

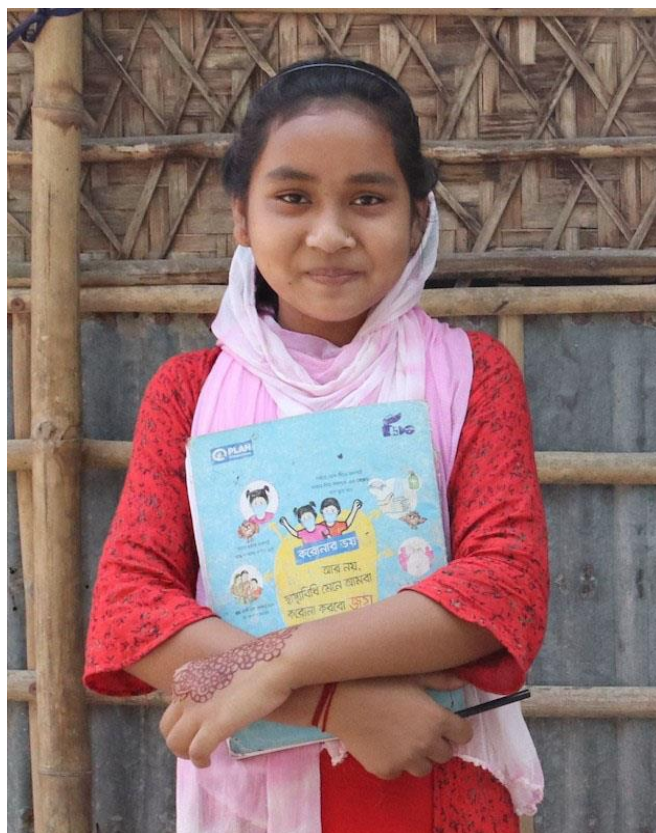
YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Nilphamari. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted.

This year, Plan's efforts in Nilphamari centred around keeping children healthy, fed and in school. 2,496 students benefitted from the installation of hand-washing stations at their schools, which increased attendance to 94%.

To close any learning gaps created by 18 months of school closures, 100% of Plan's Sponsored Children were enrolled in alternative education centres, which offer resources including tutoring and workshops. Student attendance has increased 11% since 2020.

We know the best is yet to come and your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Nilphamari.



2496

Primary school students received school supplies



2750

Girls learnt practical life skills



46

Schools now have functioning gardens



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN BANGLADESH

Hear from Alonti about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

"When COVID-19 came to Bangladesh, my family panicked. It affected us a lot. My parents could not afford private tuition. At that moment, Plan International extended its financial support to us. This made us smile during the hardship. I purchased textbooks and gave the tuition fees with that money."

CASE STORY: I WANT TO BE A TEACHER



NAME: SUMAIYA

AGE: 14 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: READING



"I know that there should not be any discrimination between a boy and a girl, and I learned about this by participating in different events conducted by Plan International Bangladesh in my community."

Meet Sumaiya

Like your sponsored child, Sumaiya has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. The daughter of two waste management operators, Sumaiya lives with her family in a slum in Dhaka City. Learning about girls' rights and the downsides of child marriage through Plan encouraged Sumaiya to speak her mind and follow her dreams.

Prevention of Child Marriage

Though marriage is technically illegal in Bangladesh for girls under 18, the policy is rarely enforced, and parents often marry off their young daughters illegally. One explanation for this practise is that, in Sumaiya's neighbourhood, girls are often seen as financial burdens.

When Sumaiya's mother informed her that she had been proposed to, it seemed that the scholar's destiny was set. But Sumaiya had learned about gender and empowerment through Plan, and she had other ambitions.

