

## Oromia Ethiopia

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

The influx of refugees and millions of internally displaced people, combined with drought and flooding, is straining resources like food, education, and social services. This increases the risk of gender-based violence, especially for girls, who face challenges such as inadequate sexuality education, early marriage and poor educational facilities. More than one million people have received humanitarian aid through our efforts.

To try and meet the challenge of food insecurity due to drought and flooding, we collaborated with communities to train mothers in advanced vegetable production and provided them with seeds to ensure a more nutritious diet for their children. Children and youth were trained on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), gender-based violence and child protection issues.

**"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.**



People participating in Plan's "She Leads Project".

### Impact in Numbers

**1,792**

**children now have access to toilets in schools**

**1,004,953**

**people in Ethiopia received humanitarian aid**

**200**

**people joined Plan's parenting groups**



# 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, 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 earns income through small trading activities, such as buying and selling butter. Hence, Birtukan can attend school, participate in her lessons, and work towards her dream of becoming a doctor.



Birtukan, playing with a friend.

**We Work With 8,101 Sponsored Children in Oromia**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Girls Become Leaders

**In Oromia, gender-based violence and early child marriages have impacted young girls and women, limiting their access to economic and social opportunities, including quality education.**

In collaboration with the community, Plan supported young girls and women as change agents for gender equality and social cohesion by installing E-labs (Electronic Learning and Assessment Platforms) in 10 schools. These labs provided a range of digital tools and resources to enhance the learning experience for children.

Additionally, young people were supported with an entrepreneurship skills training program, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to become successful entrepreneurs and create employment opportunities. Equipping women with market-driven employability skills strengthens their economic empowerment and is important in the fight for gender equality.



Educational materials distributed in schools.

# 8,500

**students benefitted from E-Labs in schools**



People participating in trainings for Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) groups.



Iman, 11 years old from Oromia.

## Supporting Girls' Health

**Limited knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, along with child marriages that result in teenage pregnancies and health complications from unsafe abortions, has severely impacted girls' access to education and employment opportunities.**

Plan collaborated with the community to raise awareness about sexual health and menstrual hygiene, giving girls the confidence to follow their dreams. As part of our initiatives, young people were trained in ICT, entrepreneurship, leadership, life skills, and sexual health at a Smart Up Centre.

Additionally, 10 elementary schools in Kersa received menstrual hygiene resources like blankets, mattresses, and water storage. Some schools without bathrooms were given materials to build sanitation facilities with a special focus on menstruation hygiene rooms for girls.

**"We are now more prepared for our first period and understand sexual health better. Boys who once teased us for menstrual stains on our clothes now help us." Iman, 11, from Oromia.**

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Students studying in E-Labs in schools.

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

Harmful practices like child marriages increase violence against children and women. Next year, Plan will continue to strengthen protection systems to be accessible, age-appropriate, and sensitive to all needs.

Climate disasters like droughts increase poverty and limit job opportunities for young people, especially women. Next year, Plan will offer seed capital and training in entrepreneurship and life skills to support employment initiatives for youth.

In Oromia, young girls and women have limited access to gender-sensitive education facilities. Next year, Plan will support quality education for all children by providing school materials, desks and digital libraries for schools.

## Message from Plan Staff

"Our holistic development program, implemented with government partners, has profoundly impacted vulnerable children, adults, and youth in Oromia. These initiatives address various needs and challenges. Thanks to your sponsorship, we have made a tangible difference in the lives of those we support."



Tadele Wakuma,  
Community  
Program  
Coordinator,  
Oromia

## 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

923

mothers trained  
in poultry and  
sheep production

400

pre-school  
students provided  
Montessori kits

1,350

students provided  
school supplies

600

new school desks  
provided for  
children