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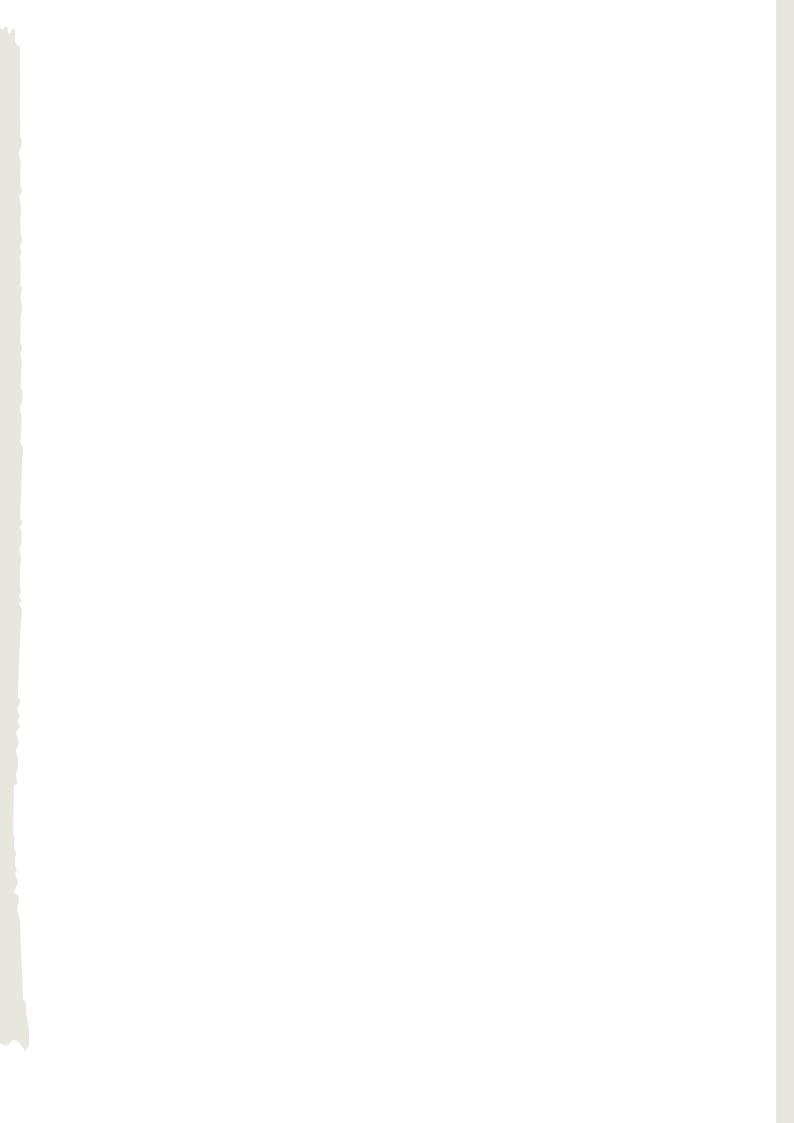
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## COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S NOTE

#### Dear Readers,

I am very pleased to present our 4th edition of Stories of Change, where you can find out more about our programmes, the impact on children and their communities.

Over the past few years, Plan International Ethiopia has gone through a tremendous growth in various aspects. The growth in FY18 has been even more, and we were extensively successful on fund-raising, networking, staff capacity building, among others. I would like to congratulate the staff, our supporters and partners for their unwavering effort to realize ambitions and visions of our organization. It is a shared victory and we all must celebrate it.

As per our Country Strategic Plan (CSP), we planned to reach USD 18 million of annual budget. Now, we have already surpassed our plan with USD 18.3 million. This achievement was mostly attributed to our works in the South Sudan Emergency Response in Gambella, where we were able to mobilize USD 7 million annually. Besides, our Emergency Response for drought affected areas and development programs also take huge shares, too (nearly 11.3m).

As far as staff capacity development is concerned, we have tried a lot to expose our employees to as much trainings as possible. For instance, we have had extensive capacity building trainings for the Country Leadership Team (CLT). Such capacity development training and exposures will continue at various level.

We were also successful in building partnership and networking with numbers of international and local development actors including NGOs and UN agencies. Currently, we are working with 15 local partners. Besides, Plan International Ethiopia has been active in the Task Force Network meetings where organization including UNCEF, UNHCR, British International NGOs (BiNGO), Humanitarian International NGO (HINGO), Canadian International NGOs (CaNGO) and other humanitarian organizations are part of.

#### Dear readers,

While celebrating our achievements, we should also focus on our prospect. And for us to be able to do that, there is a Transformation Change, the Headquarter is rolling out. The Transformation Change process, which involves situation analysis or diagnosis, will have different facts on the operating environment, on our capacity to respond to the current situations, how we can deliver and position ourselves, area of growth etc. The design phase will start as of September, 2018. Once we have completed this phase, we will finalize our draft Country Strategic Plan from 2019- 2023 (CSP), which is pending because of the Transformation Change. The Transformation Change will inform the draft CSP which will be operationalized eventually.

Therefore, as of FY19, we are going to have the approved CSP, which puts our ambition to reach out 3 million girls and 5 million girls, directly and indirectly, respectively, so as to contribute to the "100 Million Reasons to Work Together for Girls". We acknowledge that is a very huge ambition and for this to happen, we set our goal to raise USD 19 million. This is a double growth from what we had before two years.

I hope that you will learn more about our achievements so far and ambition for the future. Enjoy the Reading.

INTERIM COUNTRY DIRECTOR, PLAN INTERNATIONAL ETHIOPIA

Asadi Amdu

#### **OUR PURPOSE**

We strive for

A JUST WORLD THAT ADVANCES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND EQUALITY FOR GIRLS.

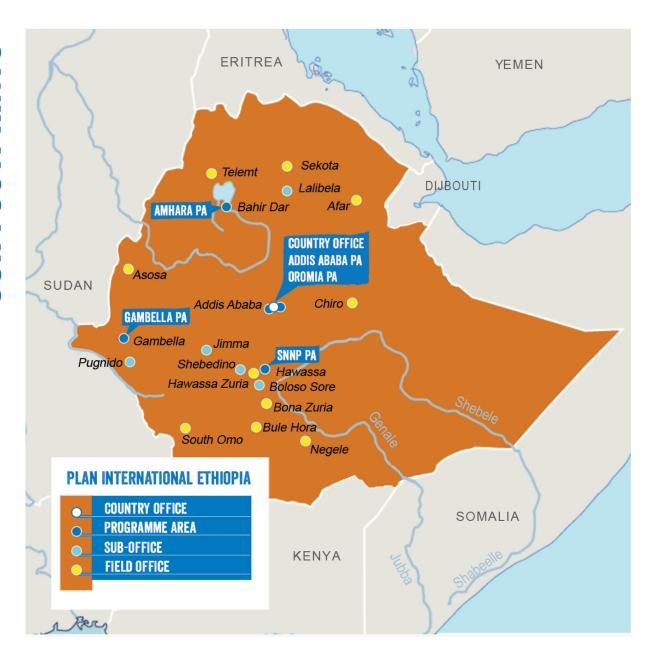




ACCOUNTABLE

We are INCLUSIVE & EMPOWERING

We work well TOGETHER



#### **ABOUT PLAN INTERNATIONAL**

Founded over 80 years ago, Plan International is one of the oldest and largest international humanitarian and child-centred development organizations with no religious, political or governmental affiliations. Plan International works in more than 70 countries around the world, including Ethiopia, to empower communities, families and children through Child Centred Community Development (CCCD) approach to advance their wellbeing and equality for girls. Child sponsorship is the basic foundation of the organization.

Plan International's programs in Ethiopia focus on Child Protection, Education, WASH, Food and Economic Security, Emergency Response and Resilience Building that we implement in Amhara, Oromia , Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) and Gambella Regional States and Addis Ababa City Administration. Common to these, issues of gender and disability are also integrated and mainstreamed in all programs.





# PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE (PCV) COUNTRY PROGRAMME



Plan International Ethiopia works in reducing and eventually eradicating harmful practices that are physically, emotionally and psychologically damaging to a large number of children, in general, and girls, in particular. There are three widespread forms of child violence and abuse: child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and child labor.

### WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevalence in Ethiopia is estimated at 45%, child marriage at about 21% and marriage by abduction at about 12%. 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 a survey conducted by Civil Societies Consortium, 68% of young women said they had been sexually abused as a child in one form or another. Violence against girls can be considered as 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. Also, 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, play major role in exacerbating these practices.

#### **HOW PLAN INTERVENES**

Plan International Ethiopia targets children, communities, and government institutions at all levels to address problem of children, in general, and girls, in particular. In order to address these problems, Plan International Ethiopia:

- 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.
- Mobilizes 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 trainings and supports 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 mobilize 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 prioritized in policy discussions.
- Supports Community Based Organizations(CBOs) 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 marginalized members of the community.

#### WHERE PLAN INTERVENES

Plan International Ethiopia implements PCV program in Amhara, Oromia, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) regional states and Addis Ababa City Administration. The organization specifically works in Fagita Lekoma, Bahir Dar Zuria, Qewet, districts of Amhara region, Diksis and Guna districts of Oromia region, and Bona Zuria, Boloso Sore and Hagere Selam districts of SNNP region.

#### WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

For the last three years, Plan International Ethiopia:

- 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.
- Improved Knowledge and skills of adolescent boys and girls on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).
- Created safe and empowering space for marginalized youths
- Established itself as one of the key actors in influencing child-focused issues in the country and continued to engage a multitude of actors including civil society, child-focused networks and coalitions and key government agencies to ensure children's issues receive necessary attention during public policy dialogues.

#### **NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES**



Total beneficiaries (including districts out of the organizations operational area) of interventions is

823,591

#### **HOW MUCH IT COSTS**



Since 2015, Plan International Ethiopia poured in Euro

7,676,098 to

implement, in collaboration with its partners, projects in various regions.

#### **CHALLENGES**

Delivery of some PCV Country Program projects was hampered by delays in establishing partnership agreements and limited staffing numbers of some partners.



Hirut, 15, was just 12 when a group of men tried to kidnap her while she was on her way home from school. As she was pulled along the road by the men, she cried out for help. "Initially, I didn't know what they were up to and I was shocked. It took me a moment to get myself together and shout for help," she explains.

