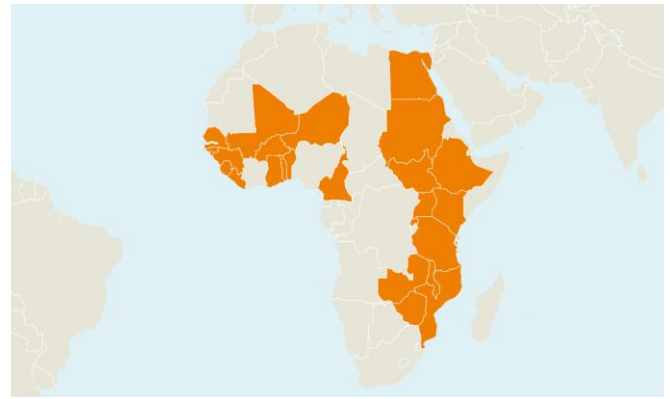


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# EGYPT

## BEHERA



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

This year, girls, adolescents and young people in Behera acted as leaders and agents of change in their communities.

Children and young people gained the knowledge and skills to adopt protective practises and promote non-violent behaviour. In addition, young women and men accessed vital employment and career opportunities with vocational training and Ready For Work sessions. As a result, young people—and their families—have a brighter, more empowered future ahead.



**100**

Girls learned about sexual and reproductive rights



**133**

Youth participated in climate advocacy



**24**

Community advocates trained on fighting gender-based violence

**“GIRLS HAVE VITAL ROLES IN THE COMMUNITY. MY DREAM IS TO MAKE PROFOUND CHANGES IN MY COMMUNITY.”**

Shrouk, 12-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: YASSMIN**

**AGE: 12**

**DREAMS TO BE: A  
UNIVERSITY STUDENT**

**“WE HAVE TO BE PERSISTENT BECAUSE OUR EDUCATION MEANS A BETTER FUTURE. I ENCOURAGE ALL GIRLS TO COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION.”**

## Meet Yassmin

Like the child you sponsor, Yassmin is making steps towards her goal and achieving lasting change. In the face of challenging circumstances and deep-seated cultural norms that do not prioritise education for girls, Yassmin has fought to go to school.

## Facing Pressures at Home

Yassmin lives with her parents and three younger siblings, whom she helps care for. Her younger sister Basmala is four years old and has muscle atrophy. Basmala's treatment was expensive; as a result, the family did not have enough money for Yassmin's education. In addition, Yassmin had to spend more time helping her mother care for Basmala. These circumstances impacted her performance at school. She was often absent and it seemed dropping out was the only way to manage the situation.

Yet by being a sponsored child, Yassmin accessed the Elder Sister intervention project, which helps girls stay in school. Here, she learned techniques to study and efficiently manage time. Psychological support and monthly follow-ups at school helped Yassmin succeed.

## An Advocate for Education

Yassmin has become more self-confident. She shared the importance of education with her parents, convincing them to let her stay in school. And now, she has become an active advocate of education for girls within her community.

Learning how to manage her time has given her the chance to make friends, practise her favourite hobbies and care for her sister while doing well at school.

Through her persistence, Yassmin will help create change in her community so that other girls can pursue their educational dreams.



*Yassmin and her friend*

# OUR PROJECTS IN BEHERA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Inclusion is central to the project, addressing the different needs of young people in all their diversity—regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sexuality or disability.

## CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION



**Children have the right to protection; yet in Behera, there is a lack of awareness about children’s rights and measures to keep them safe.** Empowering children and families with information and resources is key to helping ensure that young people can access their human rights. Art and creativity help foster awareness along with a sense of fun. This year, 600 children aged 13-14 learned about their rights through SCREAM sessions, which feature a play produced and acted by the children. In addition, 773 younger children learned about children’s rights through the Games for Human Rights project.

Peer-to-peer advocacy is powerful—and 45 young women made an impact by participating in Elder Sister training. Here, they help their peers in education and provide support for children and their families, encouraging girls’ education and discussing issues such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage.



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**Having marketable skills and career opportunities helps youth, especially women, achieve financial independence.** Through the Skills & Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme (SOYEE), young women and men access resources to achieve self-reliance and empower them with the ability to make informed decisions. This year, 60 women participated in vocational training and 152 women participated in the Enterprise Your Life project. A further 175 people, including 95 women, attended Ready For Work sessions. In fact, 555 girls and young women participated in different activities related to income-generating activities. These initiatives help improve equality for children and youth, and advocate for girls and young women to achieve economic independence and power.

“I’m a participant of SOYEE. I’ve attended sessions on Career Planning. These sessions have helped me realise my skills and abilities. I’ve learned that these skills and abilities can guide me toward my future career.” - **Zainab (15) from Behera**



# 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 Behera.**

- Many children, especially girls, are pressured or forced to drop out of school. By enrolling more children in the Protection and Education project, we can continue to emphasise the importance of education.
- Female Genital Mutilation remains a challenge for girls in Behera. Providing interventions such as Elder Sister programmes helps address harmful cultural practices.
- The rate of child marriage is 6.7%. We will continue to raise awareness of the impacts of child marriage by educating caregivers and youth.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“Plan's projects contributed to reducing the school drop-out rate and decreasing harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM. Thank you for supporting our work in Egypt.”

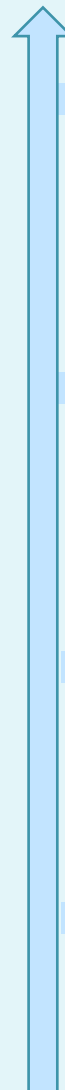
**Ahmed Mahmoud**  
Programme Area Manager

## 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



### SEPTEMBER



25

Advocates strengthened their communication skills

### FEBRUARY



15

Members of the Youth Advisory Panel supported a

### MARCH



40

Children and 20 families planted 80 fruit trees

### MAY



60

Women benefited from vocational training