



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

FROM WORD TO ACTION

**A Study on Accountability and Gender-Sensitivity in
UNICEF & Plan International WASH Programs**

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Abstract

This paper investigates UNICEF and Plan International's internal consistency regarding what extent they are implementing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects with gender sensitivity. UNICEF and Plan International are under scrutiny due to their influence in humanitarianism and their stated dedication to eradicating gender disparities within WASH; are they accountable towards their objectives? This topic is of great importance due to the role water, sanitation and hygiene play in girls' development, safety, health, and equality. Clean water, hygiene, sanitation and practicing proper menstrual health management, along with education, prepare women for a healthy life where their period does not hinder them from attending school or participating in the community. The focus of the study is thus how accountable UNICEF and Plan International are in implementing these objectives since it is such a vital part of including women in development and promoting equality. The study uses an intensive multiple case study along with a theoretical framework and analytical tools. The findings suggest that Plan International is more successful in implementing gender-sensitive objectives in their WASH projects, but neither Plan International nor UNICEF displayed full internal consistency, meaning that the projects scrutinised still lack gender focus. This study highlights the need for gender to be permeated throughout the entire WASH operation and that accountability continues to be a pressing issue within humanitarian organisations.

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1.0 Introduction

Every day, 300 million people need to manage their period; despite that, not all 300 million menstruating teenagers and adults have the equal resources to manage their monthly menses safely and with adequate equipment. Out of all menstruating individuals, approximately 500 million cannot effectively manage their time of the month due to the inaccessibility of sanitary facilities and menstrual products (Kirk & Sommer , 2006, pp. 4-7). When water, sanitation, hygiene, and safe menstrual health management (MHM)¹ are out of reach, women face several health challenges. Women risk exposing themselves to urinary tract infections, infertility and birth complications, hepatitis B and thrush (The World Bank , 2022). However, it is not only health challenges that menstruating individuals struggle with; menstruators are also subject to harmful cultural taboos and social norms. The lack of education and accessibility instigates misconceptions, negative perceptions, bullying and shaming, further negatively impacting equality, health, safety, and human development (The World Bank , 2022).

There is a strong correlation between gender equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The international community aims to ensure everyone can access safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene and eradicate open defecation by 2030, as well as lifting women up in development and assuring equality (UNICEF F, 2016). These are key goals of Agenda 2030, which many humanitarian organisations work towards. Regarding sanitation and equality development goals, two crucial objectives are namely WASH and gender sensitivity². These goals are often discussed together because of the recognition that there are gender disparities in access to WASH facilities and services (Globala Målen , u.d.).

Further, it is proven that when WASH policies and programs have a gender perspective, women have more time for activities that generate income, girls are more likely to attend school, and the overall health of the community increases (SIDA, 2019, pp. 1-4). It is also evident that women are the leaders in water resource management in many communities.

¹ Menstrual health management covers bleeders' ability to manage their menstruation safely, such as access to water, sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual products.

² Gender sensitivity is the relations between women and men in a certain policy area or programme (European Institute for Gender Equality , 2023). Gender sensitivity in this context refers to how sensitive the project is towards women's needs.

Despite this, the decision-making bodies do not always consider women's specific needs. This means that although they are knowledgeable in quality, storage methods, resources and social issues regarding water, women are not represented in sanitation solutions, nor do they participate to the same extent as their male counterparts (SIDA, 2019, pp. 1-4). Gender discrimination in WASH is definite. There is a global consensus on how important it is for women to access adequate WASH and proper MHM and participate in policymaking in the WASH-building process to ensure the programs cater to the unique needs of menstruating individuals.

The absence of proper WASH particularly impacts girls and women. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that the implementation of WASH is sensitive to the specific struggles women face regarding sanitation. Nevertheless, many mistakes are still being made in implementing WASH programs in the Global South, such as a lack of accountability and internal consistency³ despite humanitarian organisations making these vows (CARE, u.d.).

Modern humanitarian organisations have been significant actors in emergencies since the 20th century and have since then encountered an array of catastrophes and challenges, not excluding their scandals and missteps, something that emerged during the rapid growth of humanitarianism (Barnett & Weiss, 2008, pp. 1, 7). Barnett and Weiss (2008, P. 1) highlight that there have been many tragic events in the world that speak for the need for humanitarian intervention and that today there are several organisations that can respond to these situations. However, they acknowledge that there is still work to be done to create justice for all and the importance of acting, not just relying on good intentions or empty promises. Janice Gross Stein (2008, 125) continues the discussion on the importance of action and implementation; she states that one of humanitarian organisations' discomforts is namely accountability. There is a lack of clear, meaningful global consensus regarding accountability in the humanitarian sector, which is often hidden behind the perception that humanitarianism equals good, thus a concept many times taken for granted (Gross Stein, 2008, p. 138).

Several humanitarian organisations specifically carry out WASH programs, but two leading organisations are United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Plan

³ In this study, internal consistency refers to whether the organisation can follow through on its objectives.

International. UNICEF is an intergovernmental organisation, and Plan International is a non-governmental organisation. UNICEF and Plan International are of interest since they strive towards the same goals in WASH, to provide safe water and good hygiene, prevent illness, disease, and the importance of it being gender-responsive. Still, they are driven by different actors and mandates and are as well funded in different ways. UNICEF, as an IGO, consists of UN member states that have signed a treaty to work towards common goals, in this case, gender in WASH, and UN member states mainly to fund its projects. As an NGO, Plan International consists of private citizens whose funds are especially from sponsorships, grants, and corporate donors (Plan International B, u.d.: UNICEF G, 2021).

Plan International's WASH programs are operational in fifty countries. Their mission statement involves ensuring that everyone should have access to sanitation and hygiene facilities, regardless of gender or social status. Their mission statement expresses itself in their involvement in communities and schools by building sanitation stations and educating the community on disease control and menstrual health management. Plan International also focuses on a gender-transformative WASH to empower women and girls, challenging norms, and fallacies (Plan International I , u.d.). UNICEF are operational in one hundred countries, and its mission statement involves providing clean water, reliable sanitation, and education in hygiene practises. They achieve these results by empowering communities, supporting schools with sanitation facilities, and education and assuring menstrual health management. UNICEF are also present during humanitarian emergencies to provide a safe WASH (UNICEF D, u.d.).