In southern Ethiopia, the custom of abducting girls and forcing them into marriage remains a deeply rooted tradition in many communities. Although the government criminalised bride kidnapping and raised the marriageable age to 18 in 2004, this law has not been well implemented.

Thankfully for Hirut, her pleas for help were heard by some local people who challenged and chased the men away. Hirut considers herself lucky that she was rescued. Had it not been for the awareness raising work that Plan International Ethiopia through its local partner ANP-PCAN-Ethiopia, has been running for the past eight years, she thinks

it is unlikely anyone would have stepped in to help her. "Previously, it was normal for a girl to be abducted and be forced into marriage," says Hirut.

The local people who rescued her, acted as witnesses when she reported the case to the police. However, although the men were caught, village elders mediated on their behalf and they were released a short time later after paying compensation of three thousand birr (around €90 Euro).

Not put off by his brush with the law, the man who wanted to marry Hirut sent elders to her family to formally request for marriage. "I saw a group of elders coming out of our house and my instinct told me that something was wrong," she explains. "I left and went back to school to ask them for help," Hirut later found out that the elders came with 11,000 birr and some presents for her family who had agreed to her marriage.

With the help of her teachers, Hirut reported her family to the police. "We went to my house with the police to speak to my family. They promised that they will never think of doing such a thing again and agreed to let me stay in school," says Hirut. "I am a free girl now, and studying hard to become a doctor,"

Since her escape from marriage, Hirut now tries to help protect her friends from a similar fate. When her best

friend was facing marriage to a man she had never met, Hirut managed to convince her friend's family to drop their plans for the time being.

Unfortunately, while Hirut was away from her village, her friend was forced into marriage. "I sometimes see her. Now she has two children and because of the misery of being a child wife and mother, her face has changed a lot," says Hirut sadly.

Although Hirut has been criticised by some village members for challenging her families and communities traditions, she says that it doesn't affect her. "I don't care at all. All I care is about my education and dreams. I am so thankful that I took part in Plan International Ethiopia's child protection project which helped me become stronger."

Hirut has taken part in various training sessions run by the organisation which

is committed to raising awareness in communities about the negative consequences of harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage.

"Changing harmful traditional practices is critical" says Alemitu Abebe, from the Regional Council. "So much work has been done and we have witnessed many changes. But there is still much to be done to reduce, let alone eradicate them."

For nearly eight years, Plan International Ethiopia has worked alongside communities in southern Ethiopia to challenge traditional attitudes and cultural beliefs. We have recently launched a new project to fight harmful practices that affect the health and development of children, with a particular focus on girls.

The project will directly reach a total of 12,000 children from 25 communities in Shebedino district and will indirectly affect the lives of 125,000 children in the region.





Birtukan, 15, is a very brave, bold young girl. She lives in a small village adjacent to Bahir Dar city of Amhara Region. Most girls of her age would like to have fun all the time and some of them dream of changing their lives. But she has a big dream to become a doctor and help those she saw suffering because of various kinds of diseases.

"I want to be a doctor when I grow up," said the 7th grader at Robit Elementary School. "I want to cure those who are sick" She believes being a rural girl can't stop her from becoming a doctress, but issues related to it has challenged her a couple of times.

Birtukan has all the dedication in this world to become the girl of her dream. She also has the backing from her school friends and her beloved teachers, as she calls them.

Regardless of her dream, her family a couple of times wanted her to give up on school and marry a barber-man whom she has even never seen. "They said he's an old man. Even I don't know him," she says.

She insisted that she would only attend school but, especially her father, didn't buy into her idea. Like many men in his precinct, he has low esteem for girls and women. The best a girl or a woman can become of is a housewife.

"We can't afford to send her to Bahir Dar and cover her cost by the time she pass to grade 9th as there is no high school in our locality," says Birtukan's mother Tibeyin.

Birtukan is so wise that she knew she was not going to victor on the war all by herself. And she told her friends in the school that her family has planned a wedding. Thanks to her friends who are active members of the Girls' Club in the school, which is supported by Plan International Ethiopia's "Yes I Do/Alliance" program with an aim to fight against harmful traditional practices, her call bear fruit.

After redundant discussions and arguments, teachers and the Girls' Club members, together with the local police and community representatives including religious leaders, they were able to cancel the marriage. Birtukan and her friends are not so sure about her father for he may change his mind anytime. But they are sure that Birtukan is mentally strong to go through every-

thing she encounters and will not let circumstances kill her dream of becoming a doctor.

Amsalu Alitah, Wellbeing and Care Expert at Bahir Dar Zuria Woreda Women and Children Office, is touched by the teenager's determination, in particular, and students' commitment to combat harmful traditional practices in the kebeles where he thinks is a very serious issues. "Girls are struggling for their need and wishes, and I take that as a very big achievement," Amsalu complements.

Now Birtukan's marriage has been canceled, at least for the time being, and she is going to school. "The cancelation [of the marriage] enabled me to attend school. It will help me realize my dreams," says Birtukan.

However, her victory didn't come from one shot. She had to go through a lot of difficulties. "I have gone through many difficulties just because I said no to the marriage. I had to leave my family's house. I had to face starvation, too."

Gedam Mulu, one of Birtukan's right hands, believes that her friend will become of her dream, judging from all her endurance and commitment to pursue education. "With such dedication, she will become a doctor as she aspires too," she says. "She has endured very difficult challenges unlike being a child and as she grows, however, she will get stronger and build better resilience." Gedam believes the cancelation is a result of collaboration of various stakeholders but puts Birtukan's determination at the heart of all efforts.



#### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Yes I Do is a five year (January, 2016 – December, 2020) project with an aim to reduce child marriage, teenage pregnancies and female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C)-related practices across 7 countries including Ethiopia. It is a joint alliance of four organizations namely Plan International Ethiopia, Amref, DEC and TaTA. Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (through Plan International Netherlands), these alliances are implementing the project in their own areas of expertise by complimenting each other.

Plan International Ethiopia is implementing the project in two districts of Amhara Region, namely Bahir Dar Zuria and Kewot districts. Out of the five project objectives, Plan International Ethiopia is working towards the following two specific objectives:

**Objective 1 :-** Community members and gate keepers have changed attitudes and take action to prevent and mitigate the impact of Child Marriage, Teenage Pregnancy and Female Genital Mutilation/cutting.

**Objective 2 :-** Girls have alternatives beyond Child Marriage, Teenage Pregnancy and Female Genital Mutilation /Cutting through education and economic empowerment.



Lakech Gebre, 76, who lives in Leku town, Shebedino woreda of Sidama Zone, remembers the day she heard she was going to marry as clear and vivid as it happened yesterday.

"There was a preparation of some kind of festivity at our house," she recalled. Her family said they are preparing for a mahiber (a local gathering to socialize). She, however, came to know that was a big lie and understood that she was going to marry. "I was playing with my friends when elders insisted me to drink local medicine called koso on one Friday. Then my friends told me that I would marry in two days," she sorrowfully remembered.

After having drunk the koso, she was also forced to drink butter on the next day, which is intended to weaken her body and dismiss her resistance.

Lakech was only 14 and did not know the man she was going to marry at that moment. Then, afterwards Lakech had a very tough life as a young girl. She gave birth at 16 with misery. "Counting the pains I had gone through with my first delivery, I would say that I would have been dead. It took five days to get rid of the placenta with the help of the traditional birth attendant," says Lakech.

Lakech life was messed up and she had nothing to smile about even for a second. "I had gone to my family every time I gave birth but they had always wanted me to get back to my husband because they didn't want to be rejected by the society. Both the woman who 'abandoned' her husband and the family who welcomed her were hated by the society," She continues.

On one good day, Lakech with her five children left Arsi, her birthplace, to Shebedino woreda of Sidama zone to bury the past with all its trauma and start a new life as a single mom. For Lakech life, with all its odds, became reasonably good. "It was after I fled that I got to know what a happy life means. I had had enough and didn't want to get married for the second time," says Lakech. She decided that taking good care of her children be her dream as well as duty, which she perfectly fulfilled.

Even having gone through it, Lakech did not understand that when a girl marries a man, her life remains at the mercy of that man. But now Lakech got a chance to be exemplary and change girl's life in her home town. She is a chairperson of one of the women Idir (a community based association). As a leader she is participating in the fight against all sort of harmful traditions. and challenges of women empowerment. The Idir that Lakech is currently charring is a member of a network, which comprises various community groups including religious leaders, officials of sectoral offices, Idirs, and law enforcement bodies in Shebedino woreda and is tasked to raise awareness of the community about harmful traditions, women empowerment, and other development agendas,

The network is formed and supported by Plan International Ethiopia's "Obligation to Protect (O2P): change agents" project, which is implemented by local partner called Association for National Planned Program for Vulnerable Children And in Need (ANPPCAN Ethiopia in 15 kebeles of Shebedino woreda with an aim to promote the elimination of FGM/C by sensitizing communities on girl's wellbeing and the effect of FGM/C, empowering child protection activities to challenge norms and attitudes.

"The project has helped the networks to raise awareness of daunting issues to the society. These days, no family wants their child to leave school and get married. No family wants their daughter to be cut. Women's participation is also well accepted by the society as well as at home, Lakech confidently says.

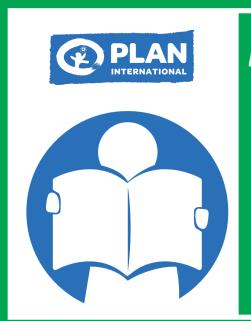
Lakech is currently raising two girls and one boy who lost their families because of various reasons. Her five children have also got a chance to go to school. She is striving day and night so that they will be good at school and realize their dreams. Two of her sons finished school and got job and all of them established their own good life

"I want all of them to focus on their education and build their future," she affirmed. "I don't recommend girls to marry before living their dreams, let alone give them to a husband at their early age. Thank God things have changed now. Awareness has been created. The law is good and I wish I could be born now," Lakech concludes

#### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

With the overall objective of contributing to the eradication of FGM/C, Transformed Assertiveness of Community and Local-government for Effective response (TACLE), is implemented by Plan International Ethiopia and its local partner Association for National Planned Program for Vulnerable Children And in Need-Ethiopia (ANPPCAN) to strengthen interactions and linkages between communities, civil society organizations and institutions in 25 Kebeles of Shebedino Woreda of Sidama zone in Southern Nations Nationalities and People's regional state.

