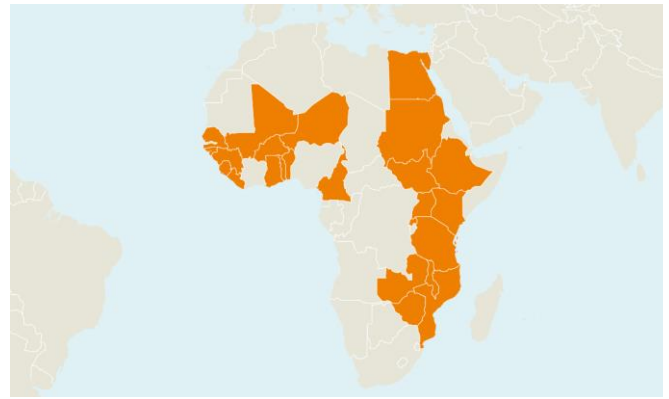


ANNUAL UPDATE

ETHIOPIA

OROMIA



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

Oromia is vulnerable to climate-change induced disasters. This year, addressing the damage caused by drought and flooding was key. In addition to immediate aid, community members were trained with resources to manage climate and disaster risks.

In addition, training, events and girls' clubs promoted gender equality and empowered girls and young women with skills and space to make their voices heard – and work toward a safer, more equitable future.



9,112

Pupils benefited from scholastic materials



36

Health workers learned about gender-based violence



87

Youth were trained in vegetable and poultry management

“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 OROMIA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



BUILDING RESILIENCE



Climate crises have been disastrous for Oromia.

Drought, landslides and floods contributed to land degradation. Malnutrition, water-borne diseases and food insecurity threaten the health of children and their families. Addressing the critical needs of children, adolescents, and young people – and supporting them with resources to mitigate climate and disaster risks – is key.

This year, community-based disaster risk management committees were established, and training was provided on themes such as extreme weather.

With the resilience-building programme, community members are empowered with resources, training and income opportunities. For example, drought-coping technology training was provided to 160 farmers. At-risk farmers in 340 households were supported with wheat and maize seed for the second-round drought resistance. In addition, youth planted trees, trained on energy-saving stove production and poultry farming. With these resources and initiatives, communities are better able to create a foundation for a more stable future.



SHE BUILDS

Improving the social status of girls and young women requires community engagement. This year, events and training sessions raised awareness of gender equality, and youth – both girls and boys – became agents of change.

For example, sports events engaged girls, promoted gender equality and addressed discriminatory gender roles. A total of 700 students participated in a volleyball match featuring 7th- and 8th-grade girls' sports clubs.

Learning life skills and resilience taught positive coping behaviours, and peer advocacy spread the knowledge through school clubs. Boys and males were actively engaged and participated in campaigns on positive masculinity and gender equality.

“In my community, the social status of girls and young women is very low. Their participation and voice are not heard well. Thanks to the program called She Leads, we are organised as an association to meaningfully participate on issues.” - **Milyone (16) from Oromia**



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 Oromia.

- In Oromia, secondary school enrolment rate is only 19%. To increase enrolment, schools are invested with educational materials, and teachers are training in active learning methodology.
- Youth unemployment is high, especially for young women. This year, entrepreneurship training and seed capital will empower young people with economic opportunities.
- Child marriage rates are declining – but still concerning. By building the capacity of government law enforcement agencies and services, girls will be better protected from early marriage and its consequences.

Thank you for your continued support.



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

Mekonnen Dilbo
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

1.200

Students in three districts benefited from new desks



MARCH

37

Youth were empowered to start small businesses



OCTOBER

20

Teachers were trained on active learning methods



DECEMBER

8

Schools were equipped with digital libraries

