

ANNUAL UPDATE

BANGLADESH

DHAKA



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

In the urban slums of Dhaka, the needs of girls and boys are often overlooked. But over the last year, more than 2,000 young people gained new skills to help them make informed decisions about their bodies and to take charge of their lives.

Parents and community members are also coming together to keep children safe and to give girls and boys the best possible start in life through early learning centres.



2,400

Children supported through Early Learning centers



2,148

Children developed their life skills



1,378

Fathers trained in gender equality

“I FELT ASHAMED OF MY PERIOD. THEN I ATTENDED A TRAINING ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND LEARNED IT IS NORMAL.”

Somapti, 14 years old





NAME: SHAHIDA

AGE: 8

DREAMS TO BE:

TEACHER

“I LEARNED THAT EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR STANDING UP ON MY OWN. I WOULD LIKE TO BE A TEACHER, AND I AM CONFIDENT I WILL BE ABLE TO FULFIL MY DREAM.”

Meet Shahida

Like the child you sponsor, Shahida is taking steps toward achieving her goals.

Shahida lives in a remote village with her grandparents. She loves to cuddle with the baby goats in her village, and dreams of becoming a teacher one day.

Learning With Others

Shahida's parents had to move to the city to find work, taking her younger sister with them. While Shahida loves her grandparents, she misses the rest of her family. Her grandparents try their best, but Shahida is often left by herself while they are out working and she feels lonely.

But when Shahida joined Plan International's sponsorship programme, her world grew bigger. With her grandmother, Shahida took part in sessions on the importance of education. She started to attend the early childhood centre, learning and playing with young children in her community.

Bright Future

Shahida loves taking part in the fun activities at the Early Childhood Centre. And she's taking this passion for learning into the rest of her life. With the support of Plan's community volunteer, Shahida has new educational materials and a drive to continue her studies.

And Shahida is now surrounded with new friends. She enjoys writing letters to her sponsor and being with other children. Her grandparents are also more supportive and encouraging after learning some positive parenting practices. Shahida is looking forward to her future and fulfilling her dreams.



Shahida is focused on her studies

OUR PROJECTS IN DHAKA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Girls and boys in Dhaka are able to learn and play at early childhood learning centres

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



For families in Dhaka, accessing quality early childhood care can be a challenge. Many early childhood teachers take off for other opportunities, leaving big gaps for the children and parents left behind.

At 80 early learning centres, 314 youth volunteers completed training on how to facilitate gender-friendly learning and play for young children. Training sessions also reached current facilitators, ensuring that 2,400 children can attend these safe and inspiring centres.

160 parenting groups were created, helping to bring new mothers together to support each other as they raise their children. And through father groups, 1,378 fathers gained skills in nurturing care, positive parenting, and gender equality.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION



In Dhaka, girls and boys lack opportunities to learn about their rights and take on active roles in their communities. And negative gender norms often see girls at risk of gender-based violence.

To help empower youth to take charge of their futures, hundreds of young people joined youth groups. 140 young women and 38 young men completed training sessions on how to access loans, start a business, or get a good job.

And 2,148 children took part in life skills training, where they learned about gender equality, reproductive health, and their right to live a life free from violence. With these skills, children have the confidence to stand up for their rights, advocate for their peers, and achieve their dreams.

“I learnt a lot through involving myself in different activities, especially as an active member of the youth group. I thank Plan International for giving me the support to develop myself.”

Romjan (15) from Dhaka



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 Dhaka.

Access to quality education remains a challenge in Dhaka. We will establish alternative education support centres and provide learning materials so children can open the door to a brighter future.

Around 30% of girls are married before the age of 15. We will raise awareness on the harms of early marriage, and provide sexual and reproductive health training to both girls and boys so they can take charge of their bodies.

Many families in the slums of Dhaka continue to live in poverty. We will support young people to gain entrepreneurship skills and create linkages with microfinance groups so they can invest in their dreams.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We are thankful to our sponsors for their continuous support that contributes in bringing positive changes to the lives of children and youth, especially girls.”

Ashik Billah
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.

IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



JANUARY

385

Children monitored for healthy growth



FEBRUARY

280

Young people took part in youth programme planning



MAY

178

Youth gained entrepreneurship skills



AUGUST

68

Children trained on child protection

