pledging a minimum of £5,000 each year, you become a crucial part of this collective, working alongside girls to remove the barriers that limit their choices and futures.

**Are you ready to  
stand with us?**

# How are girls breaking down barriers?



Girls are determined to learn, but it's clear the odds are stacked against them. Globally, 40% of girls don't get to finish school.

**50 million**

adolescent girls and young women are unable to read or write

Girls living in conflict and crisis areas are

**2.5 times**

more likely to be out of school

**61%**

Of girls living in rural areas do not attend secondary school

**Violence. Poverty. Hunger. Child marriage. Discrimination. Periods. Access.** All of these are barriers which hold girls back from attending school.

Many girls face additional challenges, **such as those who are disabled or become mothers at a young age.** For an increasing number of girls, the long-term effects of **conflict and climate-related disasters** make going to school even harder.

**Despite these obstacles, girls are determined to take control of their own futures.**

**The Girls' Education Collective aims to bridge the gap between girls' determination and lack of opportunities.**

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**I believe I can finish my education.  
I don't think anything can stop me.**

**Salma, Nigeria**

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Salma, 11, is deaf and had to watch her siblings go to school when she could not. Salma is now attending specialist classes for children with hearing impediments with support from Plan International Nigeria.

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**Life for a girl that goes to school is different. They will be able to go on and get a job. They can support themselves and their family.**

**Anna, 18, South Sudan**

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Anna is taking part in the Accessible Schools for Girls project in South Sudan.



# The power of girls' education



**Did you know that just one more year in school can boost a girl's future earnings by up to 20%?**

The ripple effect of girls' education helps them to **break the cycle of poverty** and create fairer societies for everyone. Research, and our decades of experience, has proven that girls that learn more, earn more. They're also better able to contribute to economic growth in their communities, which benefits everybody.

When we invest in girls' education, infant and child mortality fall, and family health improves. Not only that, but female participation in household and community decision-making increases, ensuring all voices are heard.

So it's clear: **when you invest in girls, you're investing in and strengthening whole families and communities.**

That's why we have established the **Girls' Education Collective**. A joyful collective of like-minded philanthropists, where you can play your part in driving powerful and lasting change for girls, their families and their communities.

The Collective supports Plan International's education and learning work. This includes helping girls stay in school, returning to learning after disruption, accessing safe and inclusive learning environments and building the skills and confidence they need to shape their own futures.

**Girls want to go to school. Girls want to stay in school. Girls want to earn a living. The Girls' Education Collective will work with girls to make sure this happens.**

# How your gift will drive lasting change



By joining the Collective, your gift contributes to an education fund that enables Plan International to respond strategically and at scale. This could include strengthening and complementing larger programmes, responding to urgent gaps, and investing in approaches that are often hardest to fund – but that are critical to girls' education, safety and wellbeing.

Where possible, Collective funding works alongside support from governments and other funding partners – helping extend our reach, strengthen quality and maximise impact for girls.

Our projects take a **holistic approach** to deliver quality, inclusive and gender transformative education programmes. We work to make sure children **of all ages and from all backgrounds** get a quality education, have their voices heard and to **drive lasting and sustainable change** for communities. We are also **experts in education in emergencies**. In conflict and crisis, we work with children who have been displaced and are out of school, to support them to start learning again.

**As a member of the Girls' Education Collective, you will stand alongside girls who are driving change. Recent and current Collective-supported initiatives include:**

- Supporting children affected by conflict in South Sudan to **continue their education safely**.
- Helping adolescent girls in rural Zimbabwe **return to learning** through accessible catch-up classes and community-based education.
- **Expanding access to safe, inclusive learning opportunities** for Venezuelan children displaced and living in Peru.



**It is hard for girls to go to school when they are menstruating. There is nowhere we can change our sanitary pad or feel clean.**

**Tina, 18, South Sudan**



Tina is taking part in the Accessible Schools for Girls project in South Sudan.



## Accessible schools for girls in South Sudan

### The challenge:

South Sudan has the world's third lowest literacy rate with 2.8 million children currently out of school.

The challenges are greatest for girls. Not only are they dealing with conflict and insecurity, but girls also struggle with the effects of gender inequality, harmful social norms and a lack of safe, girl-friendly toilet and washroom facilities.

As a result, right now less than 3 in 10 secondary school students in South Sudan are girls.

### The project:

The Accessible Schools for Girls project is removing the barriers that hold girls back and creating opportunities that give girls a path to learning.

Teachers are supported to deliver high-quality lessons for girls, including through catch-up classes. In Comprehensive Sexuality Education classes girls learn about their health and rights.

