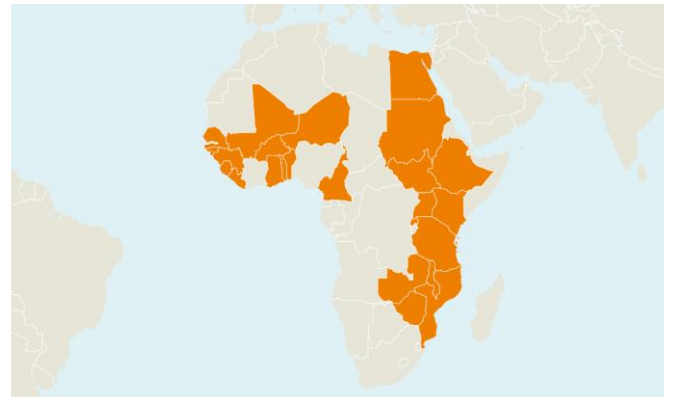


ANNUAL UPDATE

ETHIOPIA

SOUTH ETHIOPIA



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

Women’s economic empowerment is key to a fair, inclusive community – so this year, promoting the importance of education and women’s economic independence was a focus. Young women participated in vocational training, then established small businesses.

In addition, participants of the Building Green Skills project developed climate-friendly food and products in order to establish financially and economically stable futures for themselves and their families.



242

Youths completed vocational training and are now employed



231

Households grew vegetables to increase the family income



63

Parent-teacher members were trained on violence prevention

“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 SOUTH ETHIOPIA ARE HELPING CHILDREN



We have worked to strengthen Girls' clubs in 13 primary schools in our sponsorship communities in South Ethiopia.

EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE



Only 33% of women are employed in South Ethiopia, compared to 89% of men. Empowering girls and young women with education is key to overcoming this gender disparity.

For many families, paying school fees is a challenge. This year, over 200 households improved their livelihood with home-based vegetable crops. Selling the vegetables increased their income, contributing to a positive impact on their children's education.

In addition, 235 young women participated in vocational and life skills training. With the support of start-up capital such as poultry, young women were able to generate income.

In community conversation sessions, the topic of gender equality and the promotion of education helped create a stronger foundation for girls' futures.



BUILDING GREEN FUTURES



Enset, or “false banana”, is a drought-resistant staple food of South Ethiopia. Although the fruit of the plant is inedible, the stems and roots can be fermented to make porridge and bread.

This year, the Building Green Skills project empowered 380 young women with the skills and resources to produce enset and create products from enset fibre. Participants also gained market access, and generated income to support themselves and their families.

In addition, girls and young women from four communities trained on Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) methodology. Through VSLAs, participants can save and invest in their businesses, their families, and their futures.

“I am very happy to see my mother going to the market to sell her own products and earn money. This happened as a result of the training. She gained skills and knowledge and improved her income.”

- Eyerusalem (12) from South Ethiopia



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 South Ethiopia.

- 85% of youth in Ethiopia are unemployed. With vocational training and support with start-up packages and market access, unemployed and out-of-school youth will have opportunities for viable employment.
- By promoting early childhood education, renovating schools and equipping classrooms with materials, pre-school and primary school enrolment will increase.
- Hygiene in schools is vital for health and learning. With new Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools, pupils – especially girls – are more likely to attend and stay in school.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We are grateful for your support and for enabling us to make an impactful contribution to the well-being of children.”

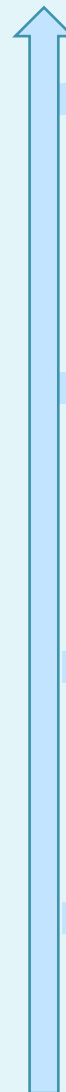
Belete Chekol
Programme Area Manager

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



90

Women joined Village savings and Loan associations

MARCH



60

Youth learned life skills for business and employment

MAY



1,140

Students benefited from new desks in 10 schools

DECEMBER



239

Households were supported with assistance for food and school fees