

Learn Without Fear

Campaign Progress Report



Learn

without fear.

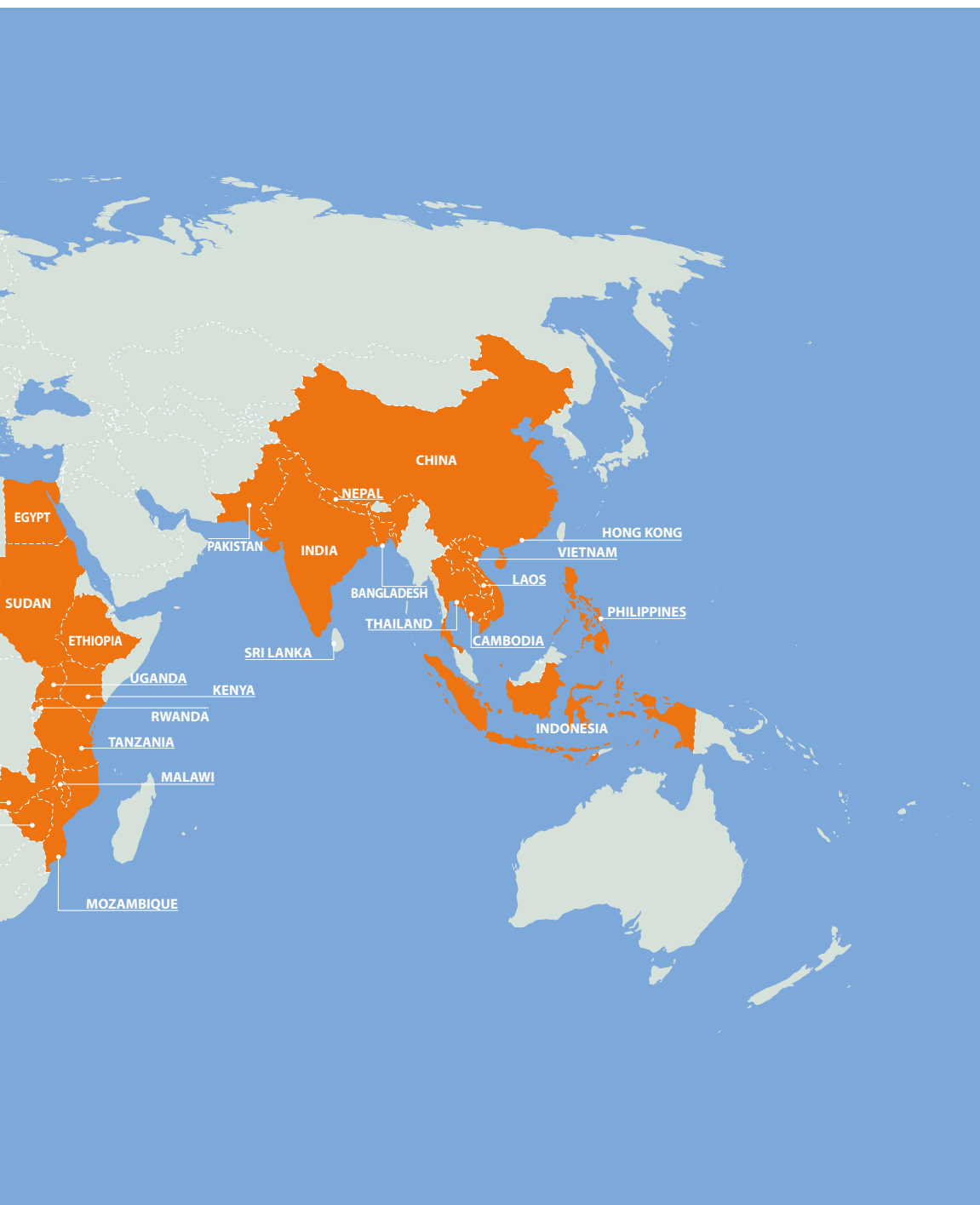
**Violence against
children in schools
affects approximately
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**The impact on children
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economic consequences
both within communities
and countries at large.**



Learn

without fear.