It is evident that gender-based WASH is a crucial part of achieving gender equality and improving the lives of women and girls worldwide. Access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene is essential to ensure that women and girls have equal access to education, health, and economic opportunities as their male counterparts. Humanitarian organisations, such as UNICEF and Plan International, have committed to working towards achieving these goals. However, despite their efforts, there are withstanding questions about their implementation efforts in creating gender-powered WASH.

1.1 Purpose

UNICEF and Plan International are both committed to water, sanitation and hygiene efforts, emphasising the need to empower and provide communities, schools, and families with access to gendered-sensitive WASH. Both organisations offer documents, frameworks, and annual result reports about their aims and results. The implementations, in turn, take many shapes and forms, such as building toilets, water pumps, water storage, and sewage systems and providing education on hygiene practices. This study will adopt a framework made by another organisation, namely WaterAid, that focuses only on providing clean water for everyone and has a rigorous framework of what is needed for gender-sensitive WASH implementation. This framework will guide the study in understanding the extent of gender-sensitive wash implementations under the management of UNICEF and Plan International.

The study's objective is to scrutinise and compare the accountability and internal consistency of UNICEF (IGO) and Plan International (NGO), to explore whether they are accountable for their promises to implement WASH projects with gender sensitivity assisted by a framework from WaterAid. The study will compare the field implementations between the two different organisational structures, ultimately leading to a discussion about internal consistency and accountability between the IGO (UNICEF) and the NGO (Plan International). Throughout the paper, I also hope to shed light on the importance of addressing these challenges of assuring accountability and how gender-based WASH is crucial for achieving gender equality and improving the lives of women and girls worldwide.

1.2 Questions at Issue

To make a meaningful contribution to global health and humanitarianism research, it is crucial to address several key questions. In line with the purpose, the questions that will be asked in this research include:

- How have UNICEF and Plan International worked with the WaterAid framework?
- To what extent do UNICEF and Plan International display internal consistency regarding gender-sensitive WASH implementation?
- Are UNICEF or Plan International more internally consistent? Why?

1.3 Limitations

The study is subject to a few limitations. Firstly, the research will be limited to examining two international aid organisations that have explicitly committed to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives, namely Plan International and UNICEF. These organisations have been selected based on their status as two of the largest aid organisations operating in this domain. The study will also be geographically limited to nations in the Global South, as this region experience the most significant deficits in WASH-related resources and services to their populations. This study will limit its scope to Cambodia, Bangladesh and Nepal under the management of Plan International. Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, and the Philippines under the management of UNICEF. These countries are the point of interest due to being the locations where WASH projects are operational. The time of implementation extends over a long period, 2014 – 2022. The great span allows for an enormous scope of materials; narrowing it down to only a few years can harm the empirical collection. Given the scope of this research, I have decided not to include the recipient's experience with the implementation process nor the long terms effects but rather concentrate on assessing accountability and the transition from vow to execution. Nevertheless, I acknowledge the critical role that quality and reception play, and I hope to address these aspects in a future study.

1.4 Disposition

This study follows the natural structure of a thesis, starting with an introduction of the scientific problem and the questions at issue. The following chapters present the theoretical framework, the methodology and the research material that has provided the foundation for this study. Next, the empirical evidence is presented following the analysis and results. The study ends with a conclusive chapter to wrap up the findings and discuss the results.

2.0 Theoretical framework

This study rests upon previous research, relevant theory and operationalisation of concepts which make up this study's theoretical framework and will support the questions asked in this study.

2.1 Previous Research

Gender focus in development was introduced in 1970 with the Women in Development approach. Out of the many outcomes, it produced the notion that women should be integrated into the development process (Pearson , 2002, p. 383). Earlier depictions of women's role as stakeholders in humanitarianism have been that women are a vulnerable group with little recognition of their capacities, which led to protrusive gender discrimination in humanitarian projects, arguably supporting the claim of women being a vulnerable group since their specific needs are not catered to, resulting in women's greater vulnerability in society during humanitarian crisis (International Committee of the Red Cross , 2007). Today gender sensitivity is widely accepted within humanitarian organisations' development goals and objectives. Perpendicular to the growing focus on women in development, women's role and vulnerability in WASH have gained more significant focus, now being a meaningful objective in Agenda 2030. With a greater emphasis and established importance also comes greater responsibility to deal with these matters, which leads the research to the commitment of humanitarian organisations to answer to this crisis and be accountable towards their goals.

Discussing accountability within humanitarian organisations was rare until the 1990s; before then, the common conception was that saving lives could never be wrong, and humanitarian organisations were not accountable to affected populations. This changed in the 1990s with a standard humanitarian initiative and the code of conduct for humanitarian agencies in 1994; accountability was also a central topic at the World Humanitarian Summit 2016. Despite the paradigm shift, recent research emphasises that there are still prominent issues in humanitarian organisations regards to accountability (Hilhorst , et al., 2021, pp. 363-364). Hilhorst and her Co-authors (2021, p. 366) establish and highlight three accountability components. To take account, which refers to listening and communication and participation.

The second is to give account, which relates to transparency. Finally, the third is the component of responsibility and taking ownership of actions, the main focus of this study.

In addition to the components, the field of humanitarianism and accountability often discusses concepts such as upward accountability, downward accountability, sideways accountability, and informal accountability. Upward accountability is associated with accountability towards the relationship with donors and the administration of funds. Downward accountability is towards the affected communities and emphasises the importance of checks and balances for successful goal implementation. Sideways accountability is the notion that humanitarian organisations hold each other accountable and work together to create mechanisms for demanding responsibility for the stakeholders. Informal accountability is the possibility of people holding organisations accountable for their actions and the possibility for regular people or stakeholders to demand responsibility for their actions (Hillhorst , et al., 2021, pp. 369-370).

These are valuable perspectives in studying accountability within humanitarian organisations since they target different sectors and levels. However, nonetheless, essential, and significant contributors to the field's research, upward accountability, and sideways accountability, will not make out the theoretical framework. Downward and informal accountability focus primarily on accountability mechanisms in terms of stakeholders being involved in the process, having agency and being able to complain and give feedback. This aspect is evident in the framework to be presented by WaterAid since it is crucial in reaching global objectives in humanitarianism and successful programming. Despite this, it will not be a central point of interest in the study. The study's primary purpose will focus on the part of accountability that is not discussed to the same extent; the organisation taking responsibility for their internal consistency, which means excluding the analysis of stakeholder participation.