This three years project is funded by Plan International's Japan National Office and will directly benefit over 12,000 children and girls in the target kebeles and indirectly reach close to 127,000 people in various community structures.



# A BETTER CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION FOR ALL (ABCCE 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. Plan International Ethiopia strives for and promote equal access to quality education for all children from early learning to secondary education. The two main components of our education program are improved quality of Primary Education and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).

### WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

Early childhood involves the period of a child's life from conception to 8 years. This early year period is a foundation stage their cognitive, social, emotional, lingual and physical development. It is a critical life for child's learning and overall development which recognizes the inclusion of all children with and without difference. Early Childhood Care Development (ECCD) program interventions provide a strong foundation for good growth and success in education and wellbeing as a whole. Investing in young children, hence, has both immediate and long term benefits for them, their families and communities.

#### **HOW PLAN INTERVENES**

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

- Improving early age stimulation of children aged 2-3 years,
- Influencing continuing evolution of the current national Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) policy towards a holistic ECCD approach,
- Establishing and improving quality of services at early childhood centers for children aged 4-6 and to support smooth transitions to primary school for children aged 7-8,
- Improving completion rate of primary school children, especially of girls, marginalized and disabled children,
- Improving academic performance of girls and boys in primary education and,
- Supporting development of an improved curriculum for primary education.

#### WHERE PLAN INTERVENES

Plan International Ethiopia is working in Addis Ababa City Administration, Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNP) regional states. Plan International Ethiopia has strong relationships with the Ministry, regional and zonal education bureaus and district education offices.

#### WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

- Plan International Ethiopia intervened in more than 200 primary schools, 12 post primary schools and 51 kindergartens. The interventions included upgrading, expansion, maintenance, material provisions and human capacity building.
- In just 51 ECCD centres, 2,137 children of the age of 4-6 have been enrolled and their physical, intellectual, emotional and social development is enhanced.
- Based on Plan International Ethiopia's new ECCD model, 287 parenting groups were organised. Moreover, 10,180 parents have benefited from parenting education routines. Members of parenting groups have effectively conducted village level and center level discussions every two weeks and once in a month, respectively. As a result of these discussions, children's well-being improved and members are applying the lessons on their real practical care, nurture and prevention of children from various traditional malpractices.
- In alignment to regular parenting education and discussions, parents also started village level saving and loan within every 15 days. Some 50 groups consisting, 768 members (86 male and 682 female) of parenting education started village level saving and loan program. This would enable members of the group to have their own income generating activities and strengthen livelihood income for their respective family.
- Plan International Ethiopia led establishments of regional ECCD networks which brought together government and civil society organisations to facilitate conversations on common issues and to advocate evidence-based policy.
- Some 51 selected early learning program (ELP) centers and nearby government referral linkage primary and kindergarten schools equipped with special need materials such as, hearing aids, sign language dictionaries, beginners' sign language books, sign language learning CDs, brail alphabet, brail dictionary, cane, dominos, abacus, slate and stylus, and desk top computers for children with visual and hearing impairment, and autism. As a result, 121 children with various disabilities have benefited.
- Two-donkey mobile library, consisting of 40 inch LED TVs, children's chairs, mat, various early-grade supplementary books, story books, solar panels, batteries, inverters and switches, have commenced operation. In addition, twenty cloth pocket libraries

- have been distributed to nearby referral primary schools so as to enhance class-based literacy, particularly reading in primary school.
- Plan International Ethiopia has collected indigenous stories from elderly people and have published 1,000 of books. Books have been distributed to all ECCD centers and nearby primary schools.

#### **NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES**



Direct beneficiaries of the program for the year 2017 were

**38,138 STUDENTS** 

(18,688 BOYS AND 19,450 GIRLS). their families and communities.

#### **HOW MUCH IT COSTS**



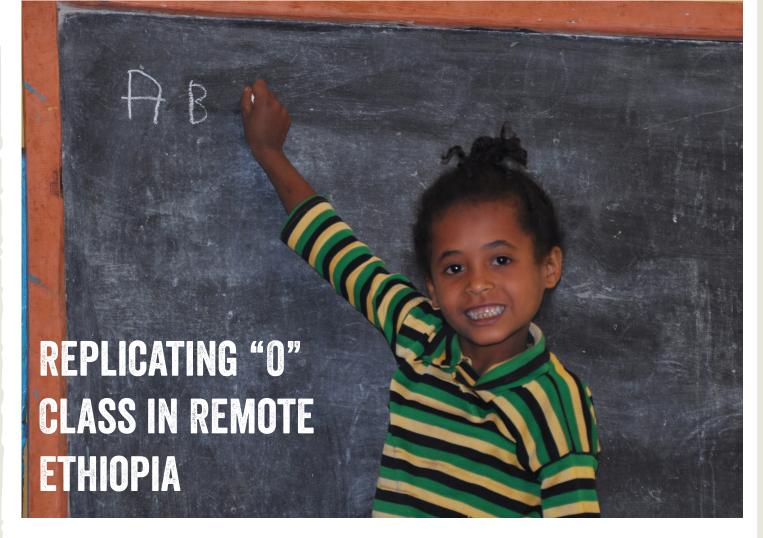
Total budget utilised till end of December 2017

was **EURO 436,268** 

#### **CHALLENGES**

The programs are proved to be successful and the demand of ECCD provision is outstripping the actual supply. However, limited funding and lack of provision of land for construction of early learning centers, especially in urban areas, is challenging to meet the demand.

Currently the education sector, especially Education in Development faces lack of resources because of global passion shift to migration and disaster risk prevention, and climate change.



Birtukan Assefa, 6, proudly says that she can count numbers and write alphabets. She is a very bright girl but she wouldn't have known all these if not for Afama Bancha Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) center, the first center in its kind in Boloso-Sore district of Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Regional State.

She joined the center, which is established by Plan International Ethiopia in partnership with Wolaita Development Association (WDA) and managed by the community, back in September 2017. "I come here to learn, study and play," says Birtukan.

Previously, Birtukan used to handle responsibilities that no one can think of a girl of her age would handle. She used to work at home all the time. "I collect firewood, fetch water from a river," she says. She also mentioned that she had to herd all the cattle her family owns.

Busy with tasks of the grownups, this little girl said she has never heard of education. On top of this, there was no school for children around her village.

"It was a long tradition that many children would have been sent to school at the age of 10 in the community," said Tadelech Meskele, facilitator and teacher at the ECCD center. "This is because of absence of early child education in the area".

Tadelech believes that Birtukan is a very lucky girl since this ECCD center is opened in her village, which is also providing parenting session to create awareness on childcare and access to education for children amongst the community.

Assefa Dana, Birtukan's father, also agrees with Tadelech. "She is very lucky to get this opportunity. The rest of my children left to school after the age of 10 and above in difficult circumstance with long journey on foot," says Assefa.

Assefa is happy now that the center gives great value for children. "Our children are attending for free. Birtukan would have been at home by this age if this center were not constructed in this area," adds Assefa

Birtukan gets up so early, wash her hands and face, and packs breakfast and leave for the center that is working on improving social and cognitive skills of Birtukan and 39 other children. "Since she joined the center, Birtukan's school performance and self-confidence has improved. Her creativity has grown. She was not this good by the time she joined the center," said Tadelech.

Birtukan, too, is so sure that she wouldn't be as good as she is now if it was not for the center. "Now I know numbers, alphabets and even I can write. I might not have the knowledge that I have today if I did not get the chance," she says. Tadelech expresses her amazement towards Birtukan's knowledge. "I might never know what Birtukan knows now only by the time I was in grade 5 and beyond" Tadelech adds.

For families in Afama Bancha, they also have other reasons to celebrate the center. "When children are at home," says Assefa, "we cannot work properly. Now we are free to work and we also know that they are in a better and safe place". "They get all necessary teaching and playing materials, too," he adds. This has led to increased demand of application from the community. However, the center has limitation of capacity and cannot accommodate all the children who show up with the interest of joining.

Furthermore, the program is so successful that the local government, which bestow Plan International Ethiopia unwavering support, has already taken initiative to replicate it and has started implementing "0" class as an early learning school inside the primary school since 2016.





Ashenafi Ayele, 15, is a grade 2 student in Dola Primary School in Boloso-Sore district of Southern Nations Nationalities and People's (SNNP) regional state.

Ashenafi, like children of his age, would have been a 10th grader, or even above, had the community he belongs to was well aware that children with disabilities can learn and be a success like everyone else. Even his family had believed that "his condition was a curse from God", according to Meseret Munda, 35, is a mother of seven and a lead mother in Dola village of Boloso Sore district.

"Due to his physical disability, many people in the community, including his family, thought he was a curse from God and made him stay at home, while children of his generation have passed to grade 10 and above," says Meseret.

"I couldn't walk outside. I even had to get my hair cut at home," says Ashenafi.

He also was not allowed to go out when guests come to their house. He, thus, couldn't help but cry his eye out. "I felt so upset and I was not focused. I loved to play with or at least see children playing. But how? I couldn't walk and had no wheelchair. I had cried most of the time," he adds.

As a result, Ashenafi remained to be shy and felt unfortunate but up until Meseret heard about him and went to his house to convince that he, like any other child, can learn and be anything he wants to become of.

"I went to Ashenafi's home to meet his parents and discuss with them what I understood from the parenting session. "I was able to discuss with his father so that he can bring him to school."

It was not so easy for Meseret, who, like many members of the community, had very little knowledge of childcare, education, and disability in general, to get the job done. Nonetheless, after so many discussions with his family and convincing them to attend a parenting sessions, through an Enhancing Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) program established by Plan International Ethiopia, she was able to bring Ashenafi to school. Meseret became an active participant of a parenting session conducted through the proj-

ect at her village and became aware on the issues that children, girls and those with disabilities. This, according to her, made her commit herself to stand against this backward attitudes of the community.

The parenting session has 20 members [5 male and 15 female] and discusses on various issues apart from early childcare and education and various professionals including education supervisors, health extension workers, partners and facilitators partake.

