



Bringing hearts and minds
together for children

STORIES OF **CHANGE**

PLAN INTERNATIONAL ETHIOPIA

THIRD EDITION

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COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Greetings from Plan International Ethiopia!

We are very happy to present the 3rd edition of Stories of Change, a compilation of 11 stories showing courage, hope and inspiring journey of our programme participants who have led the process to bring positive changes in their own lives and have become role models for others.

The year of 2016 has been an exciting year for Plan International Ethiopia, marked with a number of achievements in terms of improved quality of our programmes and growth. We also successfully managed two critical emergency responses – South Sudanese Refugee Response in Gambela and El Nino Drought Response in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regions.

We have a new inspiring global strategy “100 Million Reasons” that sets a new Purpose and Values and Behaviours for the global organisation. We are about to finalise a new Country Strategic Plan for Ethiopia that would define our ambition and set direction for next five years. We will remain committed to continue our development and humanitarian work in Ethiopia to support the most vulnerable children and communities.

These stories are testimonies and evidences showing how Plan International Ethiopia is supporting the most vulnerable children and communities to bring lasting changes in their own lives. This document is also one of the accountability tools for Plan International Ethiopia to share its results to key stakeholders with concrete examples and facts.

I would also take this opportunity to thank all our programme participants, primarily children, partners, donors, government institutions, media, wider Plan family including our National Organisations, Regional Office and International Headquarters for their active engagement and support to our work in 2016. We will look forward to your continued engagement in 2017. I also acknowledge and thank all team members of Plan International Ethiopia for their commitments, dedication and hard work in 2016 and I am sure we will start 2017 with new enthusiasm to implement our new strategy and reach out to many more children, particularly girls with our multi sector programmes.

I hope these stories will inspire you to be a champion to create a world where all children particularly girls can learn, lead, decide and thrive.

Best wishes ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manoj Kumar'.

Manoj Kumar
Country Director
Plan International Ethiopia
December 2016

OUR ORGANISATION

Founded over 78 years ago, Plan International is one of the oldest and largest international, child-centered organizations. We have a presence in more than 72 countries worldwide, including Ethiopia to create a lasting change for children and their communities.

Plan International has been working in Ethiopia since 1995. Currently, our programme in Ethiopia focuses on early survival and development of children; a better childhood development and education for all; protection of children from violence and emergency preparedness and response that we implement in Amhara, Oromia, Gambella and SNNP Regional States and Addis Ababa City Administration. Common to these programs issues of gender and disability are integrated and mainstreamed.

OUR PURPOSE

**ADVANCING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
AND EQUALITY FOR GIRLS**

OUR AMBITION

**TOGETHER, WE TAKE ACTION SO THAT 100 MILLION
GIRLS LEARN, LEAD, DECIDE AND THRIVE**

OUR CORE VALUES

WE STRIVE FOR LASTING IMPACT

We strive to achieve significant and lasting impact on the lives of children and young people, and to secure equality for girls. We challenge ourselves to be bold, courageous, responsive, focused and innovative.

WE ARE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE

We create a climate of trust inside and outside the organisation by being open, honest and transparent. We hold ourselves and others to account for the decisions we make and for our impact on others, while doing what we say we will do.

WE WORK WELL TOGETHER

We succeed by working effectively with others, inside and outside the organization, including our sponsors and donors. We actively support our colleagues, helping them to achieve their goals. We come together to create and implement solutions in our teams, across Plan International, with children, girls, young people, communities and our partners.

WE ARE INCLUSIVE AND EMPOWERING

We respect all people, appreciate differences and challenge inequality in our programmes and our workplace. We support children, girls and young people to increase their confidence and to change their own lives. We empower our staff to give their best and develop their potential.

OUR FOOT PRINT



Addis Ababa Programme Area

Area: 527 sq km
Population: 2,739,551*
Plan sponsorship communities: 11
Caseload: 5,200
Sponsored children: 4,301

Amhara Programme Area

Area: 154,709 sq km
Population: 17,221,976*
Plan sponsorship communities: 15
Caseload: 9,366
Sponsored children: 7,450

Oromia Programme Area

Area: 284,538 sq km
Population: 26,993,933*
Plan sponsorship communities: 20
Caseload: 8,213
Sponsored children: 7,226

SNNP Programme Area

Area: 105,887 sq km
Population: 14,929,548*
Plan sponsorship communities: 17
Caseload: 8,610
Sponsored children: 7,182

Gambella Programme Area

Area: 29,783 sq km
Population: Host Community: 307,096 and South Sudan Refugees: 309,012

Plan International Ethiopia started its operation in Gambella Regional State in 2014 with refugee response. Currently, Plan International Ethiopia is working in four camps: Kule, Pugnido II, Nguenyiel and Jewi; Pagak entry point and host community with special focus on Child protection in Emergency, Education in Emergency including Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Youth Development programmes.

*Central Statistics Agency (2007), Population and Housing Census Report – Country 2007

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE (PCV) COUNTRY PROGRAMME



WHAT PLAN DOES

Plan International Ethiopia works to reduce and eventually eradicate illegal practices that are physically, emotionally and psychologically damaging to a large number of children; and to girls in particular. There are three widespread forms of child violence and abuse: child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual violence.

WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

FGM prevalence is estimated at 45%, child marriage at about 21% and marriage by abduction at about 12% in Ethiopia. Other forms of violence are also common. The vast majority of children are exposed to some kind of violence at home, in school or in the community on a regular basis. According to the survey conducted by the civil societies consortium 68% of young women said they had been sexually abused in one form or another as a child. Violence against girls can be considered a key manifestation of societal gender discrimination and gendered power relations.

These problems are aggravated by traditional values, attitudes and practices that reinforce and glorify male dominance and superiority which tend to tolerate or even justify violence against women and girls. These practices are exacerbated by lack of public awareness of the negative impacts of these practices; low household income and lower economic status of girls and women; poor education; limited opportunities for children's participation; lack of capacity for law enforcement; and lack of access to psychosocial and educational services.

HOW PLAN INTERVENES

Plan International Ethiopia targets children, communities, and government institutions at all levels to address these problems. Plan:

- Educates and trains children, both in and out of school, on child wellbeing and life skills.
- Supports child-led clubs in schools to take action in protecting themselves and other children in their community.
- Builds the capacity of community-based child protection mechanisms through training and consultation and supports mechanisms for reporting violence against children.
- Builds the capacity of formal child protection structures and supports the establishment of referral systems/linkages for health, counselling and rehabilitation services.
- Mobilises communities for change using structured and continuous Community Conversation (CC) and Intergenerational Community Dialogue (ICD) approaches.
- Strengthens the livelihoods of vulnerable families and adolescent girls and boys through the provision of vocational skills training and support to set up small businesses.
- Supports state structures to implement policies and enforce laws protecting children from harm.
- Supports and build the capacity of Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs structures at all levels, building its capacity to mobilise relevant stakeholders including the law enforcement and judiciary.
- Raises public awareness by working with the media to disseminate messages on the wellbeing of children.
- Supports regional and national child-focused networks and coalitions (and takes an active role) so that harmful traditional practices are prioritised in policy discussions.
- Supports Community Based Organisations and the civil society to take a greater role in child protection.
- Improves child protection systems internally and within partners and promotes inclusion of the most marginalised members of the community.



WHERE PLAN INTERVENES

Plan implements the PCV programme in Fagita Lekoma, Lalibela & Bahirdar Zuria districts of Amhara Region, Diksis and Guna districts of Oromia Region, Bona Zuria district of SNNP Region and Addis Ababa City Administration each comprising an average of 25 communities with a population of close to 4,000 people each.

- Supported Child Parliaments in five districts
- 31 school Anti-FGM clubs have been established in Bona district to fight against FGM
- Community based child protection actors have been formed and supported (PTAs ,CBO, religious leaders and community groups
- Child protection network established and strengthened in Five woredas

Plan International Ethiopia has established itself as one of the key actors in influencing child-focused issues in the country and continues to engage a multitude of actors including the civil society, child-focused networks and coalitions and key government agencies to ensure children's issues receive necessary attention during public policy dialogues.

WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

In three years Plan:

- Managed to reduce by half the prevalence of FGM and early marriage in project communities.
- Supported 34 communities to declare laws banning FGM and early marriage.
- Successfully prevented and saved over 6,500 girls from planned FGM and over 4,200 girls from arranged early marriage through community-based child protection mechanisms.
- Supported a total of 280 traditional FGM practitioners in abandoning the practice.
- Supported over 15,000 adolescents to improve their livelihoods thereby reducing their vulnerability to violence.
- Supported 600 school clubs and trained 500 children in life skills.
- Through different peer education sessions the project has improved skills of 7800 children (M=3585 and F=4215) (GBV, life skill

HOW MUCH IT COSTS

Since 2012, Plan invested approximately USD 5,450,153 to implement seven projects working together with five like-minded local civil society partner organisations.