Evidently, WASH and gender are crucial components of development, health, and equality objectives, which reinforce the significance of aligning these goals with UNICEF and Plan International's internal consistency. Therefore, it is essential to determine whether these organisations are responsible for meeting these global objectives and delivering on their commitments. This study will consequently build upon earlier research on accountability and the importance of gender sensitivity in WASH.

2.2 Accountability

Accountability is a prominent political buzzword and a concept that can be difficult to pinpoint; accountable for what, to whom and how? By the definition of Janice Gross Stein (2008, 125), accountability concerns another actor where one is accountable for another but also a process, an output, an outcome, or an impact. The affected part must be able to follow the performance, monitor, and measure; there must be transparency and consequences if there is a failure to meet expectations. Accountability within humanitarian organisations can also mean different things, accountability for the process, their objectives, or the outcomes the humanitarian organisations achieve (Gross Stein, 2008, pp. 125-126). Regarding this paper, accountability will be in relation to humanitarian organisations' accountability for the process if their objectives or goals are implemented.

2.3 Power and Stakeholder Theory

Power and stakeholder theory highlight that those with authority or influence should be held accountable for their decisions due to their ability to impact others and shape the outcomes of situations. According to the theory, by having those in power accountable, we can prevent unethical and unfair practices and make sure that decisions are made in the best interest of stakeholders since IGOs and NGOs can affect the lives of millions and the outcome of humanitarian crises (Steets , 2010, p. 41). Power and stakeholder theory include the importance of the power entities following through on their commitments and objectives promised to the international community to display accountability towards affected populations.

The stakeholder theory emphasises the importance of the study's objective to examine Plan International and UNICEF's internal consistency and their accountability towards stakeholders in implementing their objectives. The power and stakeholder theory will mainly permeate the analysis and act as an analytical tool in determining the extent of accountability in Plan International and UNICEF efforts in gender-sensitive WASH.

2.4 WaterAid

WaterAid is an organisation whose main objective is water, sanitation, and hygiene. It has been operational since 1981 and has reached 28.5 million people with clean water, 28.8 million with toilets and 26 million with improved hygiene. WaterAid is an organisation that has a reputation for high transparency and high ratings amongst charities (WaterAid , u.d.). Thus, is WaterAid a part of the theoretical framework due to its objectiveness and expertise. WaterAid's role in this framework is to provide directions to what is needed in a gender-sensitive WASH. Henceforth, WaterAid and the associated framework will work perpendicular to Accountability and Power and Stake Holder Theory. The WaterAid framework will act as a measuring stick of how well these organisations are displaying Accountability and analyse the organisation's power towards the stakeholders and if they are implementing what is promised. The framework is provided in the section below since it is what will determine a gender-sensitive WASH project.

2.5 Gender Sensitivity in WASH

Previous research has conclusively demonstrated the importance of including specific elements in the WASH project to ensure that it is sensitive to the unique needs of women. WaterAid has specifically created guidance for implementing partners on how to integrate gender equality into water, sanitation, and hygiene projects. The guide targets the humanitarian community to help them integrate gender equality into their water, sanitation, and hygiene projects. This guide will serve as a blueprint for the content-gathering process from Plan International and UNICEF. The indicators of a gender-inclusive WASH project are as follows;

1. Women and girls need active participation and agency in the project's development to ensure success and sustainability. This can take the expression of utilising women's knowledge of water management and listening to their needs and wishes.
2. Close and convenient access to clean and functional sanitation facilities, which include running water and the possibility to dispose of sanitary products, to ensure women's health and relieve the burden of water collection.

3. Alongside ensuring sanitation, there must be an element of education and focus on removing harmful taboos and notions of women and their periods; this includes working with men and boys to achieve a shift in attitudes.
4. To ensure women's safety since sanitation stations located far away or in secluded places expose women to higher risks of abuse, bullying and sexual assault.
5. Women and girls should have more access to information on menstrual health management and sanitary products.

These five criteria outlined above will serve as the primary parameters in examining what a gender-sensitive WASH program is and will be the object of study in UNICEF and Plan International's respective reports and project outlines.

3.0 Method

To carry out the research and answer the questions posed, the execution of the study relies on qualitative methodology, more closely, a comparative case study. A comparative case study is an in-depth examination of cases, allowing comparison within and across contexts. Beneficial to this study, comparative case studies involve the analysis of similarities, differences and patterns across cases that share a common focus or goal, which Plan International and UNICEF do (Goodrick , 2014 , p. 1). In the study, the possibilities are described, summarised, and scrutinised based on the WaterAid framework to examine if there is evidence of internal consistency; this data consequently make up the material for the analysis and allows for the comparative nature of a multiple case study.

A case study comes with both possibilities and limitations. A standard critique targeted towards case studies is the question of to what extent it is possible to make empirical generalisations from them. It is essential for the reader to note that these conclusions are drawn from the six cases studied, but the study is humble towards the limitations of an intensive multiple-case study and that the results may look different with more cases involved. However, the specific circumstances of the cases are discussed, and the study needs to be seen for what it is, an opportunity under this timespan and scope to come closer to the

phenomena of implementations, accountability and gender-sensitive WASH (Alveus , 2013, pp. 75-78).

3.1 Intensive multiple case study

This study uses an intensive approach to multiple case study research, which is an approach that enables a multiple case study with a small number of cases rather than collecting a broad survey of occurrences. The purpose of this method allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the six studied cases rather than collecting information from circa 200. Since the study intends to scrutinise Plan International and UNICEF accountability and internal consistency by examining a few cases, the nature of the intensive approach enabled room for a specific context and greater detail (Swanborn, 2018, pp. 1-4).

The methodological design has expressed itself as follows; the cases from each organisation are described and summarised. The cases are then scrutinised based on the WaterAid framework, and the accomplishments or shortcomings regard to the framework are presented. This process is replicated for each case with the operationalisation of the theoretical framework in mind; gender-sensitive WASH, the WaterAid framework, accountability and Power and Stakeholder Theory. The results are presented in a table to demonstrate the key findings, display precise results, and facilitate the comparison of the NGO and the IGO. The implementations will be further presented in how many objectives out of five were completed; the score will then be converted into a percentage and be discussed as “The case implemented X/X resulting in meeting the criteria with XX %”. The outcome will consequently be measured as showing XX % of internal consistency.

