



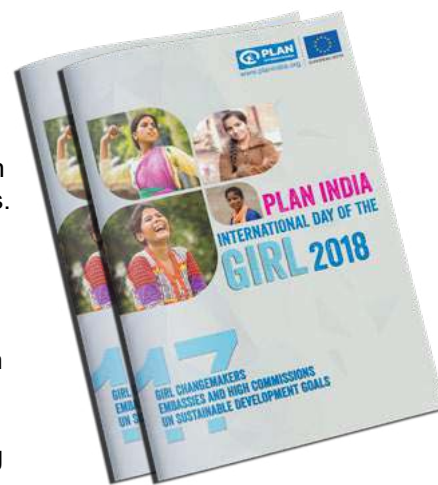
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Girl Changemakers accompanied by Mr Anil Kapoor with Ambassadors and High Commissioners from 17 Diplomatic Missions and Plan India staff

International Day of the Girl (IDG), celebrated on October 11, is a UN declared International day to support equal opportunities for girls and increase awareness on gender discrimination worldwide. Since 2012, Plan India has celebrated International Day of the Girl by engaging girls in activities that showcase their true potential and capabilities. On IDG 2018, through the Girls' Takeovers, Plan India aimed to change perceptions around what is possible for girls as decision makers, leaders and changemakers. IDG 2018 witnessed more than 100 girls, occupying positions of power across the country. In Delhi alone, a collaboration between Plan India and Delegation of the European Union to India witnessed 19 Girl Changemakers take over 17 Embassies and High Commissions committed to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030.



[Click here for IDG 2018 report](#)



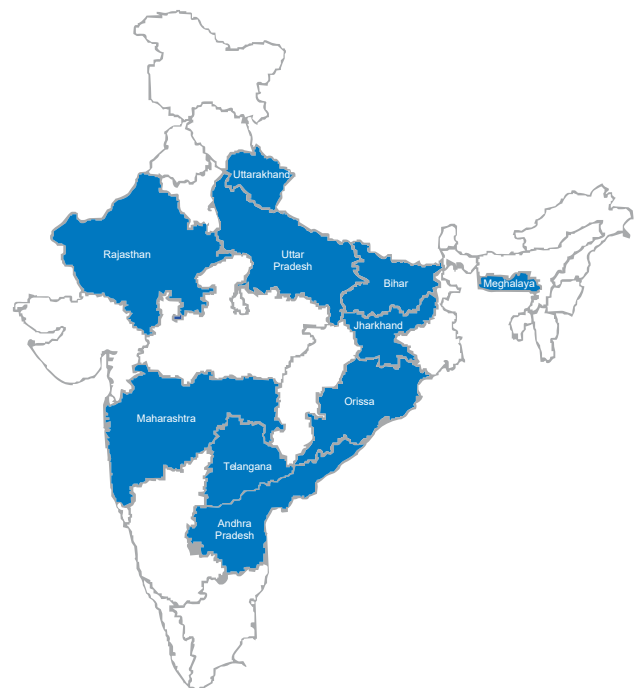
Girl Changemaker in conversation with Ms Ulrika Sundberg, Consulate General of Sweden, Mumbai



Girl Changemakers interacting with Mr Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to India in New Delhi



Girl Changemaker taking over the position of Mr Chandrashekhar Singh, District Magistrate, Samastipur, Bihar



Hailing from ten states—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh—the selected girls chaired meetings, unanimously sending a message on the urgent need for girls and young women to wield equal rights to education, health, and socio-economic and political participation. They also participated in meaningful and thought provoking dialogue on Sustainable Development Goals.

The participating Embassies and High Commissions included Delegation of the European Union to India, Australian High Commission, Embassy of Belgium, High Commission of Canada in India, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of Estonia, Embassy of Finland, Embassy of Germany, Embassy of Israel, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of Poland, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, Embassy of Spain, Embassy of Sweden, Embassy of Switzerland, and the Embassy of the United States of America.