CHALLENGES

The delivery of some PCV Country Programme projects was hampered by delays in establishing partnership agreements and the limited staffing numbers of some partners.

LIFE AFTER THE RAZOR



Mid day light filters in to a dusty classroom in Sidama in the mountainous region of southern Ethiopia. Asnakech Qere, 28, listens as the headmaster talks about girls' issue. On the benches next to her, girls and boys are whispering and glancing out of the window, but Asnakech sits up straight, without moving.

You might think that she is the mother of a pupil, but she is here as a fifth-grade student.

Asnakech woke at 4am, lit the fire and made breakfast for her family, milked two cows and did her homework. After the sun rose, she walked over one hour to get to school.

Asnakech's husband does not support her going to school and is unhappy she isn't at home doing the housework. But Asnakech is not giving up now that she's managed to return to school after several years.

"I used to love school as a girl, but my parents did not appreciate the importance of sending girls to school. I had to stop going after second grade, like so many girls still do today," Asnakech explains.

She prefers to talk about her life in the schoolyard, because she does not feel safe at home.

Forced marriage

When Asnakech was 12, her parents decided that it was time for their daughter's FGM procedure. A self-taught circumciser came to the family home. Asnakech still recalls how scared she was and how no-one comforted her. The circumciser cut her clitoris and outer labia using a razor blade. She pressed ashes and cow manure on the bleeding cuts.

Five days later Asnakech was walking near her home in her village, when a man she did not know forced her to go with him and raped her.

"My family made me marry him, because I was no longer pure. No one else would have had me," says Asnakech.

Bride kidnapping

Bride kidnapping used to be a common practice in rural Ethiopia a few decades back. Today, the custom has been nearly stamped out and Asnakech is one of the last girls forced to marry their rapist. She knew nothing of her 25-year-old husband.

The child bride felt intimidated in her new home, a one-room clay hut, where the parents of her husband also lived. Asnakech tried to escape, but could not find her way home. FGM and the rape has left her with severe injuries and it took a long time before she recovered.

"I still cannot find words to describe the pain I felt. The idea of sexual intercourse felt a sheer impossibility, but she had no choice," says Asnakech.

Giving birth

Soon, Asnakech discovered she was pregnant. During the pregnancy, she suffered pain and fear. When she went into labour, the contractions and bleeding lasted for two days. Finally, her husband's family took Asnakech to a hospital.

The little baby boy had died in her uterus.

"Without a C-section I would have died, too. I can still feel the loss of my baby boy inside me every day," she says.

Six months later, Asnakech was pregnant again. This time she gave birth to a living baby girl, Tewabech. Four years later Tewabech had a brother, Cherinet.

The children were born by C-section, as vaginal birth was not possible due to the complications from FGM and the first delivery. They also caused recurrent infections which Asnakech did not know how to treat.

Seven year superstition

In the mountainous villages of Sidama, there is a common belief that a woman who has had a C-section will live no longer than seven years. When her daughter's seventh drew near, Asnakech thought her life was coming to an end and she worried over the future of her daughter.

FGM was – and still continues to be – the norm in Sidama. Nine out of ten girls are cut before they reach their teens in the area where Asnakech comes from. The families believe an uncut girl is unruly, runs after men and breaks things, whereas cut girls

are obedient and it is believed that they give birth to sons.

“I was certain that FGM was in the best interests of my daughter,” says Asnakech. “But as I could remember my own pain, I wanted to be there to support Tewabech. Tewabech screamed and struggled, and there was a lot of blood. I could not be in the same room, I had to go outside to cry.”

Community discussions

A group of women, men, girls and boys are sitting in a circle on the grass in the blazing sun. A heated discussion is going on, with villagers addressing common problems and trying to find solutions to them.

Plan International started a community discussion project in Asnakech’s home village three years ago. The organisation invited villagers, regardless of age or status, to come to these events where people were educated about harmful practices.

During these discussions, Asnakech understood that a C-section does not mean death and that FGM has not relevance to a girl’s morals or the sex of her children.

She also understood that her own difficulties were due to FGM, bride kidnapping and child marriage.

“If I had realised the link between FGM and the consequences earlier, I would not have let my daughter be cut, but I was not informed or educated. I have apologised to her,” Asnakech says.

Endrias, 42, and Ayelech Ena, 32, are also taking part in the discussion group. Afterwards, they head home, to a round-shape clay hut surrounded by emerald-green coffee fields.

Smoke spreads into the dimly-lit hut from an open fire. By the wall, three cows are chewing grass. A couple of metres apart are the mattresses of the couple and their two children.

Endrias and Ayelech look at each other with warmth in their eyes. But the marriage has not always gone smoothly.

“When we first married, I was only 14. At first, our love life caused me severe pains and I resisted my husband. Now I know that it was because of my FGM and being married to young,” says Ayelech.

A year after the wedding, the couple had their first daughter, and two years later their second. Both deliveries took two days. Ayelech had a fever. The second time, she had an infection and it took weeks for her to recover.

At 18, Ayelech fell pregnant again. When she went into labour, the pain lasted for days, but her cervix did not dilate.

Finally, Endrias decided to take Ayelech to a hospital, dozens of kilometres away. The family did not own a bicycle or a carriage, so he asked eight of their neighbours to come along. In their turn, each of them carried Ayelech, who had lost consciousness, on their back.

“Finally, our little son, who had already died in the womb, was born in a C-section. We all cried,” says Endrias.



For a long time, Ayelech was weak. “I am still sad, because I cannot have more children and we do not have a son to carry on the family name,” says Ayelech.

“When I see Ayelech suffer I think of ways of making her sufferings right. I decided to see to it that our daughters would not have to go through FGM and that they would get a good education,” Enrias says.

A bright future

Now Kidist, 16, and Eminent, 14, are doing well in school and dream about going to university.

"It is consoling to know their deliveries can be free from complications and they can have a good love life," says Endrias.

Kidist and Eminent are listening to their parents speak at a distance. When asked about FGM, they are eager to speak. The two sisters are members of Plan International's all-girls club that spreads information about the harmful consequences of FGM.

"I am proud I have not been cut and I encourage other girls to stand up against FGM," says Eminent.

"A friend of mine died because of her FGM. I can no longer help her, but we can help those who have not yet been cut," says Kidist.

The attitude change has paid off already. In three years, the dangers of FGM have been understood in the villages involved in the project so much so, that more than nine out of ten of the girls born in these villages are spared FGM.



Woto Womacho, who does not know her exact age, is a powerful woman in the region and she has had an important role in this attitude change.

"My grandmother was a respected circumciser. She taught me what she knew and at an early age, I was making my living cutting the girls of the nearby villages. Everyone was familiar with my skills," says Woto.

During the summer months, a traditional time to carry out the procedure, Woto could remove the labia and clitoris of ten girls with a razor blade during a single day. The razor blade was usually just swiped clean.

"I was cut when I was four. I cut my own girls at that age too, all four of them. They cried and screamed, but I was strong. No man wanted to marry a girl who had not been cut. In our eyes, girls like that were dirty," she explains.

She herself suffered from pain at intercourse and protracted deliveries, but did not understand their connection to FGM.

Once the Plan International Ethiopia community discussions started, her neighbours persuaded Woto to come along. At the meetings, she learned about the consequences of FGM: pain, infections, childbirth complications and spreading of the HIV virus through the razor blade.

“I began to understand I was being paid and respected for something that was against the law of God. This was a painful realisation. I lost everything that had earned me respect. The reasons for which I cut girls were superstition. These beliefs are sustained by men who want to control women’s sexuality,” says Woto.

The only option she had was to quit her profession. Now, when parents ask Woto to cut their daughters, she tells them about the dangers of FGM.

“There is no other circumciser in our village, so if the parents want to perform FGM, they have to take their girls far away to another village. I live a poor life now. I used to be able to eat meat and butter



before, but can no longer afford them. But now I am at peace with myself and with God.”

Speaking out

Kidnapped as a child, Askenech too speaks out against FGM in her village and school, hoping to prevent other mothers from repeating her mistake of cutting her daughters.

“The community discussions gave me self-confidence and dreams. My relatives laughed at me asking what I get from going to school anymore. But I want to do it for myself and to spread the information I have obtained to others,” says Asnakech.

Working hard at school has paid off. Out of her class of 60 students, she is the fourth best. She wants to get a profession and earn money of her own so she can live on her own and separate from her husband.

“I am not proud of myself yet, but I plan to be once I accomplish my goals. My dream is to become a midwife so I can prevent FGM from happening and help cut women with their deliveries.”