44 countries running the *Learn Without Fear* campaign

Contents

Campaign highlights in numbers	2
Introduction	4
Legislative changes	7
1. Legislation on child protection	10
2. Legislation on corporal punishment	11
3. Legislation on sexual violence	13
4. Legislation on bullying	14
Campaign approaches for addressing violence	15
Reducing violence through training	18
Creating a safe school environment	19
Partnership and coordination	19
Raising awareness in the community	20
Supporting children affected by violence	22
Call to action: elimination of violence in schools	23
What's next for Learn Without Fear?	27
Appendix A	29

Acronyms

CHI	Child Helpline International
CFS	Child-Friendly School
EU	European Union
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund



Photo: © Phan / Do Thi Thanh Huyen
Mo Nam ethnic minority children learning Vietnamese: Hieu primary school, Kon Tum province, Vietnam.

Campaign highlights in numbers

In the two years since the Learn Without Fear campaign has been fully operational, the campaign has contributed to¹...

¹ Based on a survey of 44 countries running the *Learn Without Fear* campaign.

...Changes in legislation

- * **Over 390 million children** benefited from legislation protecting them from various forms of violence in schools
- * **Over 370 million children** benefited from legislation protecting them from corporal punishment
- * **Over 20 million children** benefited from legislation protecting them from sexual violence
- * **Over 6 million children** benefited from legislation protecting them from bullying
- * **Plan is actively supporting** the drafting and development of laws and policies against violence in a further 27 countries

...Changes in creating safer schools and communities

- * **19,458 teachers** have been trained in peaceful teaching methods
- * **18,335 schools** participated in supporting the campaign
- * **108,915 family members** received education on children's rights to protection from violence
- * **36 countries** are able to demonstrate how training and education on violence positively impact behaviour
- * **Plan is collaborating** with teachers' unions to eliminate violence in schools in 19 countries

...Improved awareness

- * **597,886 children** participated in supporting the campaign
- * **Over 94 million people** have been reached by campaign messages
- * **22 countries** report a reduction in girls' school dropout rates in targeted campaign areas
- * **23 countries** report a reduction in boys' school dropout rates in targeted campaign areas



Photo: © Plan / Edilson Cruz
Teacher helping pupils to learn in Brazil.

Introduction

Violence against children in schools affects approximately one million children worldwide every day.

The impact on children affected by violence is often devastating² and can have wide-reaching social and economic consequences both within communities and countries at large³.

Although children's rights are increasingly acknowledged across the globe, "the right to education and the right to a violence free childhood" are rarely addressed as a collective concern. A child's right to an education, free from violence, is not an issue adequately addressed and often lacks a sufficiently coordinated response to the problem in light of the magnitude of school violence worldwide.

In October 2008, Plan launched a global campaign to eliminate violence against children in schools, called *Learn Without Fear*. As of August 2010, the campaign is operating in 44 countries worldwide. In two years, key anti-violence campaign messages have reached an audience of over 94 million adults and children through radio and television shows, leaflets, training sessions and workshops. Children are involved in all aspects of the campaign – ranging from campaign planning in Malawi and Egypt, to running radio shows three times a week in Senegal, and participating in regional art collaboratives across Asia. In working with schools, local communities and national governments across the world, the *Learn Without Fear* campaign demonstrates that stopping violence against children in schools – by engaging and educating those who are able to prevent violence from ever taking place – is possible.

² Plan (2008). *Learn Without Fear: The global campaign to end violence in schools*. Woking, Plan.

³ Overseas Development Institute and Plan (forthcoming 2010). *Economic impact of Social Violence*. London, ODI.

During this campaign, Plan has been working towards a world where:

- 1. No one can inflict violence on children in schools without facing punishment.**
- 2. Children are able to report violent incidents and expect appropriate care and support when they are affected by school violence.**
- 3. Children are recognised as critical participants in developing strategies and solutions to address violence in schools.**
- 4. Governments establish holistic data collection systems and carry out research to ascertain the scale and severity of violence in their schools.**
- 5. Significant resources are earmarked by governments and international organisations to tackle violence in schools.**
- 6. UN agencies, multilateral donors, development banks and international NGOs increase support to governments to tackle violence in schools.**
- 7. Pupils, parents, all school staff and the community work together to expel violence from schools⁴.**

This report serves two primary purposes: one, it serves as a collection of campaign successes in ensuring children worldwide are safe from violence in schools; and, two, the report calls upon NGOs, government and UN agencies to integrate the aim of eliminating school violence into their education agendas and initiatives. All facts and figures in this report are taken from the 44 countries where the campaign is running that were extensively surveyed between May and July 2010.

⁴ Plan (2008). *Learn Without Fear: The global campaign to end violence in schools*, p.54. Woking, Plan.

