

## ***Because I am a Girl* Campaign FAQ**

### **Why are we only campaigning on girls?**

Plan directly supports more than 1,500,000 children and their families in 49 developing countries around the world. We work with both girls and boys through a variety of projects in all of these countries. However, our experience and research in many countries has shown us that girls are not treated equally to boys.

For example:

- In some places, girls are less well-nourished than boys because their brothers are often fed first.
- An estimated 450 million adult women in developing countries are stunted as a result of childhood protein energy malnutrition.
- 90 per cent of child domestic workers are girls between 12 and 17 years old, and are at risk of both sexual and economic exploitation, violence and abuse.
- 44 million girls, compared to 28 million boys worldwide are out of school.
- An extra year of primary school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10 to 20 percent.

### **What are we doing to combat discrimination against girls?**

Between 2007 and 2015, we are publishing annual reports on how girls are affected by discrimination in order to provide research and statistics to influence policy and effective projects in the field.

Our *Because I am a Girl* Campaign will also be running until 2015. We will be lobbying world leaders to ensure that girls have the same access to education and the same legal rights as boys. From 2008-2009, we will be campaigning for the UK government to ensure that girls can benefit as much as boys from the UK's aid programmes to countries affected by war, which is the theme of the 2008 report.

### **How do we want the UK government to improve education for girls?**

The UK is a major aid donor and is part of the Education For All Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) along with other governments. We want the UK government to use its influence in this international aid forum to ensure that girls can benefit as much as boys from quality education programmes in partner countries.

### **What is the FTI?**

In 2002, the World Bank together with development partners launched the Education for All–Fast Track Initiative (FTI). FTI is a global partnership to help

low-income countries meet the education Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the EFA goal that all children complete a full cycle of primary education by 2015.

According to the FTI website

*There is overwhelming evidence that education – particularly for girls – is one of the best investments in development. It can halt the spread of AIDS, increase economic growth and break the cycle of poverty.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Who is part of the FTI?**

The World Bank launched the partnership, hosts the FTI secretariat and is a trustee for its funds.<sup>1</sup>

The Fast Track Initiative encompasses all major donors for education - about 30 bilateral, regional and international agencies and development banks.

The biggest donors are:

UK  
US  
Canada  
Netherlands  
Germany  
Norway  
Denmark

### **Who does the FTI give education aid to?**

All low-income countries which demonstrate serious commitment to achieving universal primary education can receive support from FTI. Currently there are 30 partner countries (including Sierra Leone and Liberia). For a list of these countries visit <http://www.efastrack.org/content.asp?contentid=529>

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.education-fast-track.org/content.asp?CatId=270&ContentType=FrequentlyAskedQuestions> (Question 3)

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<sup>1</sup> the *Catalytic Fund* (<http://www.education-fast-track.org/content.asp?ContentId=535>) and the *Education Programme Development Fund* (<http://www.education-fast-track.org/content.asp?ContentId=590>)