

ANNUAL UPDATE

BANGLADESH

BARGUNA



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

In the rural areas of coastal Barguna, early and forced marriage continues to be a common practice. Over the last year, more than 3,000 young people were empowered to stand up for their rights and advocate for gender equality.

Parenting groups and training sessions are helping parents gain new skills so they can send their children to school, access quality health care, and earn a good living. Thousands of girls and boys are now growing up in safer and more healthy environments.



1,000

Fathers joined parenting groups



108

Schools equipped with menstrual hygiene supplies



5,358

Children received annual health check-ups

“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 Dhaka 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 BARGUNA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Thousands of children in Barguna received alternative education support to address the learning gap during the pandemic

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS



Many parents in Barguna lack awareness of the importance of early childhood development. The early years of life are crucial for children to develop cognitive, social, and physical skills.

To help children grow up healthy, 2,849 girls and 2,535 boys from families struggling with poverty received annual health check-ups. Parents are now able to access government health centres on a regular basis, ensuring their children have the health care they need.

Through different training sessions, 785 parents gained new skills on positive parenting practices. A further 1,000 parents also learned more about gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence in the home. With this new knowledge, mothers and fathers can give their children a better start in life.

MY BODY, MY FUTURE



Child marriage rates continue to be high in Barguna. Cultural norms, household poverty, and limited access to education are key factors which sees many girls forced into an early marriage.

Through Champions of Change training sessions, 1,813 girls and 1,505 boys learned about gender equality, children's rights, and the harms caused by early marriage.

And members of youth clubs also recorded radio programmes to share these messages, reaching 60,000 people. Young people are now empowered to stand up for their rights and advocate for change in their communities.

“By attending Champions of Change sessions, I learned about sexual health and the negative effects of early marriage. I am better equipped to make informed decisions about my life.”

Tithi (13) from Barguna



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 Barguna.

Around 30% of young people aged 15 to 29 are not in education or employment. We will ensure youth have access to technical training, and provide start-up support so they can start their own business and earn a living.

Barguna has one of the highest rates of child marriage in Bangladesh. We will raise awareness of the harms of child marriage, and empower girls and boys to advocate for change in their communities.

We will also ensure girls and boys can make informed decisions about their bodies with training on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We are supporting sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents in Barguna. Thank you for supporting children’s development.”

Neelima Yasmeen
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

438

Pregnant women received maternal care



MARCH

3,318

Young people trained as Champions of Change



AUGUST

33

Youth gained employment after technical training



SEPTEMBER

2,555

Children received alternative education support

