



Human Rights Council 39th Session: Adoption of UPR Outcome Burkina Faso

20 September 2018

Dear Mr. President,

Founded in 1937, Plan International strives for a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls. In Burkina Faso, we have been active since 1976 promoting children's rights, while working together with children, young people, our supporters, and partners.

One of Plan International Burkina Faso's priority areas is addressing the high number of early pregnancies affecting girls and impeding their human rights. We therefore welcome UPR recommendations 125.115, 125.121 & 125.122 urging the government to intensify its efforts to effectively combat the high prevalence of early pregnancies and requesting to allocate sufficient resources to programmes to combat such pregnancies and to support young mothers in schools.

The government has accepted/noted all of the aforementioned recommendations, and recently revised the Criminal Code prohibiting education personnel having sexual relations with minor students, learners, or interns and punishing any such wrongdoing with 5-10 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

We appreciate the government's positive response to such recommendations, which signals a renewed commitment to fight all forms of exploitation and reducing the rates of early pregnancies at school more specifically. We very much champion these promising initial steps, though believe that to adequately address early pregnancies such steps could be further coupled with awareness raising campaigns so that communities will no longer perpetuate such practices.

We therefore call upon the government to:

1. Fully implement the recommendations made by the two reviews;
2. Consult civil society and other stakeholders when developing action plans to combat the scourge of early pregnancies in the whole country;
3. Fully enforce the law; and
4. Encourage communities to break the silence.

Thank you, Mr. President.