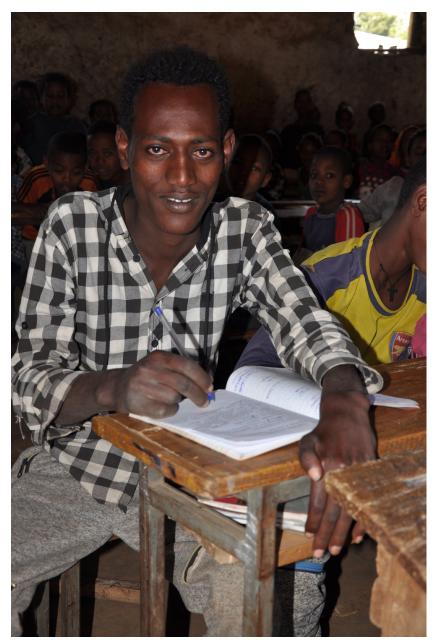
"He is now in the school with children. But it was not an easy task to bring him out and make him communicate with other children," says Meseret.

Ashenafi these days is a happy and very confident boy who can very easily communicate with everyone. "I would have been grade 10 by now if I had started school at my due age. However, I am so happy and thankful for what Plan [International Ethiopia] and Wolaita Development Association did to bring me to school and make me closer to my dream-being an entrepreneur," says Ashenafi joyfully.

Abaynesh Arsana, Ashenafi's homeroom teacher at his school, is very happy to see him in school. "He would have been forgotten because his parents made him stay home. It was through the parenting session that he had the chance to come out and was given a wheelchair," Abaynesh says.

"Ashenafi is very active in his class and students and teachers are helping him when he needs support. I am sure he will reach his full potential as he is performing well at school," She compliments.

It is not just Ashenafi's fate, however, that has changed. The parenting session that happens twice every month, has enabled Meseret and members of her community in Dola village share their concerns, good practice and



challenges on child care and development and brought about palpable signs of change in Dola village.

#### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Implemented by Plan International Ethiopia and Wolaita Development Association (WDA) since 2015 with the financial support from Plan International Finland (FLNO), the project aimed at achieving holistic development of children in safe and nurturing environment both at home and school level. It was also aimed at protecting children from any form of harm and abuse. Parenting education, early learning program, transition to primary school and partnership and capacity building are the four major pillars of the ECCD Project.



Jigsaa Tadesse, 11 and a 4th grader in Toke Kutaye Woreda in West Shoa Zone of Oromia, has a dream of becoming a doctor and treating patients. He also wants to support his community he belongs to in so many ways.

Everyone, who knows Jigsaa, believes that the boy will be the man of his dreams because not only he is doing very well at school but also his thinking and communication skills are a lot more than many of his friends and classmates.

"I ranked 1st in the class all the time," Jigsaa said. "I sometimes teach and assist students, who said to be academically weak and in need of the support, when teachers are not around for some reason."

Not only that, Jigsaa is and wants to be clean all the time. He also makes speeches and presents various programs at mini-media and other extra-curricular groups. Jigsaaa believes that he was able to develop such a character at the Toke-Kombolcha Enhancing Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) where he was registered as a beneficiary four years ago. Toke-Kombolcha ECCD center is one of the 12 Centers found in Toke-Kutaye district where Plan International Ethiopia and its local partner Ratson Women, Youth and Children Development Program established.

"We are given life skill trainings [at the ECCD center] and I was very much informed about school and school environment long before I joined school," says Jigsaa. "It, therefore, wasn't so hard for me to quickly adapt [to the environment]".

"Children were raised by and belongs to a community much wider than immediate family— an entire village," says Dandaanna Woyassa, member of the managing committee at the center. According to him, there was little challenge to children and families by then and childcare was the sole responsibility of parents who sometimes may be unable to fulfil.

However, a lot has changed for children because of the center. "The trend is changing with communities, striving to be the focal point for early childhood development" he says. "There is an increased understanding by families and communities that the future depends on the healthy

development of their children and this can only be achieved if they collectively play a vital role in them." He adds.

Kefena Negarra, a Chairman of the Management Committee at the Center, strongly backups the principles of ECCD and the first 6 years in human development is the most critical period. It is the foundation of good health, personality and intellectual development are established during this period.

"Children who pass through ECCD program are active, interactive, sociable, disciplined and outstanding. So, investing in the child's development in their formative age is critical," Kefena further explains.

Sinknesh Gudeta, 28, who served Toke-Kombolcha ECCD center as a facilitator for years, is excited and grateful for working with children in her community. She believes that a child's smile is the most heartwarming scene as it shows love, hope and trust.

"I never thought of the money I earn from the work I do at the center because I am already happy on carrying and nurturing children. On top of that, I know that children smile when they are happy, well fed, clothed and healthy. This really makes me feel that I am part of their happiness and growth into reliable and productive members of their society," Sinknesh concludes.

#### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

With the financial support from Plan International Finland (FLNO), Plan International Ethiopia in partnership with RATSON: Women, Youth and Children Development Association implemented this project in Toke Kutaye district of Ambo, Oromia region. Specifically the project aimed at achieving holistic development of children in safe and nurturing environment both at home and school level. It was also aimed at protecting children from any form of harm and abuse. Parenting education, early learning program, transition to primary school and partnership and capacity building are the four major pillars of the project. A total of more than 2,177 children of which 38 children with disability have benefited from the three years long project.

"I NEVER THOUGHT OF THE MONEY I EARN FROM THE WORK I DO AT THE CENTER BECAUSE I AM ALREADY HAPPY ON CARRYING AND NURTURING CHILDREN"



# EARLY SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN (ESDEC) PROGRAMME

# WHAT PLAN DOES

Interventions of Early Survival and Development of Children (ESDeC) Program seek to address high level of illness and death among children under five years of age. The objectives and activities of the program focus on strengthening health systems across the continuum of care for better service delivery; improving mother, newborn and child health (MNCH), Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) behavior and practices through community mobilization; and promoting economic security opportunities for adolescent girls, youth and women.

## WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

Whilst health service delivery system has expanded recent years, problem areas persist including pharmaceutical supplies and equipment, skills of health workers, skills to design monitor evidence-based interventions, poor health referral limited systems, community knowledge about MNCH (such as the link between breastfeeding and reduced incidence of child malnutrition), and the inability of women to knowledgably and fully carry out their role as primary care givers due to their low socio-economic status, etc. are still prevalent.

#### **HOW PLAN INTERVENES**

Plan International Ethiopia works towards its ESDeC objectives by:

- Building capacity of target households and groups and partners.
- Active participation of claimants in project cycles and empowering them for sustainability
- Engaging males to improve awareness of and support for MNCH and saving interventions.
- Consulting women, children and people with disabilities, including their caregivers.
- Addressing rights and needs of adolescent girls, youth, women and caregivers in economic strengthening initiatives.

#### WHERE PLAN INTERVENES

Plan International Ethiopia, with partners, implements the ESDeC program in Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP), and Gambella Regional States. Operation has gradually expanded to Benishangul Gumuz and Afar regions.

#### WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

Improving MNCH behaviours and practices through community mobilisation.

- Created access, quality of SRH and Reproductive, Maternal, Neo-natal and Child (RMNCH) services, especially for adolescent girls, youth, women and adults.
- Provided trainings and equipment to communities in association with district health offices. Government health extension workers train numbers of community members on a range of health issues and the later, in turn, train more members making up the Health Development Army (HAD).
- About 672,170 households have been reached through capacity building to women and their male family members to recognise, prevent and respond to basic MNCH issues.
- Provided basic emergency obstetric care, equipment and drugs for health centers. As a result, delivery service coverage in each district has increased by two to three-fold as compared to pre-project implementation.
- Strengthened the referral linkage in the health care tier system. For example, Plan has provided fuel for the government ambulance service over a three year period for pregnant mothers and sick children.

Economic Security for social and economic empowerment of adolescent girls, youths, women and caregivers.

- Created awareness, knowledge and skills for female headed households, adolescent girls and youth. It also created employment opportunities and established small scale enterprises.
- Supported mothers and other caregivers through two main interventions, namely value-chain development and promotion of community managed village saving and loan associations (VSLAs):
- Supported women to establish income generating activities and improve value of their enterprises through promotion of honey-value chain, mango value-chain urban agriculture, agricultural extension systems (fish farming, vegetable and fruit productions), etc. So far, about 30,445 needy people directly and indirectly have benefited from the interventions. Furthermore, trainings in agricultural extension practices has helped mothers produce vegetable, fruits, rear small ruminants to supplement households diet & earn additional cash income.
- Facilitated trainings to establish VSLA groups; supported in the cycle to enable them write their bylaws, initiated individual savings; created system of lending the accumulated money to members, use cash for felt needs and business development for better economic status. So far Plan International Ethiopia has established about 7,659 VSLA groups which has 120, 976 members of which 60 are female in the CSP period. VSLA forums and social contributions have strengthened social relationships among members.
- Moreover, goup members were provided trainings on financial literacy, basic business development skills & vocational skills for self-employment and promote entrepreneurship.

- Moreover, some members of groups are provided trainings on financial literacy, basic business development skills and vocational skills for self-employment and promote entrepreneurship.
- Among the youth, 892 members have received training in vocations such as masonry and brick work, metal work, carpentry, catering, hair dressing, weaving, etc.

#### **NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES**



Total beneficiaries including districts out of Plan International Ethiopia's operational area of interventions is

823,591

#### **HOW MUCH IT COSTS**



The total cost is USD

12,607,647.

#### **CHALLENGES**



This country programme has been challenged by Lack of employment opportunities for youths.



Tihun Shimeles, 50, is a mother of seven and lives in Hawi Gudina district in West Harerghe Zone of Oromia Region. Life was so tough to her as a result of the very serious El Nino caused drought that hit her village and other Eastern parts of the country.

She says she used to get water, both for household chores and cattle, from an extremely distant river and later from a water reservoir constructed by the government in 2015/16. The reservoir in her village was fed water by waterwheel and pumps some 72km far from the village.

But when the reservoir was unable to give water to the villagers as a result of the drought and some technical difficulties, life got even tougher to her. "It was hard to get water even back then," she says. "As the drought hit and worsened our mis-

eries, we were very frustrated and I can say all of us [villagers] hardly have hope of survival. Because there was no rain, there was no drop of water. We were unable to harvest from our farms for the last three years," she says.