With more than 200 guests in attendance, a panel discussion on the ‘Commitment of Diplomatic Missions to ‘Girls Rights and Leadership’, moderated by Mr Rajiv Chandran, Deputy Head, United Nations Information Centre, was also held in the evening. The celebration was enriched with the presence of noted philanthropist, producer and actor Mr Anil Kapoor, who has lent his support for girls’ rights as Plan India’s Patron and Goodwill Ambassador for more than 12 years. During the event, he launched the ‘Girls Get Equal’ (GGE) campaign in India. GGE is Plan’s strongest youth-driven global campaign aimed at ensuring that every girl is independent, self reliant and empowered to make her own decisions. On the sidelines of the launch, Mr Kapoor reiterated his dedicated support for the cause.



Plan India and Mahita, under Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) Project, observed the International day of the Girl (IDG) on October 11, 2018 in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. In collaboration with the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare, the second phase of ‘Kishori Vikasam’ (Adolescent Girls Empowerment) programme was also launched. Gracing the occasion were ministers, government officials and 1,200 adolescents.

During the programme, five videos each on Child Marriage and Child Trafficking, six posters and one handbook on Child Marriage developed by Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) in collaboration with the Department of Women Development, were also launched by Ms Paritala Sunita, Minister of Women Development and Child Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh along with other dignitaries. As part of the Kishori Vikasam-Empowerment of Adolescents Girls programme, the Government will disseminate the videos to 11,000 educational institutes in Andhra Pradesh. Padma Shri PV Sindhu, ace badminton player and youngest Olympic medallist, has also extended her support to the cause and recorded an inspiring message in the videos.

“The Videos and IEC material developed by Plan India and Mahita will reach out to 2,500,000 Adolescent Girls in Andhra Pradesh through Kishore Vikasam Phase-II Programme, which will help to prevent Child Marriages and Child Trafficking in the state” said Mr Arun Kumar, IAS, Secretary and Special Commissioner, Department of Women Development and Child Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Esteemed dignitaries namely Mr Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources, Andhra Pradesh; Mr Kollu Ravindra, Minister of Law and Justice, Skill Development, Youth Sports, and Unemployment Benefits; Ms N. Raja Kumari, Chairperson, Andhra Pradesh Women Commission; Ms Ganta Hymavathi, Chairperson, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Andhra Pradesh; Ms Gadde Anuradha, Chairperson, Krishan District were also present. Mr Ramesh Sekhar Reddy, Programme Director, Mahita and other noted guests from NGOs and Governmental bodies also participated.



Participants during IDG celebrations in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh



Plan India in partnership with Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, organised the Third Annual National Conference, Plan For Every Child 2018: Girls Get Equal from December 5-7, 2018 in New Delhi. For decades, Plan India has recognised that girls and young women from marginalised communities are not only unsafe but deprived of their meaningful fundamental rights as well. In strong alignment with its cause, ‘Girls Get Equal’ was chosen as the driving theme for the annual conference for advocating the power of girls and highlighting their right to be equally seen, heard and valued. The conference was actively supported by prestigious media partners such as Danik Bhaskar, CNBC TV18, CNN News 18 and The Quint.



Ms Rathi Vinay Jha, Chairperson, Plan India, Governing Board facilitating Mr Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development along with Mr Govind Nihalani, Chair Emeritus, Governing Board, Plan India and Ms Bhagyashri Dengle, Executive Director, Plan India

The first edition of the conference held in 2016, focussed on exchanging ideas and fostering a dialogue on issues related to children in difficult circumstances. Subsequently, the second edition focussed on ensuring equal access of opportunities for girls and best practices for fighting challenges faced by girls.

The third edition of the Plan For Every Child conference was conceptualised with multi-fold objectives, chief among them being to discuss and deliberate on issues affecting children through participatory and interactive sessions.

The three-day conference focussed primarily on prevention and safeguarding children and their rights, justice for children and concerted actions towards a just future for children, especially girls. The annual conference was attended by more than 500 delegates. During the conference, the interactive sessions and presentations witnessed participation from 100 acclaimed academicians, policy makers, practitioners associated with development, eminent media personalities, corporate representatives, influencers and experts from across the globe.