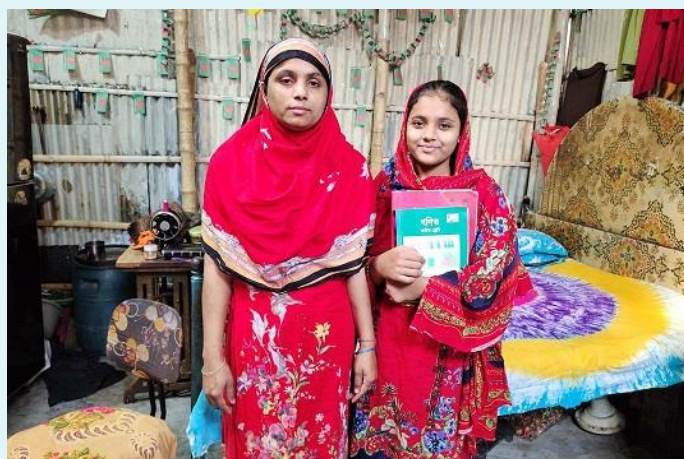
In a series of co-curricular activities hosted by Plan, Sumaiya became aware of the dangers of child marriage, which usually entails dropping out of school. For her, that was not an option.

"It Is Time For Me to Study"

With fierce determination, young Sumaiya successfully persuaded her parents that a marriage at her age would ruin her life. Instead, Sumaiya dreams of becoming a teacher. But in order to do that, she says, it is critical that she continue her studies.

"I am only 14," says Sumaiya. "Marriage is not the top of my priority list. Now, it is time for me to study hard and be a successful person in the future."

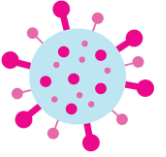
Sumaiya plans to bring this lesson to families around her community, who may not be aware of the dangers of child marriage.



Sumaiya studies with her mother.

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,371 CHILDREN IN NILPHAMARI

OUR PROJECTS IN NILPHAMARI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



PROTECTING AGAINST COVID-19



New handwashing stations kept children safe from COVID-19 and increased school attendance. This year, Plan International focused efforts on keeping children and families in Nilphamari safe from COVID-19.

2,496 students in both primary and secondary school benefitted from the installment of handwashing stations. They learned to wash their hands before entering classrooms. 95% of students reported feeling confident in their ability to protect themselves from COVID-19, and school attendance rose to 94% (from 91%).

Courtyard meetings with an additional 4,472 parents ensured that family members of all ages now know the proper safety protocol to prevent illness. 596 at-risk students were tutored, allowing them to stay caught up at grade level and remain in school.

Thousands of children are on a safer path to staying in school, from lessons on COVID-19 prevention to maintaining community gardens.

FEEDING THE FUTURE



46 brand-new gardens at local schools kept students healthy and happy. Schools in Nilphamari were closed for a year and a half due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By working on our climate-smart gardens, thousands of students learned valuable lessons about nutrition, hygiene and health.

17,696 students will now regularly keep up gardens at their schools, learning climate-adaptive practices that they can bring home to their families.

In order to keep the project sustainable in the long term, 46 educators have been trained in garden maintenance. Education sessions at the garden incorporated lessons about gender discrimination, equality, menstrual hygiene and emotional well-being.



"I am a mother and have dreams for my children. Plan made my dreams come true by supporting my daughter's education. She is now a trailblazer for girls in my community."

- Rojina (28) from Nilphamari

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



36%

Of children under 5 in Bangladesh are undernourished



8%

Of children in Bangladesh are engaged in child labour



22%

Of girls in Bangladesh are married before the age 15



Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.

- Nilphamari has the third-highest number of child marriages in Bangladesh. We will continue to empower young girls to be leaders in their communities.
- The pandemic has dramatically impacted childrens' ability to keep up with their grade level. We will continue to offer tutoring through alternative education centres.
- Malnourishment is a common condition among children. We will continue to educate school students about nutrition in a way that fosters agency.
- Child labour threatens the education and safety of children in Bangladesh. We will continue to encourage parents and children to view education positively.

We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Nilphamari.



"We thank you for your contribution in increasing knowledge about COVID-19, gender issues, nutrition, health and hygiene for a huge number of school students. We hope to continue these important activities through your valuable support."

Ashik Billah

Programme Area Manager, Nilphamari

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS