

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# INDIA

# MUZAFFARPUR



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

This year, children and youth acted as leaders in their communities. In support of healthcare initiatives, peer educators shared information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, fostering communication and breaking taboos.

Students gained better access to education this year, as children improved their learning levels in maths, science and English, and transitioned from primary to secondary school. As a result, young people and their families have a brighter, healthier future ahead.



**602**

Pupils formed 43 Child Cabinets in student government



**4,352**

Youth reached through Peer Educator sessions



**841**

Education kits distributed for maths and science

**“PLAN IDENTIFIED ME AS VULNERABLE TO CHILD MARRIAGE. (THEN) I WAS ENROLED IN CLASS. I AM HAPPY AND THANKFUL.”**

Aarati, 14-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: KANCHAN**

**AGE: 19 YEARS OLD**

**DREAMS TO BE: A  
POLICE OFFICER**

**“MY PARENTS SACRIFICED A LOT. IT IS TIME I START WITH SOMETHING THAT SUPPORTS MY JOURNEY.”**

## Meet Kanchan

**Like the child you sponsor, Kanchan is taking steps towards achieving her goals.**

Kanchan is an outstanding student who loves to read. Her favourite subject is history, and she's passionate about Indian culture. And in the face of cultural norms that don't prioritise education for girls, Kanchan is on the path to a bright future.

## Facing Obstacles — With Support

Kanchan's large family didn't believe girls need to attend higher education and discouraged her from taking Service Commission exams to get a government job.

Yet Kanchan is active in her Plan India community. She participated in the International Day of the Girl Takeover Event, and has a leadership position. She also has access to Plan India's Paramarsh resources.

Paramarsh is a unique service for career guidance and counselling services, enabling at-risk young women like Kanchan to make informed life choices. Through the programme, Kanchan and her parents participated in a series of dialogues to help facilitate a supportive environment for Kanchan to pursue her dreams.

## Leading by Example

Yet even with her parents' eventual approval and Kanchan's acceptance into college, the financial obstacles were still high. Through Paramarsh resources, Kanchan was able to start her academic journey towards higher education: She received a scholarship from the International School of Canada for a 6-month-long course. Now Kanchan is enrolled as an undergraduate in Political Science with Honours from the School of Open Learning University.

In leading by example, Kanchan will help create change in her community so that other girls can pursue their dreams.



*Kanchan is a role model*



# OUR PROJECTS IN MUZAFFARPUR ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



More than 4,300 adolescents learned about sexual and reproductive health and rights at UMGANG centres.

## IMPROVING HEALTH SERVICES



There are 253 million adolescents in India — many of whom lack information and resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Without this knowledge, young people are susceptible to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

Education and resources are key. The UMGANG Project empowers children and youth with comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health and rights. It creates widespread awareness, and helps break the taboos around health and rights, and bridges the communication gap between adolescents and their parents.

In Muzaffarpur, 10 knowledge and awareness centres were established in communities to provide healthcare resources. In addition, 49 peer educators shared information about sexual and reproductive health and rights, challenging gender discrimination and fostering open dialogue.



## EDUCATION FOR ALL

Supporting children's access to education is vital. This is especially important for children from marginalised communities, or children who are the first generation in their families to attend school.

Project Shikshantar prioritises the educational development of adolescent girls, identifying and engaging girls who may face challenges because of gender and poverty.

Through the programme's supplementary learning support and educational materials initiatives, at-risk students were empowered to access, continue and complete their secondary school education and transition to senior secondary school. As a result, the learning levels of over 3,600 children improved in maths, science and English.

"I am glad to study in Plan India's learning centre. Through the learning centre, I placed first division with 406 of 500 marks. All this was possible only because of the teachers at the school, my parents and my peers at Plan India." - **Chandani (16) from Muzaffarpur**



# 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 Muzaffarpur.**

- Only 55% of mothers received postnatal care from a healthcare professional within two days of delivery. We will continue to advocate for healthcare services for mothers and infants, and work to support improved services, staffing and infrastructure at existing facilities.
- 40% of girls age 20-24 years old marry before age 18. We will continue to raise awareness of the impacts of child marriage through education and advocacy.
- Many students do not transition to secondary school. We will continue to support students, school management committees and parents to increase retention in schools.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“Our donors have supported us in our endeavour to create a safe and equal world for adolescents and youth. We at Plan India are deeply indebted.”

**Sanjiv Kumar**  
Programme Area Manager

## THE PLAN EFFECT



**Your sponsorship commitment is turned into effective 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



**JULY**

**5347**

People learned about inclusive education



**NOVEMBER**

**743**

Children celebrated the Child Creative Festival



**DECEMBER**

**270**

Parents advocated for school enrolment and attendance



**MAY**

**1868**

Water storage buckets distributed to families

