

## **Annual Update**

# Giza

## Egypt

Positive changes are happening in Giza. Learn more about how we are supporting children and girls' rights through our collaborative, equalitydriven work.

Conflicts and instability in Sudan and the Gaza Strip are resulting in more refugees coming to Egypt, putting pressure on the country's resources. Amid these challenges, communities in Giza continue to strengthen facilities for young people and their families.

For example, through Aflateen and Aflatoun sessions, where children and teens receive education support that have not only improved the school retention rate, but also developed selfconfidence and self-esteem among these young communities. Many such initiatives empower the youth in finding jobs, eliminating gender-based violence like FGM and child marriage, and striving to create gender equality and balance in the region.

132 people participated in International Day of the Girl.

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



#### **Impact in Numbers**

328

children in Aflateen sessions for selfdevelopment

244

youth empowered by learning about entrepreneurship

1,404

caregivers in positive parenting 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 4,494 Sponsored Children in Giza

### **Projects That Support Lasting Change**

#### **Steps Towards Safer Lives**

## Projects like Aflateen offer young people the opportunity to develop technical skills.

Aflateen supports 328 young people by equipping them with life skills for the future, such as saving and investing money. Young children develop writing and reading skills to improve the school retention rate. Moreover, we support parents and caregivers with positive parenting and discipline, which enables them to build trust and rapport within their families and recognise how gender norms influence their children throughout their lives.

Additionally, our disability awareness workshops have spread information among 500 participants about various kinds of disabilities and the rights of children with disabilities.



775 participants enhanced their writing and reading skills.

414

## parents learned about child protection and education



Networking events allowed women entrepreneurs to market their products.



Like many women, Nesma received training in carpet making.

## **A SWEET project**

Egyptian women encounter various gender-related barriers at both the family and community levels. These barriers, often rooted in social and cultural norms, can limit young girls and women to marginalised roles and hinder their ability to fully exercise their rights.

Plan's Strengthening Women Entrepreneurs in Egypt (SWEET) project strengthens the local communities in three steps: raising awareness on gender equality, improving social status, and providing skills training. This year, 1,000 women learned sector-specific skills like making handmade carpets, macrame, crochet etc. Teenage girls joined our 'Champions of Change' programme to gain decision-making and financial planning skills and to identify and address societal barriers that limit their roles. 810 community members also participated in the Theatre for Development programme, using the medium to promote messages of gender equality, power dynamics, and women's economic empowerment.

"Girls are not in this world to stay at home, it is our place to be open to the world and improve ourselves." - Nesma, 19

### You're Supporting a More Equal Future



400 youth learned about leadership and taking an active role against discrimination.

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

This year, we will address the unemployment rate in Giza. Through an economic empowerment project, we will ensure that women are financially independent and have access to healthy and safe work environments.

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence will remain our utmost priority. We will enhance children's capacity to advocate for their rights and improve our support to reduce the risk of violence and abuse.

We will build capacities of families and communities, alongside positive media representation, to support the youth in becoming drivers of change.

#### **Message from Plan Staff**

"Over the last year, we had a great impact on our youth through health programmes, projects to raise awareness of climate change and environment protection, and numerous other workshops. Now, we are able to aim for a better life for the communities in Giza."



Emad Gad, Programme Unit Manager, Giza

#### **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**

youth advocates for climate change

youth participate **132** in gender equality activities

500

parents know the rights of children with disabilities

women get

support

psycho-social