Photo: © Plan / Alf Berg
Blackboard showing children's attendance at school in Liberia.



2010	
Attendance	
Boys	8
Girls	3
Total	11

Legislative changes

In the absence of legislation that explicitly protects children from violence in schools, there are no legal obligations that hold countries and their citizens to account for committing acts of violence against children.

Legislation is necessary in order to ensure that a child's right to a safe education is enforceable. At international level, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) seeks to make explicit the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children. The Convention, which came into force in September 1990, has been ratified by 194 countries in total but, at present, no complaints procedure exists for the convention – as such there is no way to seek a remedy where children's rights have been violated.

The elimination of violence in schools requires clear national legislation underpinned by the principles of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Specifically, strong national legislation is needed in relation to:

- Corporal punishment
- Sexual violence
- Bullying.

See Appendix A for detailed overview on the legislative status of these issues prior to the start of the campaign.

Since the start of the campaign nearly 400 million more children are protected from violence in schools due to new legislation in one or more of these areas and efforts being made to implement existing legislation. Plan has been involved in these legislative developments in a variety of different ways.

In recognition of the need for strong legislative changes that favour the elimination of violence, more than half of the countries involved in the campaign are actively lobbying their government on issues of violence in schools. Many governments are actively working in support of *Learn Without Fear*, including the Minister of Education in Guinea, the Secretary of State for Education in Cameroon and the Government of Thailand, which has started its own anti-violence campaign.

In spite of the varied challenges that arise from social, traditional and cultural norms, *Learn Without Fear* has helped forge stronger relations amongst government and NGO actors in addressing school violence. Plan offices involved in *Learn Without Fear* work with government at both local and national levels to collect the information and evidence needed to make the case to end

Photo: Plan / Mark Read
Stationary provided by Plan Sierra Leone to help children with their education.



violence in schools. The *Too often in silence* report⁵ developed by a Plan regional office in partnership with other NGOs is one such example. This report, which highlights the reality of violence in schools in West Africa, is being used as a significant evidence base from which to lobby national governments and regional institutions.

Children are being protected from violence in schools through four areas of legislative development.

1. General child rights
2. Corporal punishment
3. Sexual violence
4. Bullying

⁵ UNICEF, Plan West Africa, Save the Children Sweden and ActionAid (2010). *Too often in silence: A report on school-based violence in West and Central Africa*. Woking, Plan.

1. General child rights legislation developments

In some countries, the three areas of legislation that specifically deal with the 3 main types of school violence – namely, corporal punishment, sexual violence and bullying – are approached collectively through overarching child rights legislation.

LIBERIA

By providing evidence-based programme experiences, Plan helped draft the Liberia Children's Act, which is a piece of legislation that protects the fundamental rights of all children and was adopted in June 2010. The legislation includes provisions for the criminal court specifically to hear cases on violence against children and includes child protection as a mandatory element of teacher training. The Children's Act also includes clear follow-up provisions to Liberia's new anti-rape law.

LAOS

Plan played a leading role in the influential Government-Donor Education Sector Working Group comprised of various child rights NGOs in Laos resulting in law detailing the protection of children's rights in 2009.

Photo: Plan / Do Thi Thanh Huyen
Children from Ha Giang province.



2. Corporal punishment legislative developments

Despite the fact that 194 countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Right of the Child, corporal punishment remains legal in 89 countries. The following outlines recent campaign successes, contributing towards our vision of a world where corporal punishment is illegal in all countries:

THE PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, Plan was actively involved in the development of the Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill, which was adopted in January 2010. This piece of legislation now protects over 21 million children in the Philippines.

ZIMBABWE

Plan's 2008 baseline corporal punishment survey in Zimbabwe served as a significant piece of evidence in the recent decision to revise Statutory Instrument 362 of the current Child Act, which initially stated that the use of corporal punishment against boys by school teachers was acceptable. This revision ensures that over two million boys are now protected under the law from being hit by teachers.

PAKISTAN

Plan has been actively involved in developing the child protection amendment bill currently pending in Pakistan's Parliament, which includes anti-corporal punishment measurements.

INDIA

Plan lobbied for the ratification of The Right to Education Act, that was passed in the Parliament in 2009. The Act establishes a national ban on corporal punishment in schools, and makes specific assertions on protecting children from physical or mental harassment noting that those in violation will be punished by law.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly passed the Child Act in late 2008 prohibiting corporal punishment and other abuses. Plan is currently working with government stakeholders to improve implementation of this Act.

