

ANNUAL UPDATE

BANGLADESH

KURIGRAM



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

Kurigram is vulnerable to frequent floods, and a storm last year caused widespread damage to lives and livelihoods. To help those impacted, more than 1,200 women received cash support so they could feed their children and repair their houses.

Young people learned about their rights, gender equality and the harms of early marriage. They are standing up against this practice and taking charge of their futures.



1,035

Girls can use gender-friendly toilets at schools



50

Early learning centres were established



9,600

Young people 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: A
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 KURIGRAM ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Young people in Kurigram are standing up for their rights and taking charge of their futures

MY BODY, MY FUTURE



Early marriage rates continue to be high in Kurigram. 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, 670 girls and 442 boys learned about gender equality, children's rights, and the harms caused by early marriage. And members of 31 youth clubs organised awareness campaigns in their communities to prevent early and forced marriages.

600 young women completed technical and entrepreneurship training related to the agriculture sector. With these new skills, they can grow or manufacture goods and earn a good income.

THRIVING THROUGH DISASTER



In June last year, a devastating flash flood in Kurigram caused widespread destruction and disruption in the lives of families. In the aftermath of disaster, children and women are at a higher risk of violence. And they are often excluded or overlooked in the provision of emergency assistance.

To help people meet their basic needs and recover after the flood, Plan International distributed unconditional cash support, food kits and water to vulnerable families. Families with children, headed by women, living with disabilities, or facing extreme poverty, were specifically selected for this cash support.

“My family received cash support after the flood. My mother purchased educational materials for me, which made me happy. Thanks to Plan for the enormous support and helping me continue my education.”

Taslina (8) from Kurigram



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 Kurigram.

Many people in Kurigram struggle to earn a good income and provide for their families. We will support parents with livelihood programmes so they can make a living and care for their children.

Not many girls are involved in youth clubs, leaving them without opportunities to gain confidence and take on leadership roles. We will continue to create new groups and encourage both girls and their parents to take part.

Around half of youth are married before the age of 18. We will continue to raise awareness on the harms of early marriage and empower young people to advocate for change in their communities.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thank you for your contribution to the children of Kurigram. I hope community engagement and good rapport with government will help us achieve our goals.”

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



259

Youth took part in annual sports sessions

SEPTEMBER



733

Children received an annual health check-up

NOVEMBER



3,456

Students completed drills to train on disaster preparedness

DECEMBER



30

Community members attended workshops on gender-friendly schools