

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM ETHIOPIA

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

Two-thirds of the Ethiopian population is under 25 years old, making youth employment one of the most pressing issues. Limited opportunities often encourage youth to risk unsafe migration to other countries. Girls and women are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence, child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) because of insufficient knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, gender-based discrimination and cultural taboos.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to raise community awareness about gender equality issues. We also improved access to safe and clean water for hundreds of households in Amhara. Further, the empowerment of young people was supported.

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

IN ADDIS ABABA,
120 PEOPLE ESTABLISHED
THEIR OWN SMALL BUSINESS

22,333 COMMUNITY
MEMBERS IN AMHARA
WERE INFORMED ON
CHILD RIGHTS ISSUES

72 TEEN GIRLS ENGAGED IN
PEER-TO-PEER DIALOGUE ON
SEXUAL HEALTH IN OROMIA

IN SOUTH ETHIOPIA,
4 COMMUNITIES BENEFITTED
FROM REPAIRED WATER SOURCES



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.

SAFER CITIES

Safety is an issue in Addis Ababa, where youth often face violence and exploitation. Women and girls are vulnerable to assault and harassment, especially on local transport.



OVER 40 YOUTH GROUPS WERE TRAINED ON GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY, WORKING TO ENCOURAGE SAFER CITIES

Our Safe and Inclusive Cities project aims to create a diverse and strong civil society. We focused on reducing urban violence, improving economic options and enabling civic engagement.

Over 1,000 youth and community members were trained on conflict management, sexual and reproductive rights and violence prevention. These youth cleared unsafe areas often populated by criminals and mobilised the community to put lights on fences in areas without street lights. They worked closely with law enforcement to close more than six drug houses, and organised groups to safeguard areas with rotating night patrols.

We also supported a new youth recreational centre with sports facilities. Many young people now attend the recreation centre, diverting their energy to healthy, productive activities.

IMPROVING CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

People in Amhara, especially school children, have limited access to clean water for drinking and handwashing. Without proper handwashing hygiene, girls and boys have an increased risk of avoidable diseases and infections. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we carried out handwashing promotions and reached 145,106 people in the communities.

We also raised awareness for rising gender-based violence during the pandemic, as there is a risk of isolation and economic insecurity among families. We supported the rehabilitation of local pump systems and a well, and installed new water sources to support access to safe drinking water. In addition, we established 12 school 'WASH' clubs that manage water and hygiene practices in schools.

"During menstruation I and my friends would skip school. Thanks to the training given by Plan I now understand that menstruation is a natural phenomenon that needs proper management using sanitary pads. Now I and my friends attend school regularly."

Enguday, 15



YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

High rates of youth unemployment make it challenging for young people, especially young women, to find quality work in Oromia. Our Economic Empowerment programme

helps create employment opportunities and facilitates access to vocational training and business and financial management.



YOUTH WERE EMPOWERED WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

A market assessment identified business opportunities in three districts. Through our programme, 224 unemployed youth were organised into business groups focusing on areas such as fruit seedling production, vegetable production and marketing, honey production, and more. The groups received vocational training and resource support. They recently started operations in their respective business areas in three districts.

To strengthen educational opportunities, the programme also provided over 8,000 children with school materials, and 500 school children have started accessing e-learning materials. Teachers have attended training on active learning methodologies to improve the quality of education.

GENDER EQUALITY FOR GIRLS

Youth in South Ethiopia lack access to sexual and reproductive health information and resources. Many girls are unaware of their rights.

Education is key to ensuring that adolescents can make informed decisions about their lives and their bodies. Our programme provides information and resources to increase adolescent knowledge of health and rights. Over 600 girls and boys participated in awareness-raising sessions and now have a better understanding of their bodies and their rights. To reach even more youth, we facilitated peer-to-peer sessions in ten schools.



SPORTING EVENTS HELP TEACH GIRLS AND BOYS ABOUT GENDER QUALITY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Girls and young women often face violent and harmful cultural practices, like early marriage and FGM. Our advocacy leaders raised community awareness of the risks of these traditions, reaching parents as well as religious and traditional leaders. In addition, 561 community members participated in parent skills training, and learned about the impact of gender-based violence.

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 Ethiopia:

- Providing trainings and support materials for preschool teachers, enabling them to build a foundation for quality early childhood education programmes.
- Ensuring girls and young women are better protected from violence. We will focus on reducing child, early and forced marriage.
- Advocating for the improvement of birth registration for children. The child protection system will be strengthened at the community level, to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation.
- Empowering young people by providing access to life skills, vocational and technical training. We will help youth engage in productive economic activities.
- Ensuring a healthy life for the children in the communities. In addition, we will promote hygiene, health and disease prevention and support access to clean water and sanitation.

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 MAHDER ALEBACHEW

Programme Area Manager, Addis Ababa

"I would like to thank you for all your generosity and continued support. With your contribution, you have touched the lives of thousands of people. Your contribution goes beyond helping the life of the individual child, but also their families, the community and the generation to come."

MESSAGE FROM MULATU TADELE

Programme Area Manager, Amhara

"We are grateful for the support you provided to children, their families, and communities. Plan International has implemented many projects that benefit girls and young women. Girls are empowered to voice their issues, and schools are enhanced to be safe for girls. Thank you for your support in achieving this!"

MESSAGE FROM MEKONNEN DILBO

Programme Area Manager, Oromia

"With your kind support, we have successfully managed to reach numerous vulnerable children and their families. We want to extend our grateful appreciation for the kind support and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you."

MESSAGE FROM BERHANU TUNSISA

Programme Area Manager, South Ethiopia

"Plan International Ethiopia has contributed lasting results to the people in the South Ethiopia Programme area, especially in regards to the promotion and protection of child rights."

