

Afar Ethiopia

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

Alongside the ongoing impacts of conflict and insecurity, including past droughts and floods, this year's El Niño-driven drought is poised to exacerbate food insecurity and potentially double malnutrition rates in affected areas. Through our humanitarian work, we have reached more than one million people in Ethiopia.

To enhance education for conflict-affected children, especially in pre-primary education, we work to improve education in emergencies by providing school materials, safe school buildings, and an accelerated school readiness program. Psychosocial support services were provided to children who showed different signs of distress.

Additionally, we renovated an existing community play space, making it a safe and accessible area for girls and children with disabilities.

"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



Accelerated learning bridges gaps in learning.

Impact in Numbers

9,677

people joined discussions about child rights

328

teachers trained in early education methods

1,004,953

people in Ethiopia 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, 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 can attend school, participate in her lessons, and work towards her dream of becoming a doctor.



Birtukan, playing with a friend.

We Work With 2,140 Sponsored Children in Afar

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Protecting Children

Political conflict, an influx of refugees, and extreme poverty have created an unstable environment where children from vulnerable communities are especially at risk of violence.

In collaboration with the government and community, Plan supported children, especially those from internally displaced or refugee communities, in gaining access to essential resources. Psychosocial support was provided to children who exhibited various signs of distress.

Additionally, girls and women received dignity kits to help maintain their dignity and well-being. This initiative aimed to empower and support vulnerable girls and women in the community during times of crisis.

531 children accessed age- and sex-appropriate, culturally relevant, and disability-inclusive learning and recreational activities in child-friendly spaces at schools.



Parents and young people participating in life skills trainings.

970

children provided child protection services



Children studying in a classroom.



Learning Through Play promotes play-based learning.

Improving Education

Gender stereotypes and weak educational infrastructure have limited access to quality gender-sensitive education for young girls and women.

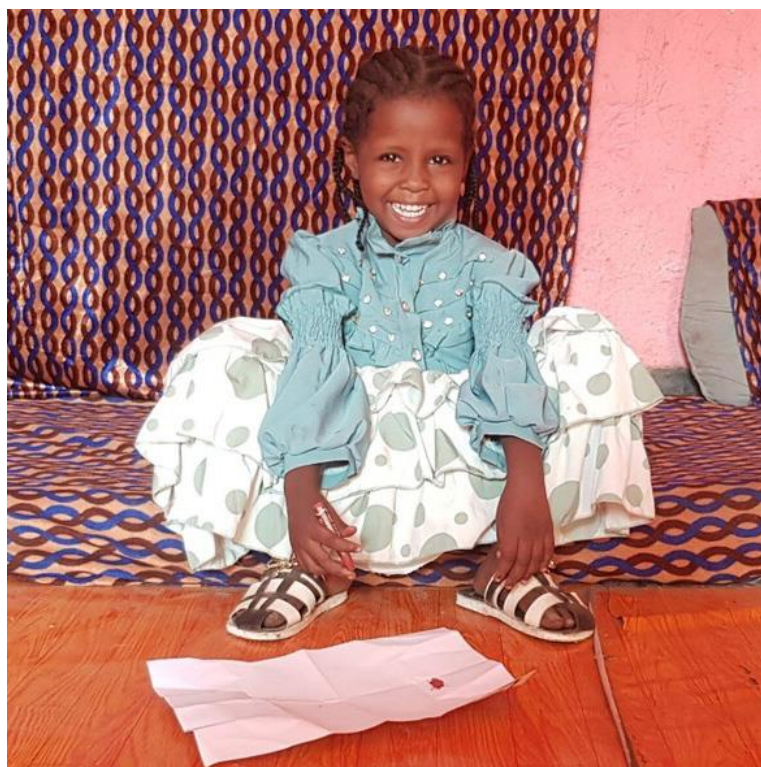
In collaboration with schools, Plan supported teachers and facilitators through professional development workshops to enhance their knowledge and skills in implementing Learning through Play (LtP). The training covered managing large classes, positive discipline, and conflict-sensitive education.

As a result, 6,266 children benefited from these trained educators, experiencing enjoyable learning and improved physical, social, and cognitive skills.

Additionally, the project engaged boys, young men, and adult men to enhance their understanding and involvement in promoting gender equality.

“Play Matters has helped me grasp my lessons better, it has helped change my mood and I am actively attending all my classes.” Hanan, 10, from Afar.

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Learning through Play in pre-primary school.

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

There is a lack of employment opportunities for girls and women, which leads to a high youth unemployment rate in Afar. Next year, Plan will strengthen employment initiatives for young people, including gender- and youth-sensitive training for employment and entrepreneurship.

Climate changes such as droughts severely impact social and economic infrastructures in Afar. Next year, we will work with the government to strengthen climate change and disaster risk response mechanisms.

Out of 1.9 million people in Afar region, 1.2 million of them are food insecure. Plan will support food assistance and livelihood programmes for affected populations with a special focus on nutrition for young children.

Message from Plan Staff

"Communities, particularly children and women, face significant development gaps exacerbated by recurring conflict and drought. Plan International has implemented various projects to address these issues, with interventions tailored to local needs. We appreciate our sponsors' contributions, which are vital for continuing our work."



Kasahun,
Programme Area
Manager, Afar

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

230

teachers trained
in classroom
management

6

new kindergarten
centres
constructed

12

early education
centres provided
Montessori kits

8,664

exercise books
distributed to
students