A BETTER CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION FOR ALL (ABCDE FOR ALL)



WHAT PLAN DOES

The primary challenges in the education sector are limited access to care and development for very young children, low school completion rates and low quality of primary education. The two main components of Plan International Ethiopia's education programme are improved quality of primary education and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).

WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

There is a lack of awareness about the value and type of early childhood care and development and limited resources available. Restricted access to ECCD has long term detrimental effects on the development of children into adult life. It can lead to poor achievement in later school years and low primary completion rates, especially for girls. A range of issues contribute to early drop out including household poverty, poor quality education, inadequately trained teachers and the high prevalence of violence in and around schools. Inadequate hygiene facilities particularly discriminate against girls and children with disabilities.

dren aged 4-6) and to support the smooth transition to primary school (for children aged 7-8);

- Improving the completion rate of primary school children particularly that of girls, marginalised and disabled children;
- Improving the academic performance of boys and girls in primary education; and
- Supporting the development of an improved curriculum for primary education.

WHERE PLAN INTERVENES

Plan International Ethiopia is working in Addis Ababa City Administration and three regional states: Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). Plan has strong formal relationships with their respective Education Bureaus, Zone Education Departments and District Education Offices.

HOW PLAN INTERVENES

Plan International Ethiopia's objective to provide better childhood development and education for all includes:

- Improving early age, 2-3 years, stimulation of children;
- Influencing the continuing evolution of the current national ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) policy towards a holistic ECCD approach;
- Establishing and improving the quality of services at early childhood centres (for chil-

WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

- In the course of the Country Strategic Plan 2011 - 2016, Plan intervened in more than 187 primary schools, 12 post primary schools and 49 kindergartens. The interventions included upgrading, expansion, maintenance, material provisions and human capacity building.
- Approximately 51 ECCD centres were established and 288 parenting groups were organised based on Plan's new ECCD model. In addition, more than 2,000 education bureau experts, 3,500 teachers and 1,309 Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) members received training.



- Plan led the establishment of regional ECCD networks which bring together government and civil society organisations to facilitate conversations on common issues and to advocate evidence-based policy.
- Plan, in collaboration with local artists, story tellers, the government and other partners, has produced culturally responsive storybooks in local languages to enrich resources for the promotion of moral and intellectual development of children of diverse backgrounds. Five thousand copies of the storybooks were printed and distributed in early learning centres.
- Plan adopted and tested a new approach towards school sanitation and hygiene. The Student Led School Sanitation and Hygiene (SLSSH) approach empowers school students, as opposed teachers, to take control of the cleanliness of themselves, their compounds and their classrooms. They are trained in sanitation and hygiene and draft their own school guidelines. This approach has now been tested in 10 primary schools and has proved hugely successful. SLSSH will now be replicated in other schools.
- Established and strengthened more than 200 school clubs with the objective of building children's self-confidence and skills.
- PTSAs are now able to design and implement their own school-based projects through the active involvement of local communities. This exercise is increasingly devolving responsibility to schools and the communities, increasing their accountability and ownership. So far 187 PTSAs and 49 kindergarten management committees have been supported through capacity building training.
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) centers have been established in more than 100 schools. Teachers and students are applying ICT tools to enhance the quality of education.
- Supports vulnerable primary school girls with Girls' Counselling and Service Delivery Blocks. They provide counselling rooms, rest rooms (necessary for menstrual management), reading material and indoor games rooms. The approach is currently operating successfully in 12 primary schools.

CHALLENGES

The programmes are proving successful and, as such, community demand for ECCD provision is outstripping supply which is limited by funding and available land for the construction of early learning centres.

In some areas, the education programme has been challenged by the low level educational background of community members and inherent cultural barriers regarding the education of girls.

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries of the programme so far are 192,549 students (95,010 boys and 97,539 girls).

HOW MUCH IT COSTS

Total budget utilised to date is USD 6,173,889 (USD 1,454,812 for ECCD and USD 4,719,077 for primary education).

TAREMESSA: STUDENT VOICES ENCOURAGE FEMALE ACHIEVEMENT



By listening to children we can have a great effect on the educational outcomes for girls in communities where female education has not previously been valued.

In Tarmessa kebele we have heard through our Annual Participatory Programme Review that the poor physical condition of the buildings; scarcity of basic school equipment such as desks, library materials and books and inadequately equipped school laboratories are impacting the quality of education.

Using sponsorship funds we implement multi-faceted development programmes in our sponsorship communities. During 2014 and 2015 we identified schools in Shebedino most in need of assistance. Through community discussion we recognised Tarenessa as such a school.

Plan International Ethiopia spoke directly with the students about what their school needed. The student parliament requested a better school compound and improved classrooms with desks and chairs. After listening to the students, community and school representatives a proposal was created to improve classrooms; supply the library with reference materials, shelves and reading tables and chairs; introduce an award scheme for high-performing girls and provide training for teachers and district officers.

The award scheme was considered to be particularly important as female education was not highly regarded and the project aimed to inspire the effort of girls. A female beneficiary of the programme said, "We are attending our education in a class of quality chairs and desks with renewed class room. I am very much encouraged by the present that Plan gave us by looking at the efforts we are making in our education." She recalls that girls did not achieve as well as their male peers and there was a higher dropout rate amongst female students. She has noticed that this project has created more favourable conditions for girls and they are motivated to continue their education.

Hirut Regassa is in grade eight and she thinks the project has made a huge difference to her and her friends. She says her community now recognises the importance of teaching girls. The project supports government offices to influence parents in the community. Parents now realise the devastating effects on their girls' lives if they are denied access to education. Hirut says, "I am learning now sitting in a fashionable chair due to the project and when I need to study I go to the library made by the project and I have ample reference materials to help me study in detail."

Tarenessa Primary School Director, Adanech Gebrehiwot has noticed encouraging developments in the school since the project began. The school dropout rate has decreased dramatically, the school has higher quality materials, library usage has increased, student results have improved, the girls are more motivated to learn and 64% of her teachers have taken advantage of training to improve the learning and teaching process.

Tarenessa's student parliament is regularly given a voice in community discussion. Adanech is part of a kebele level monthly forum which includes kebele leaders, the youth league, women's league, representatives of religious institutions and leaders of community-based organisations. The predominantly female school parliament raises issues about the school's needs such as the education of girls and marginalised groups and material needs.

Plan International Ethiopia is grateful to the Taramessa students, teachers and administrators and to the community members and government officers who gave their voice to the project proposal and who have supported its implementation.







EARLY SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN (ESDEC) PROGRAMME

WHAT PLAN DOES

The interventions of the Early Survival and Development of Children (ESDeC) Programme seek to address the high levels of illnesses and death among children under five years of age. The goal, objectives and activities focus on strengthening health systems across the continuum of care for better service delivery; improving mother, newborn and child health (MNCH) behaviour and practices through community mobilisation; improving sanitation and hygiene practices; expanding access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) facilities; and supporting the development of social and economic opportunities for women and other home-based health caregivers.

WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

Whilst the health service delivery system has expanded over recent years, there remain critical shortfalls. Among others, these include unavailability of essential pharmaceutical supplies and equipment, limited skills of health workers, insufficient skills to design and monitor evidence-based interventions which would enable robust local decision making and poor referral systems from the community to health facilities. Other community difficulties include limited knowledge about MNCH (such as the link between breastfeeding and reduced incidence of child malnutrition), lack of access to WaSH facilities which contributes to childhood illness and death and the inability of women to knowledgeably and fully carry out their role as primary care givers due to their low socio-economic status.

HOW PLAN INTERVENES

Plan International Ethiopia works towards its ESDeC objectives by:

- using the government Health Development Army (HDA) structure to improve awareness of MNCH issues.
- engaging males to improve awareness of and support for MNCH interventions.
- consulting women, children and people with disabilities including their caregivers.
- capacitating health extension workers and health workers.
- strengthening the existing primary health care system in terms of essential equipment and supplies.
- providing training, including gender awareness training, to health staff to support the provision of quality MNCH services.

WHERE PLAN INTERVENES

Plan, with local NGO partners, implements the ESDeC programme in 35 districts of Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) Regions. Plan improves MNCH for an underserved population of 622,170 through building the capacity of communities, especially women and their male family members to recognise, prevent and respond to basic MNCH issues.

WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

Strengthening Health systems across the continuum of care.

- Essential MNCH medicines, supplies and equipment were purchased and distributed to six (6) prioritised government health Centers where sponsorship children and communities are residing in Addis Ababa city administration. Accordingly, the supported health Centers were able to access and utilize MNCH services including low cost and effective drugs whose progressive results have shown positive changes.
- Health Sector Gender Mainstreaming Manuals were disseminated to Regional Health Bureaus, Zonal and Woreda Health and other sector offices aiming at informing program managers and technical staff

in making informed actions at different levels in project targeted areas.