TOGO

Plan is supporting the General Secretary of the Ministry of Education's efforts to implement an action plan on anti-corporal punishment measures and to develop a national committee dedicated to the issue.

These examples of progress and other successes have contributed to the provision of legislative protection from corporal punishment for over 372 million children around the world since the campaign launched.

3. Sexual violence legislative developments

Legislation relating to sexual violence is often mistakenly seen as something that predominantly affects girls.

One particular challenge relating to this area of legislative change is the need to ensure there is already broad support for gender equality as a precursor to advocating for legislation addressing sexual violence. In the context of the *Learn Without Fear* campaign, the strategic approaches taken in advocating for legislative changes for sexual violence tend to be country-specific. The following section highlights some of the best examples of recent successes in this area.

KENYA

Plan has actively been involved in reviewing and revising guidelines for the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), the primary employer for all public teachers, to help protect children from sexual violence committed by teachers. Plan is also helping to review the commission's practice to ensure it is acting in accordance with laws such as the Sexual Offences Act and the Children's Act – both of which provide a legal remit for the elimination of violence in schools.

TANZANIA

Plan is supporting the implementation of Tanzania's Law of the Child Act 2009 through the provision of training on dealing with sexual violence, including reporting incidents. This law explicitly protects children from all forms of sexual abuse.

These and other successes have contributed to the provision of legislative protection from sexual violence in schools for over 20 million children around the world since the campaign launched.

4. Bullying legislative developments

Bullying is a uniquely challenging area of legislation given the pervasive cultural acceptance of bullying as a normal part of school life in many parts of the world. As a result, there is a significant lack of legislation addressing bullying in schools. Notable achievements in this area include the following:

BRAZIL

Plan is offering support and guidance to the Brazilian Congress on an anti-bullying bill currently under consideration. At present, there are anti-bullying laws in four states of Brazil but there is no legislation that currently exists at national level.

NICARAGUA

In 2009, Plan helped promote the passage of a Ministerial Agreement (No.134-2009) that prohibits teachers, authorities and school staff from inflicting any kind of physical, moral or psychological suffering. Currently, Plan is supporting efforts to include the prohibition of corporal punishment in Nicaragua's Family Code.⁶

VIETNAM

Plan was part of an NGO effort to address bullying in Vietnam's Criminal Code of Education Law. These efforts succeeded in prompting the Ministry of Education to issue a 'correspondence' in March 2010, which serves as a legal framework for lower levels of government to strengthen regulations that prevent bullying and violence amongst students.

These and other in-country campaign successes have contributed to the provision of legislative protection from bullying in schools for over six million children around the world since the campaign launched.

The campaign has enabled us to reach out to children, especially those who have been marginalised before. Now there is hope they will have a better future.

Patricia Mbatha,
Community leader, Kenya

⁶ The Family Code is the section of the Nicaraguan Constitution which states that family relations should be based on respect, solidarity and the absolute equality of rights and responsibilities for men and women.

Photo: Plan / Sin Miedo
Participant speaking at the Learn Without Fear Campaign launch in the El Paisnal municipality, El Salvador.



Campaign approaches for addressing violence

Violence against children has long since been considered acceptable behaviour by some in various cultures throughout history.

With the understanding that changing widely-held cultural perceptions, attitudes and behaviours about violent practices starts by educating individuals, the campaign is working to change perceptions about violence using a variety of methods.

WORKING AT LOCAL LEVEL

These methods include educating families on the impact of violence against children; training teachers about non-violent disciplinary methods; developing procedures and practices for non-violent schools; working in partnership with local community organisations and raising awareness of the issues.

Evidence from the different countries where the campaign is running, suggests that these methodologies are helpful in fostering changes that reduce violent behaviours and this, in turn, may in part help to reduce school dropout rates.⁷

CHILD-LED LOBBYING

As evidenced throughout the campaign, children have been active participants in leading initiatives that protect their rights at both national and global levels. Highlights of active child participation include the following:

- In Liberia, representatives of the Children's Parliament met with various government representatives to promote the development of the Children's Act, which subsequently passed.
- In Bolivia, 190 boys and girls participated in a debate about violence in schools at the National Assembly organised by Plan.
- Children from Ghana shared their experiences and called for global action to eliminate violence in schools at the UN session on Violence against Children in 2009.

