

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Plan International has been working in Kurigram since 2021. In the last year, hundreds of community members have learned how to protect themselves from violence, and also from flooding – an increasing risk due to climate change.

900 women received training on crisis preparedness from a gender equity perspective. 1,736 caregivers received lessons on protective parenting and the value of education. 300 children ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in early childhood development centres.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Kurigram.



1679

Caregivers received COVID-19 vaccinations



1812

Parents and children have registered births



405

Girls learned how to swim



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 1,848 CHILDREN IN KURIGRAM

OUR PROJECTS IN KURIGRAM ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



MAKING SCHOOLS SAFE



1,788 students practised disaster preparedness. The region of Kurigram is extremely vulnerable to climate disasters, from monsoons to flooding. Plan International collaborated with 4 local schools to train students on disaster response.

96 students took on the role of leaders, collaborating with 24 trained teachers to educate their peers about topics like Early Warning, Search & Rescue, First Aid and Evacuation. 76 participants inspected their schools to identify and improve hazards.

The people of flood-prone Kurigram came together to practise inclusive crisis readiness.

During this process, the student pointed out that there was no separate, safe washroom for girls, so we built one. As a response to the ongoing crisis of COVID-19, we also set out to vaccinate 8,447 students to prevent serious illness.

STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY



300 women learned disaster preparedness from a gender equity perspective. A lack of private washrooms and insufficient menstrual hygiene materials can leave women vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Plan International set out to break down prevalent social stigma about menstruation that can complicate disaster preparedness. 300 women discussed crisis response and menstrual health management.

216 community members received critical crisis response supplies, like life jackets and torch lights. They also learned about sexual reproductive health and rights, as well as what to do in a disaster scenario. 405 girls learned how to swim.



"I feel proud to be part of Plan's Building Capacity of Youth project, and to be able to assist our community during emergencies. Now, most adolescents are using clean cloths or pads during menstruation."

- Shantona, 19 from Kurigram

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



89%

Of children in Kurigram have experienced violence



23%

Of children in Kurigram are victims of child labour



22%

Of girls in Bangladesh are married before age 15



Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.

- Knowledge about the importance of early childhood development is low. We will ensure all sponsored children attend early learning centres in the community.
- Child marriage has increased dramatically since the pandemic began. We will continue to empower local girls by forming a girls' group in every school in Kurigram.
- 98% of Kurigram is vulnerable to climate change-related flooding. We will raise awareness about climate change by celebrating Earth Day.
- Communities in Kurigram do not have sufficient information about menstrual hygiene. We will continue to ensure that local clinics are equipped to handle adolescent health.

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



"We will provide our utmost support to develop a meaningful relationship with the communities, families, children and sponsors ensuring lasting improvements in the childrens' quality of life."

Ashik Billah
Programme Area Manager, Kurigram

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