

Amhara Ethiopia

Positive changes are happening in Amhara. Learn more about how we're supporting children and girls' rights through our collaborative, equality-driven work.

As a result of internal conflicts, hunger crisis and a large number of refugees in the country, millions of people, especially children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. We work according to a response plan to support children and families through preventive measures to reduce the risk of sexual and gender-based violence. We work with psychosocial support, protection, and with nutrition and cash assistance for those affected by the extreme drought. More than one million people have received humanitarian aid.

Achieving economic independence is a crucial aspect of the fight for girls' rights and equality. However, traditional norms and legal barriers often hinder women from fully participating in economic activities alongside men. Through entrepreneurship and technical training we work with girls and young women to acquire skills to earn their own income.

**"After I complete grade 12, I want to join university and become a doctor, so I can help others around me."
Betelihem, 14, Sponsored Child**



Plan invest in programmes that empower girls.

Impact in Numbers

2,450

**youth provided
sexual health
services**

14,116

**people trained in
sexual and
reproductive health**

1,004,953

**people in Ethiopia
have received
humanitarian aid**

Education Opening Up Doors



NAME:

Birtukan

AGE:

12 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

A doctor

“Thanks to Plan, we have school supplies, free medical services, and teacher training, combined desks, which has improved learning environment in schools.”



Meet Birtukan

Birtukan, a 12-year-old sixth grader from South Ethiopia, lives with her parents, two sisters, and three brothers. After school, she supports her family by tending to the cattle, preparing coffee, cleaning the floors, and fetching water from the river. Their livelihood relies heavily on subsistence farming.

Birtukan dreams of excelling academically and using her success to support her family, community, and society.

Financial Barriers to Education

Due to a low harvest, farmers and their families, including Birtukan's, are struggling financially. As a result, they can't afford the high costs of educational materials, which makes it difficult to support their children's education.

Until about a year ago, Birtukan's parents worked daily to support the family, requiring Birtukan and her siblings to stay home and care for younger siblings. This frequently caused them to miss classes and tests.

Supporting Education

To help families like Birtukan's send their children to school, Plan is partnering with the government to offer savings and loan training. They provide savings kits to groups for managing savings and accessing loans.

Birtukan's family is earning income through small trading activities, such as buying and selling butter. Hence, Birtukan is able to attend school, participate in her lessons, and work towards her dream of becoming a doctor.



Birtukan, playing with a friend.

We Work With 7,627 Sponsored Children in Amhara

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Improving Girls' Health

In Amhara, early child marriages and lack of sexual health knowledge leads to unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and increased risk of HIV and other infections, negatively impacting the health and future economic opportunities of young girls and women.

To support young women and girls with sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), as well as key life and employment skills, Plan collaborated with the community to establish a Smart Up Centre in Amhara. There, we trained youth in life skills, entrepreneurship, SRHR, and basic computer skills.

Additionally, girl leaders from 10 kebele schools were trained in menstrual hygiene, learning to produce quality reusable sanitary pads and make the packages appealing. Savings groups are the first step to financial inclusion as they provide a mechanism to save money while building financial knowledge and skills. Therefore VSLA groups members benefited from access to financial services.



Youth participating in Smart Up Centre's vocational training activities.

800

students trained in SRHR



Young people were trained in sewing to start their own businesses.



Zeyneb, 25, in Amhara.

Skills to Succeed

Young people from vulnerable groups in Amhara, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and local communities, struggle to find jobs due to a lack of skills, money, and access to sexual and reproductive health services.

To support economic initiatives with a focus on young women, Plan collaborated with the community to train 2,000 young people, including 1,148 women, in key life and employability skills. This training aimed to improve motivation and confidence in seeking jobs. After the training, the participants identified their employment preferences based on criteria for either self-employment or wage employment.

Additionally, through the Be Your Own Boss training initiative, we supported 1,225 young people in acquiring the skills needed to start and manage their own businesses.

“After the training, I received startup capital and was able to start my own small retail business, mainly selling prepared food items. Now, I am happy to be earning money.” Zeyneb, 25, from Amhara.

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Plan works to ensure free, high-quality education for children.

Together, we're working to create a more just world.

The Amhara region has the highest child marriage rates in Ethiopia, with about 45% of girls marrying before 18. Next year, Plan will continue to raise awareness about the negative impacts of child marriage and strengthen child protection mechanisms.

Conflict and high poverty have led to nearly 2.6 million children being out of school in Amhara. Next year, Plan will support quality education services, including renovating classrooms, and supporting teacher training.

Political conflict has impacted children in Amhara. Next year, Plan will advocate for more psychosocial support and recreational activities for children through child-friendly spaces.

Message from Plan Staff

"Amhara has been impacted by multiple crises, such as conflicts and drought, which have directly affected children, women, and vulnerable people. With your support, we have been able to assist young girls and women through development and humanitarian projects. Thank you."



Getinet M,
Programme Area
Manager,
Amhara

The Plan Effect

Sponsored children are at the centre of everything we do, and they help plan our programmes based on what's important to them. Sponsors' donations are a gateway into a community. This helps build trust and credibility to attract even more funds from new sources. This makes more sustainable programmes possible in sponsorship communities. This powerful synergy is something we call The Plan Effect.

Progress in Numbers

1,395

**youth granted
seed money for
startups**

19

**health workers
trained in sign
language**

1,600

**brochures about
sexual health and
rights distributed**

7

**pre-schools
constructed**