Ms Bhagyashri Dengle
Executive Director, Plan India

Ms Rathi Vinay Jha
Chairperson, Plan India
Governing Board

Justice (Retd.) Madan Bhimrao
Lokur
Supreme Court, India

In her welcome address, Ms Bhagyashri Dengle, Executive Director, Plan India, spoke on bringing voices of the youth to the national stage with a bold vision to enable children, especially girls, to learn, lead, decide and thrive. Delivering the keynote address, Ms Rathi Vinay Jha, Chairperson, Plan India Governing Board, emphasised the urgent need for government agencies and NGOs to come together and work cohesively to build a better India. Gracing the occasion Justice (Retd.) Madan Bhimrao Lokur, Supreme Court of India, emphasised on focussed efforts to spread awareness on the rights of children and need for an action-driven approach towards resolving issues concerning children.

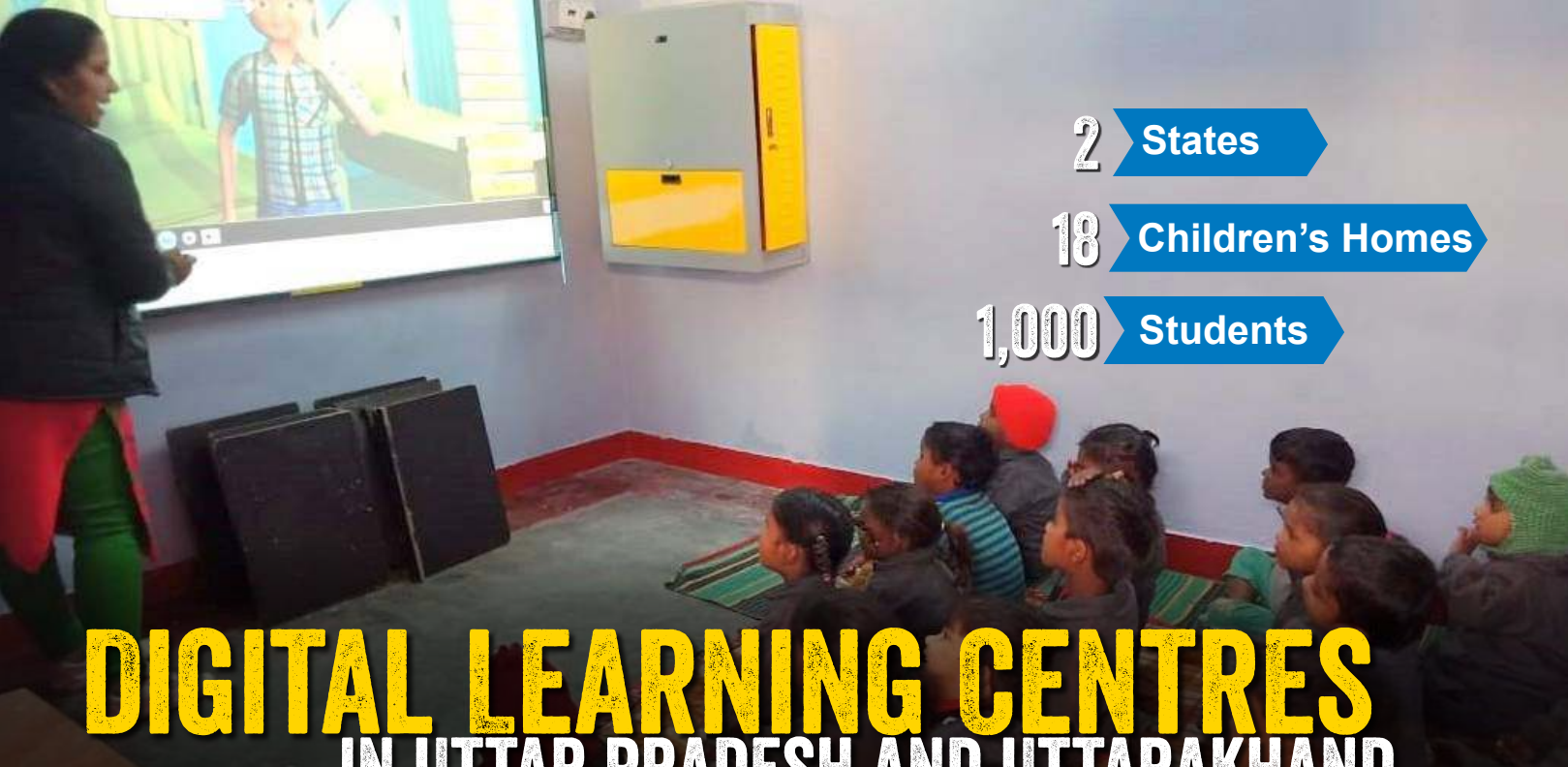
Panel discussions spanned three days and aimed at influencing policymakers and practitioners working at the national and state level, and communities and youth at the grassroots level. The conference also dwelt upon a need for a road map to strengthen institutional frameworks to ensure child protection. The discussions also centred on the important roles played by the three important pillars of our democracy: Judiciary, Legislative, and Executive.