PARTNERING WITH TEACHERS' UNIONS AND EDUCATION

Close and constructive working relationships and partnerships with teachers' unions and education authorities is recognised as being one of the most effective ways to enforce legislation protecting children from violence. Since the start of *Learn Without Fear*, campaigners have helped forge such relationships with teachers' unions and education authorities in 19 countries

Learn Without Fear...has helped change the attitudes of teachers and parents towards corporal punishment and other forms of child abuse which were rampant.

Head Teacher,
Kikule Primary School, Kenya

⁷ EveryChild (2010). *Protect for the future: placing children's protection and care at the heart of achieving the MDGs*, p.16. London, EveryChild.

so far. For example, Plan is working with the Punjab teachers' association in Pakistan which represents about 500 members, and in El Salvador Plan works with the teachers' unions representing 15,000 members.

EDUCATING FAMILIES AND PARENTS

Violent practices are often learned at home. Children who are being hit at home are more likely to hit other children, repeating the behaviours they have been taught.⁸ To address this, the campaign is working directly with families to educate them about children's rights and the negative impact that violent practices have on children. To date, Plan has worked with nearly 109,000 parents and family members worldwide. When asked, staff in 36 out of 44 countries believed the training contributed to positive behaviour change.

In some places, communities have strongly embraced the messages they have learned through the campaign and are proactively seeking further changes. For example, in Shaanxi Province, China, community members have expressed a desire to learn more about how to end violence against children. In the Philippines, parents are using Parent Teacher Association meetings as an opportunity to work together with teachers to develop ways to end violence.⁹

I've learned that I should
stop hitting my children.
I don't want them to
experience what I've
suffered from my father.

Participant from Municipal
Parents' Congress and Parent
Effectiveness Service Sessions,
Philippines



Photo: Plan / Natasha Kamal
Teachers developing new strategies at
a training session in Pakistan.

8 Stormont, Timothy J. Lewis (2008). *Implementing Positive Behaviour Support Systems in Early Childhood and Elementary Settings*.
9 Plan (2008). *Learn Without Fear: The global campaign to end violence in schools*, p.54. Woking, Plan.

Reducing violence through training

Teachers are recognised as critical partners in the campaign to eliminate violence against children in schools. Since the start of the campaign, over 19,000 teachers have been trained in non-violent teaching methods. As a result, 37 of the 44 campaign countries report an increase in non-violent practices amongst educators. In Peru, teacher training even includes lessons in anger management.

In addition to teachers, there are several other professions whose work brings them in direct contact with – or may significantly impact upon the well-being of – children, including journalists, police, lawyers and religious leaders. Though the campaign currently does not provide training for these individuals to the same extent, there are some emerging good practices in the provision of training for professionals who work with children.

In Indonesia, for example, over 1,000 community leaders have been trained in child rights and child participation. Globally, nearly 600 journalists have received training on the issues related to violence in schools.

Other governments, including Zambia, are also setting aside provisions to train police officers and social welfare officers on how to support violence reduction in schools.

I was underestimating the gravity of bullying and corporal punishment in schools; we need to expose such cases.

Farai Matebvu, participating journalist in *Learn Without Fear* training session, Zimbabwe

Creating a safe school environment

There are several examples of initiatives carried out as part of the *Learn Without Fear* campaign that are intended to promote and reinforce a safe, violence-free school environment for students and staff:

- In Guinea Bissau, an 11 year old student breaking the teacher's stick in front of the class as a symbolic act to signify the end of corporal punishment at their school.
- In Tanzania, the campaign focuses on eliminating sexual violence in schools. One activity to achieve this is the development of safe girls' dormitories in Jukwaa ka Wakoto district – 200 girls now benefit from protection 24 hours a day.
- In Niger, 100% of the 133 schools where Plan works have created specific action plans which set out practical ways to eliminate violence in schools in each specific context.
- In Bangladesh, head teachers and teachers have publicly committed to ending corporal punishment by putting signed statements at the entrance to their schools.

Partnership and coordination

To maximise impact, the campaign works strategically in collaborative partnerships whenever possible. As one local NGO employee from Liberia explains, "Fighting violence in schools will require our collective efforts and resources."

Many of the national campaigns are being undertaken in close partnership and collaboration with governments – for example the core campaign team in Nepal is made up of representatives



Photo: © Plan
Children's advisory board, Plan India.

from the Ministry of Education, Department of Education, the National Centre for Educational Development, UNICEF, Save the Children and Plan.

