

Plan International Netherlands report for the UN Global Compact

January 29th 2021

Reporting for 2019 and 2020

We have provided an overview of projects and work that are contributing to principle 1 and 6 of the UN Global Compact:

- Girls Advocacy Alliance Programme
- Wired 4 Work Project
- General Lobby & Advocacy Work
- General Youth Economic Empowerment Work
- Partnership with Accenture and Plan International

Girls Advocacy Alliance

The project [Girls Advocacy Alliance](#) (GAA) works for the protection of girls and young women against violence and for their economic empowerment. The GAA is an initiative of Plan International Netherlands, Terre des Hommes Netherlands and Defense for Children - ECPAT Netherlands, in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The GAA programme ran from 2016 to 2020 in ten countries in Asia and Africa: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

This project specifically worked on the following that supports the work of the UN Global compact

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.

- Development of a gender responsive human rights due diligence tool for companies
- Advocating for the inclusion of gender equality in the Dutch responsible business conduct covenants and the corresponding action plans of companies (signatories of covenants in the metallurgic, food and garment & textile sector)

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

- Research on the business case for women's economic empowerment in the garment sector in Bangladesh
- Research on the business case for women's economic empowerment in the tourism and hospitality sector in Nepal. The focus of this research and work was on making companies aware of the way the perpetrators misuse tourism and hospitality companies to commit crimes was harder in practice as it is a more sensitive topic and other (I)NGOs are better suited to enter this dialogue with companies in a focused and evidence based way.
- Advocacy towards stakeholders within the garment sector in Bangladesh and the T&H sector in Nepal regarding the economic and social benefits of equal inclusion of (young) women in employment and entrepreneurship
- Support and training to Dutch textile brands on how to integrate women's economic empowerment into their supply chain management
- Advocacy about the business case for women economic empowerment and the elimination of gender based violence in the transport sector (Uganda), the hotel sector (Kenya and Ethiopia) and the agricultural sector (Liberia, Sierra Leone)

- Awareness raising in the Netherlands about the importance of investing in gender equality in Ready Made Garment supply chains, by communicating various stories in different formats along the RMG supply chain: from brands, female workers, NGOs, labour union representative and experts (to be communicated from February 2021 on, but most work was done in 2020).

The impact of this activities is still currently being evaluated. However for the following documents completed in 2019 and 2020 please check out the following link (<https://trello.com/b/fc9rjY8G>):

- Valued Paid Recognition; Recognized Desk Review of Business Efforts in Promoting Women's Empowerment in the Mekong Hospitality and tourism sector
- Initiatives and Actions on Women's Empowerment in the Ready-Made Garment Industry.
- White paper on Women's Economic Empowerment in Asia
- Female & Thriving: The Business Case for Women's Empowerment and Reflection in the Hospitality & Tourism Sector in Nepal
- Cashing In; the Business Case for Women's Empowerment in the Garment Industry

Wired4Work!- Using digital technologies for Youth Economic Empowerment (YEE) Solutions

In January 2018 Plan International started Wired4Work! (W4W). An innovative Youth Economic Empowerment (YEE) program that leverages scalable digital solutions to increase the capacity of YEE practitioners in reaching youth in high quality employment. Youth are given access to free online courses on in-demand skills, a job-matching platform, and a social media chatbot that helps build CVs and find job and training opportunities. Practitioners have a capacity-building hub, a market scan tool, and a highly customizable M&E system that can also capture data offline via mobile devices.

W4W is focused on vulnerable youth (16-29 years old), especially women, in Indonesia and the Philippines, who acquire vocational, soft and work readiness skills to successfully enter the labour market. By the end of 2021, 14,000 disadvantaged youth will be trained and/or obtained work experience and 4,200 will have access to decent employment.

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

- Development of the e-learning digital platform [Yes!Academy](#) to provide disadvantaged youth in particular young women, free access to courses for skills development and facilitate their transition to job opportunities and/or businesses.
- Development of e-platform [Yes!Hub](#) to build capacity on designing, implementing and sustaining gender transformative Youth employment and entrepreneurship and to host communities to promote gender equality and youth employment. In November 2020 the platform hosted the Asia Pacific Youth Symposium organized by the Asian Development Bank, Plan Int and other partners with the participation of more than 300 young people.
- Partnerships with the private sector were established with more than 60 companies in the Philippines and Indonesia to promote the inclusion of gender equality in the work place and to align the quality of soft and vocational skills curricula with the needs of the labour market. In particular strategic alliances with the Indonesia Association of Employers and entrepreneurs APINDO and the Philippines and Cebu Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines were established.

General Lobby & Advocacy work Plan International

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.

- Influencing political parties and their election manifesto's to include due diligence legislation based on the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Advocating for the freedom of civil society actors, most notably Women's Rights Organizations, their freedom of expression and association; countering shrinking civic space
- Advocating in collaboration with the Dutch interagency organization for development cooperation for policy coherence (sustainable growth, tax justice, sustainable and fair trade)

General Youth Employment Work

Plan International Netherlands in 2019 and 2020 worked with corporates and educational institutions around the world to support over 21,000 young people to obtain better employment.

Accenture and Plan International Partnership

Plan International and Accenture have been working in partnership since 2010, focusing on youth economic empowerment and to equip youth, especially young women, with the skills they need to succeed in the future. Both recognize that there is an underrepresentation of women in IT, as well as a huge gap between the demand for IT workers and the supply of job seekers. Together, we envision young women, and especially girls, to be the workforce of the future, and want to work together to supply youth with the skills they need to succeed in the workplaces of the future.

To help close the digital gender gap, Accenture and Plan International collaborate to mark Girls in ICT Day by. The aim of the Girls in ICT Day event is to unlock the digital power of girls by provide them with workshops that give girls hands-on experiences on the different applications of IT and make sure they can connect with female role models in the field of ICT so they can explore if this sector is an option for them to study or work in. In 2019 we organized Girls in ICT Day events in 4 locations in the Netherlands as well as events in Colombia and Norway. In 2020 we were ready to scale it up further but since these events are in-person we had to cancel as COVID-19 hit.

Together Plan International and Accenture conducted a research on green jobs in March 2020 to identify best practices and opportunities of youth employment in the green sectors, consolidate experience to promote youth employment with a positive contribution for climate change and the environment and identify prospective collaboration partners. The research allowed Plan to increase its understanding of the potential of green jobs and identify best practices to be followed.