

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, 1,200 young people were empowered to make informed decisions about their bodies, thanks to peer training on sexual and reproductive health. And 25 young women learned on how to make reusable sanitary pads, helping to improve access to menstrual hygiene for girls in Amhara.

Children also gained skills in information technology, helping them thrive in the digital age. And schools are creating safer and more inclusive learning spaces with gender-friendly toilets and hand-washing facilities.

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



985

Students learned about good hygiene practices



27,528

Children received school supplies



4,655

People have access to safe water



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN ETHIOPIA

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

“During COVID-19, our school was closed. I tried to study alone at home but it was hard. Plan International shared important messages about the pandemic through the radio and provided soaps, sanitizers, and hand-washing facilities. I would like to thank Plan International for the support provided for me and my friends.”

CASE STORY: STAYING IN SCHOOL



NAME: WUDNESH

AGE: 16 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: WATCHING TV

"We used to suffer during menstruation. It was common to use pieces of cloth. However, with the support of Plan International, we began using reusable sanitary pads. And with the new menstrual hygiene room, we are now properly managing our periods at school."

Meet Wudnesh

Like your sponsored child, Wudnesh has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Wudnesh is completing grade 8 at school, and is among the top of her class. She's taking charge of her future by taking charge of her body, and is no longer missing out on her lessons because of her period.

Improved Schools, Brighter Futures

A lack of classrooms at Wudnesh's school meant many students crowded into rooms without enough desks and chairs. Girls and boys also shared the same toilets, which left little privacy or dignity for girls to manage their periods while at school.

Plan International constructed three fully-furnished school blocks. Principals and teachers also took part in training on school management, helping to improve conditions for children like Wudnesh.

And new gender-friendly latrines, including a menstrual hygiene management room, has ensured girls have safe spaces.

Safe and Sanitary

Wudnesh's school also received reusable sanitary pads for students. And new sewing machines are giving girls the skills they need to make more sanitary pads.

To go with the latrines, clean water and hand-washing stations were also installed. A water, sanitation and hygiene club is helping students learn more about the importance of hand-washing with soap to stay healthy.

Girls like Wudnesh can now safely and hygienically manage their menstruation and stay in school, helping them open the door to a brighter future.



Wudnesh studying for her exams

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,963 CHILDREN IN AMHARA

OUR PROJECTS IN AMHARA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



SEXUAL HEALTH



Young people are learning about their sexual health, and taking charge of their futures

Young people in Amhara lack access to sexual and reproductive health education. Without this knowledge, early and unwanted pregnancies occur, often leading to school dropouts and child marriage.

To help empower youth to make informed decisions about their lives and bodies, 17 peer to peer workshops were held on life skills and sexual health. 852 young women and 348 young men took part in these sessions, and also learned about gender equality and the value of girls' education.

And 91 young people completed training on how to become a peer to peer facilitator, helping to reach even more youth with this crucial knowledge.

Child protection groups also improved their knowledge on harmful traditional practices like early and forced marriage, and are working to keep girls in school. To date, seven child marriages have been stopped by these protection groups.

DIGITAL SKILLS



Information technology skills are important for future success. Rural schools in Amhara lack access to these technologies, and girls are not encouraged to gain these skills where they are available.

Schools received 40 computers, including new desks, chairs, whiteboards, printers, and other materials. And 10 teachers took part in training on coding and how to provide technical support to their students. With this training and reference books on information technology, teachers can now equip their students for the future.



96 girls and 64 boys completed a 100-hour course on digital technology and coding. New coding clubs at schools are also encouraging other girls to join and learn this skill.

"I graduated from the coding course, which introduced me to a computer. I can now design, sketch, and make animated movements using the software. My education performance has improved and I am innovating with my new coding skills."

- Amelmal (13) from Amhara

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



6%

Of students drop out of school



27%

Of people do not have access to safe water



29%

Of people are unemployed



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

- Cultural taboos around menstruation prevent girls from managing their periods with dignity. We will provide training on menstrual hygiene and promote good sanitation practices.
- We will also ensure schools have gender-friendly toilets and clean water so girls can continue learning even while they are menstruating.
- We will continue to raise awareness of girls' rights and promote gender equality.
- Youth unemployment rates remain high in Amhara. We will ensure young people get the vocational and entrepreneurship training they need to get a good job or start their own business.

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



“This year the region was challenged with conflict that caused internal displacement, damage to institutions, and psychosocial problems. With your support, we can implement development projects and emergency support. I extend my thanks to you.”

Belete Chekol

Programme Area Manager, Amhara

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