

Dear Supporters,

Due to the misguided notion of gender inequality, in many developing countries, girls are always the vulnerable group whose basic rights and welfares are sacrificed, whereas boys are generally considered as a better investment. However, with your generous supports, thousands of girls' lives have been transformed. We are delighted to present you the latest update of the "Because I am a Girl" projects you've supported over the past year.

China – Providing vocational trainings to disadvantaged girls

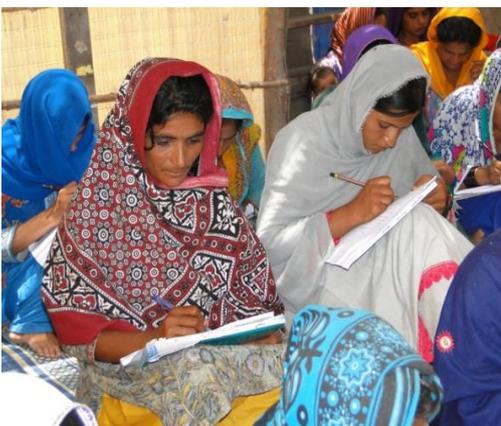
Around 90 girls aged between 15 to 24 received a preschool teacher training at the training centre in Pucheng County, Shaanxi Province. Not only Plan supported them with scholarship, we also provided life skills training, including the topics on gender awareness, reproductive health and financial education. In addition, an array of activities such as paid internship, poem recitation event and outdoor performance were organized with the objective of developing girls' leadership skills and building confidence. Many of them were orphans, disabled girls, girls from single-parent families and left behind girls where the project



had definitely changed their lives as well as improved the family situations. Most of them became more competitive in the job markets and were able to get decent jobs after the two-year training.

"Plan's project on supporting poor students to return to school is more than a material help. The most important thing is that I have more confidence and courage to face the challenges in my life." – Sun Yi , a student from the teacher training class, , majoring in preschool education

Pakistan – Striving to rescue girls from the shackles of child marriage



Various initiatives were implemented in order to prevent the practice of this undesirable tradition. On the socio-cultural ground, mass media like TV and radio broadcast were adopted to promote the message of abandoning child marriage in rural regions. On the economic ground, Plan has an ongoing livelihood programme called Youth Economic Empowerment Project which aims to create a fair environment where girls can pursue education and employment. To that end, girls become breadwinners instead of family's burdens which they should be "sold" in the "marriage market". On the legal ground, we actively sought the engagement from local government officials and national policy makers in order to rectify the policies and laws which

turn a blind eye to the practice of child marriage. For instance, prison term and fine have been raised to further deter people from breaching the child marriage act.

Nepal – Encouraging girl’s participation in society

In view of the deprivation of girls’ participation in society, Plan Nepal endeavored to establish an array of projects to allow girls to express their voice and to bring girls’ potential talents into full play. 55 child clubs were formed where over 300 girls became the members, and over half of them occupied a place in the decision-making bodies. They were able to receive trainings such as journalism and management skills, and to carry out meetings with Village Development Committees (VDC) to lobby for the implementation of child rights protection. Consequently, girls’ involvement in community development increased as they were invited to engage in meetings and programme planning of school management committee and VDC.



"I am very happy to be a chairperson of a child club, where I have received training on child club management, child rights and protection. My confidence level has increased." says Geeta B.K, Al Dada Child Club.

Ghana-Empowering young women to be self-sufficient



Limited accesses to education, training and personal development are always faced by girls in Ghana. Thus, batik dyeing, soap/pomade making and bakery groups are formed to support 50 school girls from 10 communities to acquire vocational trainings. Furthermore, specific girls’ related problems, such as early pregnancy are included in the vocational training curriculum as an awareness training on girls’ rights. By doing so, not only the girls can obtain employable skills to run their own business, their

confidence can also be boosted.

"I am an orphan who had no job .However through Plan’s support I am now earning a living. I will save money to further my education. Although I am at school, I shall still do production during holidays to earn money for my living, and to assist my aunt as well to provide the needs of my siblings. –Francisca D, a 23 years old beneficiary from Taabosom.

Thank you for your ongoing support! Be our Girls Ambassador to spread the word of mouth to your networks for our campaign and lend your additional support by becoming a Girl Sponsor! http://onlinedonation.plan.org.hk/girl/child_sponsor_e.asp. Your donation makes more of a difference to girls than you could ever imagine!

For more details and updates about the “Because I am a Girl” Campaign, please visit <https://www.becauseiamagirl.org.hk/hk/because-i-am-a-girl/why-focus-on-girls> or e-mail us at supporter@plan.org.hk should you need further information.