

This document describes how Plan Sudan and its partners will mobilise different resources to improve the welfare and prospect of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2007 – 2016.

About Sudan

Sudan is the largest country in Africa where the majority of the population is settled along the banks of the river Nile that traverses from south to north. With geographic extremes varying from sandy desert to tropical forest, it is one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse African countries. Sudan's population is over 36 million.

- Infant mortality rate is estimated at 65 per 1,000 births.
- Nearly 80% of children between four and five years of age have no access to early childhood education.
- The country is ranked 141 out of 177 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index.



- Approximately four out of 10 children under five years of age were not registered at birth.
- Prevalence of female genital cutting/mutilation is estimated at 90%.
- An estimated one in every eight children is working for a living.
- About 34% of girls between nine and 13 years old are married.

Sudan is at a crossroads in its history. The cessation of hostilities in its 50 year long war with the south is facing political uncertainties surrounding a 2011 referendum, when citizens will decide whether Sudan should split into two countries.

Plan Sudan's program

Plan has been operating in northern Sudan since 1977. It is one of very few child centred international non-governmental organisations working at the grassroots level. Past programs and project evaluations reveal that there is widespread appreciation for Plan's work amongst children, communities and local partners. This was emphasized with Plan Sudan being awarded 'The Two Niles Award' in 2000 by the government.

Current issues affecting children

The five main issues facing children in rural Sudan are:

- Vulnerability to endemic and infectious diseases;
- Poor sanitation and unavailability of potable water;
- Low access to quality basic education;
- Food insecurity and low family disposable income;
- Limited participation of children in activities within their communities according to their age and skills.

How Plan Sudan address these issues

In response to the five main issues affecting children, we are implementing the following four programs:

1. Working Together for Children's Health:

- Working with children and community groups to identify urgent health needs and supporting them to participate in health activities regarding child survival, immunisation, malaria control and safe motherhood nutrition.



Children travel long distances for collecting water

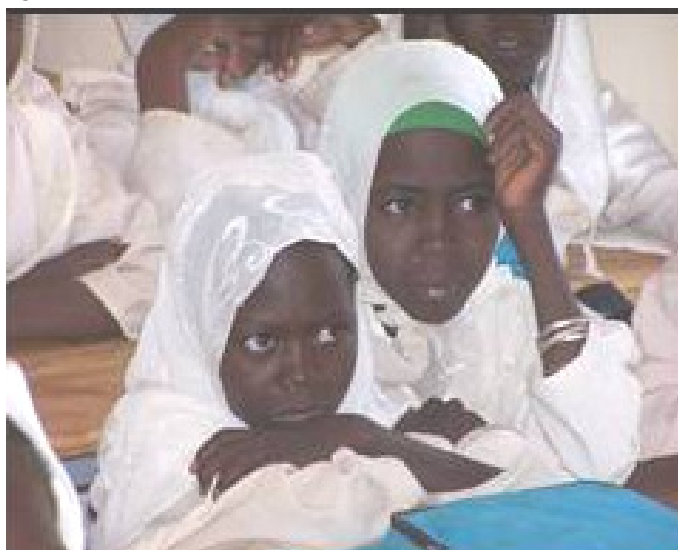
- Supporting health education and promotion campaigns around events such as health days, immunisation days, malaria action week and HIV and AIDS awareness days.
- Promoting birth registration with the linkage to child health and child rights.
- Improving basic health services through the provision of basic medical equipment and training of primary health care providers, mothers and community members on family based health practices.

2. A Safe Environment for Children:

- Working with women’s and children’s groups to increase capacities on hygiene and environmental sanitation.
- Improving coverage and quality of water and environmental sanitation through training of community groups enabling them to manage and sustain water and sanitation schemes.
- Analysing and developing community disaster plans.
- Scaling up water services from a single use approach to water for multiple uses.

3. Child Learning for Life:

- Supporting the community education plan with emphasis on girls’ education.
- Achieving school improvement through training committees.
- Promoting the active involvement of children, parent and teachers’ associations.
- Educate the authorities to manage the school, monitor and sustain basic education quality.
- Improving the school environment to make it safe and child friendly.
- Advocating for free and compulsory basic education for all children.
- Raising awareness of child protection to ensure abuse free schools and the elimination of child labour that prevents school attendance.



Safe school environment attracts more girl children

4. Sustainable Family Economic Security:

- Improving agricultural productivity through improved irrigation techniques.
- Improving animal farming practices and fishery through farmer training.
- Promoting entrepreneurship among vulnerable families and youth through vocational skills and business management training.
- Promoting environmental conservation through tree plantation and soil protection schemes.
- Increasing access to grassroots financial services and encouraging formal financial institutions to expand their coverage.

Program approach:

The lack of child centred organisations in the Sudan means that Plan’s resources are spread thinly over many communities. Over the next 10 years, Plan Sudan perceives its role as one of “bridge-building” – supporting effective links between children and the organisations responsible for ensuring their rights. We have developed strategies to establish and maintain such links, which include the following approaches:

- Create local demand for effective services for children.
- Build local capacities to deliver these services.
- Support local organisations to become sustainable.
- Advocate at national and state levels to emphasise the basic link between child development and national development.
- Seek sufficient resources within national and private budget allocations in Sudan’s growing economy.



Children and adults prepare together their community development plans