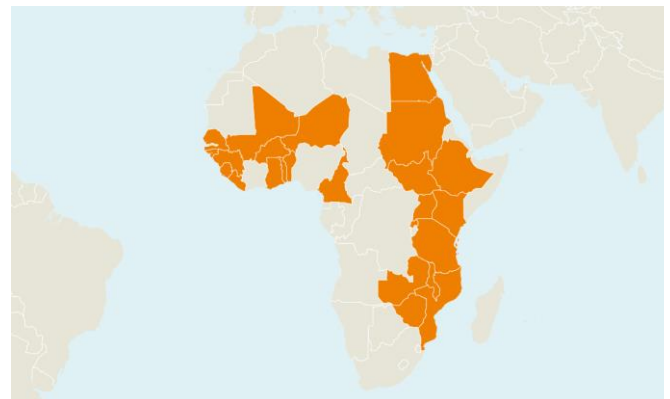


ANNUAL UPDATE

EGYPT

ASSIUT



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

This year, children, young people and parents learned more about the importance of children’s rights. Parents implemented positive parenting methods and gained awareness of the importance of education and the risks of early marriage. At the same time, youth in Assiut advocated for change in their communities, raising awareness of the effects of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence. As a result of their advocacy, young people—and their families—have a brighter, more empowered future ahead.



608

Caregivers learned about gender equality



456

Boys and men learned positive masculinity



256

Girls participated in Elder Sister sessions

“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 YEARS OLD

**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 ASSIUT ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



The project explores how gender norms influence children's lives, and how young people can challenge stereotypes in order to make informed decisions about their health and rights.

FIGHT AGAINST FGM



Knowledge and awareness are key to empowering young people—especially young women—to make educated decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Many youth in Assiut lack information on these subjects, especially Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

This year, however, young people in Assiut gained information about their rights, and advocated for change in their communities. In fact, 231 young people aged 14-24 participated in a 4-day-long training session on gender rights, early marriage, and FGM. The workshops empowered participants with the knowledge and skills to support women's rights and adopt positive masculinity. In addition, young people called for the end of FGM through social campaigns. Community members learned about the effects of FGM through door-to-door visits, text messages and radio clips, as youth raised awareness for themselves and their neighbours.



CHILD PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE



Children deserve to grow up in a healthy environment, free from violence and abuse. The child protection programme focuses on empowering children and youth with educational and psychological resources, as well as supporting families with positive parenting methods and child protective sessions. Both adults and children learned the importance of children's rights. This year, 877 parents increased their knowledge of child protection, and 309 learned methods for positive discipline. This helped change attitudes toward behaviours such as bedwetting. Over 500 children attended "Live Different" activities sessions, enhancing their knowledge of their rights and equality. 1,543 pupils attended reading and writing activities, helping them to stay engaged and continue on their path to an education.



"I have learned many things from the sessions...my life has changed to the better. Now, I have a dream and I hope to achieve it, as I want to be a pediatrician. I'm thinking about my future." - **Shahd (12) from Assiut**

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 Assiut.

- The poverty rate in Assiut is 66.7%. Creating economic empowerment opportunities for young people is key to helping them overcome obstacles.
- 86% of married women have experienced Female Genital Mutilation. That rate is 10% higher in rural areas. We will continue our campaigns to increase awareness of women's and girls' rights and engage community leaders.
- Promoting the engagement and leadership of young people in decision-making spaces will help foster sustainable change. We will create participatory platforms and provide youth with the opportunities to make their voices heard.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We supported hundreds of families to understand the negative impact of violence against women. We promise to do our best for girls and women in Assiut.”

Esraa Abdelgaber
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



OCTOBER

1190

Youth participated in entrepreneurial training



DECEMBER

362

Young women attended awareness sessions



JANUARY

118

Women participated in vocational training



MARCH

200

Young business owners accessed funding

