

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of families struggling through drought and conflict received financial support to meet their basic needs. And awareness raising campaigns reached more than 5,000 children and adults on how to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

Young children in Afar are now able to learn and play in safe and inclusive environments, thanks to new teaching methods. With positive early experiences at school, girls and boys will be able to continue their education and open the door to a brighter future.

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



22,986

Families received financial assistance



2,774

People improved knowledge on child protection



55

Teachers trained on new teaching method



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 1,284 CHILDREN IN AFAR

OUR PROJECTS IN AFAR ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Early education is crucial for children to develop a strong cognitive, emotional, and physical foundation. In Afar, many teachers do not have special training on how to teach young children in inspiring environments.

Learning through play is a powerful teaching method to help children develop a lifelong love of learning. Eight education experts completed train-the-trainer courses on how to implement learning through play. These eight individuals have now trained 55 local teachers at pre-schools and primary schools in Afar. Teachers can now create gender-equal and inclusive spaces for children to learn and play.

And 150 members of parent-teacher associations have also learned more about this teaching method, and how to monitor its progress at their schools so students can open the door to a brighter future.

Young children are building strong foundations through play at schools

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



Child protection is not well understood in Afar, and some traditional practices can cause harm to children. All children have the right to live a life free from violence and to receive nurturing and equal care.

Through community awareness events, more than 2,700 people learned more about child protection and gender-based violence. 129 members of local organisations also established new referral pathways so children experiencing violence can receive the help they need. So far, 112 children have received psychosocial, medical, and legal support.

And at 24 schools, new recreational materials are helping girls and boys build positive relationships, gain confidence, and learn about their rights through the power of sport.



“Before the training, I had no knowledge on proper child-caring practices. I learned that the tradition we have in the area is child abuse. The training has opened my eyes and I am now able to care for my children and protect others. I would like to extend my thanks to Plan.”
- Halima (40) from Afar



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



55%

Of people do not have access to safe water



76%

Of women cannot read or write



19%

Of children are not enrolled in primary school



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

- More than 90% of young children are not enrolled in pre-school. We will continue to promote early education by raising awareness amongst parents and ensuring teachers have the training they need.
- Rates of malnutrition and infant mortality remain high in Afar. We will increase access to essential health services so parents can give their children a healthy start in life.
- Around two in three young women were married before the age of 18. We will strengthen child protection mechanisms and work with parents and religious leaders to end this harmful practice.
- We will also empower girls to make informed decisions about their bodies through sexual health education.

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



“With your support, we have been providing humanitarian support for conflict and drought-affected pastoral communities of the Afar region. I would like to extend my gratitude for your contributions and commitment to improving the lives of children.”

Kassahun Assefa
Programme Area Manager, Afar

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