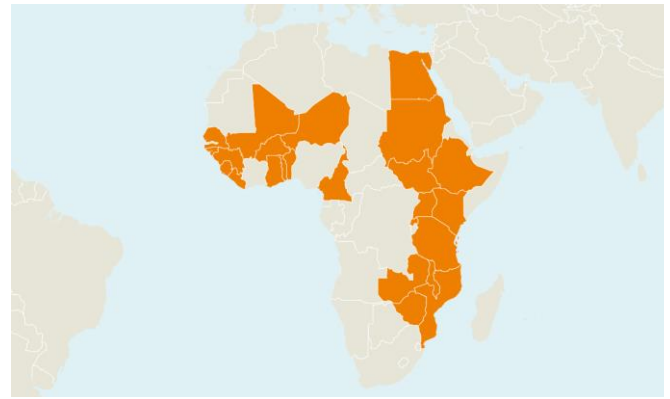


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# ETHIOPIA

## AMHARA



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

Women’s economic empowerment is key to a fair and inclusive community – so this year, it was a priority to promote the importance of girls’ education and women’s economic independence.

Advocating for better community access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities was another focus, with improved access to clean water making a difference for children and their families.



**1,200**

Young people attended life skills sessions



**1,574**

People accessed clean water from a new well and water springs



**8,936**

Scholastic materials were distributed to students

**“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 AMHARA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Improved infrastructure such as spring development constructions provided safe water supply access for 1,574 community members.

## DEVELOPING HEALTHY HYGIENE



**In Amhara, one in three schools has limited access to safe water.** This year, the focus was on creating access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services, developing healthy habits around hygiene, and building systems so communities have safe, clean water.

Governmental stakeholders participated in review sessions to monitor and manage WASH projects. Caretakers and committees improved their knowledge of WASH facility management and maintenance. In addition, 79 teachers and community administrators enhanced their knowledge of disability-inclusive WASH service.

Pupils, school leaders, parents and teachers attended peer-to-peer training. This resulted in 884 students completing the School WASH programme, which taught hygiene and sanitation behaviours – to help build healthy hygiene habits.



## EDUCATING GIRLS

**By focusing on inclusive and quality education, girls and young women gain better access to economic independence.**

This year, more than 4,200 community members mobilised to raise awareness on the importance of girls' education, and women's skills and economic empowerment. Teachers and leaders were trained on strengthening family and community understanding of the value of early learning and education, and community-based early learning.

In collaboration with government sectors, 103 young people attended vocational training, and project team and government sector staffs have provided job mentoring support for young women to develop their skills.

“The skills in entrepreneurship, and financial management, which have been a gap for girls, is crucial for life. The engagement in life skills development can help girls ensure their rights and equality.”

**- Addis (16) from Amhara**



# 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 Amhara.**

- Ethiopia is home to 15 million child brides. Life skills and empowerment for girls will continue to be a focus, along with community awareness of the consequences of early marriage.
- Only 35% of children have access to pre-primary education. Renovating and constructing pre-primary schools and building the capacity of teachers will be a key initiative this year.
- Children affected by crisis need psychosocial support. Providing support through child-friendly spaces will help address this urgent need, as will strengthened community-level child protection mechanisms.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“I am grateful for your support that helps Plan achieve women’s empowerment and saves lives in times of crisis.”

**Getinet Molla**  
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

**284**

Education experts trained in gender-responsive teaching



### MARCH

**28,000**

People benefitted from new latrines in health centres



### OCTOBER

**3,346**

People learned about open defecation-free communities



### NOVEMBER

**139**

School representatives attended peer-to-peer training on hygiene