- A total of 33 needy sponsorship children families and 186 individual family members were assisted with safe water maintenance and direct connection scheme in Addis Ababa.

Improving MNCH behaviour & practices through community mobilization.

- A total of 150 severely and moderately malnourished children (F=80) under the age of five years and 15 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Addis Ababa have received appropriate nutrition services, including Therapeutic and Supplementary Feeding services.
- Maternal and child feeding skills and practices in and around project targeted communities improved over time through the regular monthly Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) activities that have been undertaken through integration of WASH and nutrition sensitive food cooking demonstration sessions.
- A total of 40 gender based violence survivors (mothers and married adolescent girls) identified from four Woredas of SNNPR project operation areas have received assistances and support on sexual and reproductive health care and services.
- Organized 150 Community Conversations, over 10,000 community members, mostly women (F=5,730), were reached by key messages pertaining to MNCH, PMTCT, Nutrition, Gender and HTP. Subsequently, a good progress in communities' awareness and improved health seeking behaviour has been captured.
- 1,153 school aged sponsorship children have been provided with scholastic materials with the aim of supporting children to keep on their formal education in the new academic year as well as easing the economic burden of families and caretakers.

Improving Sanitation & Hygiene practices, & access to sustainable WASH Facilities; and

- 17,186 peoples - 8694 females and 7,092 students (3,592 are girls) – were having access to and use of safe water supply through the construction of 65 water supply schemes (7 schemes were constructed for schools) that can be managed by the local communities.
- 543 WASHCO members also received training that helped them ensure sustainability and appropriate use of WASH facilities. Training

of Trainers was also conducted to 46 staff members of partners and stakeholders organization on CMP approach and its implementation procedure.

- About 16 child and disable friendly Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines/VIPs have been constructed and created access to safe sanitation facilities to 7,845 students.
- 64,350 households have constructed latrines with hand washing facilities and they have now started to use the facilities. 17 communities among the targeted 22 communities have declared open defecation free (ODF). 195 CLTSH facilitators received training on CLTS approach.
- Youth association comprised of 120 individuals (35 are females) has been established and able to produce washable and reusable sanitary pads. Tailored-made trainings in the area of Sanitary Pads Production, Menstrual Hygiene and Management and Marketing Management have also been delivered to youth members of the association.

Social & Economic Empowerment of Women

- Training on the merits of VSLA has been given to 642 VSLA groups of which 8,007 women and girls.
- A total of 2,273 VSLA group members (91% of female members) have received training on mango agronomy, agricultural marketing, vegetable production & business skills. Market linkage has been set up with Marketing Corporation, which helped VLSA group members to sell 17.2 metric tons of mango fruit with a better price.
- About 1,225 households have also gained various skills through training in such areas of fish farming, horticultural crops production, metal & wood works, hair dressing, food preparation, catering and etc.

HOW MUCH IT COSTS

Since 2012, Plan invested approximately USD 5,450,153 to implement seven projects

CHALLENGES

Low employment status of youth skill trainees (about 30%)
Fund shortfall to implement planned interventions

LIFE GETS A CHANCE TO CONTINUE

It's hard to see our children's without hope and smile. As a family, there is nothing painful than seeing a pain hinders their courage and bright future. This is the reality in which Mieraf's family passed through for the past many years.

Mieraf, 17 is the eldest child in her family and has been sponsored by Plan International since she was two years old. She has been able to avoid the many pitfalls that can bar girls in Ethiopia and until earlier this year. She was on course to complete high school.

It was an ordinary school day when her symptoms began and neither she nor her family didn't think much at first. But her pain was becoming very difficult and the family was unclear about it. Concerned about his daughter, her father took her to the nearest town, Dessie, for checkup and medical treatment."

"I still do remember that I was in grade seven when the pain began. I was not able to attend my school properly, But after the treatment I received, I recovered and able to continue my education", Says Mieraf.

Sad news coming to the family

After five years, Mieraf's pain had been revived again. It was not as easy as previous for Mieraf and her parents. Again, her family took her to the nearest hospital.

"After she was examined we were told by the doctor that Mieraf's health condition was serious and she was referred to Black Lion Hospital, the biggest referral hospital in the country", Says Abay, Mieraf's Father.

Not knowing how they would be able to afford the medication and trip to Addis Ababa, Abay contacted Plan International to see if the organization would be able to help "I didn't hesitate for a second to inform Plan International Ethiopia's sponsorship staff in Lalibela" recalls Abay, "I explained Mieraf's condition and with Plan's assistance, we made the journey to the capital, Addis."

However the news in Addis was not good. After her examination at Black Lion Hospital, Mieraf was diagnosed with congenital heart disease, a complicated condition which can lead to chronic kidney disease and renal failure. The doctors confirmed that surgery would be necessary, but, in light of her academic studies, Mieraf was allowed to return home with a course of medication.

After a few months back at home, Mieraf's condition declined dramatically and she was rushed back to Black Lion Hospital. This time there would be no hope of returning to her home land Lalibela. Her Kidneys were failing and she would require regular dialysis if she hoped to survive. "This time we were been told by her doctor that she needed to start dialysis immediately. I never felt more downhearted in my life." Explains her father "She is my eldest daughter and the hope of her family."





The challenge continues

With dialysis session costs 3000-5000 birr (USD 143- 238) each and the doctors insisting on at least two sessions every week, Abay knew that his family would not be able to afford the treatment: “I was the only breadwinner of the family and covering her medical expense with my monthly income would have been impossible. She would have died without the help of Plan International.”

While she was in dialysis she continued her check-up in the same referral hospital. But her problem became more complicated and the Black Lion medical board decided that she has to undergo a heart surgery and kidney transplant abroad.

Once more, organ donor became an issue for Mieraf and her family. Besides, Neither I nor her mother could donate organ due to health condition. She was fortunate to have a niece who was willing to donate one of her kidney's to her.” her father says.

Hope Revived

Plan International Ethiopia continued to support the family, not only covering the cost of dialysis, but when the family learned that the surgery could not be undertaken in Ethiopia, paying for Mieraf to travel to India to undertake her life-saving operation.

After 4 months in India, Mieraf is now back in her homeland and the future looks very different for the 17 year old. The surgery was a great success and Mieraf is embracing her new lease of life “Praise to the lord, I am in a better condition now” chimes Mieraf “and thank you to Plan for everything they have done. They saved my life.”

Thanks to the support of Plan International Ethiopia, Mieraf is looking forward to continuing her education and hopes that when she graduates she can go on to study to become a kidney specialist “I would like to become a doctor and help people who have suffered like I did. If it hadn't been for these specialists, I wouldn't be alive today.”

“Everything was beyond our expectation. We are very grateful for the support we got from Plan. It brings light in her future. I am ready to be Plan's ambassador and promote its work”, Abay says with smile and pride.

EL NIÑO EMERGENCY RESPONSE



WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

El Niño is a weather phenomenon caused by unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean every few years, which results in extreme weather patterns across tropics and sub-tropics. El Niño disrupts regular weather patterns such as monsoons and winds blowing towards the equator and impacting rains, increasing the risk of food shortages, drought and disease.

In the Ethiopian, Failure of both the 2015 short spring/ belg rains / (mid-February-May) and the long summer/kiremt rains (June-September) has induced severe drought in six of Ethiopia's nine regions. The six affected regions include Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, Somalia and Tigray. The El Niño induced failure of summer/kiremt (June-September) rains has significantly impacted the October harvest that feeds 75-80% of Ethiopians. While a number of regions in Ethiopia experience two rainy seasons in a year, some regions have woredas/ districts that experience only one rainy season, whose failure means going more than 12 months without water. This is the case of Amhara region, where Plan International Ethiopia is the only single INGO working in the most affected Sahala woreda, among other Plan Operational woredas.

HOW PLAN INTERVENES

Nutrition Related Support

- Strengthening capacity of Out-patient Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (OTPs), for moderately malnourished children
- Strengthening capacity of Stabilization Centers (SCs), for severely malnourished children
- Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) for children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition

Livelihood Related Supports

- Provision of seeds (crop, vegetable, fruit and fodder seeds) as well as fodder for livestock
- Agricultural tools and other non-food items
- Capacity building training on dietary diversification and DRR

WASH Related supports

- Water tracking service
- Water scheme rehabilitation
- NFI and water treatment chemical distribution together with Nutrition and Livelihood

WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

- 55,065 Under 5 children (26,621 boys and 28,134 girls), and 46,362 pregnant and lactating women were reached through Nutrition intervention.
- 71,338 HHs benefited from seed distribution 9,937.04 Quintal of different seeds, fodder for livestock and fruit seeds
- A total of 7,728 (3,825 female and 3,903 male) reached through WASH intervention.



