

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

More adults are aware of children's rights, especially the rights of girls. Communities learnt about the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and the consequences of this violation of girls' rights.

Education was a key focus this year, with increased community participation in schools. In addition, over 12,500 children are enjoying learning in child-friendly school environments, through new or renovated classrooms, with support for school health associations and connection of school water systems.

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



450

Adults learnt the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)



2160

Mothers learnt about nutrition and providing healthy meals



5713

Women participating in Village Saving & Loan Groups



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN SUDAN

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

"We adhered to the health instructions such as washing hands and social distancing, and we received the COVID-19 vaccine in the health centre in our village. The situation is now stable and there are no cases of illness and life has returned to normal and we have returned to our schools and markets."

CASE STORY: ACCESS TO SCHOOL, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



NAME: YOUSIF

AGE: 14 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: READING

"I would like to say thanks so much to Plan, you really reduced the burden from my shoulder. I used to suffer a lot before this wheelchair, now the neighbour's children and his cousins push Yousif with his wheelchair school, and I am sure he will be something when he grows up," said Asmaa, Yousif's mother.

Meet Yousif

Like your sponsored child, Yousif has been empowered by Plan International to change his life. Fourteen-year-old Yousif is a sponsored child who lives with his parents and loves reading and playing with his friends. Most people in the area where Yousif lives depend on animal breeding and agriculture, cultivating corn, cotton, beans and wheat.

Yousif's father is a farmer, and his mother takes care of the home. They live in a house with uncovered mud walls and a roof made of palm leaves. Yousif's family uses a cart to collect water from the main tank. It takes about 15 minutes to bring the water home.

A difficult path

Yousif felt different from the rest of the children his age—because of his disability, he could not go to school, despite the close distance from his home.

Yousif's family believes that all children should be educated and attend school as a basic right. Yet they struggled to offer their son this opportunity: due to their difficult circumstances, they could not provide a wheelchair to get him to school.

Education for all

Now with access to a wheelchair, Yousif attends school, claiming his right to an education and excelling at his lessons. In fact, the headmaster of Yousif's school says he always gets high scores on his exams and is among the top five students in his class.

In Yousif's community, many more projects and activities are underway to support children's right to an education. Two new school buildings are being constructed, for example. Now, every child in Yousif's community has better access to an education—and like Yousif, they have the opportunity to excel.



Yousif and his family

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 11,000 CHILDREN IN KASSALA

OUR PROJECTS IN KASSALA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



IMPROVING EDUCATION



Access to education is key to helping children, especially girls, prepare for their future. Supporting children and young people with skills in literacy and other economically marketable abilities is vital.

To help create an educational foundation for young children, two pre-school centres were supported with toys, furniture and school materials such as pencils and books. Older students trained for economic success and better job opportunities by acquiring essential market skills. In addition, 360 women aged 15-35 improved their literacy skills and utilised a village saving and loans approach to contribute to their children's education and health needs.

The project also raised awareness on child protection issues. In fact, 14 community dialogues were carried out with local authorities in seven communities, discussing the importance of girls' education, prevention of early marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

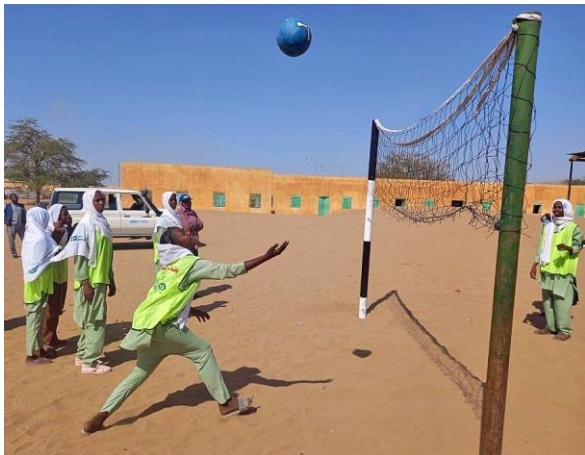
More families learnt about the importance of early education, especially for girls. Through educational access, the community also gains an awareness of child rights and child protection.

PROTECTING THE GIRLS OF SUDAN



Child marriage is common in Sudan, and 40% of women in between 20-40 years old are married before the age of 18. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is also a health concern for girls and young women.

We supported 16 communities with integrated actions to address these issues. Community activists led the discussions, suggested topics, and selected facilitators. As a result, 792 children participated in Champions of Change groups to promote gender equality, speaking out about the dangers of child marriage. As well, 115 religious and community leaders raised awareness on the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and communities advocated support of a new legal amendment prohibiting FGM.



"I have benefitted from Plan by increasing my self-confidence to make my own decisions, and now I can contribute to overcoming early marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by raising community awareness about these harmful practices."

- Nasreen (19) from Kassala

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



63%

Of the population are illiterate



57%

Of children aged 24-35 months received full immunisation



34%

Of people have access to sanitary toilets



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

- Only 55% of girls enrol in school. We will raise awareness on girls' education in targeted communities, establish girls' education clubs and work to improve school infrastructure.
- A worsening economy means an increasing number of people do not have access to basic health services. We will provide health services in four static clinics and three mobile clinics, including outpatient consultation services.
- We will continue to strengthen community child protection.
- We will support child protection groups to enforce state law regarding the prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage.

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



"With your support, children are enjoying better education, better access to safe drinking water, nutrition, improved livelihood situations. Plan will continue to advocate for policies that support child rights and prevent violence."

Mohamed Osman
Programme Area Manager, Kassala

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