4.0 Research Material

4.1 Case selection

This study has made two main limitations regarding the selection of cases. First, the organisations are subject to scrutiny and the implementations within the organisations that provide the empirical evidence.

The decision to base this case study on UNICEF and Plan International resulted from many factors. UNICEF and Plan International are two organisations dedicated to the cause and committed to the health and equality goals of Agenda 2030. UNICEF and Plan International conduct WASH operations in one hundred and fifty countries, respectively, thus making the field rich in information and empirical evidence. The abundance of information available allowed for a thorough comparison and empirical analysis, providing the organisations with equal opportunities to be scrutinised based on an equal amount of material. Further, UNICEF and Plan International have similar mission statements that emphasise children's right to life and empowerment, thereby placing the organisations on equal footing (UNICEF C, u.d: Plan International D, u.d.).

Additionally, their mission statement remarkably applies to gender-sensitive WASH since young girls are heavily impacted by the gender disparities within sanitation. These similarities ultimately led to these organisations becoming the main subjects of the study, especially since their organisational structure is different, as described in the first chapter. Thus, this is a case of UNICEF, and Plan International studied as aid providers with other organisational structures within WASH and their internal consistency with the lens of accountability.

Plan International will be scrutinised based on Cambodia, Bangladesh and Nepal projects. UNICEF will be scrutinised based on Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and the Philippines projects. These countries are chosen due to WASH being notably operational in these regions. The cases are studied as countries where international humanitarian organisations are operational with WASH. The data from these countries' WASH implementations will go towards analysing and answering the research questions.

4.2 Source selection

The empirical material that forms the basis of this study has undergone a selection process within the points of interest, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and the Philippines. The selection of projects to analyse within the individual countries is based on material availability and relevant projects. The material was consequently narrowed down to projects that were in the frame of WASH and projects that has been reported on. The process did not require considerations between cases within a country due to the limited information available on implementations. The cases presented and scrutinised in this study are, in some

cases, not presented by the organisation but rather by other parties that have reported on the implementation. Even though the material sometimes goes outside the scope of the organisation's websites, it still provides the empirical material for the study's objective. The material, therefore, remains valid; however, it opens for discussion on transparency within reporting implementations. The remaining material consists of project reports and project features from the respective organisation's websites.

Consequently, this study has a source critic aspect to be aware of. Since the implementations of this study are studied from the power entities' position, there is no room for other interpretations but their own, which might not be the complete representation of the truth and can question the source's reliability. The study is formed to rely on accurate depictions of their implementation to produce reliable results and truthful portrayals of their internal consistency. If, in the material, the truth is skewed or lacks full descriptions of the implementation, the organisations risk either not reporting on their actual success or proving themselves to be worthy of scrutiny, which either outcome is harmful to this study.

The handling of the material could have been processed in other ways as well. This study could have benefitted from two-step authentication, where the primary source is from the organisation and another source could back up their claims, which could make the material on implementations more reliable. More information on one case strengthens the empirical evidence and analysis; however, when collecting empirical material on these cases, it was difficult to find even one source of the actual implementation since much material just stated what they planned on doing. The study could also have collected materials from interviews, or more material could have been requested from email correspondence of responsible people in each country for their WASH projects.

The way this study has selected sources increases the reliability due to the available information-gathering process. Interviews or email correspondence can be very individual, depending on the subject spoken to, thus making this study easily replicable. The validity of this study also relies on the notion that this study is examining what it is meant to be examined. To succeed with this, the introduction, theoretical framework, methodology and material have been carefully constructed to be in line with the questions at issue.

4.3 Description of analysis

The analysis part of the study combines different analytical techniques. Qualitative content analysis is conducted to understand the material and acts as a summary of the material; what is implemented in these cases? A second tool is a systematic classification which assists in categorising the data into the framework. Thirdly an ideal type analysis is used in developing the framework, which helps explain the findings and facilitates the comparison and conclusion.

The material is treated with a qualitative content analysis with a systematic approach, which aims to make the content of the documents comprehensible and provide clarity. This is expressed in the classification of UNICEF and Plan International's implementations since the material is a description of the cases and then proceeds to be scrutinised based on the WaterAid framework, consequently being subjected to a systematic classification of the implementations (Esaiasson, et al., 2012, p. 211). The systematic/ classification approach involves placing the content under a suitable title. Which is expressed in this study as;

Do UNICEF and Plan International implement these objectives based on the WaterAid framework...

1. Did the affected women have agency in the project development?
2. Was facilities built close, with convenient access to clean and functional facilities with running water and the possibility to dispose of sanitary products?
3. Was there an element of education and focus on removing harmful taboos and notions of women and their periods, including working with men and boys, to achieve a shift in attitudes?
4. Was women's safety ensured since sanitation stations located far away or in secluded places expose women to higher risks of abuse, bullying and sexual assault?
5. Was bleeders given access to information on menstrual health management and sanitary products?

The water aid framework henceforth becomes a “yardstick” or an ideal type (O'Keeffe & Midgley, 2022, p. 2). An ideal type allows the framework to act as the ideal phenomenon for which the organisation's efforts will be compared (Esaiasson et al., 2012, p. 139). Thus, the

respective organisations' implementations will be analysed to see if they relate to the framework, ultimately, to see which organisation is displaying internal consistency.

4.4 Ethics

Regarding ethics, this study is primarily concerned with ethical aspects such as transparency, reproducibility, and research quality. Ethics in qualitative research often leave room for subjectivity as data interpretation and the conclusion are often based on the researcher's perception (UK Statistics Authority , 2022). To combat these issues, the study is cautious in providing sources, explanations, and arguments and is humble towards its limitations and how else the study can be reproduced. The study aims to provide the reader with a clear structure of how the study has been conducted, to provide an understanding that regarding this framework, previous research, empirical data, methodology and analysis, this is what the study has concluded, to protect ethics and strengthen the validity.

5.0 Empirical Evidence

This chapter provides the outcome of UNICEF and Plan International scrutiny against the WaterAid framework, which goes towards answering the research questions and the analysis of the organisation's internal consistency. Additionally, the chapter will commence with a recapitulation of the study and a description of the scrutinised organisations. Further, in the empirical evidence, there will be a short comment regarding if there is evidence of the implementation, and the box will be marked with N/A for not applicable when there is no evidence of the aspects being implemented.

