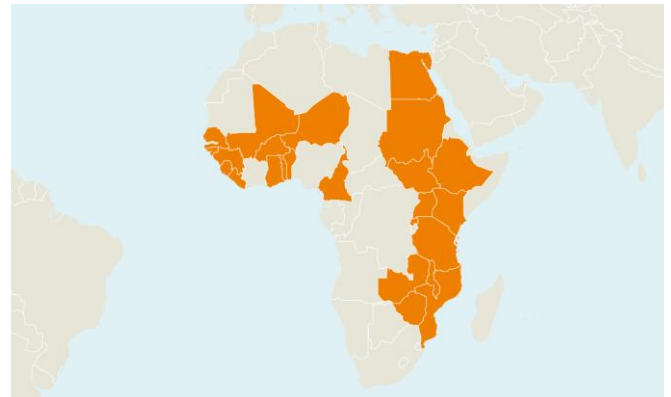


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# ETHIOPIA

## ADDIS ABABA



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

Addis Ababa is one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa. Women’s economic empowerment is key to a fair, inclusive community – so this year, projects focused on vocational training for young women, as well as access to Village Savings and Loan Associations.

Utilising modern technology to support children with disabilities was another area of focus, with pupils improving their reading, writing and numeracy skills – and building a foundation of knowledge and success.



**210**

Young people graduated from vocational schools



**68**

Tablets with augmented-reality helped pupils with disabilities



**150**

Women received financial support to start their own business

**“THANKS TO E-LEARNING AND A DIGITAL LIBRARY, MY FELLOW CLASSMATES AND I ARE ABLE TO GET A BETTER EDUCATION.”**

Melat, 15-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: GELILA**

**AGE: 8 YEARS OLD**

**DREAMS TO BE: A  
PHYSICIAN**

**“THE COLOURING BOOKS, PUZZLES AND READING BOOKS HELPED ME SO THAT I CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND MY LESSONS.”**

## Meet Gelila

**Like the child you sponsor, Gelila is taking steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself.**

Although the start of her education was delayed because of COVID-19 restrictions, Gelila is now succeeding at school. As her teacher says, “She is the class leader due to her exceptional social-emotional and academic talents.”

## Coping with COVID-19 lockdown

Gelila lives in an economically-impooverished community, where families struggle for daily survival. Most students who live on the outskirts of the city lack access to early childhood care and education. Poverty and distance make it difficult for children to attend school.

A community-based Early Childhood Care and Development Centre (ECCD) was developed by Plan Ethiopia and the Woreda education sector, to address the needs of pupils like Gelila. Yet COVID-19 forced the centre to close and pupils had to stay home. Like many children, Gelila was missing out on the start to her education. Students in her community begin first grade at age seven, and a child who falls behind in their early education often struggles to catch up.

## Accessing her right to learn

Gelila and students like her, were able to access a continuity programme to help bridge the educational gap caused by the lockdown. Access to books, posters, and games meant that children could practice reading and writing numbers and letters at home.

Gelila is now promoted to grade three. The skills she gained during lockdown empowered her with a successful start to school, which will carry on to her future. Gelila says she studies with school-mates in their free time, adding: “In the future, when I grow up, I want to be a physician to help the sick people around me.”



*Gelila is on her way to a bright future*



# OUR PROJECTS IN ADDIS ABABA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Female entrepreneurs face many challenges in financing, owning, and growing their businesses – with vocational training, they can develop skills and networks to succeed.

## TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE



**Young women face a high percentage of unemployment in Addis Ababa.** Since women are still less likely to have bank accounts, they frequently have to work outside established lending frameworks.

Promoting female entrepreneurship and supporting women with access to capital, markets and networks, is key. This year, 450 young women learned life and business skills, like creating goals and strategic thinking. In addition, 150 young women received financial support to start their own enterprises. The project also supported government programmes aimed at enhancing the working environment for women and expanding their access to markets.

Women also participated in the Village Saving Loan Association (VSLA), which enables participants to get loans, save money, and generate a profit.

## CREATING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS



**This year, inclusive educational initiatives focused on preparing children for school – with learning methodology supported by technology.**

The programme identified and addressed factors that exclude children with learning challenges. Sixteen teachers trained in the use of augmented reality (AR) learning technology to improve the reading, writing and maths skills of pre-schoolers with disabilities. In one example, two target schools received alphabet books which are used with AR to display matching graphics and sign language.

Pupils' reading, writing and maths skills improved as a result – with teachers emphasising the role the learning techniques played in the children's progress.

“Now I can identify colours, numbers and connect letters. I can do this on the school's tablet and then practice in my exercise book. Now I enjoy learning in my classroom with my school mates.”

- **Bereket (5) from Addis Ababa**



# 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 Addis Ababa.**

- Providing life and business skill training for women-headed households will help support families living in poverty and help them access economic independence.
- The physical environment of a classroom has an effect on children. Providing space for the construction of pre-primary schools, and building a school block with six classrooms and desks, will be a key initiative this year.
- School teachers will enhance their knowledge of gender-responsive, inclusive pedagogical practice this year, with additional training and resources.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“I would like to express my gratitude. Many children and their families benefited from our projects. We were able to achieve many significant results due to the support you provided.”

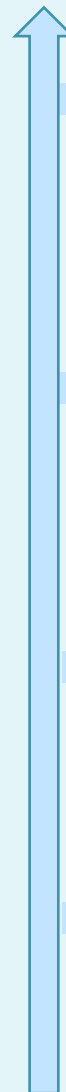
**Temesgen Elias**  
Programme Area Manager

## 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

**120**

Pupils learned menstrual hygiene management



### MARCH

**264**

Girls accessed tutorial classes to improve their performance



### APRIL

**500**

Youth learned life and business skills



### NOVEMBER

**46**

Teachers trained on gender-responsive pedagogy

