

## Soe Indonesia

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

Plan International has been a proud partner of communities in Soe, Indonesia since 2004. This city is vulnerable to natural disasters, from droughts and floods to landslides and storms.

Here, community members primarily rely on rainwater for hydration. When rainfall is scarce, as it is currently, this vital resource becomes incredibly difficult to access. As a result, 61% of the families we work with in Soe do not have access to clean drinking water.

Today, 786 families are drinking cleaner water with their brand-new piping system. Sponsored Children like Nandi and Tri are no longer late to school due to having to fetch water for their families. Instead, they're able to spend more time playing and studying.

**"My friends and I are trained in first aid, and I now have an emergency kit at home." – Bunga (12)**



Nearly 40% of people in Soe are under the age of 18.

### Impact in Numbers

**4,457** people are drinking cleaner water

**43** villages have new pre-schools

**30** dads are taking more active roles in parenting

# Clean Water Changes Lives



**NAME:**

**Tri**

**AGE:**

**12 years old**

**DREAMS TO BE:**

**A teacher**

**"I don't worry about being late to school anymore, because I don't have to spend my mornings collecting water."**



## **Meet Tri**

**Like many children in Soe, Tri is breaking down barriers to completing her education.**

For years, Tri and her friends would have to walk long distances to fetch water for their families, sometimes even twice a day. A new water system has opened up hours of free time for the student.

## **An Obstacle to Education**

Tri is the youngest of four children. After her father died in 2020, she stepped into the role of helping her mother. Tri would wake up extra early before school, walking as far as two kilometers to collect cans of clean drinking water from the nearest spring.

Walking alone in the dark was scary. Houses in our village are located far from one another, Tri explained. Gender-based violence, including sexual violence, is a serious concern in Indonesia, and Tri would try to protect herself by going with friends to collect water as often as possible. Still, the lengthy chore meant that Tri was often late to school. For a student who would like to become a teacher someday, the cost of falling behind could be high.

## **I Don't Worry Anymore**

One of Plan's key projects in Indonesia is to help communities improve their infrastructure. We work with community members to install a new water system and water tanks, meaning that children are safer, healthier and learning more than before.

Today, Tri only has to walk 15 meters to pick up water. "I'm so happy," she tells us. "I have so much more time to study and play." Best of all, the new water tank means that Tri is no longer late to school, keeping this determined student on the path



Not having clean drinking water trickles down into other significant social issues.

**We Currently Work With 12,629 Sponsored Children In Soe**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## You Can Count On Me

In 2023, there were 62 reported cases of violence against children.

It takes a village to break the cycle of abuse. This year, we worked with community members of all ages to underline key aspects of children's rights, including nutrition and the right to education.

One of our key projects has been sharing information with local parents about the importance of getting their children registered with birth certificates. When a child has a birth certificate, they are safer, because they will have an easier time reporting instances of violence and abuse. 383 parents took part in these conversations.

To date, 12 violent incidents have been successfully reported to new child protection committees, the result of a collaborative effort between Plan International, local government and assorted community members.



A new Child Protection Committee meeting in session.

# 12

**new child protection  
committees formed**



In the Better Future workshop, students were encouraged to think about their ambitions.



Menci is a member of a girls' football team in her community.

## Reaching Our Goals

**Adolescents in Soe lack knowledge about sexual reproductive health. The increasing dependence on the Internet might make things worse, as the harmful effects are not well known.**

Football is often considered a sport for boys and men. Our Better Future project uses the context of football for adolescent girls to share information about girls' rights, including consent and the right to education, whilst providing empowering opportunities for growth and leadership.

120 girls from seven schools have joined football teams. Their participation is made possible through the dedicated support of 229 local parents, who have also been given access to vocational training and career counselling courses. An additional 279 young people talked about their dream jobs with their teachers, as well as issues that may impact their futures like mental health, child marriage and sexual health.

**"The Better Future project has given me the courage let my voice to be heard."**

**– Menci (14) from Soe**

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



This year, girls in Soe practised leadership skills, learned about their rights and built confidence.

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

Gender-based violence remains a serious concern in Soe. We will continue to work with young people to break the cycle of abuse and empower the next generation of female leaders.

We will also work with local children to register for their birth certificates, making it easier to report incidents of abuse and other forms of violence.

We will also work with affected communities to improve their sanitation, hygiene and hydration infrastructure.

## 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

**278**

**youth learned  
more about  
sexual health**

**1,452**

**community  
members now  
have healthcare**

**3,231**

**children know  
more about child  
marriage**

**7**

**villages are  
treating  
malnutrition**

## Message from Plan Staff

"Our Sponsored Children in Soe now have more clean water, better protection, less malnutrition and stronger support systems in early childhood. With your help, we will continue to improve the lives of children in our community."



Marina  
Meidiyanti,  
Programme Area  
Manager, Soe