The catalytic role played by Child Care Institutions (CCIs) mandated under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 also found a special mention. Speakers also brainstormed various issues and challenges they confront while ensuring a safer environment for children. The need for gender transformative education for both girls and boys, better use of technology including social media, a collaboration of formal and informal systems for better implementation of laws, schemes, policies and programmes, prevention of gender injustice and accountability by the authorities were also discussed.

Taking a step further, four regional consultations with children, aged between 5-10 years, from four states namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Telangana were organised to understand real life challenges confronting them. Plan India partnered with Sesame Workshop India, an educational organisation harnessing the power of muppets and media to elucidate, amplify, and address children’s views of their own safety and protection. During the national conference, the findings and recommendations from the regional consultations were presented and shared with policy makers and participants for necessary action.



Children sharing experiences with the representatives of Sesame Workshop India in an interactive session



2 States
18 Children's Homes
1,000 Students

DIGITAL LEARNING CENTRES IN UTTAR PRADESH AND UTTARAKHAND

BACKGROUND

Plan India has partnered with the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand to support the establishment of Digital Learning Centres in Children's Homes. Initially, Plan India will work on 10 selected Children's Homes spread across four districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Lucknow, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Kanpur and three districts in Uttarakhand namely Almora, Dehradun and Uttarkashi. The Digital Learning Centres have been set up in selected districts to impart education through tutorials and practice sessions using technology-powered education modules developed by Next Education. The Centres, covering 18 Children's Homes and benefiting 1,000 students, will be expanded to other parts of the country. The content based on students' curriculum will not only make classroom learning engaging and interactive but will help in understanding complex concepts easily. Each module will be packed with assessment questions that will help teachers to assess students' understanding of the topic digitally.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH IN UTTAR PRADESH

Digital Learning Centres were officially inaugurated with a state level event in the month of January, 2019. Gracing the occasion, Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Honourable Minister of Women and Child Development, urged all girls at the Motinagar Children's Home for Girls, Lucknow, to utilise the digital technology to learn and thrive.

Taking a step further, Centres in Kanpur and Mirzapur were also inaugurated. The Digital Learning Centre at Kanpur Children's Home for Boys was inaugurated by Mr Akshay Tripathi, Chief Development Officer (CDO), while the Mirzapur Children's Home was inaugurated by Ms Priyanka Ranjan, CDO.

The initiative has facilitated a transition to technology in traditional classrooms. The inauguration in all districts was well covered by print media. Inspired by the initiative, the Department of Women and Child Development has urged all educators at Children's Homes to utilise digital technology to impart education and share a report with the Department every two months.

In the future, Plan India will impart education using such innovative means across India. The roadmap envisions hand-holding, capacity building of teachers in technology, continuous monitoring and close regulation of educational activities at Homes with active participation of stakeholders from local government and children as well.



Launch of Digital Learning Centres in Uttar Pradesh



AN UPDATE FROM MAHARASHTRA

CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE DENGUE (MUMBAI AND PUNE)

Plan India in a joint collaboration with Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and Pune Municipal Corporation organised a two-month Dengue awareness campaign from September-November in Mumbai, and October-December in Pune in 2018. Dengue, a mosquito-borne viral fever, can lead to severe life-threatening conditions such as high fever and lower count of platelets. It has long been characterised as one of the major epidemics plaguing Mumbai, with strong social and health impacts. The campaign targeted identified slum locations of Mumbai with an active participation of 100 volunteers. With the support of volunteers and coordinators, it reached out to a total of 202,593 households (122,500 in Mumbai and 80,093 in Pune).

The campaign was launched by Dr Dhende Siddhartha Yashwant, Deputy Mayor, Pune Municipal Corporation along with Dr Pakhale, Health Officer, Pune Municipal Corporation.

