

Behera

Egypt

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

Due to the ongoing conflicts and instability in Sudan and the Gaza Strip, Egypt is becoming a significant destination for refugees from the neighbouring regions. It is extremely crucial to protect and support human rights through migration, however, it is still causing significant pressure on the country's limited resources. Amid these challenges, communities in Behera continue to strengthen the facilities for young people and their families.

For example, through vocational training and skill development projects, hundreds of families now have access to supplementary income. Many such initiatives empower young girls and their families in finding jobs, eliminating gender-based violence like FGM and child marriage, which are common practices in Behera, and striving to create gender equality and balance in the region.

"Attending the Champions of Change sessions helped me understand gender issues and challenge the practice of female genital mutilation in my community." -Salsabil (14)



Children celebrating International Day of the Girl.

Impact in Numbers

114

parents know the needs of children with disabilities

310

youth attended psycho-social support sessions

255

teen girls attended sex education sessions

I Draw the Future Myself



NAME:

Nagwa

AGE:

13 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

A dentist

"I want to become a dentist to make my parents proud, and I'm grateful for the support that has helped me regain my confidence and take the first steps towards my dream."



Meet Nagwa

Like many children in Egypt, Nagwa is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.

Nagwa lives in Cairo with her parents and siblings. Her favourite hobby is drawing. She goes to preparatory school where she excels in her studies, especially in Maths and History. Since Nagwa wants to be a dentist, she wants to get better at science. While she has the aptitude for the subject, the lack of sufficient resource limit her in barrier-free learning and achieving her dream. Moreover, due to a standard curriculum and limited capacities of her schoolteachers, Nagwa and her peers often lack age-appropriate skills in reading and writing. To mend this gap, Nagwa had to resort to online videos to assist her in basic education.

Learning made fun!

Nagwa's mother voiced her child's struggles. We strive to remove the barriers so children can dream as big as they want to. Therefore, Plan designed various education assistive services, including a reading and writing programme to support the children with easy, fun and accessible education. Like many children from her community, Nagwa too enrolled in our education programmes.

Onward and upward

Beside her regular school, Nagwa attends Plan's community development sessions. By mid-year, she had already made progress in her education – especially science – bringing her one step closer to her dream. These sessions work to strengthen girls' and young women's agency over their life decisions through access to and control over resources. Our development workshops have helped 405 students like Nagwa to not only excel in education and improve the school retention rate, but also to gain self-confidence and improve their self-esteem.



Nagwa enjoying her lessons with her fellow classmates.

We Currently Work With 2,227 Sponsored Children in Behera

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Education Opening up Doors

Girls in Behera face disproportionate challenges in almost all aspects of their lives, including access to basic education and job opportunities.

Girls drop out of schools and even get married early due to difficult financial situations, causing significant psycho-social distress among young girls resulting in feelings of isolation, early pregnancy and an array of related health issues.

This in-demand intervention supports young women in building their capacities in the English language and their computer skills to access employment opportunities. The project addresses the different needs of children, adolescents and young adults in all their diversity: including age, disability, ethnicity and other factors to achieve financial independence. By having sufficient income, families can achieve self-reliance and develop the ability and confidence to make informed decisions pertaining to their lives.



Parents participated in vocational training in sewing and embroidery.

75

mothers gained technical and entrepreneurial skills



357 women gained awareness of gender equality and community issues.



Nada is enrolled in Plan's Girls Lead programme.

Girls Lead

Child marriage rates are alarmingly high in Behera. To reduce the social stigma around sexual education and to protect girls against psychological and physical violence, we create inclusive empowerment programmes. Through community-led initiatives, young girls have built capacities and developed the self-confidence to express their thoughts and dreams.

In addition, teens are supported in learning about their bodies through age-appropriate information. Plan International not only spreads this information among girls and women in the community, but we also support men and boys on issues around sexual and reproductive health and gender equality.

While climate crises are causing harm around the globe, they disproportionately affect vulnerable communities in the Global South. As a part of this programme's Youth and Climate Change module, 104 children have become active participants in the fight against climate change.

"Plan's programmes on gender equality have supported me in overcoming challenges and practices that have become social norms."

-Nada (17), Sponsored Child

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Events like World Children's Day create spaces for the youth to come together.

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

Almost 7% of young girls in Behera are married off before reaching the legal age. We will enrol more children in our programmes and raise awareness of the hazards of child marriage.

Reducing gender-based violence and disparity will remain our utmost priority. To address these issues, we will strengthen our Protection and Education project and emphasise the importance of education in local communities.

Additionally, we will support the children by filling gaps in access to quality education and raise the retention rate in schools. Reading and writing sessions will empower children in improving their self-esteem.

Message from Plan Staff

"In rural areas of Behera, we encourage all families to participate in at least one of Plan's programmes. In doing so, we empower them to actively participate in developing their communities and improving the quality of the lives of young children."



Mohamed Hatem,
Programme Unit
Manager, Behera

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

75

teens improved
their English and
computer skills

538

parents learned
about positive
parenting

159

parents know
about children's
rights

104

teens fight
against climate
change