

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, more than 7,000 young people learned more about their bodies, helping them to make informed choices about their sexual health. And with the support of parents and teachers, young people are saying no to early marriages.

Youth, particularly young women, are also gaining technical and vocational skills so they can open the door to a brighter future. New village savings and loans groups are also ensuring people can access loans to start their own business and invest in their futures.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in South Ethiopia.



228

Girls completed technical training



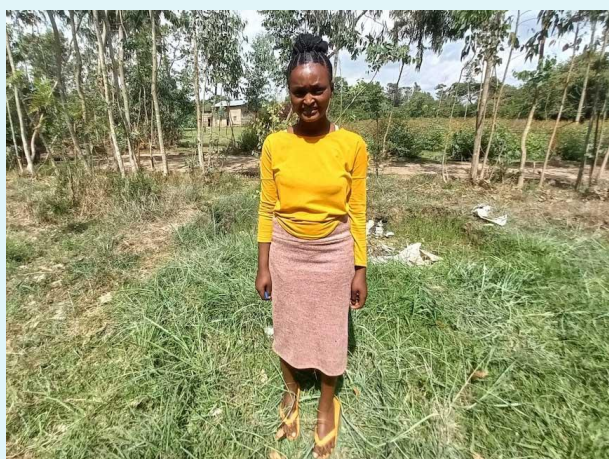
271

Youth received vocational life skill training



648

Young people trained on gender equality



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.

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 8,700 CHILDREN IN SOUTH ETHIOPIA

OUR PROJECTS IN SOUTH ETHIOPIA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



MY LIFE MY CHOICE

Youth in South Ethiopia 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, 2,137 young women and 1,850 young men took part in peer to peer workshops on sexual and reproductive health and the harms of early and forced marriage. Youth also learned about gender equality, and gained leadership skills while working with their peers.

Community conversation sessions reached another 3,675 young people, helping improve their knowledge of their health and rights. 98 schools also installed posters and billboards on saying no to child marriage.

Young people learn about their bodies and how to decide their futures at peer to peer workshops

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS



Over half of young women are unemployed in South Ethiopia. Youth, particularly girls, lack the opportunities they need to gain quality vocational or technical skills. This leaves them at risk of poverty as they become adults.

Life skills training has now been provided to 227 young women and 44 young men. Youth identified their future goals, and learned about different vocations such as information technology, clothes manufacturing, and farming.

24 youth completed training on how to manage village saving and loan groups. Currently, 100 village saving and loans groups have more than 1,300 members. By participating in these groups, members improve their financial literacy and gain leadership skills. Through accessing loans, people can start a small business and invest in their futures.



“Plan International provided me training on how to lead a village saving and loan group. Our group has 25 members. I borrowed money to start a business baking and selling bread for my neighbours. I would like to thank Plan for such important support.”

- Asfawu (23) from South Ethiopia

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



44%

Of young children are not enrolled in pre-school



58%

Of people do not have access to safe water



40%

Of girls are married before the age of 18



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

- Rates of early marriage remain high in South Ethiopia. We will continue to empower both girls and boys to make informed choices about their lives and bodies, and stand up for their rights.
- Early education is crucial for children to develop skills for future success. We will continue to raise awareness amongst parents and invest in teacher training.
- We will also ensure schools are inclusive spaces with gender-friendly toilets and hygiene facilities so girls can manage their periods and continue their education.
- Young people struggle to get a good job. We will provide training on vocational and entrepreneurship skills so youth can support themselves as they enter adulthood.

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



“With your support, we are making important contributions to people in South Ethiopia by promoting and protecting the rights of children and youth. Our primary objective is to collaborate with other organisations to improve the lives of children.”

Mesfin Seifu
Programme Area Manager, South Ethiopia

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