During the campaign, community-based information drives such as health assemblies, home visits and distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material on Dengue were arranged. Large size banners, hoardings, signages highlighting the causes, symptoms and preventive measures were also placed at bus shelters and local train stations with heavy footfall. Similarly, radio campaigns with Radio Mirchi (98.3 FM) in Mumbai and Radio Mirchi Love (104 FM) in Pune were also launched. The campaigns provided listeners with useful information to avoid Dengue. Through sustained door-to-door campaigning, patients with alarming symptoms such as high fever, joint and muscle pain, skin rashes were also encouraged to seek medical treatment from the nearest health centres.



Officials launching the Dengue awareness campaign



Dengue awareness banners at bus shelters



TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE SCHOOL ON WHEELS

Living on the streets of Mumbai is a serious challenge for children. For Iqbal (name changed), an orphan, it was no different. He struggled on the pavements of Crawford Market, South Mumbai fighting every single day for survival. He was under the constant influence of his friends on the streets, and soon fell prey to substance abuse and gambling.

In order to earn a living, Iqbal also began scavenging. Enduring difficult circumstances on the streets and with no access to any financial help, he was unable to study. With no one to take care of him, Iqbal became further isolated.

However, destiny had something else in store. Ms Sunandatai, a teacher working with partner Door Step School, discovered Iqbal and managed to secure his admission in the School on Wheels (SoW) in Mumbai. The SoW, supported by Plan India for last 12 years in Mumbai, uses a customised bus to provide alternate educational facilities for street-connected children who have no access to formal education.

With her timely intervention, he was enrolled in her remedial classes on the SoW in 2009. But for Iqbal, it was initially quite difficult to adjust to the new environment. To attend classes, he had to give up scavenging, which was his only source of income, thereby weakening his already dire financial situation. Moreover, pressure from his friends also discouraged him from paying attention to learning. As a result, he stopped attending classes.

Undeterred, Sunandatai, convinced Iqbal to resume his education. She even counselled him on the ill-effects of addiction and gambling not only on his career but health as well. Understanding the importance of education, he started attending classes regularly. Encouraged with his dedication, Sunandatai enrolled him into a Government Municipal School. A few years later, he successfully completed his 7th grade education from the school, but had to drop out after due to financial constraints.

However, his years in the programme brought about a remarkable transformation in Iqbal. Today, he is 20 years old and works happily and independently as a Sales Executive in a confectionery shop in Crawford Market, Mumbai. He earns INR 8,000 per month and supports himself, living comfortably in a rented room at Reay Road, Mumbai.

Iqbal's commitment and determination enabled him to transition from a life of gambling and substance abuse to one of self-sufficiency and dignity. He is often seen visiting the SoW and distributing sweet treats to its students while sharing his experiences and encouraging them to study and stand on their own feet.



AN UPDATE FROM BIHAR AND JHARKHAND

SWACHHTA HI SEVA CAMPAIGN (BIHAR AND JHARKHAND)

Plan India along with its state partners in Bihar and Jharkhand was part of a sanitation campaign 'Swachhta hi Seva' (SHS) from September 15-October 2, 2018. The initiative focussed to raise the demand for building household toilets and making Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF) as envisioned under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). The regional campaign was launched by Plan India in partnership with district administration of Bihar and Jharkhand. The initiative was also supported by Lohiya Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Lohiya Clean India campaign) in Bihar and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Jharkhand.

During the campaign, school children participated in various activities such as hand washing activities, rallies and paintings. 'Swachhta Rath'—a unique Information Education and Communication (IEC) van with messages on sanitation and hygiene also became a integral part of the campaign. To build up engagement, short films on sanitation and construction of toilets using 'Leach Pit Technology' were also screened. The technology enables eco-friendly, technically compliant, socio-culturally acceptable and economically affordable toilets, which also provide health benefits such as safe disposal of human excreta. Activities like paintings, 'ratri chaupal' (community gathering), 'prabhat pheri' (community gatherings accompanied with song recitals), were also carried out to educate community member on proper usage of household toilets and raise awareness on government schemes.

The campaign garnered success with the participation of all stakeholders including government officials, Community Based Organisations (CBO), school teachers, front-line health workers and media.



