

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Addressing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM) have been key areas of focus in Assiut.

Girls will achieve their full potential in a setting that is encouraging and gender responsive. This is demonstrated by eight new local projects that young people who want to address the issues of child protection and early marriage have spearheaded.

Furthermore, through games and various sporting events, FGM-related messages reached a large audience.

**Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Assiut.**



# 4265

Individuals declared they will not practice FGM



# 926

Parents participated in positive parenting workshops



# 173

Youth participated in intergeneration dialogue sessions

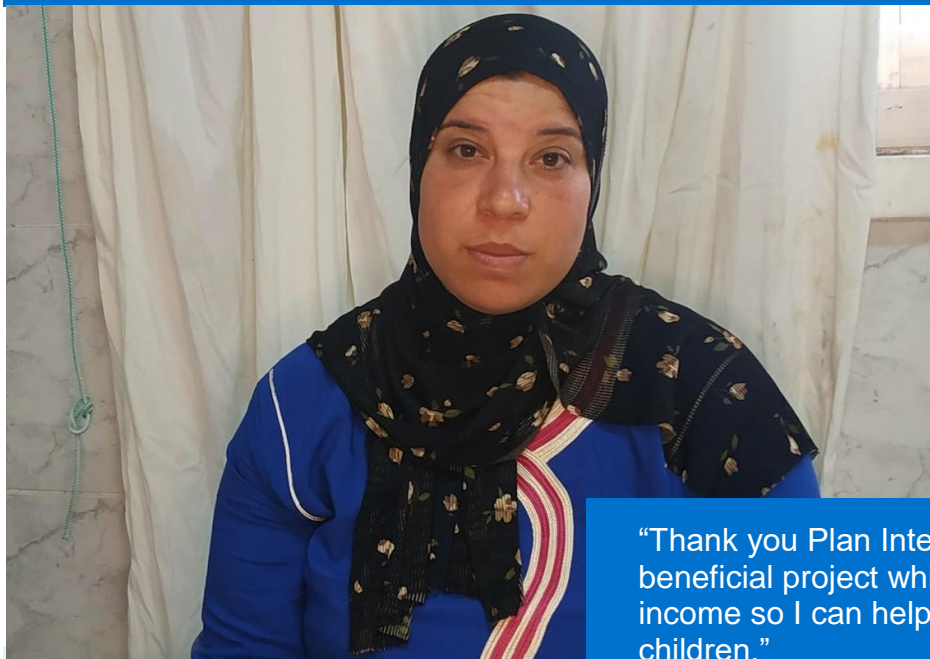


## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN EGYPT

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

“During the pandemic, I couldn't go to school and I was afraid to get infected. But Plan helped ease my fears with their awareness messages and supplying us with hand sanitizers and face masks. They also taught us how to deal with the virus so we don't get sick.”

# BASMA IS A SUPERWOMAN



**NAME: BASMA**

**AGE: 37 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: SPENDING TIME WITH HER FAMILY**

"Thank you Plan International for providing such a beneficial project which helped me to enhance my income so I can help my family survive and educate my children."

## Meet Basma

**Like your sponsored child, Basma has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** Basma was married at 17 in Behera and unfortunately children has negatively impacted her current socio-economic status. Basma understands the importance of a education and wants to ensure her children get one.

## Challenge

Basma has found it difficult to balance supporting her husband and playing an active role in the lives of her children. Basma's children are at various stages academically and have different needs. She constantly feels the pressure of providing for their education.

Finding work has been difficult for Basma and starting a business is not an easy task. Living in a rural town, the opportunities are quite limited.

The search for work has also been difficult because Basma never received any training or experience that she felt was necessary to qualify her to work.

## Solution

Plan International works with local organisations to provide support and activities to both children and their families.

Basma attended the "Enterprise your Life" sessions which provided her with a role model in business that she could learn from. Basma has been able to start her own business of duck breeding. She has learned how to negotiate costs, communicate with suppliers and has been able to make enough to pay for living expenses. Through vocational training she has been empowered to even produce and sell her own object made from animals' horns from home.



*Basma holding up an animal horn*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 6,109 CHILDREN IN ASSIUT**



# OUR PROJECTS IN ASSIUT ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## ELIMINATING FGM



**Society must reject the idea of female genital mutilation (FGM) as a cultural necessity in order to eliminate the practice of it.** Civil society organisations and national stakeholders have the capacity to support the abandonment of FGM and harmful practices. The projects that are in place are meant to reinforce this capacity. Intergenerational dialogue sessions create a space where youth and elders can gather and openly discuss their concerns regarding early marriage and FGM.

974 parents attend awareness sessions highlighting gender equality and the discrimination girls experience in their society.

A variety of initiatives, including a puppet theatre, sporting events, positive graffiti and medical convoys, have contributed to spreading awareness of the dangers of FGM. Through these programmes not only are the practices abandoned but we are able to transform social norms and empower girls. We promoted the programme in coordination with universities and students from medical, religious and legal backgrounds.

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



**Girls from an early age face disadvantages in education, health, employment, and domestic life.** This is why it is important for youth, girls in particular, to take action regarding gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, protection and decision making at all levels.

Girls receive training on Champions of Change and comprehensive sexual education curriculums. Through this activity girls will exchange stories and experiences while enhancing their ability to facilitate discussions and improving their interpersonal skills.

Activities also include community and family-based training. Through awareness sessions, we challenge stereotypes and socially accepted forms of violence and discrimination.



“I have benefitted a lot from my participation in the Champions of Change sessions. I have learned about the dangers of FGM. I had always thought that FGM was necessary. After attending the session, I have learned that it is harmful.”

**- Nourhan (15) from Assiut**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



1.8

Million children between the age of 5 and 17 in the workforce



23%

Female labour force participation



15%

Only 15% of parliamentarians are women



**Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.**

- Even though there are many projects aiming to promote sexual and reproductive health rights, there are still many issues in this field that need to be addressed. The social pressure of marrying young is one of these challenges.
- We want to continue to enhance knowledge about reproductive health and well-being from a human rights perspective. To combat societal norms, it is important to provide support and exert influence at all levels of leadership.
- We will support girls in raising their voice at the local community level and at the governing level. Community leaders will also be encouraged to participate in gender activities to create a supportive environment.

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



“I would like to express my appreciation! With your support girls have been able to catch up in school, dropout rates have been reduced, and girls have also been taught how to protect themselves and report instances of abuse.”

**Israa Abdelgaber Ibrahim**  
Programme Area Manager, Assiut

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