WHERE PLAN INTERVENES

Through the fund by IRC, Dutch MoFA, GNO, ECHO, GOAL/OFDA, and SIDA, Plan International Ethiopia is implementing integrated emergency response in the following areas

AMHARA REGION

Ebinat, West-belesa, Lasta, Bugna, Telemt, Sahala, Dahana and Wadla districts

OROMIA REGION

Guna, Bule Hora, Habro and Guba Koricha districts

**Nutrition,
Food security,
Seed support,
WASH and
Child Protection**

SNRP REGION

Dara & Loka-abaya

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries of the programme so far are 266,503 people

HOW MUCH IT COSTS

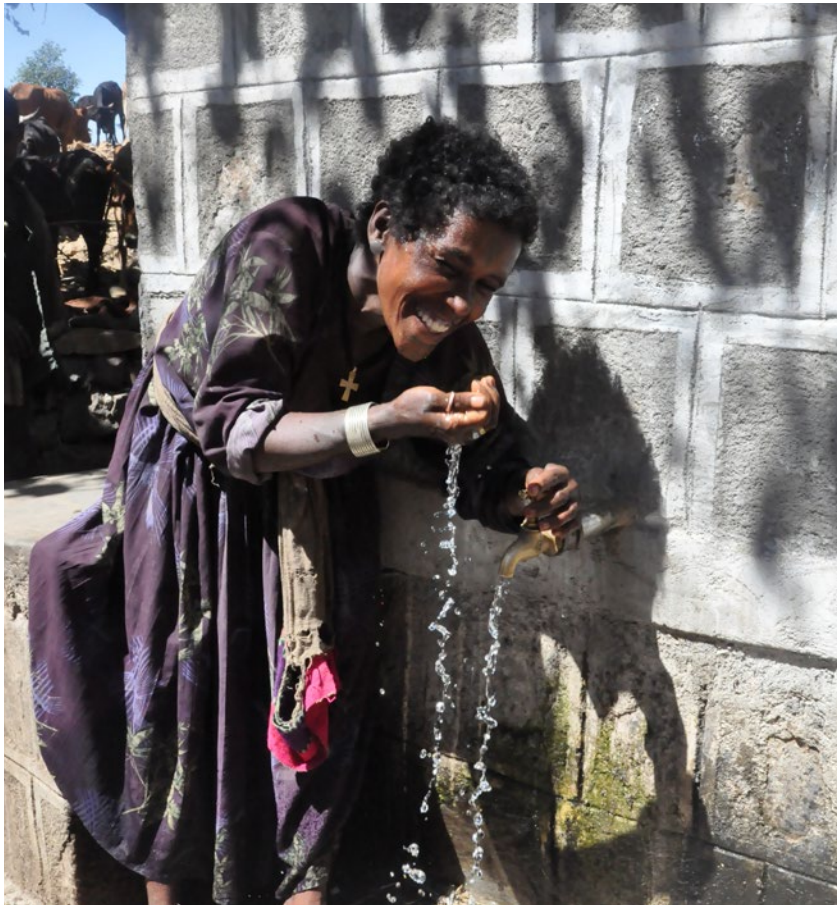
The total budget utilised to date is 8,842,267.22 USD

CHALLENGES

Very rough roads and topography in all targeted districts which forced us to use pack animals to reach supplementary distribution points and TSFP sites.

As there was almost no production during last two consecutive seasons, most of the vulnerable households depleted their livelihood basis. Therefore, on the top of emergency nutrition, WASH support, livelihood recovery as well as resilience building interventions are recommended in highly affected Plan International Ethiopia's intervention areas.

DIKUARA HAS SAFE WATER NOW



The El Nino induced drought in Ethiopia has hit hard in the northern Wag Himra Zone of Amhara region. This area only has a single season of rain each year. This year, the rains were lighter than expected, and ended too soon. In Dikuara village of Dehana Woreda, safe water has been scarce in the extreme.

Dilidil is 29 and lives in Dikuara with her family. She tells us that, in recent times, collecting water took up more than half the day. The source is a spring which was built ten years ago at the Dikuara River. Women and children would joined a queue at the spring as early as five am – but wouldn't be able to come away with water until mid-day.

"The water was not pure, and we had to share it with animals," says Dilidil. "Children would get sick from it." With

the lack of rain, the watercourse was almost dry, and there was little water to share. "We might take a shower once in a month. It was even difficult to wash our clothes. Often families went without meals until late in the evening, because there was no water to make food with. Children would go to school without meals."

Dibisa, 12, used to spend so long collecting water that she would miss class. She was written down as a poor student, and many children in similar situations dropped out entirely. She had no choice but to do what she could to get water, including sleeping in the queue. "This place had little water," she says. "When many people come together, let alone the cattle, it would quickly run out, and it was a struggle to get it. I couldn't tussle with adults, they threatened to beat me if I tried."

Plan International Ethiopia is supporting communities affected by the El Nino-related drought. Our twelve-month project in Wag Himra began in January 2016 and aimed to help around 50,000 people with clean water, seeds and animal feed to boost food production, and emergency feeding for children.

As part of our work, Plan International Ethiopia selected the Dikuara river spring to be rehabilitated. The community played an active role in the work, digging out the connecting canal from the river, and carrying sand and stone. Now, the spring has been transformed, and provides enough water for the community. Dilidil tells us, "We have got clean water for both us and the cattle. Not only water, we also have a place to wash our clothes."



A Water Committee has been set up, of which Dilidil is a member, and the community has elected to contribute five birr a person to looking after the new spring. Dibisa says, "Today I am very happy. No more struggles to get water. I will not miss even a single class because of searching for water."

Dilidil adds that she can now take better care of her two-year old son: "I can get through my house work on time. I only spend less than 20 minutes to get clean water now. It was a nightmare before."

"Thanks to Plan, the difficulty of not having water is over!"

HOW CLEAN WATER IS HELPING YOUNG GIRLS GO BACK TO SCHOOL



Sheshig, 13, lives in a town outside Lalibela, Ethiopia. Over the past few months, the El Nino-induced drought has had a major impact on her education, as she's often had to fetch water rather than go to school. With the support of Plan International Ethiopia, Sheshig no longer has to skip class as has to access to clean water, just five minutes from her home.

Keen to study to become a doctor, Sheshig explains what life was like before the water trucking facility arrived in her village.

“Before this pump arrived we’d have to walk three hours to fetch clean water,” she says. “I’d carry a jerry can of about 25 litres every morning and then go to school. I used to be late for class a lot, or miss class altogether to fetch water.”

Missing classes wasn’t the only hazard she faced. Sheshig would get harassed on her journey to school. Tragically her experience is not uncommon. 150 million girls worldwide have experienced sexual violence, much of it on the journey to and from school.



She says: “I’d also get some of the local boys throwing stones at me while I went to fetch water from school. I ended up going with friends to fetch water but it would still happen. It was only if we were with an adult that the stone throwing would stop and that wasn’t always possible as our families have to work so that we can survive. It would leave me feeling so frightened.”

Shesheg fears have been eased, as child centered organisation have now installed a water pump just five minutes from her home.

“Thanks to the new pump near home I don’t feel as worried anymore. It means I can focus on my studies. I want to be a doctor when I grow up so getting a good education is really important to me.”

“I’ve definitely noticed a difference since the water pump arrived. I am a lot happier now”, concludes Shesheg.

The school Shesheg attends is funded by child sponsorship through Plan International Ethiopia. In total, 337 students attend the school of which 177 are girls.

To date, 333 households have been helped by the local water trucking facility. That is a total of 1,665 thousand people.

Plan International Ethiopia has been working in the surrounding areas of Lalibela since November 1974.

The organisations work at a grassroots level with women, families and communities to bring about long term sustainable development.

Plan International Ethiopia’s current programmes support communities with access to clean water, emergency food aid and preparing communities to be resilient against disasters. We also run education programmes that protect children, especially girls, from violence.



A WAY TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE



Ayalew Mekasha, 28, lives in West Hararghe, Oromia Region of Ethiopia along with his wife & two year old baby boy. Because of the adverse weather effects caused by El Nino - A natural phenomenon that results in the biggest fluctuation in the Earth's climate system- Ayalew's region, has experienced a succession of failed rains which has left millions of people struggling to find enough food.



“Last year, we were in a very desperate situation” He explains. “I used to harvest more than 10 quintals (a tonne) of crops annually; however, due to shortage of rainfall for the past two years, I couldn’t even get enough to feed my family. Everything we planted dried up”

“I used to struggle to sleep at night, I would stay awake worrying about how I was going to feed my family in the morning.”

Like many people in the region, Ayalew relies on farming too not only feed his family, but to provide the households only income which is used to purchase seeds and equipment he needs to maintain his small holding.

