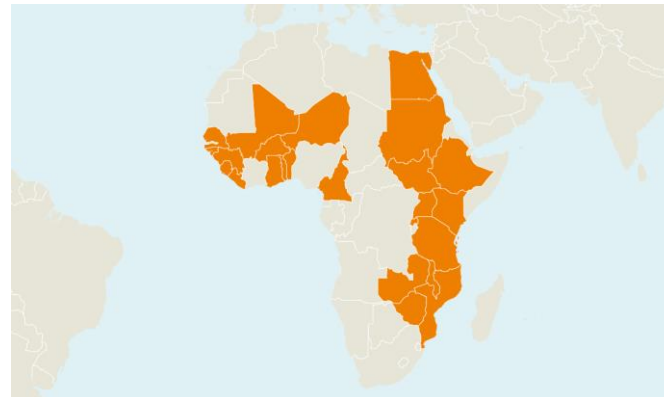


ANNUAL UPDATE

ETHIOPIA

AFAR



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

Climate change has increased the frequency and severity of climate-related disasters in the Afar area. Unreliable rainfall and severe drought in this arid region are a danger to livelihoods and food security. Addressing the humanitarian needs of drought-affected children and their families was key.

Access to a quality education remains a top priority. Initiatives to create a safe educational environment for students, especially girls, addressed gender inequality and empowered students to prepare for their futures.



7,070

Caretakers of small children received nutrition counseling



1,543

Refugee and host school students received school supplies



2,597

Children with malnutrition received treatment

“THANKS TO E-LEARNING AND A DIGITAL LIBRARY, MY FELLOW CLASSMATES AND I ARE ABLE TO GET A BETTER EDUCATION.”

Melat, 15-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: GELILA

AGE: 8 YEARS OLD

**DREAMS TO BE: A
PHYSICIAN**

“THE COLOURING BOOKS, PUZZLES AND READING BOOKS HELPED ME SO THAT I CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND MY LESSONS.”

Meet Gelila

Like the child you sponsor, Gelila is taking steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself.

Although the start of her education was delayed because of COVID-19 restrictions, Gelila is now succeeding at school. As her teacher says, “She is the class leader due to her exceptional social-emotional and academic talents.”

Coping with COVID-19 lockdown

Gelila lives in an economically-impooverished community, where families struggle for daily survival. Most students who live on the outskirts of the city lack access to early childhood care and education. Poverty and distance make it difficult for children to attend school.

A community-based Early Childhood Care and Development Centre (ECCD) was developed by Plan Ethiopia and the Woreda education sector, to address the needs of pupils like Gelila. Yet COVID-19 forced the centre to close and pupils had to stay home. Like many children, Gelila was missing out on the start to her education. Students in her community begin first grade at age seven, and a child who falls behind in their early education often struggles to catch up.

Accessing her right to learn

Gelila and students like her, were able to access a continuity programme to help bridge the educational gap caused by the lockdown. Access to books, posters, and games meant that children could practice reading and writing numbers and letters at home.

Gelila is now promoted to grade three. The skills she gained during lockdown empowered her with a successful start to school, which will carry on to her future. Gelila says she studies with school-mates in their free time, adding: “In the future, when I grow up, I want to be a physician to help the sick people around me.”



Gelila is on her way to a bright future

OUR PROJECTS IN AFAR ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Primary caregivers of infants received nutrition counselling, and 50 mother-to-mother support groups were created and supported to provide information and resources to fight malnutrition.

SAVING LIVES WITH NUTRITION



Climate crises have been disastrous for Afar. Climate change has resulted in drought, devastating the livelihoods of families in the area. Malnutrition is a key concern.

Initiatives addressed the increasing humanitarian needs among conflict and drought-affected children and their families. Immediate and short-term emergency nutrition assistance focused on life-saving treatment and care.

Health and stabilisation centres in clinics and hospitals provided life-saving services. More than 60,000 children were screened for physical deterioration, and the needs of 2,597 children with severe acute malnutrition were addressed. Over 48,000 children received Vitamin A supplementation, while 4,891 pregnant women received iron and folic acid supplementation. In ten districts, we distributed life-saving supplies to ensure zero-stock-out of supplies to help address these needs.



ACCESSING EDUCATION



Access to a quality education is key, yet remains a challenge for many girls in Afar. The educational development programme strives to build a foundation in inclusive education, enhancing children's self-reliance and strengthening their chances for the future.

As a result of these initiatives, primary school students now attend class in two newly-constructed classrooms. In addition, 376 adolescent girl students at two schools benefited from access to hygiene and sanitary supplies.

To help younger children access a strong start to school, existing Early Childhood Centres, pre-primary classes, and community-based early learning programmes were equipped with indoor and outdoor playing materials and teaching aids.

“I was concerned about dust-related respiratory disease and other illnesses. However, the rooms have been renovated and the chairs and tables completed in the classrooms. As a result, I am happy to send my daughter to school.” - **Mayerem (40) from Afar**



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 Afar.

- The prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Afar is 91%. This year, every project must speak out about the risks and realities of FGM by providing training to communities, health workers, children and teachers.
- 66% of girls in Afar are married before age 18. By working to challenge harmful gender norms will be key, as will working with religious leaders, traditional elders, parents, men, boys and girls in raising their awareness of about the harmful effects of child marriage
- Food insecurity remains a challenge. School meal programmes, livelihood programmes and food assistance will help support families and their children.

Thank you for your continued support.



“I would like to express my gratitude. Many sponsored children and their families benefited from our projects. We were able to achieve many significant results due to your support.”

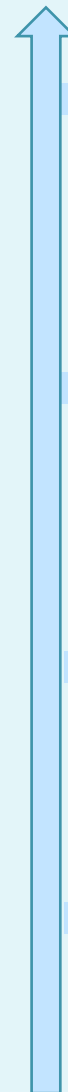
Kassahun Assefa
Programme Area Manager

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



FEBRUARY



61,668

Children screened for physical deterioration

MARCH



27

Teachers attended workshops to enhance their knowledge

NOVEMBER



40,576

People were reached with key nutrition information

DECEMBER



37

Health facilities were revitalised for outpatient services