5.1 Recapitulation

This study has used empirical evidence to examine the accountability of humanitarian aid organisations, specifically concerning Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) and Menstrual Health Management (MHM). The study began by setting out its purpose, research questions, theory, methodology, and materials. The objective was to evaluate and analyse the internal consistency of Plan International and UNICEF in implementing these objectives, given the theory of Power and Stakeholders and their association with the goals of Agenda 2030 and promises to stakeholders and the international community. The empirical material in the next

section gathers the necessary information for the analysis part of the study. It is a product of the decisions made in this study, such as the choice of angle, methodology, theory, and material.

5.2 Plan International

Plan International is a humanitarian organisation that was founded in 1937 with the objective of contributing to development, children's rights, and equality for girls. Their purpose is to empower children and communities, promote policy change, strengthen children and communities' resilience towards crisis and ensure a child is safe and supported from birth to adulthood (Plan International H, u.d.). Additionally, Plan International has aligned itself with the sustainable development goals, Agenda 2030, and has "put gender equality and the persistent development challenges that girls are facing right at the heart of our organisational purpose" (Plan International F, u.d.).

Plan International brand itself as a global membership organisation with active participation in more than eighty countries. Their organisational structure follows their global hub or headquarters in the UK, with over fifty country offices with adhering program units, four regional hubs and four liaison offices (Plan International E, u.d.). Moreover, Plan International is an independent development humanitarian organisation, a non-governmental organisation that operates outside of a state structure and influence. Plan International report that they have two primary sources of income child sponsorships and donations from institutions, corporate donors, and disaster appeals. Between 2021-2022, Plan International's global income was €1.1 billion, and in return, 1 billion was regenerated into development projects (Plan International B, u.d.).

5.3 UNICEF

UNICEF was founded in 1946 due to World WAR II to provide healthcare and food to children; in 1950, their objective evolved into a long-term goal to address the needs of children and women in developing countries. In 1953, UNICEF became a permanent part of the UN system. (UN, u.d.). Today, UNICEF operates in over 190 countries with the objective of saving children's lives, supporting their rights, and empowering them from childhood through adulthood. They are committed to child protection and inclusion and that "every child has the right to grow up in a safe and inclusive environment" (UNICEF E, u.d.). UNICEF

also operate from the sustainable development goals to end poverty, reduce inequality, and promote peace. Within the sustainable development goals, UNICEF argue that for these goals to be realised, children must be at the forefront of the project (UNICEF B, u.d.).

UNICEF, apart from Plan International, is an Intergovernmental organisation. UNICEF functions as an independent body with its own documents, rules and systems but operates under the umbrella of the United Nations specialised agencies (Reinalda , 2013 , pp. 31-32). Further, UNICEF is governed by an executive board of 36 members who approve policies, programmes and budgets; they have meetings three times a calendar year (UNICEF H, u.d.). Additionally, to local offices in their 190 operational countries, UNICEF has seven regional offices, 33 national committees and around 15.000 staff. (MOPAN, 2021, p. 5). In 2021, UNICEF had a global income of approximately €6.8 billion, funded by the public sector, governments, partners, and international programme partnerships, €6,6 billion went towards projects, goods, and services (UNICEF A, u.d.).

5.4 Empirical Evidence Plan International

Plan International will be scrutinised on their internal consistency in implementing gender-sensitive WASH on their projects in Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

5.4.1 Cambodia

The project in Cambodia managed by Plan International and the H&M Foundation. It focuses on the access to water and sanitation for vulnerable communities in Cambodia. Their stated objective targeted contributing to sustainable access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, focusing on girls' (H&M Foundation, 2021). During this project, breaking taboos was also on the agenda to transform and work for an equal society (H&M Foundation, 2020).

Table 1 Cambodia

Cambodia – Ratanakiri Province 2017-2021	
Did the affected women have agency in the project development?	Yes, the projects ensured that women and girls were represented in the Water Supply User Groups. There was also focus on local ownership and community engagement (H&M Foundation, 2020).
Were facilities built with convenient access to clean and functional facilities with running water and the possibility to dispose of sanitary products?	Yes, latrines were built with sustainable access with clean water and soap, with focus on the health benefits for girls (H&M Foundation, 2020).
Was there an element of education and focus on removing harmful taboos and notions of women and their periods; including working with men and boys to achieve a shift in attitudes?	Yes, the project also focused on teaching boys and girls about menstruation with the purpose of transforming it from something shameful to something prideful (H&M Foundation, 2020).
Was women's safety ensured since sanitation stations located far away or in secluded places expose women to higher risks of abuse, bullying and sexual assault?	Yes, the close access to the sanitation stations in the village allowed women to spend less time on water collection (H&M Foundation, 2020).
Were bleeders given access to information on menstrual health management and sanitary products?	Yes, the program included education on menstruation and menstrual hygiene. “period labs” were built that contained education material, booklets and sanitary pads (H&M Foundation, 2020).
	Result: 5/5 Implementations (100%)

5.4.2 Bangladesh

This case is a project that extends over both Pakistan and Bangladesh. Between 2014 and 2018, Plan International claimed that their first phase of implementation improved access to water facilities, sanitation, and hygiene for 6.6 million people. The second phase, which commenced in 2017, focuses mainly on Bangladesh, which will be the focal point of this scrutinisation. The stated objective of the results program is to construct facilities, promote behaviour change and implement sustainability (Plan International G, u.d.).

Table 2 Bangladesh

Bangladesh – South Asia Wash Result Programme 2014 – 2021	
Did the affected women have agency in the project development?	N/A
Was facilities built close, with convenient access to clean and functional facilities with running water and the possibility to dispose of sanitary products?	Yes, the promotion of sanitary facilities from Plan international was targeted to the latrines already existing in their homes. In densely populated communities there was also installation of communal WASH facilities (ePact, 2020, pp. 30-31)
Was there an element of education and focus on removing harmful taboos and notions of women and their periods; including working with men and boys to achieve a shift in attitudes?	N/A
Was women's safety ensured since sanitation stations located far away or in secluded places expose women to higher risks of abuse, bullying and sexual assault?	Yes, the latrines were developed within the privacy of their homes and the communal latrines were accessible (ePact, 2020, pp. 30-31)
Was bleeders given access to information on menstrual health management and sanitary products?	N/A
	Result: 2/5 Implementations (40%)

5.4.3 Nepal

Plan International's objective in Nepal is to provide equal opportunities for girls and boys, promote reproductive health and reduce violence against women and discriminatory attitudes (Plan International J, u.d.). In 2021 WASH and MHS were an implementation focus in Nepal, and this case focuses on supporting children in school with WASH implementations and menstrual health management.