Launch of cleanliness drive by Mr Chandrashekhar Singh, District Magistrate, Samastipur, Bihar



Flagging of campaign van by government officials in Jharkhand

CAPACITY BUILDING OF PRERAKS (INFLUENCERS) IN SAMASTIPUR FOR SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (Clean India Mission-Rural) is a government led nationwide campaign tracking progress in terms of sustainable sanitation practices such as construction of toilets, behaviour changes for hand washing and regular usage of community toilets. The mission aims to make India an open defecation free country in five years. Towards this, Plan India collaborated with District Administration for a workshop on capacity building of front line influencers to expedite work on SBMG. During the workshop, 102 'Swachhta Preraks' were trained and sensitised on importance of community support and key provisions of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin.



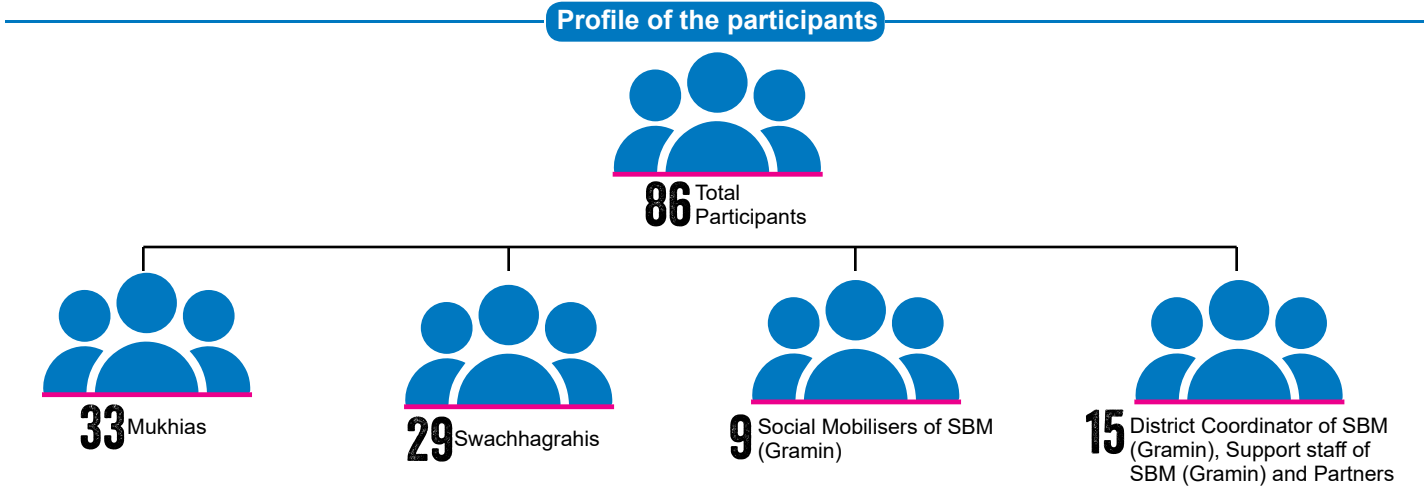
Lighting of lamp by District Administration officials during the inauguration of workshop in Bihar

WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY BUILDING ON ODF SUSTAINABILITY AND ODF+ IN HAZARIBAGH



District Collector and other government officials participating during the five day long workshop in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, received Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 2018. In compliance with the mandate of Government of India, such districts require continuous support to maintain this status. A five-day long workshop, on 'Capacity building on ODF Sustainability and ODF+' was organised in December. The workshop, supported by Plan India, was held between December 15-19. Inaugurating the workshop, Mr Ravindra Shankar Shukla, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh, congratulated the stakeholders of the district on their achievement. He emphasised on aiming for ODF+ status, a gradual and sustained movement towards building habitual cleanliness in an area with respect to sanitation, waste, environment and ecology. An appeal was also made to the participating Mukhias (head of a community) and Swachhagrahis (WASH volunteers working across local bodies) to practice healthy sanitation habits.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY IN BIHAR

International Youth Day was celebrated on August 12, 2018 in partnership with Bihar State AIDS Control Society (BSACS) as 'Yuva Kalp' in Patna. The theme of the celebration was 'Safe Spaces for Youth'. In total, 476 participants from different districts of Bihar were part of the event and engaged through activities such as dance and skit. The event was inaugurated by Dr Karuna Kumari, IAS, Project Director, BSACS, Plan India Director Programme Implementation and Senior Programme Manager (East), along with other officials from the department. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Mohammed Asif, Director Programme Implementation, Plan India shared his insights on the importance of safe spaces and laid emphasis on the important role played by them for a healthy and productive life. An interactive 'Children Corner' centred on theme of Safe Spaces for Youth was also displayed.