Back then, the daily routine of mothers and children, mostly girls, most of the time was traveling all day long in search of water. "I would travel more than 10 hours on foot to collect only a jerrycan of water, which is not more than 20 liters", Tihun adds.

Those who don't want to suffer all that would have to pay 10 ETB for a jerrycan of water. For Tihun and many others in the community, who are very poor, that is way too expensive. Also, there are those who transport water through the use of the back of donkeys. These people, still, need to be well off either to own or to rent donkeys.

On top of that, the water, according to her, wasn't pure and, as a result, members of the community, mostly children, were exposed to waterborne diseases.

She says the suffering of the villagers, like residents of many other villages in the district, increased day in day out. "Especially, it was painful to see our children suffer from thirst," says Tihun.

Tihun explains how the situation improved when Plan International Ethiopia, in partnership with the regional government, came to the villages, studied the situation and committed itself for intervention. With the financial support from Plan International UK, the organization repaired the reservoir, brought in pumps and generators and provided technical supports, which enabled the reservoir to resume water supply.

Now Tihun gets water in her village, few meters from her house, for only One ETB per jerrycan of 20 litres, that they are paying for administrative and maintenance. She also says she is getting pure water, incomparable to what she used to fetch from the river

"Thanks to Plan [International Ethiopia]," she says, "Now I started living as I am getting pure water cheap and nearby. Moreover I get more time to do other household activities." says Tishun

"I wouldn't mind paying double of what I am paying right now because it is worth it. I hope I will no longer go through the problem again," Tihun adds.





W/ro Damenech Abebe, 33 and a mother of eight, lives in Areka town of Southern Nations Nationalities and People's regional state. She got married at the age of 15, at such an early age she hardly had a clue about marriage.

Like many people in her village, Damenech collects butter in the village and sells it to a local markets in Areka town. Her husband, Wadu Koyra, is a small scale farmer and involved in irregular sheep trading. That's what the family depended for years.

Damenech's children, excluding the youngest of all, were born with traditional birth attendants at home. Three of her children died as soon as they were born, consequently.

Because of prolonged labor for two days at home as she was giving birth for her last child, she went to Gurmo Koyisha Health Center which referred her to Dubo St. Marry Primary Hospital. She was happy to have her baby but after a few days, she sadly came to know that she was not able to control urine and defection. In fear of this, she refused to take enough food for a lactating mother like her. Because her case has become even more complicated, she had to visit the hospital once again.

"When I took any fluid, it urges me to urinate immediately. As a result, I ought to minimize my intake regardless of my serious need," says Damenech.

The family that depended much on her became very much affected as her health was becoming more fragile. Her frustration heightened because neither she nor her family can freely be involved in idirs, equbs, and other social events and totally discriminated. Because people believed that she was not going to improve, they even advised Wadu to divorce with her and find some other girl to marry.

Damenech was so desperate, as a result, to regain her health and tried almost everything at her disposal. "We have invested all our assets and I know that no expense was too great to bring back her health," she says. Unfortunately, nothing changed, according to her husband, at least, up until she heard about the UN Women project

aimed at supporting gender-based violence survivors at Bo-loso Sore wereda where Plan International Ethiopia is the implementer.

"As soon as I heard about it," says Wadu, "I went to the Women & Children Affairs Office for more information on how we can benefit from the project." He says his wife was taken to Yirgalem Hamlin Fistula Center for diagnosis and medication in just three days of their application.

After facilitating the referral linkage Plan International Ethiopia comfortably transported Damenech and her baby to the hospital where she was admitted and received diagnosis and medication for three months.

The project has enabled a dozen of mothers, excluding Damenech, to recover their health and rejoin their families and communities. On top of these, 15 mothers with Uterovaginal prolapse (UVP) have been treated.

Damenech believes it is Plan International Ethiopia that saved and reunited her family, she loved, and the social events, she missed. "I can say that Plan came here to save me and others who passed through the unforgettable pain," she says. "They saved my marriage as well."

"... My life was in absolute mess. Our neighbors had stopped coming to our house. Even my husband wanted to have a divorce with me and marry a young girl. My children had stopped playing with others," Damenech adds.

Now, Damenech is back to her village, reunified with her family and social life, and lives happily. She is in a good health and is taking care of her children. She will also soon start her trade.

#### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Plan International Ethiopia through the financial support of UN-Women implemented a project called "addressing detrimental effects of gender inequality on women's health" with the objective of inspiring women health care seeking behavior in reproductive health services and promoting gender equality to transform the condition and position of women through engaging men as partners for change. Accordingly, women groups like Women Development Armies (WDAs), community leaders (including men) and community health workers have been capacitated to raise awareness and mobilize communities to address norms and practices related to gender inequality that have negative effects on women's health.

Furthermore, the project has a component of building the capacity of relevant sectors and institutions which are responsible in addresing deep rooted traditional practice in Tiro-Afeta and Kersa districts of Jimma Zone, Oromia Region and Dara and Boloso-sore districts of Sidama and Wolayita zones respectively in SNNPR.

This a year-long project (01 July 2015 to 31 December 2016) benefited 526,813 people directly and of which 316, 088 (60%) were women and adolescent girls.

The second of the project entitled "Promoting Women's health rights through supporting effective implementation of national health policy" is implemented in Boloso-sore district of Wolayita zone, SNNP region.



Anisa Zike, 11 and a grade 4 student in Halogoba village of Hawi Gudina district of Oromia Region, is the first daughter for her family.

Like many girls in her village, and elsewhere in Ethiopia, she is responsible for household activities, including fetching water. The weight of that is too much to the shoulder of this little girl, who wants to become a doctor when she grow up.

She cleans house, help her mother in household activities, and is happy about everything except the one that annoys her every time she had to do it. "I am happy when I perform all [household activities] except collecting water from the river," says Anisa. "I am not happy when my mother orders me to collect water because it is too far and when I had to fetch, pretty much every day, I had to miss classes," she adds.

It takes Anisa, who has a dream of becoming a doctor, and other children, mostly girls, in Halogoba and other villages an average of four hours of round trip, on foot, to fetch water from a river, where animals drink from, as it is a very remote area with difficult topography and climate.

To make the matter even worse, the village and many others, became so much affected by the El Nino driven drought since 2015, making potable water a luxury. According to Anisa, thinking about sanitation at the time was a total madness. "We even didn't think about our sanitation. The situation just didn't allow us."

In fact, there was a water reservoir, which has a capacity of 300,000 liters installed to provide water for Halogoba and other villages in the district. Due to some technical failures and the El Nino caused drought, it had stopped functioning.

The teenager's life seemed, nevertheless, to have become easier as Plan International Ethiopia, in collaboration with the regional government, through Emergency Nutrition Specific and WASH Support for Drought Affected Communities program funded by Plan International UK repaired the existing water source and

upgraded it by providing pumps, generator, equipment and technical support.

Now, Anisa has no more to travel extended hours in search of water and miss classes. "My wish is for the water to be available forever as it is now. Nothing hinders me from going to school but the search for water. Now I also have time to play after school as a child," she says. "I thank Plan International [Ethiopia] for enabling us drink a lot more pure water and keep our sanitation" says Anisa.





# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROCRAMINE



Plan International Ethiopia provides support and protection to vulnerable children, their families and communities affected by disasters. The strategic and systematic emergency response of Plan International Ethiopia commenced since the 2011 Horn of Africa drought crisis. Since then, Plan International Ethiopia has been implementing different responses for various disasters mainly drought, flood and Acute Watery Diarrhoea(AWD).

#### WHY PLAN NEEDS TO INTERVENE

Ethiopia has experienced disasters of various types and magnitude over many decades. The vulnerability of communities to environmental risks is aggravated by climate change. It is the most vulnerable groups (children, orphans, women, elderly and the poorest) who suffer the greatest impact from disasters such as drought, flood and disease.

#### HOW PLAN INTERVENES

- a) Nutrition in Emergencies: follows the community-based management of acute malnutrition approach with a focus on outpatient therapeutic (OPT) programs, therapeutic feeding programs including support in stabilisation centres, targeted supplementary feeding programs and infant and young child feeding.
- b) Child Protection in Emergencies: interventions include identification, documentation, tracing and re-unification; psycho-social support; setting up child-friendly spaces; early childhood care and development in emergencies; community based child protection and training.
- c) Education in Emergencies: includes setting up temporary learning spaces to continue the education of children and providing learning materials and school facilities such as desks, chairs and blackboards.

- d)Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Emergencies: focuses on activities that can rapidly provide potable water for people affected by disasters such as rehabilitation of schemes, providing purifiers and chemicals for water treatment, water trucking, setting up roof water harvesting structures, provision of sanitation and hygiene kits and sanitary pads for school girls.
- e)Health in Emergencies: provides support for the treatment of medical issues such as acute watery diarrhoea, meningitis and scabies.
- f) Livelihood Response and Recovery in Emergencies: includes a wide range of activities aimed at providing affected communities with a means of sustainable economic support. Examples are providing pack animals to destitute women, providing community-based employment and payment in cash-for-work programmes and agricultural support in the form of providing seeds, tools or beehives.

#### **WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED**

#### Nutrition

- More than 44,500 under five children affected by malnutrition and round 11,000 Pregnant and Lactating Women were treated in the response period in 18 districts with the complete feed and medical treatment package.
- Enhanced capacity of the local Health system to respond to acute malnutrition through capacity building training, and regular joint supportive supervision and increased awareness of drought affected communities on key recommended hygiene and sanitation practices
- About 43, 418 beneficiaries have been benefited from provision of Medical & Non-medical supplies.

#### **WASH**

- Twelve 20,000 liters' capacity, 2 similar water tanker with a capacity of 10,000 liter each water containers were installed and benefit 1100 HH and their livestock in south Omo and Guji and other 20 fiber glass purchased and distributed for 20 IDP Schools in to two districts of Guji.
- More than 38 different types of water schemes had been constructed and rehabilitated –in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regional state intervention areas.
- 29, 338 HHs benefited through water tracking in Sahala districts of Amhara Region and Liben Districts in Oromia Region.
- 475 WASH Committee members had been trained on their respective scheme management, operation and maintenance and provided with maintenance kit in in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regional state intervention areas.
- 10,000 bottles of water treatment chemical provided to 5,000 HHs those who are vulnerable to the water borne diseases Bugna district. Oromia
- 7143 bottles of water treatment chemicals was provided for internally displaced people IDPs and 166,000 sachet water treatment chemicals provided to 1470 HH in two districts of Guji Zone.
- 43,464 life boy soap procured and supplied for hand washing practices to IDPs Oromia.