Last year, when the rains fails to arrive, Ayalew was forced to sell his livestock as he struggled to provide enough food for his family “I sold three of my cattle to cope with the drought, but it wasn’t enough. We only survived because of the aid we received from the government and organisations like Plan International”.



Plan International Ethiopia are supporting farmers like Ayalew by providing them with drought resistant seeds that are able to cope with the harsh growing conditions that accompany long spells without rainfall.

Plan understands why this is critical to ensuring that communities are able to mitigate the effects of drought. Failing crops are only the tip of the iceberg in a drought situation. When the crops fail, the prices of seeds become astronomical. Even when the rains do arrive, many farmers cannot afford to purchase the seeds they need to begin growing crops again. It becomes a vicious cycle and the consequences can be disastrous.

By supplying farmers with drought resistant seeds Plan International is helping to ensure that their crops won't fail, even when rains do. Adapting farming practices and educating farmers is a key element of the organisation's disaster risk reduction strategy. Education and more resilient crops are crucial to ensuring Ethiopia, and other countries in the region, are able to adapt their agricultural practices to fend off the worst effects of El Nino

Ayalew's garden is now bursting with greenery and he is anticipating a bumper harvest "I am hoping to grow 2 tonnes of Maize and a tonne of Haricot beans" he enthuses, "this is all thanks to our drought resistant seeds." Ayalew seems to brim with a newfound confidence and the trials of last appear to have been consigned to memory "Today we are happy and full of hope that our planting will be successful. Thanks to God there is rain and thanks to Plan International Ethiopia I can grow my crops again".

Plan International Ethiopia with the support from START FUND project distributed 618.36 quintal of maize, haricot bean and sorghum for 7,229 households in Habro & Guba Qorich district, West Hararge zone of Oromia region in response to the El Nino driven drought so far.

BRINGING LIFE AND HOPE AFTER EI NINO CRISES



Today, Bahri Amede, 25 & his older brother Murad Amede, 28, have something to celebrate in their green farmland in contrast to what they went through last year by this time.

The two brothers share a plot of land which they inherited from their father as a means to sustain their livelihood in Gerbi Guba Community of Habro district in West Hararghe zone of Oromia region.

This time, Bahri a father of one and Murad, a father of three children are happy and keen to see the fruit of their crop they planted 3 months ago after El Nino induced drought swept and consumed all what they have planted in 2015.

“During this time last year, there was nothing on the ground, you couldn’t even find a single crop, neither rain nor water, we have nothing at all.” Says Bahri.



“We were forced to sell our cattle to buy food for our household, however; we couldn’t survive. It was a struggle to cope with such ravaging drought and food crisis.”

Children were exposed to malnutrition as a result of shortage of food, lack of water and forage for livestock were a great problem.

Murad left his family and went to the nearby city in search of work to get money in order to buy some food items for his household. However he wasn’t succeed and came back to home having nothing.

This was the experience of thousands of farmers, women and children in many parts of the country passed through in an expense of El Nino weather phenomenon.

After seeing children suffered from food shortage early this year, this two brothers could not hide their joy when they got a seed support from Plan International Ethiopia. “I must say that, you have brought life in such distress time!” says Bahari. “You have seen my life, I couldn’t get seed on my own. Oh it is a great privilege to have such harvest by now.”

Thanks to the government and aid organization, the family of this two brothers can now eat normal food like they used to eat before years. “There is rain, we can have water for our cattle, and our children can get water and vegetables from the farm.”

“Now we are excited! It is quite difficult to someone like me who do not have a penny to address his family’s basic need. Plan International has saved our life in the time of great trouble. We thank you Plan International Ethiopia.”

“We have hope for future! Our children are happy to see the fruit of the harvest in the ground. They can get something to eat from our backyard. Now things are changing.” Bahari continued to explain.



West Hararghe zone Agriculture bureau Agronomist, Tariku Asefa says “The impact of the drought has been severe and 75% of the community have been affected. Farmers had no capacity to buy seed, as a result, many households including children would have been die. However thanks to the government and Plan International Ethiopia, they were rescued from such disaster.”

Tariku further explained that “Plan International along with experts from the government and community representative made an assessment on the type and quality of seed that will be friendly with the environment. Following that Plan brought us drought resistance improved seed on time. Now you can see the result.”

What makes Plan International Ethiopia unique in this particular intervention is that: “they brought the appropriate seed on the right time and they were together with us in every monitoring & technical supervision.” Tariku concluded.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS BRING HOPE TO CHILDREN



A lack of rain, caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, has led to food insecurity in the Sahala district of the Amhara region of Ethiopia, which means children and pregnant women are suffering.

Melese Asefa, 29, a mother of two, suffers from a disability. She is unable to walk. “My family and I have severely suffered from a lack of food and water over the past year,” says Melese.



She was separated from her husband three years ago. Since then, Melese has relied on food support provided by the government of Ethiopia, but is struggling to raise her two children in this drought prone area.

Her disability is further aggravating the situation. “If my leg was healthy, I would have been engaged in different income generating activities like collecting fire wood for sell, making local beer and some other to sustain our life,” says Melese.

“Since last year, the food support I have been getting from my neighbours has decreased. Now, I’m lucky to just have one meal a day. My children might have two meals. I only have a bit of porridge and bread at home at the moment.”

Every day is a struggle and Melese's three year old baby girl, Birtukan, is suffering from malnutrition. "What can I feed her? I have nothing; my child weight is declining from time to time but what can I do?" says Melese.

With the help of her neighbours, Melese has taken Birtukan to the nearby health post to get medical support. Following the emergency medical treatment, Birtukan was given supplementary food aid from Plan International Ethiopia.

Supplementary food distributions is one of the major interventions that Plan International Ethiopia has implemented, targeting children under five and pregnant and lactating women in the district.

Sessions run by Plan International Ethiopia are also taking place, with the aim of educating villagers on how to feed children, supporting pregnant mothers and helping people with disabilities.

"Whenever I come to this food distribution centre I also receive lessons about the how to prepare nutritious meals so my children aren't stunted," Melese says.

Melese is feeling more helping as she has received 6.25 kilograms corn soya bean and one liter of vegetable oil. "Thanks to the Ethiopian Government and Plan International Ethiopia my child's health is improving," Melese says.

"I feel like she has been rescued from the verge of death – I have even seen progress in her breathing and she is moving her body more. I am hopeful my child will no longer die."



FOOD SHORTAGES ESCALATE AS EI NINO STRENGTHENS

SNNPR, Ethiopia



Etaferahu Futara, 25, has been badly affected by the El Nino induced drought which is gripping the parts of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) in Ethiopia.



“There used to be rain and the river was always full. We harvested grains, vegetables and maize from our plot of land. Life was so good and our children were healthy,” says Etaferahu.

Now, things have taken a turn for the worse for Etaferahu and her family.

“Last year was so bad for us. The rain that used to come in August did not fall at all. There was little rain for two days, but not enough. We kept hoping the rain would come soon so we could sow our seeds.”

It was not as they’d hoped and it took many days before the rain fell again. “By the end of October; without our expectation, heavy rain came immediately and withered away all the seeds and all the seedlings that was about to grow. Since then there has not been rain,” says Etaferahu.

