Listening to girls and boys: Plan’s research on SRGBV
Alex Munive, Plan International, Because I am a Girl Campaign, March 2015
Hear Our Voices

• Plan International spoke directly with over 7,000 adolescent girls and boys (ages 12-16) in 11 countries across 4 regions.

• The 11 countries involved in the study are:
  • Asia: Bangladesh, Pakistan
  • Central and South America: Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay
  • East and Southern Africa: Egypt, Uganda, Zimbabwe
  • West Africa: Benin, Cameroon, Liberia

• The purpose of the study was to build a comprehensive picture of the key challenges facing adolescent girls today – in their own words.

• The research process created safe spaces and participatory tools for adolescent girls and boys to share their views on girls’ empowerment and gender equality at school.
Hear Our Voices

Marriage
Only 26% of girls said that they always decide if they marry.

Pregnancy
1 in 3 girls said they never decide if they become pregnant.

Speaking up
1 in 3 girls reported that they never speak up and say what they think around boys.

School latrines
1 in 4 girls reported that they never feel comfortable using school latrine.

Class participation
Only 49% of girls said they always participate in class as much as boys.

Leadership
Only 42% of girls said that they always participate as leaders in school groups as much as boys.

School
In West Africa 30% of girls said that they never or seldom feel as safe as boys on their way to school.

In East and Southern Africa 69% of girls said that they are always encouraged to succeed at school as much as boys.

Household work
In Asia just 5% of girls said girls and boys always share household work equally.

Chore burden at school
Over a third of girls and boys in all regions reported they always share equally the chore burden at school.

We listened to 7,179 adolescent girls and boys across the world.

plan-international.org/hearourvoices #ListenToGirls
Safety in and around School

• Participants in the study further claimed that girls often feel **unsafe on their way to and from school**. Over a quarter (28%) of girls and boys (31%) across the 11 countries claimed that girls ‘never’ or ‘seldom’ feel safe on their way to school.

• “**Fear is also felt in the school especially when any girl comes too early or goes back too late.**” Adolescent Girl, Pakistan

• “**We do not go to the bathroom because the boys spy by putting a cell phone in a shoe and take video and see everything.**” Adolescent Girl, Nicaragua
Promoting Equality and Safety in Schools in Asia

• Plan International and ICRW conducted a study with nearly 9,000 adolescent girls and boys (ages 12-17) in 5 countries across Asia.

• The 5 countries involved in the study are: Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal, Cambodia and Vietnam.

• The purpose of the research was to assess the magnitude and nature of SRGBV, the institutional and programmatic response to it and provide entry points for evidence based programme.

• The research is a quasi-experimental design that used combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods to understand complex dynamics of SRGBV.
Promoting equality and safety in schools

Highlights of a comprehensive research commissioned in 5 countries in Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam) asking more than 9,000 students on the prevalence and nature of school-related gender-based violence:

- **7 out of 10 children** experienced violence at school.
- In Pakistan, nearly **50%** of violence at school was committed by a school staff member.
- In Indonesia and Cambodia, **1 in 3 girls** who experienced violence at school felt sad or depressed.
- 43% of children did nothing when they saw an incident of violence at school.
- A girls’ ability to participate in the classroom and in school sports is influenced by her school’s beliefs about gender equality.
- Physical violence is the second most common form of violence at school. Boys face more physical violence at school than girls.

Read more: plan-international.org/peass
Plan’s commitment

- These findings bring the **daily realities** that adolescent girls and boys face in around schools into vivid colour.

- The studies generated findings that can **inform strategic decision-making** by development agencies.

- Based on the analysis of the key drivers Plan decided to take a comprehensive approach to tackling school violence and aim to make **education systems gender responsive**, including addressing SRGBV.

- These reports provide tools and learnings that must be built upon to **identify, understand and eradicate SRGBV**
http://plan-international.org/hearourvoices/

http://plan-international.org/PEASS/