#### Food security and/or livelihood

- 8,550 productive cattle and concentrate feed for 2,850 of the most drought affected HHs were provided in South Omo and around 197,246 animals were vaccinated.
- 17,537 HH were provided with different types of crop, vegetable and fruit seed and the provision has addressed a total of 4,260.5 ha of farm land.
- More than7, 400 kg different type of forage seed distributed to 1,421 HHs supplied for pasture promotion intervention site and over sowed on land protected or enclosure areas.
- 4,428 shoats (4 per HH) 8,100 pullets (5 per HHs) were distributed to 1,107 and 1, 620 female headed HHs respectively in Amhara and Oromia Region.
- Total 1,300 HH (662 female HH) and 638 Male HH from two intervention district of Guji Zone of Oromia Region were benefited from cash for work activities.
- More than 20,000 HH Livestock intervention beneficiaries had treated with a total 82,911 cattle and 86,726 shot(Sheep and goat) through voucher based services in West Guji of Oromia and South Omo zone of SNNP region respectively.

#### **Child protection**

- Child protection structure strengthen in 6 districts of Amhara and SNNP Regions as a result Child Protection Committees,(CPC) received training.
- 155 separated children reunified to family in 4 districts of Amhara region intervention areas

#### WHERE PLAN INTERVENES

Support and protection to vulnerable communities, especially children and their families, affected by disasters have been implemented in 24 woredas in different parts of the country, including Amhara, Oromia, and Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Regional States.

#### **NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES**



The maximum beneficiaries had been registered for Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

702,888

and under El Nino response (for the period November 2015 – December 2016) total beneficiaries of intervention

is nearly **500,000** of which 72.7%

(363,500) were children.

#### **HOW MUCH IT COSTS**



Since Plan started emergency response in 2011, more than

**25** million Euro was mobilised for response projects in the above mentioned sectors

#### **CHALLENGES**



a)Limited availability of funds/donors for Disaster Risk Reduction livelihood interventions and resilience building.

b) There is increasing occurrence of droughts and food insecurity as a result there is a huge gap between resources for interventions and the actual need.



## A REBIRTH FOR CHILDREN IN SAHALA WOREDA

Tela, a local beer in most parts of Ethiopia, is a source of pleasure for many residents of Sahala Woreda of Waghemra zone in Amhara Region. It, however, is the foundation and pillar for Sewalem Getu, 26, and her family.

Sewalem, is a mother of two, and sells tela for everyone who wants to sip from one of her tins [containers of one or half a litter] and quench their thirst. In the good old days, she could easily earn money for sustenance from her business, according to her. "I used to get money pretty enough for my family," she says.

But Sewalem's business, too, was hit so hard when the serious drought hit Eastern African countries, including Ethiopia. Sahala is one of the highly affected woredas in Ethiopia.

Because of lack of production, the price for sorghum, the major input for *tella*, highly increased. On top of this, Sewalem would find water after hours of search in the mountainous arid lands of Mesha village, where most of the population was very much affected by the drought and predominantly relied on government Safety Net program and food aids from various development partners including Plan International Ethiopia.

As cost of input for the local beer increased, she tried to manage her business by adding the price of the beer, to share the inflation to her customers. But business dried not only because of the price of the beer, but also because the same catastrophe also affected pockets of her clients.

"I used to buy 1kg of sorghum for five birr(0.25USD) only. Since the drought came by, though, the price almost doubled," she adds.

"Many of my customers were no more able to come by and buy tela like they used to. This affected my family who depends on sustenance and food shortage made our lives so hard," Sewalem explains.

Because of the poverty aggravated by the drought, Abaye Mamu, 2 years old, Sewalem's youngest child, became malnourished. "He was seriously sick. He was unable to eat, drink and even sleep," she says. Sadly, she didn't have money to take him to hospital. "He was about to die!"

For good, though, Plan International Ethiopia, in association with other actors, started intervention through "Integrated Emergency Nutrition and Emergency WASH project with a financial support from ECHO.

Under this project Plan International Ethiopia provided necessary medical equipment like medicine, OTP-SC-Nutrition and skill gap training, nutritious food for lactating and pregnant women, as well as inputs for the health post like office equipment, demonstration materials and various home based trainings across the district in targeted communities in the district.

Sewalem went to the nearby health post where Plan International Ethiopia provided medication and food for her baby. She said her baby received due medication with due attention. "He was provided with supplementary food from the health post. A training was given to me before taking the food and feed my baby," she adds.

"I am super excited now because my baby is very healthy. Hadn't been for the food, I would have lost my baby," says Sewalem.

Abrham Mulu, Health Officer at Mesha Health Center, expressed his appreciation for Plan International Ethiopia's efforts in responding for the need in the village. "I would like to thank Plan [International Ethiopia] because there's nothing to do than save a dying baby because of food shortage. It is rebirth for Abaye and many other children who received food and med-



ication from the project," he syas. "The organization also has a very close and good relations with our health center,"

According to W/ro Desta Abebaw, Health Extension Worker at the Health Post, there are 18 health various package in this program. "Plan [International Ethiopia] has been supporting us in every packages including provision of office equipment, medicine, nutritious food, Plumpy-nut and various home based trainings.



Fatume Bakar, 38, is a woman too much on her shoulder as many women in Guba Koricha woreda of West Harerghe Zone in Oromia Regional State.

She is the head for a family of five. During her old bright days, she had everything what a person should have to be considered as a well-off family. Her life took a dive when her husband got sick a few years back urging her, and the family, to spend almost everything they owned for his medical treatment that bear no fruit. To make it worse, the farm the family owns and she ploughs denied yields as the result of El' Nino caused drought which resulted 7.8 million people in need of food aid in Ethiopia.

According to her, the last couple of years have been the worst in her entire life and the sorghum, maize and wheat she sow this year would hardly give produce during the mahar season. "Maize and sorghum is dead already. The wheat may revive but only if it rains in a few days and as long as it does in a normal kiremt season does," she says helplessly. Fatuma said they don't have anything to ea right now, let alone for the whole year.

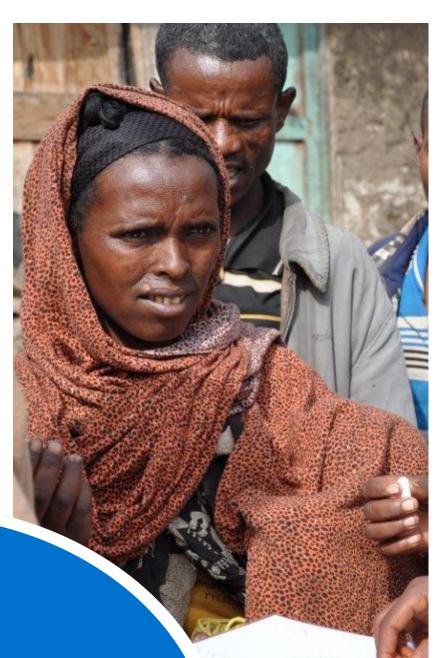
Like any kindhearted mother, she did not want to see her three children die of hunger. "I sent Chaltu [one of her daughters] to a well-off family, so that they lend me hands to support my family and, mainly, to feed her," she adds with cloudy eyes.

With all this, though, she sends Aska Mohammed, her other daughter, to school. "I am deeply sad that Chaltu is not in school but what can I do," Fatuma said regretting.

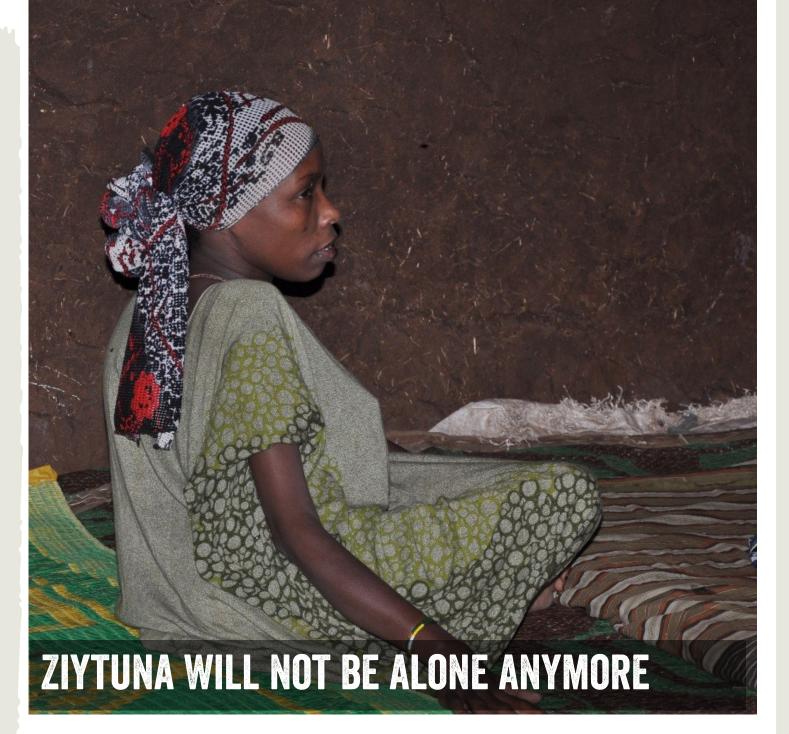
As Plan International Ethiopia's drought emergency response team in West Harerghe handed over goats and sheep to families identified as poor-of-the-poor by experts

from Guba Koricha woreda governmental institutions, Fatuma was fortunate enough to receive four goats for breed.

Fatuma put much of her hope on these goats because they will empower her economically. "My only hope to keep my family alive will depend on the goats I received from Plan today. I am hopeful that it will improve my life. But we need to have something to consume until I reap fruits from the goats" she says. "I will take good care of them and try to feed my family in the long-term". She also said she would bring Chaltu back home and will look into how the later can go back to school. "I want her to be stronger than me and challenge life differently and efficiently. Only education will make her do that." Fatuma concludes.