International Youth Day celebration on the theme of 'Safe Spaces for Youth' in Bihar

ASHOKA INDIA FOR YOUTH VENTURE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



Ashoka India for Youth Venture Fellowship Programme changemaker interacting with students

Kumari (name changed), one of the members of National Youth Advisory Panel (NYAP), Plan India, from Bihar has been selected as a 'Change Maker' for the Ashoka India for Youth Venture fellowship programme. Kumari has been associated with Plan India since her childhood and contributed actively in addressing social issues. Prior to this achievement, she was part of youth led campaigns to prevent child marriage and has successfully prevented 16 child marriages. Kumari along with her friends also addresses the problem of menstrual hygiene in rural Bihar and works on awareness campaigns with parents, girls, social leaders, and teachers on menstrual health. Besides this, they also educate girls about the changes that are common during puberty and help them to fight the stigma associated with menstruation. To engage with young people they make use of street plays, comics and cartoons. Presently, Kumari has been working on sharpening her skills of creative problem solving, teamwork and collaborative leadership, essential for an ideal change maker.

She also reaches out to media to spread the word as well as engage with families and community members on the issue of menstrual health and hygiene. Her dedicated efforts have helped foster an attitudinal and behavioural change among girls.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN BIHAR

Plan India organised ,a first of its kind, girls' football tournament in Jamui district, Bihar. The tournament, held in January 2019, was inaugurated by Mr Bunt Choudhary, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA). He applauded the efforts of Plan India and its partners for championing children's rights with a special focus on girls. Spanning two days, the tournament witnessed participation from eight teams from nine government high schools in the district. Girls, mostly from tribal and Secluded communities who are part of Plan India's Child Centred Community Development (CCCD) programme, participated in the tournament. The tournament was played at Harni Football Ground, Khaira Block. The venue was decorated by young people who participated actively in making the tournament successful. The sporting event was also meant to address the gender imbalance associated with football as a sport.



Girls' football tournament winners celebrating in Jamui, Bihar

THEATRE TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH



Participants rehearsing during the workshop in Bihar

A seven-day residential training workshop was organised by Plan India and its partners in Bihar from December 14-20, 2018. The initiative focussed on training adolescents as Master Trainers for delivering social messages through theatre, short skits and street plays. It centred on social issues such as child marriage, child sexual abuse and sanitation. In addition, the workshop aimed to equip participants on campaign designing. In total, 29 participants from five districts of Bihar, namely, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Vaishali, Saran and Jaumi attended the workshop. The training was organised at Sewa Sadan, Muzaffarpur, a residential training venue. It was facilitated with the help of Bangla Natak.Com, a social enterprise working across India with a mission to foster inclusive and sustainable development using a culture-based approach.

GARIMA JHARKHAND: A WEB PORTAL FOR THE PRE-CONCEPTION AND PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES ACT

Jharkhand, predominantly a tribal state, has a strong preference for male child. As per the 1901 Census, the child sex ratio stood at 1,032 girls as compared to 1,000 boys. However, as per the 2011 census, the figures have dwindled to an alarming 948 girls per 1,000 boys. The bias stems from rigid succession rights for property favouring boys and men and their perceived contribution to the workforce and support to elderly parents (while girls are considered a liability who will marry into other families). Moreover, with the invention of ‘Genetic Technology’, particularly ultrasonography and evolving diagnostic practices, there has been a steep decline in the sex ratio in Jharkhand. Spatial analysis further corroborates that the decline was rampant in locations where people had easy access to technology to detect the sex of unborn babies.

With the timely intervention of the Supreme Court and growing concern over the rising cases of Gender Biased Sex Selection, the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, was formally passed in 1994. For effective implementation, the Government has allocated funds to the States and Union Territories for setting up cells to monitor the implementation of the Act, referred to as PCPNDT cells.