Children are also working in a cross-country collaboration across the region of Asia. The *Young Hearts* festival, for example, in October 2009 brought together talented youth from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to raise their voices against violence in schools. Other contributors included arts and media personalities and the Prime Minister of Thailand. Their efforts helped produce films, TV, radio programmes, musical performances, recordings, short stories, poems, theatre productions, comics, posters and other visual arts pieces – all of which expressed youth perspectives and experiences of violence in schools and were broadcast to millions.

Raising awareness in the community

Over half a million children have participated in activities which have spread the messages of the campaign, helping to raise awareness of the issues amongst their peers, communities and countries. Here are just a few examples that help to illustrate these engaging and exciting activities:

- In Colombia and Bangladesh, young people are using the power of theatre to tell stories about violence in schools.
- In Ecuador, six schools now have their own radio shows to talk about child rights and sexual and reproductive health.
- In Bangladesh, Plan used a national television channel (Ekushe Television) to communicate the impact of violence against children in schools and what can be done to overcome it, broadcast to the national population of 156 million people.
- In both Rwanda and Burkina Faso, children are writing about *Learning Without Fear* for their local papers to convey the reality of violence in schools and communicate what the campaign is doing to address their concerns.
- In Mali, children are using new media methods. In each council, twenty children have received training in online communications as a way to voice their experiences and to call for action around violence in schools.
- In Ethiopia, children used the Great Ethiopian Run to raise awareness of the campaign by securing the ambassadorial role of the Olympic gold medal winner Paula Radcliffe to run in a campaign t-shirt. This helped the race organisers to promote the campaign, meaning hundreds of runners wore *Learn Without Fear* branded t-shirts. Collectively these efforts ensured a large amount of national media coverage.

Awareness raising plays a critical role in helping to change attitudes and perceptions about children's rights, the importance of a violence-free education, and understanding how to make this happen. Campaign efforts will continue to ensure that attention is given to ensuring effective awareness raising strategies.

After receiving the Learn Without Fear peer-to-peer training, I understand more about my rights in the society and know how important it is. I can share important knowledge with other children and adults so that there is no more beating at home and at school in my area.

Sokha, 17 years old,
Sierra Leone

Supporting children affected by violence

The campaign is helping thousands of children who have been affected by violence in schools. Campaign initiatives have resulted in:

- 27 countries out of 44 participating in the campaign have improved their ‘violence in schools reporting systems’, which are mechanisms that provide children with the opportunity to report violent incidents and hold perpetrators to account.
- In Mali, 100% of schools where Plan works have effective reporting mechanisms on violence in schools. In Malawi, 2 out of 5 districts have ‘happy’ and ‘sad’ reporting boxes where children report on their experience of violence in schools, depending on whether they are deemed to be bad or good (i.e. whether or not the situation of violence is improving). In the Dominican Republic, Plan produced a new website for children and adults to use to report incidents of violence: www.planrd.org/contactos.html
- 36 of the campaign countries provide access to medical support for injuries related to violence in schools and 28 countries also provide counselling services for affected children. In Guatemala, Plan works in partnership with a medical organisation through whom medical and psychological support is provided for children affected by violence in all provinces.
- 31 campaign countries provide legal support to ensure perpetrators of violence are punished appropriately for their actions. For example, in Benin, Plan provides legal support for parents whose children have died as a result of being physical abused by a teacher.

The *Learn Without Fear* campaign aims to create a world where such support services are no longer necessary but, until then, the campaign will endeavour to call for support for children who have suffered violence.

Photo: © Plan
A girl casting a suggestion note in a communication box, Malawi.



Call to action – the elimination of violence in schools needs to be recognised as a prerequisite for getting all children into school and keeping them there

On a global level, there are two UN high-profile initiatives, which seek to improve education around the world through a global, coordinated effort by 2015.



Photo: © Plan
Children play at teachers' training centre, Guinea-Bissau.

The two UN initiatives are:

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2: achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE)

By 2015, aim to ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

Education for all – UNESCO

Aims to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015.

The findings from the *Learn Without Fear* campaign shows how it directly contributes to – and is fundamental to the success of – these initiatives. These initiatives include global efforts to help get children into school and keep them there. However, the issue of violence in schools is currently not a priority objective within these agendas.