"I WANT HER TO BE STRONGER
THAN ME AND CHALLENGE LIFE
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Ziytuna Sani, 30, is living with her brother Abdella, in Halo Goba community of Hawi Gudina District of Oromia Region.

Ziytuna is disabled and couldn't walk upright since the age of seven due to unknown reason. Abdella is the only person supporting her all the time.

Like the majority of people living in this area, Ziytuna and her brother used to live through agriculture. But for the past three consecutive years, they relied upon government Safety Net program due to the recurrent drought across the region. Water is one of the major challenge in Ziytuna's village. "My brother was the one who collect water from the river both for me and his family. I can't collect it as I couldn't walk", says Ziytuna.

"Before this water point start functioning, my brother used to travel almost half a day to collect water and he has always come tired. For that reason, I don't feel comfortable asking for water even if I was so thirsty," Ziytuna adds.

Ziytuna has never been pushed to the corner in any circumstances as it was for the past three years. That was a very bad experience for her.

"I had to wait until my brother gives me water. I was not feeling well whenever I asked him for water, I knew the challenges that he could face to bring it for me and his family."



"Hence, I might have drunk any sort of water, clean or dirty, available at home," she explains.

"Most of the time we have to pay 10 birr per 20 litres of water and that is very costly for people like me who are dependent on aid", Ziytuna further elaborates how much the water shortage affects their economy.

Asked about her social interaction Ziytuna replied "I stayed alone at home, no one will have time to socialize, and everybody has been rushing to this routine task – searching for water."

To think about hygiene and sanitation including washing clothes were very difficult for Ziythuna in such circumstance. "I know what all these costs both financially as well as physically that is why it was impossible for me for a long time," she says.

"Today I am very happy to see this water in our village. I hope I am not going to be thirsty any more for long. I can ask any one from the neighborhood to bring water for me without any challenge"

"Now, we all are happy, we can drink pure water with list cost. I prefer to drink this one and wish to drink it forever."

"I hope from now on wards, I may also get someone to interact with as people will not spent much of their time in search of water," Ziytuna concludes.



# GAMBELLA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME



Ethiopia, both a transit and destination country maintains its open-door policy towards refugees and continues to receive new arrivals from several of its neighbors, notably from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan and Yemen, and sheltering 909,301 refugees. South Sudanese are the largest refugee population in Ethiopia.

The population of refugees in Gambella alone has hit 414,653 by February, 2018. Women and children make up the majority of these refugees with 24% and 64% respectively. Youths, between the age of 15 and 24, also constitute 18% of the total refugees of which 3/4 of this number are young girls. The number of separated, unaccompanied and other vulnerable children is 35,208, which accounts 13.47% of the total refugee children population.

According to an assessment conducted by Plan International Ethiopia on the situation of host community children and South Sudanese refugee children in Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz regional states, there is a great and pressing need for child protection and education programs. In both refugee and host communities, child protection issues including sexual, emotional and physical abuse, child marriage and marriage by inheritance, polygamy, traditional attitudes towards children, limited or no access to education are very pervasive.

Under the framework of child protection, education and youth empowerment in emergency, Plan International Ethiopia has been implementing projects since December 2014 in 9 camps (four in Gambella and five in Assosa) and entry points. In order for the organization to be able to ensure peaceful co-existence, integration and complementarity between communities and refugees, it has a long-term commitment to work on operations for the local community in both regions.

# **HOW PLAN INTERVENES**

Plan International Ethiopia strengthens community systems to create a safe and protected environment to enable children's growth and development. Plan International Ethiopia identifies children, parents and community members as key agents of change and works in close consultation with them so as to address problems of children in both host and refugee communities . Therefore, Plan International Ethiopia's priorities are:

# **Child Protection in Emergency**

- Strengthening case management activities to address individual protection cases. The process starts from identification, registration of separated, unaccompanied and other vulnerable children, temporary/alternative care arrangement, case follow up to family links restoration and reunification.
- Establishment and functioning of child friendly spaces to engage the children in recreational and learning activities.
- 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.
- Strengthening referral linkage for provision of holistic and comprehensive humanitarian assistance for girls, boys, adolescents and young women and men.

# **Education in Emergency**

- Construction of primary schools (permanent and semi-permanent classrooms).
- Construction and establishment of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Centers.
- Lead and manage the teaching and learning process and recruitment of teachers and ECCD facilitators.
- Training provision for teachers from refugee communities and local teachers in governmental schools, facilitators and parent teacher associations.
- · Provision of school supplies.

## **Youth Empowerment Program**

- Establishment of youth centers and engaging them in various sport and recreational, SRH & SGV and peaceful co-existence activities.
- Establishment of youth groups and provision of trainings including life skills, vocational skills, sexual reproductive health and child protection.
- Coordination of youth activities with existing child protection, education, livelihood and gender based violence programs.

# Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Program

- Construction of WASH facilities in schools, child friendly spaces and in communities.
- Provision of trainings on hygiene and sanitation so as to empower communities in community led total sanitation.

# WHAT PLAN ACHIEVED

## **Child Protection in Emergencies**

- Established 16 child friendly spaces including indoor and outdoor play grounds. Now, more than 75,000 children have access to child friendly spaces and received para psychosocial supports.
- Recruited 405 social workers, case workers and community outreach workers to facilitate child protection activities implemented under three strategies; child friendly space – psychosocial support, case management and community based child protection mechanism.
- Established 45 community based child protection committees and a total of 675 community members and capacitated them to be actively engaged in the child protection initiatives.
- Identified, registered and provided due care arrangements for more than 13,000 separated, unaccompanied and other vulnerable children.
- Supported referral of 6,630 vulnerable children to required services.
- With UNHCR, successfully reunified 530 unaccompanied minors with their parents.

### **Education in Emergency**

- Established 24 primary school and ECCD centers.
- Constructed and commenced operation in a total of 228 class rooms and ECCD classrooms in Kule, Pugnido-II, Nguenyyiel, Gure Shembolla, Bambasi and Tsore comps and the host community.
- Enrolled more than 40,000 refugee children with the age of 3-14 at ECCD and lower primary classrooms.
- Recruited and trained 230 refugee teachers and female assistant teachers.

### **Youth Empowerment Program**

- Established 9 youth centers in Kule, Jewi, Pugnido-II, Nguenyyiel and Gure Shembolla refugee camps.
- Benefited more than 14,500 youth members in various activities.
- · Organized and strengthened seven youth groups.
- Established and chaired Gambella Youth Working Group
- Developed Youth Program Strategy for Gambella region

### **WASH Activities**

- Constructed 68 separate latrines, six hand dug wells and 17 water points both in the camp and host communities.
- Provided hygiene and sanitary kits for the adolescent girls and households.

# **NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES**



A total of **200,977** individuals, both from the refugee and host communities, benefited from Plan International

Ethiopia's programs. Some 42% of these beneficiaries are female.

# **HOW MUCH IT COSTS**



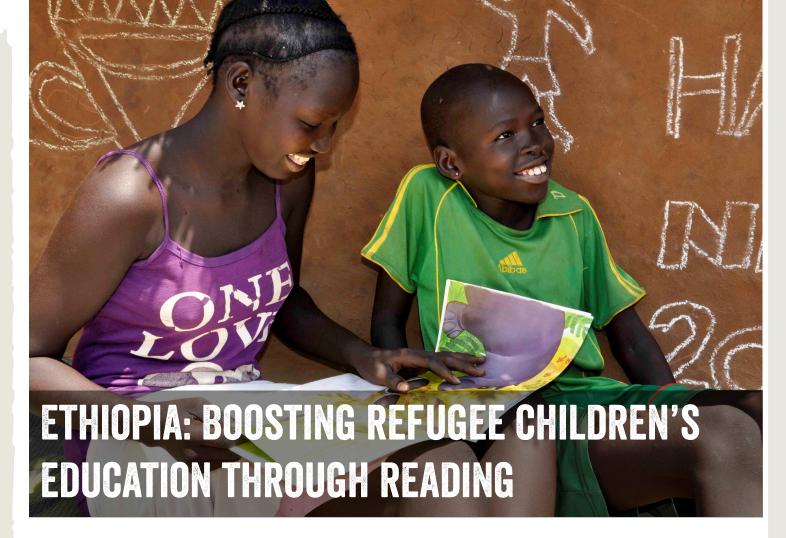
The average annual funding of Plan International Ethiopia's integrated projects since 2014 was **6.5** million Euro.

The fund came mainly from UNHCR, UNICEF, ECHO, BPRM, GFFO, Irish Aid, EU, RRM and Plan International National offices largely from Germany, Sweden, UK, Japan, Netherlands, Finland, and Canada.

# **CHALLENGES**



- The refugees' influx from South Sudan still continued and it stretched the limited resource and operational capacity.
- Most of school age children are not getting access to education only for lack of resource, and
- Protection need of unaccompanied and separated minors (UASM) and other vulnerable children (UVC) not full addressed because of lack funding.



Storytelling has always been an important part of people's lives, but refugee life has a way of threatening even the most ingrained of traditions.

In Kule refugee camp in Gambella, Ethiopia, home to more than 270,000 South Sudanese refugees since conflict broke out in their country in 2013, there are children who haven't heard stories for all these years.

Nyakeata, a South Sudanese refugee who lives in the camp, says that she was so fearful about her family's circumstances that telling stories to their eight-year-old daughter Babur was the last thing on her mind.

"We're living through a war," she says. "How can we even think about telling folktales now? We're worrying about how to be safe from the fighting and feed our children and ourselves."

"While we know hearing stories helps them, it just wasn't a priority."

# Instilling a passion for reading

Since December 2016, Babur has been attending regular reading sessions at children's day center set up by Plan International Ethiopia as part of We Love Reading, a pilot initiative run alongside our partner organisation UNHCR.

As part of the project, which is dedicated to improving reading, listening and analytical skills of children living in the camp, 46 volunteers have been given books and trained to deliver sessions in reading and illustration and 40 reading circles and community libraries have been established.

Babur, who hasn't missed a single reading session since the project began, says that her favourite book is about a boy called Kulang and his dog.

The project is encouraging children to tell stories orally to their peers. "I've told most of the stories I've heard to my sister and brothers and friends of mine," says Babur.

# Working with women

The women in the camp are also participating: many have begun to read to their children again, thanks to books borrowed from volunteers.