As the initiative garnered traction, several Genetic Centres were opened throughout the length and breadth of the country. Presently, in Jharkhand alone, 800 registered centres are operational. With centres mushrooming each passing year, regulation and monitoring of these has been a challenge.

The maintenance and upkeep of the records of Genetic Centres, especially Ultrasonography Centres, has also been an area of concern for authorities. Taking cognisance of the challenge, Plan India in partnership with the state administration launched an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled web portal. The portal named ‘Garima Jharkhand’ (Pride Jharkhand), provides the Health Department with an innovative monitoring mechanism for the effective regulation of diagnostic centres. It also shares real-time data, such as details of doctors associated with registered centres and the details of registered cells with equipment with competent authorities to monitor the proper usage of genetic technologies and arrest the declining sex ratio.



Ms Nidhi Khare, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare launching ‘Garima Jharkhand’

THE PORTAL IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS:

- Public Domain - Encapsulates important information related to the legal framework, recent data on corporate social responsibility, landmark legal judgments, government notifications and necessary reports.
- Admin Domain - Provides access to important and reserved sections including ‘Management Console’, ‘View Feedback’ at State and District levels. Access to the section requires a unique user ID and password.



Around **748** genetic centres geo-tagged



16 centres identified to be operating illegally. Details of centres were shared with concerned District Collectors and appropriate action was initiated

A SNAPSHOT OF GARIMA JHARKHAND WEB PORTAL



Home page of the [PCPNDT Web Portal \(Garima Jharkhand\)](#)



Displays Admin menu with reserved sections such as Management Console, View Feedback, Geo-Tagging Status



Dashboard section shows details of Clinic Summary with Clinic Registration Number



Dashboard shows details of Doctors/Operators associated with assigned Registration Number



Map section shows details of Geographic Information System (GIS) enabled registered clinics in Jharkhand

Note: Each centre registered with ‘Garima Jharkhand’ is provided full access to the website through a unique user ID and password.



PREVENTING NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCD) IN INDIA

Plan India has always been committed to engaging children and young people in programming as part of its 'Gender Transformative' approach, aligning optimally with the Global Youth Engagement Strategy. Taking a step further in the sphere of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD), Plan India extended its support in the establishment of India Network of NCD and Youth (INNY).

A multidisciplinary network of 15 organisations, groups and individuals, it works to advance programmes and strategies to reduce risk factors among young people in India. Apart from incorporating the voice of the youth, the network constantly engages with multi-sectoral stakeholders to steer coordinated action on NCD.

In order to scale its work and learnings in the sphere of NCD, Plan India has been part of several other initiatives over the years as listed below:

As an integral partner of World NCD Federation (WNF), Plan India helped organise the 'International Youth Parliament' during the maiden World NCD Congress at Chandigarh in 2017. During the Congress, young people from different countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Kenya and Sri Lanka were invited and participated actively.

A special paper on the 'International Youth Parliament', co-authored by Dr Kalyanashish Das, Senior Technical Advisor-Health, Plan India also featured in the International Journal of Non Communicable Diseases. The document can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.ijncd.org/article.asp?issn=2468-8827;year=2017;volume=2;issue=4;spage=122;epage=125;aulast=Srivastava>

Making strides in the sphere of NCD, Plan India also joined the Healthy India Alliance. As part of its advocacy initiative, Plan India has been sharing its experiences and best practices with young people at the national level through symposiums and seminars.

During the visit of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force (UNIATF) for the conference on 'Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD)' at WHO headquarters in New Delhi in 2018, Plan India was invited to be part of the 'Civil Society Dialogue'. The forum aimed to understand the progress India has made in combating NCD.

On the sidelines of conference on 'Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health' (PMNCH) in New Delhi in December 2018, a high level gathering involving multiple stakeholders was organised with support from Plan India as part of INNY. The discussion focussed on highlighting the issues of young people in the sphere of NCDs.

About Plan India

Plan India is a nationally registered not for profit organisation striving to advance children's rights and equality for girls, thus creating a lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable and excluded children and their communities.

Since 1979, Plan India and its partners have improved the lives of millions of children and young people by enabling them access to protection, quality education and healthcare services, a healthy environment, livelihood opportunities and participation in decisions which affect their lives.

Plan India is a member of the Plan International Federation, an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Plan International is active in more than 70 countries.

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