At present, the indicators used to measure the progress of these agendas do not include any mention of eliminating violence in schools. More needs to be done to integrate the elimination of violence in schools into these agendas. Without this, the wider education goals are significantly weakened.

There is a clear link between the *Learn Without Fear* campaign and the MDG agenda. Millennium Development Goal 2, achieve UPE, explains the success factors in meeting this MDG in the following way:

2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education

2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary school

The *Learn Without Fear* campaign is resulting in more children enrolling in school, and staying in school. Violence in schools, or fear of violence, is not the only reason why children, both boys and girls, do not enrol or why they drop out – but it is one of the key reasons.¹⁰ This is evident from some of the improvements in these two areas where the campaign is being implemented.

GETTING CHILDREN INTO SCHOOL

In Liberia, there is a reported increase in school enrolment in 100 schools where the campaign is running. In 2008, boys' enrolment was 53 per cent and girls' was 47 per cent, respectively. In 2009, they had increased to 63 and 55 per cent, respectively. In Laos, enrolment rates have increased in the first year of Plan's basic education and child protection programme.

KEEPING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

The campaign survey results showed two thirds of campaign implementers observing a reduction in school dropout rates over the last two years.

- In Ethiopia, a review of the campaign in 85 schools revealed the campaign was one of the factors contributing to the reduction of the school dropout rate.

¹⁰ EveryChild (2010). *Protect for the future: placing children's protection and care at the heart of achieving the MDGs*, p.16. London, EveryChild.

In Brazil, a 13 year old student did not go to school for 14 out of 22 school days. He was found begging for money on the street. The reason he did not attend school was because his classmates called him names and raised questions about his masculinity. Plan staff talked to his teacher. Now he reports incidents and does not miss school.

- In Uganda, the percentage of boys completing primary school increased in areas where the campaign is running.
- In one area of Bangladesh where the campaign is in operation, the dropout rate of boys went down from 15 to 12 per cent in the last year and the dropout rate of girls went down from 12 to 8 per cent.
- In Cambodia, the dropout rates across three provinces have decreased from an average of 10.2 to 9.7 per cent since the campaign started.
- In Togo, campaign staff have observed that girls who previously feared violence in school and dropped out have since returned to school since the campaign has been in operation.

Achieving universal primary education is the second MDG, acknowledging the role education plays in eliminating poverty and giving children the chance to improve their lives. Major advances have been made since 2000; billions of dollars have been spent on building new schools, paying for teachers and buying new text books but those efforts are wasted if children are too scared to go to school.

The need to eliminate violence in schools is crucial in order to enable children to receive the quality of education they are entitled to.

Photo: © Plan
Youths perform breakdance at launch of Learn Without Fear campaign in Cartagena, Columbia.



What's next for Learn Without Fear?

Learn Without Fear will continue to advocate for the elimination of violence in schools and to enable children to call for the education to which they are entitled.

Plan will continue working towards a world free of school violence by:

- Lobbying on the original calls to action will continue in all countries.
- Developing safer schools and communities by working on prevention measures through a variety of means such as: training, sharing best practice and awareness raising.
- National campaigns will continue to develop both community and national level activities, to ensure the focus is on both levels at the same time across the country.
- The campaign will develop a focus on implementation in the areas where children are most vulnerable and marginalised.
- A global commitment to the importance of the elimination of violence in schools in the success of other education agendas will be secured.

In spite of the progress that has been made to date, there are still children right now who are too afraid to go to school. *Learn Without Fear* seeks to change this reality by creating a world in which all children can learn in a safe, violence-free school environment.



Photo: © Plan
Pupils in a child-friendly school (CFS) with all the
necessary safety measures in place, Togo.

Appendix A

Summary of the legal status* of corporal punishment, sexual violence and bullying of school children, in countries where Plan works

State	Prohibited in the school			Ratification date of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989	School population**
	Corporal punishment	Sexual violence	Bullying		
ASIA					875,353,304
Bangladesh	NO	YES	NO	3 Aug 1990	52,984,897
Cambodia	SOME	YES	NO	15 Oct 1992 (a)	5,218,653
China	YES	YES	NO	2 Mar 1992	281,709,015
India	SOME	YES	NO	11 Dec 1992 (a)	368,633,695
Indonesia	NO	YES	NO	5 Sep 1990	59,415,622
Laos	YES	YES	NO	8 May 1991 (a)	2,110,707
Nepal	NO	YES	NO	14 Sep 1990	9,704,853
Pakistan	SOME	NO	NO	12 Nov 1990	55,289,030
Philippines	YES	YES	NO	21 Aug 1990	21,740,618
Sri Lanka	NO	YES	YES	12 Jul 1991	4,333,106
Thailand	NO	YES	NO	27 Mar 1992 (a)	13,796,172
Timor-Leste	NO	YES	NO	16 Apr 2003	416,936
Vietnam	NO	YES	NO	28 Feb 1990	not available

