

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM EGYPT

We wanted to share some exciting progress made possible in Egypt - thanks to support from you!

In Egypt, children's rights generally have not been awarded, especially among girls. Traditional gender norms not only preventing girls and women from reaching their full potential, but also leading to sexual violence against women, early marriage and the practice of female genital mutilation.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to raise awareness of gender equality and empower girls and young women to stand up for their rights. We were also able to keep children safe from abuse by training parents on positive discipline techniques and children's rights.

We are grateful to you for making these changes possible. We know you will enjoy reading on to see how your generosity is changing the lives of children, like your sponsored child, across this region.



OUR IMPACT

3,678 EGYPTIAN PARENTS
AND TEACHERS LEARNED
POSITIVE PARENTING AND
DISCIPLINE

IN ASSIUT, **12,106** PEOPLE
EMPOWERED TO STOP FEMALE
GENITAL MUTILATION

IN BEHERA, KALYUBYA AND
SOHAG, **4,787** CHILDREN
LEARNED ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS

8,066 BEHERA PEOPLE CAN
ACCESS SAVINGS AND LOANS

PLAN INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE



COVID-19 is having devastating impacts all over the world. It is not only a health emergency, it is an education and protection emergency. Since girls are often worse affected during a crisis, Plan International is putting them at the heart of our response and long-term outlook. We have scaled up healthcare systems, food security, access to clean water, handwashing and awareness campaigns, and keep education in children's lives via radio broadcasts.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Young people in Kalyoubya lack the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to get a good job or start their own business. Young women in particular do not have the

same opportunities to gain technical skills and enter the workforce. Furthermore, a lack of financial education means that youth are not able to confidently access banking services.



23 YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ATTENDED TECHNICAL TRAINING ON ELECTRONIC MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

To help young people successfully transition into adulthood, we have trained 100 young men and 262 young women on employment and entrepreneurship skills. This will help them enter the workforce and earn a living to support themselves and their families.

In addition, 173 youth have attended training sessions on financial education, so they can confidently save their money, budget for their expenses and invest in their futures.

To help ensure that young people stay safe while working, we have also held sessions with 225 families on labour laws.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

In Behera, a lack of knowledge of positive parenting techniques and children's rights has led to high rates of physical discipline and violence at homes and in communities.

To help protect children from abuse, we have formed 65 parent groups, where 1,630 parents have learned about positive discipline and

parenting techniques. Now, children can grow up in safe, loving and supportive environments.

We have also created 27 children's groups, where children played games and attended sessions to learn about their rights. As a result, 480 girls and 168 boys know about their right to live a life free from violence, and they know where to go if they need help.

"Through this programme, I learned about creative writing and how to create a story. I also learned about my own rights and not to accept any abuse from anyone."

Fedaa, 12, sponsored child



ENDING EARLY MARRIAGE AND FGM

Female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriages are still common in Assiut. Both practices severely limit girls' opportunities to reach their full potential.



WE ARE WORKING WITH BOYS AND YOUNG MEN TO BECOME ADVOCATES FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

To help ensure girls are protected and their rights are upheld we are working with ten communities to raise awareness of the dangers associated with FGM and early marriages. More than 12,100 women and men are now aware that it is illegal for a child to be married before the age of 18, and how FGM is a harmful practice.

160 girls and young women have attended workshops to learn about their rights and to gain leadership skills. Now, they have the confidence to stand up for their rights and to play a more active role in their communities.

We have also improved access to sexual and reproductive health services for 13,018 youth, so that young women and men are able to make informed choices about their bodies and relationships.

GIRLS LEAD AND TAKE CHARGE

Girls and young women in Sohag face significant discrimination due to traditional gender norms. Boys are regularly preferred over girls, and girls are denied opportunities to play an active role in their communities.

To help girls and young women reach their full potential, we have held training sessions with both

girls and boys on gender equality and girls' rights. Girls are now empowered to raise their voices on issues that affect them, and boys have become allies and voices for change in their communities.

We have also held community events to raise awareness about equality for girls and how to reduce gender-based violence and discrimination.

"Girls lead a tough life in their communities because of the false image in media. We had the chance to discuss the image of women in media and express our rights about what is going on around us."

**Wafaa, 29,
sister of sponsored child**



YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

With your support, we will continue to protect children's rights so they are able to thrive.

In the coming year, we will continue to work with the children, families and partners across Egypt:



- Improving access to quality education for all children and ensure children at school get the support they need to improve their reading and writing skills.
- Reducing gender discrimination to promote equality for girls and raise the awareness of the dangers of early marriage and female genital mutilation. We will also increase opportunities for girls and young women to play leadership roles in their communities.
- Improving access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health education and services so both girls and boys are able to make informed choices about their lives, their bodies and their relationships.
- Improving entrepreneurship and training opportunities so young people can earn a living and support themselves.
- Continuing to keep children safe by raising awareness of children's rights, providing positive parenting training and supporting local child protection groups to act in cases of abuse.
- Helping communities adapt to natural disasters and continue to support them in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These are just some of the many ways your kindness will continue to touch the life of your sponsored child and other children. We wouldn't be able to do this without supporters like you!



MESSAGE FROM **ASHRAF MOUSA**

Programme Area Manager, Behera

"I would like to express my sincerest thanks for your support over the past year. With your support we were able to achieve an impact in the lives of children and improve their living conditions. We appreciate all of your help and look forward to the future. Thank you!"



MESSAGE FROM **MOHAMED GADALLAH**

Programme Area Manager, Sohag

"I'd like to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks for your support and positive contribution to improve the life conditions of children and their families in the communities where we work in Sohag. Your support is highly appreciated especially during COVID-19 crisis for the interest of children and families."



MESSAGE FROM **IMAN ISMAIL**

Programme Area Manager, Kalyoubya

"Thank you for the support, especially during this current period in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. We will continue to raise awareness and to create a better world for children, especially young girls, to promote their equality through economic and social empowerment."



MESSAGE FROM **ISRAA IBRAHIM**

Programme Area Manager, Assiut

"Thank you for all of your support and encouragement last year. We are excited about the work we were able to do in our communities. Through our programmes, we supported girls and boys to be more secure and safe. Your enthusiasm will always be our motivation to continue."

