

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, 1,301 families in need received food and hygiene kits to help them through the challenges of COVID-19. And thousands of families are now able to grow kitchen gardens and provide nutritious food to their children.

More than 1,000 girls and boys are also empowered to stand up for their rights and say no to child marriage in their communities. And girls are overcoming taboos around menstruation while gaining the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their bodies.

We know the best is yet to come and your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Muzaffarpur.



12,307

People learnt how to prevent and treat tuberculosis



2,000

Families supported with seeds to grow kitchen



2,049

Children received school supplies and education kits



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN INDIA

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

"I was afraid to take the COVID-19 vaccine because I thought I would get sick and die. Then Plan visited our community and shared information about the vaccine and the benefits. I decided to take the first dose and I was fine. I motivated my friends, and now I am fully vaccinated. Thank you Plan International."

CASE STORY: REACHING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



NAME: TARANNUM

AGE: 12 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: READING



"I always wanted to go to a big school and do well for myself and my family, but my parents could not afford the fees and I didn't have the necessary identity papers. Plan International helped us get documents for admission, and now I am confident I can fulfil my dreams."

Meet Tarannum

Like your sponsored child, Tarannum has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Tarannum has top marks in her grade, and she's excited about what the future holds for her. She and her three siblings are all enrolled at good schools and can access government programmes, thanks to their new identity cards.

I Am Here

Tarannum's parents moved to Delhi in search of work. Her father was the only earner, and it was hard for him to make ends meet.

Government supports for income and food existed, but the family didn't have the proper identity cards. The documents were also needed for admission into secondary school.

After joining Plan International's child sponsorship programme, Tarannum learnt about the importance of having identity documents to claim her rights and access the supports she's entitled to.

Tarannum and her family now have their identity cards, and they can play an active role as full citizens in their community.

Family Support

COVID-19 has been hard on Tarannum. Her father lost his job, and it became a struggle to provide food for the family, even with government programmes.

While distributing face masks and hygiene kits to help keep children and families safe from the virus, Plan International also provided financial support. Through this support, Tarannum's parents were able to purchase nutritious food for her and her siblings.

Tarannum is dreaming big for her future, and her parents are giving her all the support she needs to reach her goals.



Tarannum on her way to school

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 2,006 CHILDREN IN MUZAFFARPUR

OUR PROJECTS IN MUZAFFARPUR ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Four girls took over local leadership positions to celebrate International Girls' Day

SAYING NO TO EARLY MARRIAGE



Child marriage cases increased during COVID-19 in Muzaffarpur as parents struggled to provide for their families. Girls are disproportionately forced into early marriage, which is a violation of their rights and prevents them from reaching their full potential.

534 girls and 474 boys, as members of children and youth groups, took part in discussions on children's rights and the harms caused by child marriage. And a mobile campaign travelled through 66 villages, reaching around 56,000 people with messages about the child marriage prohibition act.

More than 1,500 people also took part in community events to celebrate International Girls' Day and International Women's Day, where they learnt more about girls' rights and gender equality.

Young people can now stand up for their rights and say no to child marriage in their communities.

TAKING CHARGE OF OUR BODIES



Sexual and reproductive health education is limited. This leaves girls and women without the knowledge they need to manage their menstruation, or to keep themselves and their babies healthy once they become mothers.

To help girls learn more about their bodies and reduce the stigma of menstruation, communities celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day. And 85 young women have now been trained as peer educators on menstrual hygiene. So far, they have reached more than 2,500 girls to help them manage their periods with dignity.



Another 2,500 pregnant women or new mothers took part in community events raising awareness on the importance of breastfeeding, both for the health of the baby and as a benefit to maternal health.

"We participated in awareness sessions on breastfeeding, nutrition, and menstrual hygiene, and I gained knowledge on sexual and reproductive rights. Plan International also provided sanitary napkins for us, which was a great help during the pandemic."

- Shalu (15) from Muzaffarpur

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



30%

of children drop out of school



22%

of children under 5 are underweight



40%

of marriages are of children under the age of 18



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

- Child marriage rates remain high in Muzaffarpur. We will work to strengthen local child protection committees and raise awareness on girls' rights.
- Around one in three children drop out of school. We will support schools to create inclusive and inspiring learning spaces so girls and boys can continue their education.
- We will also increase access to vocational and entrepreneurship training so young people can get a good job or start their own business.
- Harmful taboos around menstruation prevent girls from playing an active role in their community. We will ensure girls have the knowledge they need about their menstrual health to take charge of their bodies.

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



"We are thankful to all who have supported us during the pandemic. Our programmes have helped support nutrition, education, child protection, and medical care. With your kind support, children can become agents of change in their communities."

Sanjiv Kumar

Programme Area Manager, Muzaffarpur

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