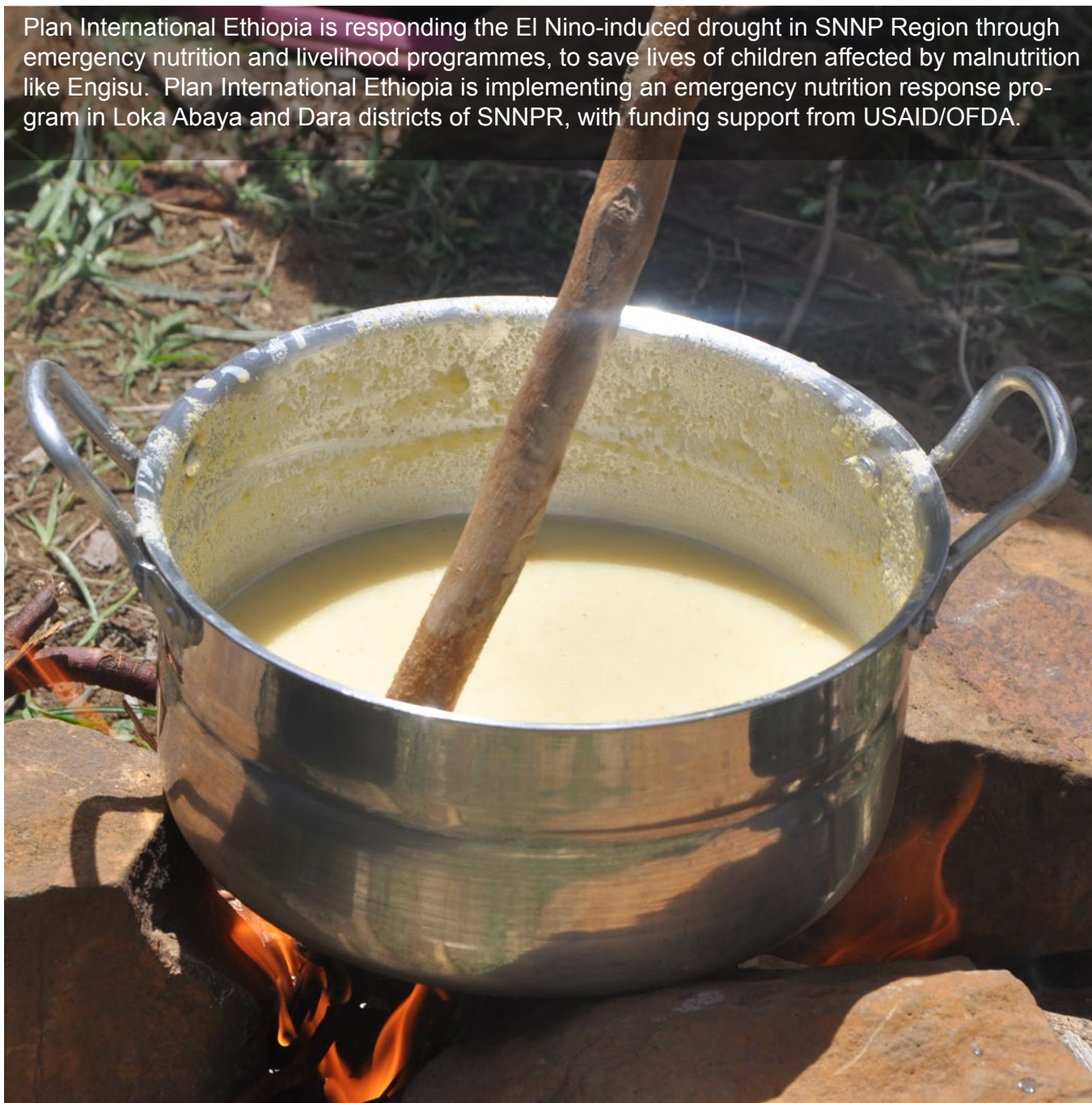
The family are struggling to survive. “Chaos in my life emerged due to a shortage of food. My husband left us alone fearing he couldn’t feed us anymore. He went out of the town and I don’t know his whereabouts.”

Engisu, Etaferahu's son, has become sick and has been diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition. Engisu has now been admitted into Plan International Ethiopia's Community Managed Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Programme. The programme includes educational sessions on the importance of breastfeeding, food preparation for under-five children, household hygiene and sanitation and family planning. It also includes admission into CMAM support interventions beginning with the least severe to the most severe, Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP), Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program (OTFP) and Stabilisation Centre.

"Engisu arrived here with his mother, exposed to severe malnutrition and pneumonia," says Mekdes, a nurse who is treating Engisu. "He was treated with 250 gram amoxicillin and vitamin A, per day. Furthermore, Plan International Ethiopia has been providing CSB, porridge and milk for Engisu and his mother to stay healthy. He was 5.3 kilograms when he came to this centre, but now he weighs 6kilograms in a week period."

Now Engisu is starting to get better and is able eat and drink by himself. "Once Engisu started receiving treatment, my stress started to go away," says Etaferahu.

Plan International Ethiopia is responding the El Nino-induced drought in SNNP Region through emergency nutrition and livelihood programmes, to save lives of children affected by malnutrition like Engisu. Plan International Ethiopia is implementing an emergency nutrition response program in Loka Abaya and Dara districts of SNNPR, with funding support from USAID/OFDA.







GAMBELLA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME



WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

Ethiopia is the largest refugee hosting country in Africa accommodating over 783,340 registered Refugees and Asylum seekers who come from South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. South Sudanese Refugees are the largest Refugee (46%) in Ethiopia. The influx of South Sudanese refugees has placed great pressure on the host community and aggravated children protection concerns. More than 324,075 people had fled to Gambella by 7 November 2016, of which 90-95% are women and children.

Plan International Ethiopia conducted a comprehensive assessment on the situation of children in Gambella region. It was found that there is a great and pressing need for child protection and access to education is limited. Child protection issues including separated and unaccompanied children; sexual, emotional and physical abuse; child marriage and marriage by inheritance; polygamy; traditional attitudes to children and limited or no access to education are pervasive in the refugee and host communities.

Accordingly, Plan International Ethiopia has been engaged in the South Sudan refugee response since June 2014 and provides Child Protection in Emergency, education (early childhood and primary education and Primary Education) and youth programmes in three refugee camps (Kule, Jewie and Pugnido-2) and the host community. This helps to ensure the peaceful co-existence of the

refugee and host communities. Following the opening of the new Refugee Camp, Ngueniyel on 20 October 2016, and Plan International has started working on Emergency Child protection, Education and youth and Sport activities.

HOW PLAN INTERVENES

Plan strengthens community systems to create a safe and protected environment to enable children's growth and development. Plan identifies children, adolescent girls, youth, parents and community members as the key agents of change and works in close consultation with them to address the problem of host and refugee community children. Plan's priorities are:

Child Protection in Emergency

- Identification, Determination, Tracing and Reunification: involves the identification and registration of separated and unaccompanied children, case management, administering the Child Protection Information Management System and family tracing and reunification.
- Establishment and functioning of child friendly spaces and provision of psychosocial support.
- Establishment and strengthening of community-based child protection mechanisms to strengthen the social cohesion between the refugee and host communities and linking with the newly established community structures.
- Provision of non-food items to unaccompanied minors and separated children
- Referring the children who are in need of tracing and family link restoration to ICRC and supporting the cross border reunification process

Education in Emergency

- Construction of primary schools (permanent and semi-permanent classrooms)
- Construction and establishment of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Centres
- Recruiting of teachers and ECCD facilitators
- Training provision for teachers from the refugee com-

munity and local government teachers, facilitators and parent teacher associations.

- Provision of school supplies

Youth Programme

- Establishment of youth centres
- Establishment of youth groups and provision of training including life skills, vocational skills, sexual reproductive health and child protection.
- Organize football, volleyball and other in door and outdoor sport competitions with youth clubs.
- Coordination of the youth activities with the existing child protection programme, education, livelihood and gender based violence programmes.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme in the Host community

- Construction of WASH facilities in schools, child friendly spaces and in the community.
- Hygiene and sanitation training and empowering communities in community led total sanitation.

WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

Child Protection in Emergencies

- Established 13 child friendly spaces that meet minimum standards which include indoor and outdoor play grounds. More than 85,084 (50% girls) children have access to the child friendly spaces and on average 4,200 children are engaged in different sport and simulation activities every month.
- Recruitment of 217 social workers, case workers and community outreach workers to facilitate activities in the child friendly spaces and case management.
- Established 41 community based child protection committees having a total of 167 members.
- Identified, registered and appropriate care arrangement was provided for 6,521 separated and unaccompanied children.
- Supported the referral of 1,085 vulnerable children has been referred to the necessary services.
- Initiated family terracing for 156 unaccompanied minors and shared for UNHCR for unification with their parents.

Education in Emergency

- Established 15 education centres in Kule, Pugnido-II and Itang host community, which has a total of 116 classrooms ((72 in Kule, 36 in Pugnido-II and 8 in host community)
- Plan enrolled a total of 13,361 students in grades one to four.
- Seven ECCD centres established with more

than 2,590 children enrolled.

- Recruited and trained 188 refugee teachers

Youth Programme

- Established three youth centres in Kule, Jewi and Pugnido II refugee camp and benefited 17,505 youth members
- Organized and strengthened 52 youth clubs
- Established and chaired Gambella youth working group
- Developed Gambella region youth program strategy

WASH Activities

- The construction of nine separate latrines, six hand dug wells and 17 water points in the camp and host communities.
- Provision of hygiene and sanitary kits for the adolescent girls and households
- About 5,562 community members benefited from hand dug wells and latrine facilities in Akula and Kule and
- Around 17,900 community members were benefited from water treatment materials, hygiene and sanitation education and awareness activities

HOW MUCH IT COSTS

So far a total of € 5.7 million fund is mobilized in cash and more than € 2 million donations in kind from different donors (ECHO; UNICEF; UNHCR, German Federal and Foreign Office; the Sweden, Germany, FLNO, GNO, UKNO, and Irish Aid) to run Refugee Response Program in Gambella.