Table 3 Nepal

Nepal 2021	
Did the affected women have agency in the project development?	N/A
Was facilities built close, with convenient access to clean and functional facilities with running water and the possibility to dispose of sanitary products?	Yes, 15 gender and disability-friendly toilets were built, renovation of toilets and handwashing stations, and some schools also had menstrual health management corners in their facilities. Installing hand washing stations was also a priority in 2021 (Plan International A, 2021, pp. 5, 1).
Was there an element of education and focus on removing harmful taboos and notions of women and their periods; including working with men and boys to achieve a shift in attitudes?	Yes, teachers and health providers have been trained in sexual education and received materials to support girls and women (Plan International A, 2021, p. 4).
Was women's safety ensured since sanitation stations located far away or in secluded places expose women to higher risks of abuse, bullying and sexual assault?	Yes, the bathrooms were accessible and provided safety due to their gender-specific development (Plan International A, 2021, p. 5).
Was bleeders given access to information on menstrual health management and sanitary products?	Yes, alongside their sexual reproductive health rights focus during 2021, girls have been able to demand that sanitary products are to be available in schools (Plan International A , 2021, p. 4).
	Results: 4/5 Implementations (80%)
A collective compilation of results of the three implementations	11/15 (73.33%)

5.5 Empirical Evidence UNICEF

UNICEF will be scrutinised on their internal consistency in implementing gender-sensitive WASH on their projects in Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and the Philippines.

5.5.1 Afghanistan

This case in Afghanistan, managed by UNICEF, focuses on restoring the rights and dignity of students and teachers through sanitation and water. The project is taken place in Mazar-I-Sharif in their local school to provide them with water and functioning toilets throughout their work and school day (Chella Nalungwe , 2022).

Table 4 Afghanistan

Afghanistan, Mazar-i-Sharif 2022	
Did the affected women have agency in the project development?	N/A
Was facilities built close, with convenient access to clean and functional facilities with running water and the possibility to dispose of sanitary products?	Yes, the school has improved their water source with boreholes which resulted in toilets for boys and girls as well as handwashing points in their school (Chella Nalungwe , 2022).
Was there an element of education and focus on removing harmful taboos and notions of women and their periods; including working with men and boys to achieve a shift in attitudes?	N/A
Was women's safety ensured since sanitation stations located far away or in secluded places expose women to higher risks of abuse, bullying and sexual assault?	Yes, women had privacy with their own dedicated toilets on school grounds (Chella Nalungwe , 2022).
Was bleeders given access to information on menstrual health management and sanitary products?	N/A

Result: 2/5 Implementations (40%)

5.5.2 Zimbabwe

This case in Bikita is a program focused on bringing awareness to menstrual hygiene in the community and at the local school. The area had inadequate sanitation facilities, and society was riddled with taboos and misconceptions about sanitation and menstruation. In 2022 UNICEF set out to empower girls in WASH in Bikita (Mutsaka , 2022).

Table 5 Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, Bikita	
Did the affected women have agency in the project development?	N/A
Was facilities built close, with convenient access to clean and functional facilities with running water and the possibility to dispose of sanitary products?	Yes, the school toilets were built with menstruation in mind regarding disposal, water and soap (Mutsaka , 2022)
Was there an element of education and focus on removing harmful taboos and notions of women and their periods; including working with men and boys to achieve a shift in attitudes?	Menstrual health education programs have been established in the schools, targeting both girls and boys to work towards changing attitudes and getting rid of the stigma (Mutsaka , 2022)
Was women's safety ensured since sanitation stations located far away or in secluded places expose women to higher risks of abuse, bullying and sexual assault?	The school toilets were built with privacy and accessibility in mind (Mutsaka , 2022).
Was bleeders given access to information on menstrual health management and sanitary products?	Yes, there was elements of education on menstrual health management throughout the project in Bikita. There was also an area by the school toilets that

	provided sanitation products for menstruating people (Mutsaka , 2022).
	Result: 4/5 Implementations (80%)

5.5.3 Philippines

This project in the Philippines, Mapanas, tells the stories of girls subjected to shame due to menstruation. This case focuses mainly on Mapas Central Elementary School, where UNICEF contributed to upgrading its sanitary facilities and educational efforts to combat taboos around menstruation (Mercado , 2019).

Table 6 Philippines

Philippines – Mapanas 2019	
Did the affected women have agency in the project development?	N/A
Was facilities built close, with convenient access to clean and functional facilities with running water and the possibility to dispose of sanitary products?	Yes, the new school toilets were built with sanitation and hygiene for everyone in mind which included making sure running water and soap were accessible (Mercado , 2019).
Was there an element of education and focus on removing harmful taboos and notions of women and	Yes, UNICEF launched #MeronAko, a campaign that aims to change the behaviors and notions around

their periods; including working with men and boys to achieve a shift in attitudes?	menstruation in the Mapas School. Teachers were also involved in educating the students on menstruation and reproductive health (Mercado , 2019).
Was women's safety ensured since sanitation stations located far away or in secluded places expose women to higher risks of abuse, bullying and sexual assault?	Yes, the schools' sanitary facilities were improved, with separate toilets for girl and boys for increase privacy (Mercado , 2019).
Was bleeders given access to information on menstrual health management and sanitary products?	Yes, UNICEF developed the educational material that was distributed to the teachers, which included the reproductive system and how to dispose of sanitary products properly. The school was also equipped with pads to be distributed when needed (Mercado , 2019).
	Result: 4/5 Implementations (80%)
A collective compilation of results of the three implementations	Result: 10/15 Implementations (66.67%)

6.0 Analysis

This chapter uses qualitative content analysis to summarise the empirical material based on the WaterAid framework as the ideal type and systematic classification of the WaterAid criteria, as seen in Tables 1-6. The chapter also analyses the findings based on the theoretical framework and sets out to answer the questions at issue.

