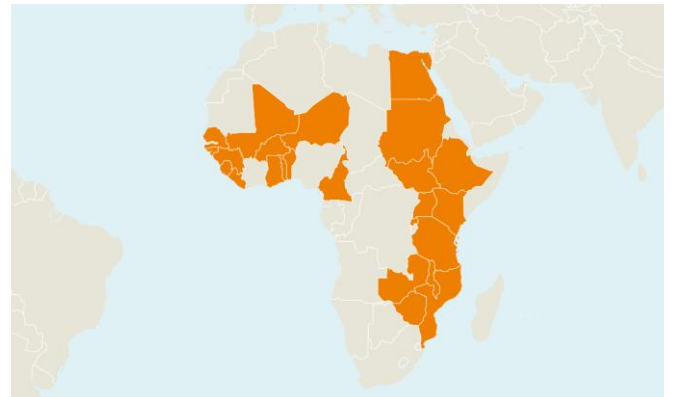


ANNUAL UPDATE

SUDAN

KASSALA



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Kassala. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

Key projects focused on responding to humanitarian needs in Sudan, where instability has impacted the lives of families and children. For example, initiatives such as Alternative Learning Programmes (ALPs) helped girls in at-risk situations continue learning. And youth improved their access to economic independence with vocational skills training and Village Savings and Loan Associations.

As a result, youth—and their families—have a more secure future.



240

Women attended literacy classes



5,498

Pupils in 12 schools supported with learning materials



200

Students benefitted from four new classrooms

“THANKS TO PLAN FOR CARING ABOUT US GIRLS AND GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE OUR EDUCATION.”

Haifa, 16-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: ZAHRA

AGE: 13 YEARS OLD

**DREAMS TO BE: A
TEACHER**

“I JOINED THE ALP CENTRE. WE HOPE TO EXPAND TO OTHER GIRLS IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, WE HOPE TO CREATE A NETWORK FOR GIRLS.”

Meet Zahra

Like the child you sponsor, Zahra is making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself. Early marriage is common in Zahra’s community, and she left school early in order to marry and live with her husband. Yet, through the Alternative Learning Programme (ALP), Zahra continues her education.

Accessing educational resources

Gender inequality, harmful social norms, and a shortage of educational materials affected Zahra’s education. Because girls and women are expected to manage the housework, there are few chances for them to join social activities or take on professional work, and they have limited power in decision-making.

Zahra was encouraged to register at the ALP centre, established by Plan in 2022. Here, she has access to books and educational materials, and a space to make friends.

The ALP facilitator linked her with the local primary school. In addition, the local health authority facilitator provided her with information about personal hygiene, family planning, and gender equality.

Changing minds, changing futures

Plan conducted informational sessions on early marriage and the consequences—especially when girls drop out of school. By providing information, youth and men also gain awareness. Discussions with Zahra’s husband led to him committing to her education.

Zahra now goes to the ALP centre regularly and joined the village youth club, where she helps raise awareness about early marriage and encourages community members to value girls’ education. She advises girls not to marry early, and to enrol in the alternative education in order to gain more knowledge and skills and prepare for a better future.



Zahra and other girls gained access to an education

OUR PROJECTS IN KASSALA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Project participants learnt marketable skills in sectors such as food processing, electricity, and mechanics. With training and support, they are able to invest in their own businesses.

EMPOWERING EMPLOYMENT



High rates of unemployment and limited job opportunities pose a challenge for young people—especially women. They are seeking to acquire skills to help them find jobs or to establish businesses.

To empower young people with marketable skills, the project focused on 100 youth ranging from 18-25 years old. Participants built their capacity through vocational training. Each trainee was supported with tools and equipment to enable them to start a business.

In addition, 240 women benefitted from a nine-month-long comprehensive literacy course. They trained on Village Savings and Loan Association methods, where participants save as a group and invest in education and small businesses. The groups also conduct awareness-raising forums in their communities.

EDUCATION FOR ALL



Education was key this year in Kassala. Initiatives focused on increasing awareness and access through Alternative Learning Programmes (ALPs) and Early Childhood Education.

Dialogues on gender norms raised awareness of girls' education with families and community leaders. Education providers and parents improved their contribution to quality learning in inclusive environments.

This year, 2,000 out-of-school children were able to access ALP opportunities. This option is especially important for girls and those in vulnerable situations. In addition, 550 children under five years old were better able to attend quality pre-primary education.

“I love going to school. In the holiday times I was able to join the alternative learning centre which is not far from my home. Through Plan interventions we will be able to achieve our dreams and realise our potential!” **–Mawahib (12) from Kassala**



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come—and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Kassala.

- 78% of girls in Sudan are affected by FGM. We will launch child protection initiatives and continue to raise awareness of the dangers of FGM by addressing community leaders, families, and girls.
- 46% of girls are married before age 16. We will provide support to the State Council for Child Welfare to train staff and develop task forces to provide resources to end this practice.
- Only 30% of children age four to five are enrolled in pre-school. We will work to improve access to pre-school with Early Childhood Education centres.

Thank you for your continued support.



“The support Sponsored Children and their families received contributed to making their lives better, and they are extending their thanks to sponsors and Plan.”

Mohamed Osman Mohamed
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment becomes long-term change—providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan’s Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



JANUARY



225

Girls formed school clubs and received training on health

FEBRUARY



100

Young people attended vocational training

MAY



4

Communities changed to solar energy water systems

NOVEMBER



150

Educators trained on modern teaching methods