

South Ethiopia Ethiopia

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

Ethiopia is currently hosting tens of thousands of refugees due to the Sudan crisis, along with millions of internally displaced individuals affected by conflict and drought. This situation places pressure on resources and can increase the risks of gender-based violence. Girls and young children are particularly at risk, facing challenges such as child marriage, inadequate childcare, poor nutrition, and limited access to education and economic opportunities. Over one million people in Ethiopia have received humanitarian assistance.

Flooding and drought have impacted food security for many families in southern Ethiopia. To help address food insecurity, we provided five days of training on agricultural practices and facilitated participation in early childhood care and development programs at early education centers.

**"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**



Young girls studying in school.

Impact in Numbers

4,480

**reached through
our early childhood
projects**

1,000

**families
participated in loan
associations**

1,004,953

**people in Ethiopia
has 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 7,489 Sponsored Children in South Ethiopia

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Raising Children With Care

In South Ethiopia, limited access to childcare and early childhood care and education (ECCE) reduces opportunities for women to join the workforce, secure formal employment, and achieve economic independence.

To support women with diverse childcare opportunities, Plan assisted 159 women workers at an Industrial Park by providing community and parenting sessions, as well as access to subsidised childcare, maternal support, and early education services for their children.

Additionally, parents and families, including both women and men, reflected around how to share decision-making, care work, and child raising responsibilities equally within their households. The parenting groups took place to improve the knowledge, attitude and practices of parents and caregivers to support their children's development.



Children with their caretakers in South Ethiopia.

217

parents trained in early childhood development



Children using the new water station at school.

Strengthening Families

Limited access to quality, gender-sensitive education and few opportunities for off-farm income, along with poor savings habits and credit services, have lowered the economic and social status of women and youth in South Ethiopia.

Through our initiatives, we trained 107 Parent-Student Teachers Association (PSTA) members in school management, governance, community participation, gender equality, inclusive education, and creating a safe school environment. This training enhanced their capacity to improve the teaching-learning process.

Additionally, we provided a month-long sewing training to young people from disabled and vulnerable communities, who had completed grades 10 and 12 but were unable to attend college, to help them build technical skills to achieve financial independence.



Dirshaye, 13, from South Ethiopia.

"I'm in grade 7 and aspire to be an engineer. With Plan's support, I received school supplies and can now attend school properly." Dirshaye, 13, from South Ethiopia

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Parents with their children, posing for a picture.

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

In South Ethiopia, a lack of economic opportunities, have led to high unemployment rates, especially among young women. Next year, Plan will support vocational training, and startup packages to create diverse employment opportunities.

There are limited inclusive early education children's programmes in South Ethiopia. Next year, Plan will continue to advocate for early childhood education by creating child-friendly learning spaces.

In South Ethiopia, high poverty and limited educational infrastructure has left many young people out of school. Next year, we will support e-learning by setting up IT and sanitation facilities in schools.

Message from Plan Staff

"Thanks to your support, we are making a meaningful impact on the well-being of children in South Ethiopia. Currently, the country is facing a multifaceted crisis, including conflict and drought. As a result, the communities with our child sponsorship participants need your support more than ever."



Abiy, Programme Area Manager, South Ethiopia

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

95

youth trained in vegetable production

430

people joined an education campaign

71

mothers back at work due to early childhood services

18

schools established teacher training