



BANGLADESH

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM BANGLADESH

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

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries. In rural areas, most families depend on agriculture and fishing for a living. However, this country is vulnerable to both cyclones and earthquakes, resulting in loss of assets and life. Besides, supporting dependents' education is difficult for low-income families. Consequently, many children need to drop out from schools. The difficulty of accessing technical or life skills leads to generational poverty.

Throughout the fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to promote girls' right and protect children. Workshops led by Plan International partners educated children and youths on their rights, gender equality, and the danger of child marriage. We also established health service programmes at regions to provide quality local health care.

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

33,864 RESIDENTS
PARTICIPATED IN INTERACTIVE
SESSIONS ON HYGIENE
IN BHOLA

500 ADOLESCENTS
PARTICIPATED IN LIFE SKILLS
WORKSHOPS IN BARGUNA

313 SCHOOL GARDENS WERE
ESTABLISHED IN NILPHAMARI

300 YOUTH LEARNED ABOUT
CHILD RIGHTS IN DHAKA



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.

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Women lack skills and economic opportunities to succeed financially. Strengthening their economic security is key to creating a foundation for change.



**TO REDUCE THE MORTALITY OF LIVESTOCK,
WE ORGANISED 40 VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS
WHERE A TOTAL OF 2,263 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED**

To disrupt this cycle of poverty and gender imbalance, we provided assistance to 194 young women, facilitating business training and enabling them to purchase livestock to begin their own businesses in Barguna.

We organised vaccination campaigns to reduce the mortality of livestock. A total of 28 paravets, responsible for providing basic animal health care, completed training courses and started work in their communities. This allows people to receive doorstep service for livestock vaccination and primary treatment, ensuring their investment is safe.

To encourage male engagement in role sharing, we conducted 147 couple meetings. These meetings engaged 1,835 couples, addressing stereotypes and enhancing the empowerment of the young female project beneficiaries.

INVESTING IN EARLY EDUCATION

Early childhood education is key to helping children. Thus, providing quality inclusive education for children aged 3-5 years is vital.



**SAFE AND INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION PROVIDED 1,610 GIRLS AND
1,491 BOYS WITH LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

To ensure that young children in Bhola have access to early learning opportunities, we developed an early learning system to serve 3,101 children. We established links with 50 primary schools, where 18,000 children now benefit from a “learn without fear” environment. Educational sessions took place five days a week, with children participating in different activities. We also trained 205 teachers to work in early learning centres and provided a partial honorarium for 205 centre facilitators. Educational materials were provided for 205 Early Learning Centres.

To ensure quality and engage the local community, a council of area activists, teachers and school leaders participated in quarterly area monitoring.

These programmes help children access their potential, free from discriminatory practices.

STRENGTHENING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Social norms and power imbalance prevent children, especially girls, from reaching their full potential. Many girls are vulnerable to early marriage and child labour.



THE PRACTICE OF GIRLS CYCLING TO SCHOOL HAS INCREASED: 2,350 GIRLS ARE NOW GOING TO SCHOOL BY BICYCLE

Through community outreach, we helped girls stay safe, stopped child marriages and enabled girls to learn about their rights in Nilphamari. We trained 766 girls on life skills, and 192 girls participated in self-defence sessions.

Helping children stay in school is key. 50 former child labourers are now enrolled in school. 45 child marriages were stopped, and the children are able to continue their education.

Because sexual harassment is common, an anti-sexual harassment committee has been formed at 37 secondary schools and colleges, with committee members conducting regular meetings. Opinion boxes allow children to share their thoughts.

Children and youth are empowered through training on child rights, and youth networks are formed so girls and boys are able to make changes in their communities.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

In Dhaka, inadequate access to basic healthcare, nutrition, immunisation and sanitation poses severe challenges to families, especially girls and women. To serve these needs and help families, we worked with 368 mothers and provided antenatal and postnatal care. We helped 293 children under 5 years with acute respiratory infections through clinic services.

We reached 116 participants with life skills training, including team building, adolescent leadership, plus sexual and reproductive health education. A total of 780 adolescents organised into 39 groups to implement activities promoting hygiene. These activities included meetings, awareness-raising campaigns and life skills training, and addressed menstrual hygiene management and child marriage.

"I am really grateful to the No-Go-Tell training. Now I know about my personal space and how to raise my voice and say no when I face any undesirable behaviour. Thanks to Plan for conducting this kind of training session."

Khodeza, 14, 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 Bangladesh:



- Establishing and supporting gender-inclusive and child-friendly school environments. School retention rate will be improved. Besides, we will develop early childhood education with an emphasis on gender equality.
- Empowering adolescents with tools and resources on reproductive health. Meanwhile, we will raise the awareness among adolescents on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and gender equality.
- Continuing to provide basic healthcare services such as vaccination coverage for poor families. We will also ensure water, sanitation and hygiene support for children and their families.
- Establishing community-based child protection systems so every child lives in a safe and child-friendly environment. Home-based early learning for children will be ensured so that they can achieve their full potential.
- Helping community youth to develop early warning systems for responding to natural disaster and climate change emergencies.

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



MESSAGE FROM ASHISH KUMAR BAKSHI

Programme Area Manager, Nilphamari

"We are working to ensure the rights of children and young people, especially girls, by creating a safe environment and a better future. Thank you for your continuous and valuable support to the development of people of Nilphamari!"



MESSAGE FROM AFROZ MAHAL

Programme Area Manager, Dhaka

"With your support, we work with families to equip children and youth with education, life skills and better access to basic health services. Thank you for extending your generous support and good wishes, which further strengthen our commitment to serve the people."



MESSAGE FROM SHAHARUKH SOHEL

Programme Area Manager,
Barguna and Bhola

"With your continuous support, we have made significant progress through programmes that ensure early childhood development, protect children's rights and reduce child death rates by providing health care support for families. We are incredibly grateful to you."



Plan International Hong Kong sincerely thank volunteer Mr. Chong Hip Kuen, William for consolidating this report.