6.1 Qualitative Content Analysis

Plan International and UNICEF had varying successes in meeting the expectations of a gender-sensitive WASH and implementing the objectives set out by the WaterAid framework. Plan International had a 100% implementation rate in Cambodia and successfully fulfilled the expectations of a gender-sensitive WASH, towards the theoretical framework. They were

henceforth showing solid internal consistency, accountability and a complete dedication towards menstrual health management, women's empowerment, safety, and education within sanitation. Plan International's additional cases in Bangladesh and Nepal had an outcome of 40%, respectively 80%. The project in Bangladesh and Nepal shared the common struggle of not involving women in the project phase, thus leaving no room for agency. The project in Bangladesh also failed to provide elements of education and information on menstrual health management and sanitation products, as well as working against taboos and misconceptions. The overall degree of implementation resulted in 66.67%; Cambodia set the standard, but the projects in Bangladesh and Nepal were not entirely up to par regarding the WaterAid framework.

UNICEF also had varying success in meeting the expectations of a gender-sensitive WASH and implementing the objectives set out by the WaterAid framework. Afghanistan and the project in Mazar-i-Sharif, as seen in Table 4, met 40% of the expectations of a gender-sensitive WASH project. The table shows that the project focused mainly on providing facilities and water. Still, it excluded elements of education on menstrual health management, working towards eradicating taboos and allowing women agency in the project. UNICEF's additional cases in Zimbabwe and the Philippines had a higher success rate displaying internal consistency and accountability, meeting 80% of the criteria; however, they also excluded women's agency from the project.

In summary, Plan International and UNICEF many times had an overall gender-sensitive perspective in their WASH projects. However, 5 out of 6 cases missed involving women in the project building phase, thus not giving affected women agency in the implementations. All cases succeeded in providing water and sanitation facilities, but some lacked education and eradicating taboo aspects. Plan International achieved a higher implementation rate of 73.33% compared to UNICEF's 66.67%.

6.2 Display of Accountability

Concerning the WaterAid framework of what is supposed to be included for a WASH project to be gender-sensitive, UNICEF and Plan International are more than halfway there. There is evidence that the organisations are somewhat accountable for their objectives and promises towards women in WASH. In all cases, water and sanitation were provided, but the gender

aspect was almost always excluded in some way, except in Cambodia. “Somewhat accountable” and “somewhat internally consistent” Is, therefore, a bad mark for both organisations. Since the output is not consistent or guaranteed, the accountability is greatly affected. Being 73.33% and 66.67% committed to gender issues in WASH does not promote the change needed to fulfil their objectives, Agenda 2030, or WaterAid's expectations.

6.3 Display of Power and Stakeholder Theory

Against the measure towards the WaterAid framework and the organisation's stated dedication towards girls and women in WASH, the empirical evidence display that the stakeholders are not receiving what the power entities should provide. It is important to note that they might follow through on the project's objective. However, in the bigger picture, they are not following through on the commitments made towards girls, communities, the framework, or Agenda 2030, which is the central point of the study. The WaterAid framework merely exposes this. Power and Stakeholder Theory continues to be a relevant tool to scrutinise organisations and is evidently needed to understand the internal consistency of the organisations we trust to carry out aid.

6.4 Results

6.4.1 How have UNICEF and Plan International worked with the WaterAid framework?

As stated, Plan International had a collective result of the three cases at 73.33 %, i.e., 11/15 possible implementations. Their project in the Ratanakiri Province in Cambodia was a perfect example of providing both water, latrines and with gender-sensitivity. The project successfully focused on local ownership, and women were represented in the project phase, something that the remaining five cases should have included. There was a great effort to educate girls and boys to remove the stigma around menstruation and menstrual hygiene. Something that positively stood out was their implementation of period labs that contained educational material and access to sanitation products. In Bangladesh, the focus was equipping families with functional latrines in their own homes and henceforth upfilled the criteria of building functional toilets with continent and safe access to women in such a way. However, there was no other regard to education on menstrual health nor around the stigma, henceforth not meeting even 50% of the criteria, as seen in Table 2. In Nepal, the emphasis

was on building gender and disability-friendly toilets, really succeeding in providing sanitation for everyone. The same theme followed in education since teachers and health providers were also taught menstrual health management and gender-powered sanitation to transform sexual education and eradicate stigma. The project in Nepal, unfortunately, among the other cases, did not show any evidence of giving women agency in the project, thus resulting in achieving 80% of the WaterAid framework.

UNICEF had a collective result of 66.67%, i.e., 10/15 possible implementations. The project in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan was one of the cases that succeeded in improving water and latrine facilities by digging boreholes, building handwashing points, and separating boys' and girls' facilities but did not include any agency or educational efforts. Thus, only meeting 40% of the framework. On the other hand, the projects in Bikita, Zimbabwe and the Philippines had tremendous success in the educational efforts on changing attitudes and menstrual health management, as seen in Tables 5 and 6. In Zimbabwe, a menstrual health program was established, which involved boys and girls working towards eradicating taboos and promoting health. The school also established a designated area that provided sanitation products when needed. What stood out in the Philippines was their #MeronAko campaign that aimed to change behaviors and notions around menstruation in the Mapas School; students and teachers were involved in promoting pervasive change. In the Mapas School, UNICEF also provided and developed educational materials and sanitary pads, which provided the school with the primary conditions for change.

UNICEF and Plan International, as well as every individual case, met the framework in different ways, either with facilities at home, in schools, communal sanitation services, campaigns, labs or educational groups. The way they worked with the framework, it is evident that the projects were sensitive towards what was needed, what the focus was and what was possible for the local community. However, that does not remove the pervasive lack of women's agency in projects and educational efforts on taboos and menstrual health management, and many times failed to meet the framework.

6.4.2 To what extent do UNICEF and Plan International display internal consistency regarding gender-sensitive WASH implementation?

The projects managed by UNICEF provided evidence that the internal consistency regarding gender-sensitive WASH is not up to par with the expectations. The project in Afghanistan implemented 2/5 objectives resulting in meeting the criteria with 40%. The project in Zimbabwe implemented 4/5 objectives resulting in meeting the criteria with 80%; the project in the Philippines implemented 4/5 objectives resulting in meeting the criteria with 80%. The total came out to 10/15 implementations and an overall percentage of 66.67%.