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

- 36,639 (16, 395 girls) children reached to date in Kule, Jewi and Pugnido-2 Refugee camp
- 26,793 (female 13,664) community members both in Refugee and host community reached

CHALLENGES

- Currently we have 6.6 million USD funding gap for Child Protection, Education in Emergency and Youth Development Programmes

CHILDREN NEEDS CARE AND SUPPORT TO GROW UP HEALTHY AND HAPPY



Hundreds of South Sudanese are lucky to have escaped death following the internal conflict in South Sudan that broke out in December 2013. Thousands fled to neighboring countries, including Ethiopia.



Akula, 60 Km away from Gambella, Ethiopia, is a district where both refugees and host community live in peace, harmony and tolerance.

It is a village for around 3,500 South Sudan refugees and the local host communities. Out of this number, children and young women constitute the lion share – 70%. Here children and young people were suffered from lack of access to education, water and child friendly space /CFS/.

The influx caused by the internal conflict in South Sudan, create much pressure on the local community who live in the area.

Though the community welcomes the refuge, the problems become worse and worse. Access to education was hard; getting water becomes difficult and children didn't have a safe place to play with. As a result, they were exposed to various child protection concerns.

Mary Warkos, 12, escaped with her families; is a South Sudan refugee, who lives in Akula village for the past one year along with the host community. She was a grade 2 student in South Sudan.

"My father was a farmer and my mother was a house wife." says Mary; from upper Nile state.

"We were six at home and I am the last born for my family. We were not secured in South Sudan, everywhere was conflict and killing, and life in that war zone was miserable, I lost many of my relatives, friends and family members." Mary remembers.

"It was hard for us to go to school at that time and I was forced to stop my education." she adds.

Fortunately, after three days of ups and downs on foot through the jungles, Mary accompanied by her mother arrived at Ethiopian border, Wanke entry point.

With the support of the Ethiopian government and the UNHCR, Mary together with her mother relocated in Akula village.

Since then she use to live her life in Akula village. "Currently, life is better than South Sudan, we are secured here, the social workers support us in everything we need, they provide us different materials to play with that is why I can freely play here."

"When I wake up in the morning, I wash my face and eat my breakfast and help my mother. After that I'll come to this place and play sports, sing a song and play drama with my friends. All these were not so before" She says.

With the financial support from, UNICEF, Finland Notional Office / FLNO/, German Federal Foreign Office /GFFO/, and European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office / ECHO/, Plan International Ethiopia constructed a child friendly space, primary school, 5 hand dug wheel and 11 latrines in Akula village for both refugees and host community.

Now Mary, who wants to be a pilot, is enjoying her best in Akula child friendly space which is fully equipped by the support from ECHO apart from its nonfood items aid - blanket, floor mats, bed sheets, cooking utensils, children's shoe, laundry soap and water treatment.

"I'll start my education next year in the newly constructed primary school" she concludes.

The same is true for, Bol Mydine, 9, who lives in Akula village with his family. He is from the local host community. He spends much of his time in this compound playing with his refugee friends. "I am happy to play with my friends here. I always came to this child friendly space, it is good for us. We can play football, dance and entertain each other." says Bol.

"On average, more than 200 children visit this compound per day; I am also earning monthly salary to support my family from here. It is good not only for children but also for us." says Peter, a social worker.

"Many people have lost hope due to the bad experience they have had, but this is a place of motivation so that children can build hope for future and forget about their past experiences. It is good to expand more and more, because there are many more children who are still suffered from lack of child friendly spaces like this" concludes Peter.

Currently; with the support from ECHO, Plan International Ethiopia together with Handicap International is providing training on Child Protection, Psychosocial first aid, Disability & inclusion, awareness raising of children addressing through small group discussion and key message communication for the social workers and communities at large.

According to Global Conflict Tracker, over 50,000 estimated number of people killed and 1.6 million estimated number internally displaced since December 2013.

SAFE SPACES FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN TO LEARN AND PLAY



Ethiopia is home to over 331,214 as of December 2016 South Sudanese refugees following internal conflict that broke out in their country in December 2013. The number of women and child refugees arriving in Ethiopia keeps on rising along with the increase in separated, unaccompanied, disabled and vulnerable children



Children constitute 65-70% of the refugee population. Although half of them are school aged, most did not have access to education due to the conflict in South Sudan. In the rushed escape from the war, into Ethiopia, they left behind all their educational materials.

Nyachol, 9, is one of the young girls who escaped the war. Nyachol lives with a disability which affected her mobility. She came to Kule refugee camp in Ethiopia with her mother in 2014 from conflict ridden Nasir state in South Sudan.

Since living in the refugee camp for the past two years, there have been some significant changes in her life. Nyachol is now enrolled at a primary school in the camp and is in Grade 2.

Plan International Ethiopia with the support of European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and United Nations agencies constructed this primary school along with an Early Child Care and Development Centre, child-friendly space and water facilities as part of the emergency response programmes in Kule refugee camp.

Gatknoth Puoh, 28, who also a refugee from South Sudan, is the Supervisor at the school which has 1,336 students enrolled.

“The war destroyed every aspect of our lives. Children saw some of their family members being killed and raped. Dead bodies were lying everywhere. If the memory of those killings caused stress to adults, what more did it do to children? They were obviously traumatised,” explains Gatknoth.

“This school and other child-friendly facilities provide a safe and rehabilitating space for children,” Gatknoth adds.

A network of people have been trained to identify and refer cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in the camp as well as cases of vulnerable children. They also provide basic psychosocial support.

“Plan International Ethiopia is supporting children and providing us monthly salaries as incentives,” says Gatknoth.

Foster care families and community members that are part of child protection committees have been directly targeted for training on child protection, disability and gender issues in the camp.

Provisions have been made available for children with disabilities and their caregivers to allow them to participate and have full access to all services.



Nyachol couldn't be happier. “I am very happy, all the teachers and social workers support me. After school, I can play at the child-friendly center with my friends. Everything is there. We can stay for a long time singing songs, storytelling and playing games.”

Even her mother Nyakoach cannot hide her joy, “My daughter is happy. She has got a wheelchair, school uniform, school bag and stationery. With the conflict in South Sudan, she couldn't attend school, but now my daughter has got the chance to go to school,” she says.

Nyachol wishes for peace in South Sudan. “After completing school, I want to go back home one day as a doctor.”

NOTES

Children in Kule refugee camp and Akula village are benefitting from Plan International Ethiopia's Emergency Response Programme. Robust awareness raising sessions on child protection issues, access to child-friendly spaces, youth clubs and the identification and response to child protection cases have been conducted. Access to these services has been encouraged through awareness raising, communication and outreach activities by social workers, Plan International Ethiopia staff and the communities at large.

In response to the programme, the community have responded positively and are happy to send their children to school and the child-friendly space run by Plan International Ethiopia.





Because I am a Girl



LET'S CREATE A WORLD WHERE ALL GIRLS CAN LEARN, LEAD, DECIDE AND THRIVE!

The '**Because I am a Girl**' campaign is Plan International's flagship campaign launched in 2012 with an aim to support millions of girls to get the education, skills and support they need to transform their lives and the world around them. With researched evidence, Plan International in collaboration with other partners led the call for an international day of recognition for girls as it was one of the earliest goal of 'Because I am a Girl' campaign.

Hence, 11 October has been as a key global moment to celebrate the power of girls and highlight the barriers they face since the United Nations adopted it as International Day of the Girl in December 2011.

Plan International Ethiopia has also broadened and deepened its efforts with a vision of creating a world that values girls, promote girls' needs and welfares to transform power relations so that girls everywhere can learn, lead, decide and thrive.

In September 2015, the world leaders have agreed to 17 global goals of which girls' needs and welfares placed at the heart of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal agenda.

To this end, Plan International Ethiopia pledges to use its maximum efforts to target the root causes of inequality; ensure gender equality and upholding the need and welfares of all girls and young women through the various projects, long-term programmes as well as influencing and engagement initiatives in its programme areas: Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Gambella regions and Addis Ababa City Administration.

Plan International Ethiopia has so far reached approximately 6-7 million children and community members through its various programs including child protection, education, maternal, new born and child health, WASH and economic empowerment interventions.

As Because I am a Girl moves forward Plan International Ethiopia will seize the opportunity to reach more girls and accelerate the realization of gender transformation and calls to work along with other actors including girls and boys to deliver on the ambition of the Sustainable development goal for true gender equality.

SO FAR GLOBALLY WE HAVE REACHED



27

MILLION GIRLS AND
BOYS INDIRECTLY
THROUGH
PROGRAMME
INTERVENTION



3

MILLION GIRLS
DIRECTLY THROUGH
PROGRAMMES



436,180,807
RAISED FOR BIAAG
OVER CAMPAIGN
DURATION



264,080,997
MILLION GIRLS
AND BOYS
THROUGH
POLICY AND
LEGISLATIVE

WE HAVE A TRULY GLOBAL PRESENCE THROUGH
393 PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES WORLDWIDE







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