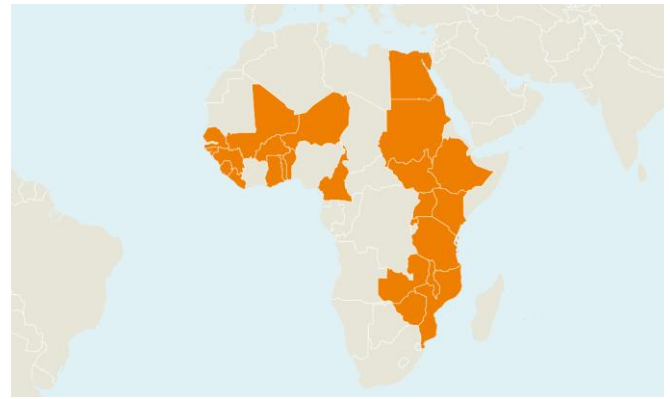


ANNUAL UPDATE

EGYPT

SOHAG



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

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

Young people advocated for gender equality, girls' safety, and sexual and reproductive health and rights—helping to make their futures safer and more equitable. In addition, training and leadership opportunities supported youth to make informed decisions about their life.

As a result of their advocacy, young people have a brighter, more empowered future ahead.



328

Teachers learned new early education methods



185

Girls participated in Sports Day activities



1138

Adolescents learned about sexual and reproductive rights

“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 SOHAG ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



The “Say No to Harassment” campaign included activities such as sports days, where families and community members supported young women in their quest for a healthier, more equitable future.

GIRLS LEAD PROJECT



Harmful cultural norms mean that many girls in Sohag face harassment and discrimination, and lack access to leadership roles. Education, awareness and opportunities are the keys to change. This year, adolescents and youth—particularly girls—took actions to contribute to a more equitable future: they learned about and advocated for gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and girls’ safety.

And this year, they had a greater voice in public decision-making at all levels. In fact, 1,106 women and 448 men advocated for an end to early marriage through the “Say Enough to Harassment” campaign, which included sports activities, awareness seminars and meetings with teachers and religious leaders. In addition, 20 youth leaders were trained on climate change mitigation and gender rights. After that, they implemented twelve sessions to educate over 500 adults and children.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Having marketable skills and financial knowledge helps young women achieve economic independence. Through the Skills & Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme (SOYEE), youth can access information and resources to achieve self-reliance and the ability to make informed decisions about their future.

This year, 308 female entrepreneurs learned about self-employment. An additional 214 women gained awareness of financial service providers and more than 250 women attended seminars on the needs of the labour market. A further 100 women mastered technical skills through craft training. In addition, 168 girls studied financial education and life skills, strengthening their economic empowerment for the future.

“I made a budget for expenses after attending a session about this topic. I also talked to my mom about the budget and how to organise household expenses.” - **Nada (13) from Sohag**



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 Sohag.

· Girls and young women are vulnerable to gender-based violence such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). We will continue our awareness campaigns with children, youth and parents to work toward eradicating FGM.

· A lack of jobs and market knowledge hinders women's economic independence. Through our ongoing Community Economic Empowerment Programme, initiatives provide training for female entrepreneurs.

· Difficulty in reading and writing is a main reason why children drop out of school. Improving children's literacy is key; interventions through Elder Sister sessions and educational support will help make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support.



"We see positive change in the relationship between children and their parents. Child marriage and FGM decreased last year, as a result of our interventions."

Mamdouh Ashmallah
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

1100

Children benefited from reading classes



NOVEMBER

593

Mothers learned about child protection



JANUARY

214

Women learned about financial inclusion



MARCH

100

Women mastered marketable craft skills