Power and Stakeholder theory emphasise that power entities such as UNICEF can influence the outcome of humanitarian crises and the possibility to change millions of lives; thus, there must be functions that keep them accountable and that they are following through on their commitments to protect the stakeholders. In the lens of Power and Stakeholder Theory, 2/5 and even 4/5 fulfilled objectives are arguably not adequately displaying accountability towards the objectives for gender-sensitive WASH, something that is highlighted in the organisation's goals but also what determines the success of Agenda 2030 within the goals of gender and sanitation which UNICEF are connected to. Thus, the extent of this case study of how internally consistent UNICEF is regarding gender-sensitive WASH is 66.67%.

The projects managed by Plan International provided evidence that one case was up to par with the expectations of the WaterAid framework and the expectations of a gender-sensitive WASH; the remaining two lacked objectives to be perceived as having fulfilled the criteria. The project in Cambodia implemented 5/5 objectives resulting in meeting the criteria with 100%. The project in Bangladesh implemented 2/5 objectives resulting in meeting the criteria with 40%; the project in Nepal implemented 4/5 objectives resulting in meeting the criteria with 80%.

The project in Cambodia displayed the extent of what is possible in a WASH operation and that it is possible to fulfil the criteria needed for a gender-sensitive WASH project; henceforth, the project by itself displayed 100% internal consistency. However, in the larger picture, together with the other cases, the study determines Plan International to have an internal consistency of 74.33%, measured against the WaterAid framework. Through the lens of Power and Stakeholder Theory, is neither Plan International up to par with the objectives and the expectations of a gender-sensitive WASH since there is evidence of the organisation

not showing full accountability towards the goals. Thus, the extent of this case study of how internally consistent Plan International is regarding gender-sensitive WASH is 73.33%.

6.4.3 Are UNICEF or Plan International more internally consistent? Why?

In this case study Plan International was proven to be more internally consistent. Overall, Plan International succeeded more in their cases and produced a higher combined implementation rate than UNICEF. Plan International project in Cambodia was also the only case that fulfilled the entire framework. Plan International being more internally consistent can be the product of several factors.

The possibilities of implementation can relate to the organisational structures of the organisations. Plan International is a smaller organisation operating in less than half of the countries where UNICEF are established; additionally, they also have a smaller workforce. Plan International, a smaller organisation independent from any other organisation or government, could be beneficial to the management and implementation of projects. A smaller organisation could also make decision-making and coordination more efficient, thus producing the results we have seen in Plan International's cases.

Additionally, how Plan International is funded could potentially contribute to its success in Cambodia and the higher implementation rate. Plan International are, as mentioned, funded by sponsorships, appeals and donations. Henceforth, Plan International perhaps manages its projects more cautiously, displaying upward accountability (accountability to donors) since their income is mainly from regular people. Resulting in a higher degree of gender-sensitive WASH implementations. Plan International specifically states on its website that “Receiving and managing money from private individuals, institutions or companies is a matter of trust. We work to constantly improve control and follow-up structures so that all funds are used correctly and as efficiently as possible”. Consequently, displaying efforts to handle their funds with care (Plan International C , u.d.).

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

UNICEF and Plan International worked with the framework in similar and different ways regarding how they solved the sanitation struggles in the community and if they even met the framework's expectations. Many different solutions were discovered in the projects, such as uplifting the sanitation already existing in the homes, refurbishing the school facilities, establishing period labs, and hashtag movements. As well as different solutions regarding the spread of education, such as involving teachers, health care providers and infographics.

Despite the organisations showing evidence of innovation and gender-powered development within their implementations, many objectives were not visible in the projects. Many cases did not involve women in the project-building phase, thus diminishing women's agency and their chance to make independent decisions. Some cases also lacked the educational objective, which is of essence to eradicate taboos and promote health and hygiene, crucial for the development of women in society. UNICEF and Plan International henceforth, from this intensive multiple case study, displayed different extents of internal consistency. However, Plan International demonstrated greater internal consistency than UNICEF, showing that they are, to a greater extent, more accountable towards including women in WASH operations and towards their vows and Agenda 2030.

The conclusions drawn from this intensive multiple case study is that neither UNICEF nor Plan International are 100% internally consistent with promoting gender and working towards gender discrimination within WASH. The conclusions are in line with the previous research that accountability is a persisting problem within humanitarian aid, and it is crucial to further perform these types of studies to examine the extent of the organisation's accountability because if they are not true to their word, should they be part of the world's humanitarian response? The results can, therefore, bring practical consequences on the view towards UNICEF and Plan International. This study does not only scrutinise the organisations. It concludes that they are substandard towards the goals of gender within WASH, but the study also presses that accountability is still a persisting issue and should be further explored. This can consequently hurt UNICEF and Plan International's reliability and, more considerably, the stakeholders.

The final chapter ends on a note that this is a small sample of the organisations' implementations, and the projects span over several years. This study has made empirical generalisations from the gathered material and the theoretical framework. It has examined the

cases from a specific viewpoint, the implementations of gender-sensitive WASH from the framework guidelines. The study has been transparent with its methods and purpose, thus highlighting its reliability. However, even though the intensive multiple-case study allowed for gathering realistic descriptions of the cases. The question withstands the outcome of a study with more data. Are these results still a depiction of that? Alvehus (2013, p. 22) defends these concerns by stating that “The point, however, is not to conduct more case studies to increase statistical generalisability, but rather to expand the nuanced interpretations that can be made”, meaning that perhaps including more cases would not necessarily take away the conclusions that have been made about UNICEF and Plan Internationals internal consistency and the possibility to generalise the result, but instead would allow for more interpretations. Proposals for further research hence include more cases and more organisations to get a complete overview of all organisations effort towards these crucial development goals. As well as taking the study a step further to analyse the reception of the implementation, were they successful amongst the stakeholders and did it promote success and equality for girls and women.

Conclusively, it is evident that gender-based WASH is a crucial part of achieving gender equality and improving the lives of women and girls worldwide. Access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene is essential to ensure that women and girls have equal access to education, health, and economic opportunities as their male counterparts. For UNICEF and Plan International to achieve their goals; the sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030, and be accountable towards their stakeholders; the girls of the world, to ultimately show consistent internal consistency, gender sensitivity needs to become a more extensive influence in WASH projects.

I want to end this study with two excerpts from Malala Yousufzai’s speech at the United Nations “I raise my voice not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard...We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back” (Yousufzai 2013).

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