"When the dusk falls, my mum reads stories from the book I got from John," says Babur, referring to John Majak, one of the volunteer reading ambassadors.

Majak, a father of three who escaped from South Sudan with his family in June 2014, believes the project is helping to instil a passion for reading in the entire community.

"When children see me from a distance with my story books, they run to the reading place and sit on the ground," he says. "When I begin reading, they go quiet instantly and pay attention.

"Most of them are now so interested in stories. The number of children who attend my sessions has doubled in three months."

So far, 1,751 children have benefitted from the project, with many of them performing better in school and becoming more confident as a result.

In recognition of this success, the project will soon be replicated at other refugee camps across Ethiopia.

## **Exploring tribal heritage**

Another volunteer ambassador, Gatwech Chuol Buop, who also fled the conflict in South Sudan, believes stories are the best way of teaching children about their cultural heritage. He writes stories about the Nuer tribe who are concentrated in South Sudan and southwestern Ethiopia and shares them at 30-minute reading sessions on Sundays attended by up to 350 children.



Reading ambassador reads aloud to children at one of the reading centres in the camp

"The stories tells children about their ancestors – about their strength and struggles for survival and how they shared resources among the community," he says.

The work brings him real happiness, he says. "From time to time, I see real changes in the children."



With her breathtaking voice, Nyelua Gach, 11 and one of over 401,660 refugees in Gambella who fled a devastating war in South Sudan with her family of 7, sings for children of her surrounding communities. Her song calls upon children to come to school and make their future brighter. However, she is yet to get access to school.

At Nguenyyiel Refugee Camp alone, where Plan International Ethiopia, in close collaboration with ARRA, UNHCR and other implementing agencies, is undertaking Primary Education (Grade 1 to 4) and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centers, there are over 59,100 refugee children. By now, there are over 47,300 school-age children in this camp. However, only a little over 11,000 of them are getting access to school at various levels. Like Nyelua, the rest are staying idle all day long and/or helping families in household activities somehow

She believes education is the key, if not everything, for one's future success. "Education changes your life; it brightens your tomorrow," cried in her song. Nyelua used to go to school and was 1st grader before the war broke out in South Sudan.

Abebe Kassa, Education in Emergency (EiE) Coordinator of Plan International Ethiopia's operation in Gambella, knows that many children, including Nyelua, have not yet get access to education. "Classes are congested and the number of classes we very limited," he said to a group of journalists who, with the High Commissioner of UNHCR, were at Mat school on Tuesday morning to witness Plan International Ethiopia's operations. "We have a very limited resource," he added. He also mentioned that there upper primary school and secondary school classes should be opened for the upcoming fiscal year so as to accommodate grade 5 and above students. "Grade 4 students will be graduated this year and they should pursue their education further," said Abebe.

Nyelua wants to be a teacher and help children realize their dream. But her dream is hanged on a wall whose survival is at the mercy of the international community. "Nothing is better than home and I want to go home when the dust comes down. Up until then, I should go to school," said Nyelua. She has a plan to get registered when the summer break ends.

Should she and the rest of over 48,000 children go to school next year, will be decided upon the resource at the hands of implementers.

# **WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017: UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and Deputy Director of ARRA, Mr. Zeynu Jemal, visiting Plan International Ethiopia's *Mat primary school* in Nguenyyiel Camp on the commemoration of world refugee day.









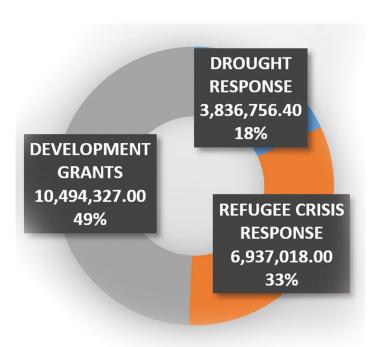




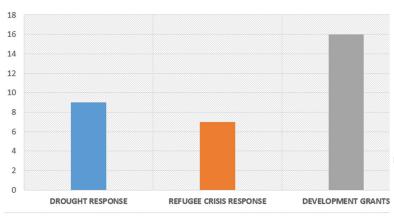


# OUR GRANT PORTFOLIO JULY 2017 - MARCH 2018

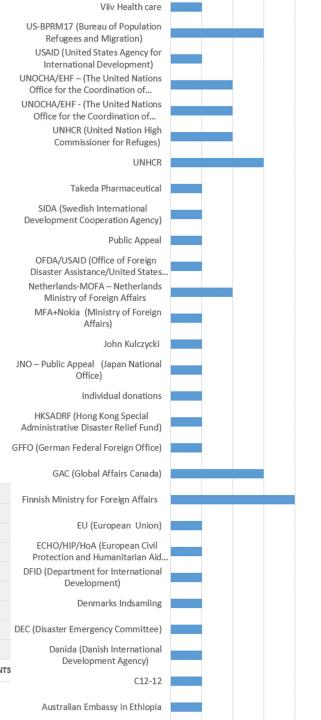
# DROUGHT RESPONSE VS REFUGEE CRISIS VS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS



# **NEW PROJECTS SECURED IN FY18**



# **OUR DONOR'S**



**NUMBER OF PROJECTS** 

# Egg ama Girl



All girls, including Selamawit Gebremeskel, 16, Plan International Ethiopia Girls' Ambassador who believes girls have equal potential as boys, have big dreams to live, learn, make their own choices, lead their own lives and be model for others. However, this has for ages been somewhere in the cloud and, for it to happen, needs so much commitment and actions on its attainment.

It was back in 2012 that Plan International introduced the 'Because I am a Girl' (BIAAG) campaign with an aim to create a world that values girls and promotes girls' welfare. The campaign came with a new initiatives to put girls' voices at the center of every effort to transform their lives and make sure that leaders everywhere keep the Global Goals promise for every last girl.

Under the BIAAG Campaign, more than 500 projects have been implemented across the world so far and more than 5 million girls' lives have directly been touched since the campaign was launched. Furthermore, the campaign has indirectly impacted the improvement of the lives of over 40 million girls and boys. This has been a witness for BIAAG's impact on the broader communities, schools and families.

Selamawit once said she clearly understands that girls have equal potential to compete with boys at school. "I can learn freely and achieve whatever I wish," she said. "I have instilled 'Yes I can' attitude in me and promote this to other girls in the school as well."

Inspired to do even more, Plan International has now renewed its commitment and ambition over its works with children, partners, and supporters for the next five years to transform the lives of 100 million girls across the globe. This new commitment will create a world that values girls like Selamawit, promotes their needs and welfare and transform power relations so that girls everywhere can Learn, Lead, Decide and Thrive.

Now more than ever, Plan International is demanding to be bold and take action together to ensure 100 million girls learn, lead, decide and thrive and has underlined the need for both internal and external collaboration. Plan International also believes that there is a lot of work to be done which requires our commitment, enormous effort and collaboration internally and externally. Thus, to achieve our ambition and change the lives of girls everywhere, we will build upon existing partnerships and seek out new opportunities for collaboration.

# "...I WOULD LIKE TO ADVOCATE FOR GIRLS EQUALITY."

"My name is Etagegne Chimdessa and 18 years old. I am a 12th grader at Minilik Preparatory School. As a girl, I have gone through a lot and as a result, have always complained about my femininity. Now, I have a dream to be in a good position and contribute in resolving issues that girls may face. I, with others, would like to advocate for girls' equality.

"I believe challenges of girls start at home and parents need to be cognizant of their treatment towards their children and should, in any way, not make girls feel inferior to boys. I also believe that the media, the government and international organizations should stand for girls, help them raise their confidence to decide for themselves. Moreover, I call up on all girls to value and honor themselves and not to give up on their dreams."



# "WE ARE BIGGER THAN OUR PROBLEMS"



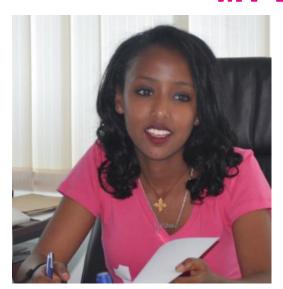
"My name is Eden Geremew. I am 18 and a 1st year Accounting student. I consider myself very lucky to be a girl.

Even though I know women and girls, including me, face too many challenges, I believe we girls are bigger than our problems and can make a difference. I plead to all girls to come together and communicate our issues and should strive, with those who have the desire and ability, to change their situations.

Being a girl also helped me to be very understanding and thoughtful. Thanks for my family, especially my father, who made me to be so proud of and confident about myself.

Someday, I want to establish my own business, which will help me support girls who will probably be in need because I like to be there for people who need help ranging from advices and suggestions to anything on my capacity.

# "I AM SURE I WILL BE THE WOMAN OF MY DREAM."



"My name is Selamawit Gebremeskel and I am an 11th grader at Falcon Academy.

"Even if I am part of a society that values girls lesser than boys, and does not do so much for the rights to be respected, I am proud of being a girl and I am sure I will be the woman of my dream.

"These days, things seem to be changing for children and girls for the better. Technologies are improved and improving our lives; we are accessing information that can change our and others attitudes. We must utilize this opportunity to raise awareness of the society about our problems, our capacities, capabilities, etc.

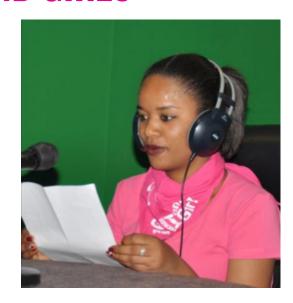
"My dream is to be a cardiologist and help citizens who suffer from heart diseases and thereby be exemplary for African children. I urge all children to dream BIG and fight for it."

# "EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ATTEN-TION TO BOYS AND GIRLS"

"My name is Kibur Berihun. I am a Grade 11 student at Wondirad Secondary School. I am extremely happy for and proud about being a female. It has exposed me for various responsibilities which I fulfil happily.

"I have a dream of establishing an organization, like Plan International Ethiopia, and will try my best to support girls and advocate that they can achieve anything if they wish, commit themselves to and persist on doing, regardless of their various challenges.

"A lot is due from academic institutions, teachers, families, governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, schools and families to provide special attention and equal opportunities to girls. Also, WE girls should first believe in ourselves so as to make others believe in us. We must stand for our rights to education so as others will."



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