State	Prohibited in the school			Ratification date of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989	School population**
	Corporal punishment	Sexual violence	Bullying		
AFRICA					190,828,863
Benin	NO	YES	NO	3 Aug 1990	3,410,630
Burkina Faso	YES	YES	NO	31 Aug 1990	6,040,790
Cameroon	YES	YES	NO	11 Jan 1993	6,865,394
Egypt	YES	YES	NO	6 Jul 1990	22,321,233
Ethiopia	YES	YES	NO	14 May 1991 (a)	32,112,742
Ghana	NO	YES	NO	5 Feb 1990	8,490,325
Guinea	YES	YES	NO	13 Jul 1990 (a)	3,988,004
Guinea Bissau	YES	YES	NO	20 Aug 1990	624,178
Kenya	YES	YES	NO	30 Jul 1990	14,629,496
Liberia	NO	YES	NO	4 Jun 1993	1,487,830
Malawi	YES	YES	NO	2 Jan 1991 (a)	5,972,594
Mali	YES	YES	NO	20 Sep 1990	5,381,285
Mozambique	NO	YES	NO	26 Apr 1994	8,621,962
Niger	NO	YES	NO	30 Sep 1990	5,735,149
Rwanda	NO	YES	NO	24 Jan 1991	3,786,394
Senegal	YES	YES	NO	31 Jul 1990	4,850,233
Sierra Leone	NO	YES	NO	18 Jun 1990	2,197,320
Sudan	SOME	YES	NO	3 Aug 1990	12,479,492
Tanzania	NO	YES	NO	10 Jun 1991	15,276,605
Togo	YES	YES	NO	1 Aug 1990	2,683,371
Uganda	NO	YES	NO	17 Aug 1990	13,094,731
Zambia	YES	YES	NO	6 Dec 1991	5,292,624
Zimbabwe	NO	YES	NO	11 Sep 1990	5,486,481

State	Prohibited in the school			Ratification date of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989	School population**
	Corporal punishment	Sexual violence	Bullying		
LATIN AMERICA					96,354,709
Bolivia	NO	YES	NO	26 Jun 1990	3,164,452
Brazil	NO	YES	NO	24 Sep 1990	48,080,699
Colombia	NO	YES	NO	28 Jan 1991	12,693,522
Dominican Republic	YES	YES	NO	11 Jun 1991	3,090,390
Ecuador	YES	YES	NO	23 Mar 1990	3,650,170
El Salvador	YES	YES	NO	10 Jul 1990	2,209,342
Guatemala	NO	YES	NO	6 Jun 1990	5,307,317
Haiti	YES	YES	NO	8 Jun 1995	3,649,197
Honduras	YES	YES	NO	10 Aug 1990	2,520,067
Nicaragua	NO	YES	NO	5 Oct 1990	1,904,707
Paraguay	NO	YES	NO	25 Sep 1990	2,093,687
Peru	NO	YES	NO	4 Sep 1990	7,991,159

***Notes**

Some: Prohibited in some states, state schools, primary ** schools and/or pre-schools

• a: Accession

Sources:

- Corporal punishment: The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (endcorporalpunishment.org)
- Sexual violence, bullying and the ratification of the CRC: Nicola Jones, Karen Moore, Eliana Villar-Marquez and Emma Broadbent (2008) Painful lessons: the politics of preventing sexual violence and bullying at school. London: ODI
- School population data: UNESCO Institute of Statistics stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=136&IF_Language=eng&BR_Topic=0 (Accessed on 06 August 2008)

*Status of legislation as at May 2008.

**School population figures include pre-school, primary and secondary schools only.

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Cover photo: © Plan, man marking boy's work in notebook, Colombia

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Founded over 70 years ago, Plan is one of the oldest and largest children's development organisations in the world. We work in 48 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote child rights and lift millions of children out of poverty.

Plan works with more than 3,500,000 families and their communities each year.

Plan is independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations.



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