The project also makes sure girls have safe toilet and washroom facilities at school and access to menstrual health kits.

**£5,000** could enable **199 girls** to access a menstrual health kit so they can manage their periods with dignity at school.



Girls participating in a class at a Community Learning Hub.

## Supporting adolescent girls' education in Zimbabwe

### The challenge:

In parts of Zimbabwe, nearly a third of secondary school age girls aren't in school.

Economic hardship, distance, gender inequality, child labour and the increased risk of harmful practices like early forced marriage, all make it more difficult for adolescent girls to stay within the formal education system.

The Supporting Adolescent Girls' Education in Zimbabwe (SAGE) programme is working to change this.

### The project:

Through the project, over 5,000 out-of-school girls will attend literacy and numeracy classes at accessible Community Learning Hubs.

At these Hubs, girls build a foundation of learning that will support them to move on to their next challenge, whether formal school or vocational training.

Girls also equip themselves with life skills, enabling them to stand up against discrimination in their community and champion their right, and the right of all girls, to an education.

**£5,000** could provide **179 girls** with vital workbooks and learning materials.



**We are here, and we want to be seen. We deserve our equality whatever our nationality.**

**Karelys, Peru**



Karelys and her family migrated to Peru from Venezuela.

## Learning opportunities for Venezuelan children in Peru

### The challenge:

Since 2014, nearly 8 million Venezuelans have left the country, seeking to escape violence and poverty. Peru is currently home to more than 1.5 million Venezuelans.

For Venezuelan children in Peru, learning opportunities are severely limited. A lack of school places and a culture of discrimination has left many children out of school.

Girls and children with disabilities face even greater challenges.

### The project:

This project is working to improve access to education for over 60,000 Venezuelan girls and boys living in Peru.

The project identifies and supports out-of-school children, 'especially girls and children living with disabilities. Schools will be transformed into safe, accessible, and inclusive spaces for all learners.

Teachers will also be trained in how to provide mental health support for children.

**£5,000** could support **88 teachers** to attend training sessions on providing mental health support for children.

# Join the Girls' Education Collective



**Girls are at the heart of everything we do.** Our education programming is no different.

**As a member of the Girls' Education Collective, you will drive lasting change for girls.**

## **As a part of this exclusive group, you will:**

- **Join an inspiring community** of like-minded philanthropists who are as passionate about girls' education as you are.
- **Strategically invest** in evidence-based education projects that break barriers for girls and drive long-term change.
- **Access exclusive events** and briefings, including private dinners, roundtables, and networking receptions with Plan International leaders and education experts.
- **See your impact** first hand through regular reports, programme updates, and opportunities to visit projects.
- **Deepen your learning and engagement** through curated experiences and discussions with specialists, project staff and the girls that we work with through our programmes.
- **Be recognised as a champion for girls' education.** If desired, members will be acknowledged in reports, events, and on Plan International UK's website for their leadership and generosity.

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**When a woman is educated, a whole nation can be educated. Some people don't believe in female education, but we are trying our best to convince them that it's important.**

**Eunice, Sierra Leone**

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Eunice dropped out of school when she was younger. She has now become a teacher after taking part in a Teacher Training Programme run by Plan International Sierra Leone.

# Join the Girls' Education Collective today to invest in girls and unlock futures



The Girls' Education Collective isn't a quick fix. It's a long-term, transformative commitment to standing alongside girls and advancing their access to education and learning. Achieving lasting change takes time. **That's why we ask Collective members to pledge at least £5,000\* per year for three years.**

## **This long-term investment helps girls succeed.**

It also enables Plan International to complement and leverage further funding from a wide range of partners – helping ensure education and learning initiatives for girls can reach further and last longer.

By committing to girls' education over three years, you'll also get a deeper understanding of the impact of your donation, alongside other passionate members of the Collective.

Together we can build a future where every girl can unleash her potential, shape her own future, and inspire generations to come. **The future that girls deserve. Are you with us?**

**To join the Collective making a difference for girls,  
please contact us at: [philanthropy@plan-uk.org](mailto:philanthropy@plan-uk.org).**

\*Your donation will include a contribution to Plan International UK's essential costs, including the monitoring and reporting of funds.

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**I love school because it will make me independent one day.**

**Aminata, 12, Mali**

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Aminata, 12, on her way home from school in Mali. Aminata is overcoming hunger to attend classes.



Until we are all equal

Plan International



Girls in Cambodia look out of the window from their newly built primary school.

# Thank you