

## Lunkaransar

### India

**Positive changes are happening in Lunkaransar. 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 Lunkaransar since 1998. This region is located in western Rajasthan, an Indian state bordering Pakistan.

Just 65% of Lunkaransar residents can read – about 24% of men and 47% of women are unable to read or write. While enrolment is high in Lunkaransar's primary schools, there's a fast drop-off by secondary school, and just 61% of students make it to graduation.

This year, with your help, we worked with 1,083 local parents to get kids off to a strong start by enrolling them in accessible, high-quality pre-school programmes. 6-year-old Sponsored Child Mamta is one of many new students in local schools. She tells us, 'Our classroom has nice decorations. I like to play and learn things with my friends.'

**"Thanks to Plan's continuing education programme, I am currently attending university."**

– Mumak (17)



Sponsored Children in Lunkaransar.

### Impact in Numbers

**469**

**Dads are taking on more active parenting roles**

**37**

**School enrolment drives hosted**

**741**

**Young children enrolled in pre-school**

# Knowledge Is Power



**NAME:**

**Nakshatra**

**AGE:**

**12 years old**

**DREAMS TO BE:**

**An engineer**

“School is very important to me. I see how it helps children, especially girls, become independent and reach their goals.”



## Meet Nakshatra

**Like many girls in Bajju, Nakshatra is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.**

Since Nakshatra's father died, the student has been living with her mother, aunt and sister. Their economic challenges and some powerful lessons in leadership are pushing Nakshatra to build a brighter future.

## Determination for Education

Nakshatra and her sister are breaking a cycle in their family: unlike their aunt and mother, both girls are getting an education. Today, Nakshatra is in Grade 7, and her sister has completed Grade 10.

Most women in Nakshatra's community earn money as maids or as daily wage workers. Today, Nakshatra's family is in debt. Knowing the heavy weight of poverty, Nakshatra dreams of becoming an engineer so that she can support her family and buy them a new house or things like chairs and a bed for her mother. Nakshatra knows that education is a fundamental tool – not only to achieve her own goals, but also for all children, particularly girls.

## Learning and Leading

Since 2023, Nakshatra and her sister have been members of Plan International's Children's Forum, a Youth Leadership Programme with a special focus on empowering young women.

As a member of the Children's Forum, Nakshatra is committed to getting children back to school. Until today, with Plan International's support, she helped four girls get back to school, including her older sister.



Nakshatra, her sister and their friends play carrom, an Indian board game.

**We Work With 1,135 Sponsored Children In Lunkaransar**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Stronger Than Ever

**Almost 19% of pregnant women in India are underweight.**

Many pregnant women in Lunkaransar suffer from serious nutrient deficiencies. This can not only threaten the health of mums during pregnancy and childbirth, but can also have potentially devastating effects on their babies, such as developmental delays and even stillbirth.

The 'MoM's Plate Project' focuses on making nutritional resources easily available to expecting mums. We started by conducting training sessions with seven local healthcare workers focusing on the nutritional needs of pregnant women. Then, we worked with healthcare workers to survey 215 pregnant women in the region to learn more about their food habits, lifestyles, socioeconomic conditions and health issues. When we learned that 101 expecting women were malnourished, we connected them to healthcare providers for regular check-ups and daily meals.



Beneficiaries of the 'MoM's Plate Project' received meals from local health centres.

# 101

**Pregnant women received food aid**



Sponsored girls shattered gender stereotypes through playing football.



20-year-old Pooja is one of 136 young women who have returned to school.

## I Like Learning

**47% of women and girls in Lunkaransar cannot read.**

The Balika Shivar: Accelerated Learning Centres for Girls programme focuses on closing the gender gap in schooling and empowering the next generation of educated, confident women.

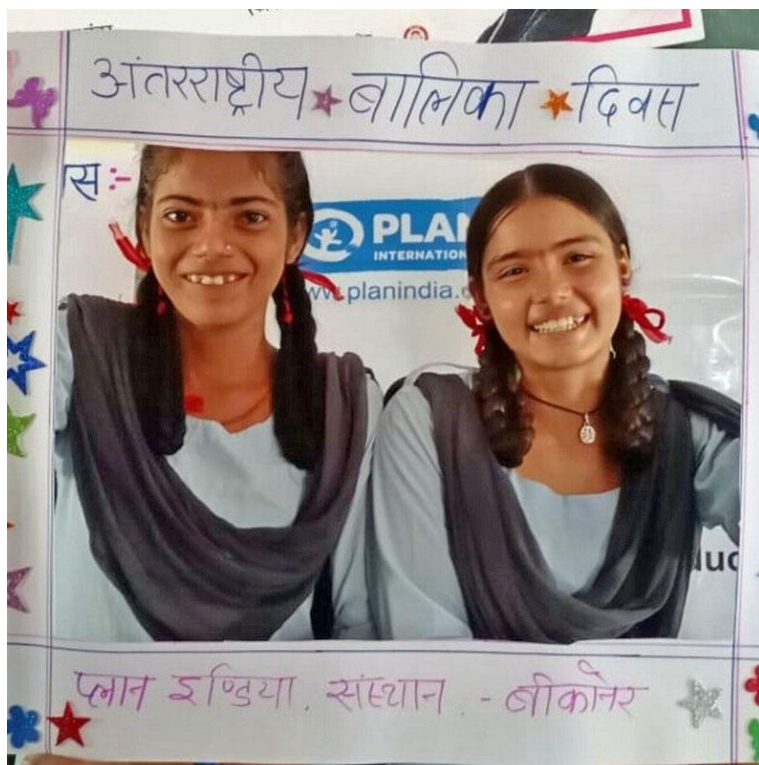
In addition to identifying girls who have dropped out of school in Lunkaransar, we are working with local communities to build accessible learning centres, as one of the largest barriers to girls' educations in this community are the long distances between home and school. Girls who still live far away from the new learning centres now have brand-new bicycles to get to school.

In addition to providing tutoring and exam preparation courses for 136 girls, we are also offering vocational training courses and confidence-building lessons in girls' rights and the dangers of child marriage.

**"My husband initially didn't want me to go back to school, but the Balika Shivar teacher convinced him."**

– Pooja (20) from Lunkaransar

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Sponsored girls learned more about their rights during National Children's Day.

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

Just 58% of young women use hygienic supplies during menstruation, making them vulnerable to potentially dangerous infections. Trained youth leaders will break taboos with their peers by facilitating inclusive discussions about reproductive health.

Though Lunkaransar is home to a number of school management committees, only 65% of these groups regularly check in on local schools. We will strengthen these organisations to improve learning for all students.

We will also coordinate enrolment campaigns to make it as easy as possible for parents to connect their children, and especially daughters, to their continued educations.

## Message from Plan Staff

"Over the years, you have supported us as we work to meet the needs of children in Lunkaransar. We hope that, with your support, we will continue to improve living standards in rural communities here."



Fateh Singh,  
Programme Area  
Manager,  
Lunkaransar

## 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

136

Young women are catching up with their studies

112

Children now have birth certificates

1,083

Parents learned more about early childhood

80

Malnourished pregnant women received aid