

An update on Iman and her family

Thank you for sponsoring Iman. Today we would like to let you know more about Iman life and about projects which took place in the neighbourhood where the family lives.

Sponsored child

Name: Iman Hassan Hossny

Age: 7 years old

Area: Om Dinar

Sponsor

Sponsor Name: Mr. Anthonisse

Country: Netherlands

Iman's family

There have been no changes to Iman's family.

Education

Iman attends primary school.

It takes less than 30 minutes to reach school.

Iman's favourite subject is languages.

Health

According to the family, Iman has been healthy and not suffered from any serious illness.

The nearest health facility is about 30 minutes away.

Projects

In the area where Iman lives, families participated in or benefited from:

- Support in the formation and strengthening of children and youth organisations
- Support for educational and recreational events with children
- Activities in helping children's groups publish their own newsletters or magazines
- Agricultural training for farmers
- Capacity building and support to women's self-help groups

Learn more

Please see the attached update prepared with children and families to learn more about projects in the wider area.

The information on Iman, and her family was collected by:

Mostafa Kamar
community volunteer

(10L)

Please continue to correspond with Iman and her family. Be sure to use your sponsor and child correspondence numbers in all communications.

Sponsor number: 005-0932216

Child correspondence number: 0134-022503





Update on Om Dinar

This is an update about life in the area of Om Dinar, as seen through the eyes of the children and families who live there. Om Dinar is made up of various communities and the situation and the activities described are representative of the area as a whole.

We children of Om Dinar area are happy to inform you once again on the development activities that took place in our area over the past year. The communities appreciate the relationship with you, and would like to thank you for your kind support.

Literacy classes for women

Most of our mothers are illiterate, they do not know how to read or write, and they are not able to help us with our studies and homework. Our fathers who can help us are always busy or at work. Some of us ask the help of an older neighbour or relative, and yet some never find someone to help. When we go to school the next day without finishing our homework, the teachers punish us. This makes us feel sad, afraid to go to school and do not know what to do. Then we heard about literacy classes held for our mothers using 'REFLECT' methodology. This method teaches our mothers reading and writing in a very simple way, as well as other very useful skills such as sewing.



Our mothers during a 'REFLECT' session

"Everyday, I used to cry when I could not finish my homework alone and needed help. My mother could never help me as she could not read or write. I always felt sad and did not know how to solve this problem. Then my mother joined 'REFLECT' literacy classes. After 3 months, she learnt reading and writing and she also made me a nice dress during the sewing classes she was attending through the program. Now I feel very happy that my mum can read and write and she will be able to help me with my studies." Amira M, 11 years old.



A weekly meeting for one of our saving groups

Improving our income

Our families were not always able to meet all our needs, for example they could not afford us new clothes or daily allowance. This did not affect us as much as not being able to buy school uniform which is important for us to go to school. A year ago Plan started the project of savings and loans scheme. Most of our parents joined saving groups and started to save money together. Our parents use the money they save to meet our needs like buying school uniform, paying school fees or even starting a small business. Even children and young people started to set up saving groups.

“My mother joined a saving group and she was able to take a loan from her group. She bought two goats, raised and sold them, making some profit. She will pay the loan back to the group so that someone else can benefit from it. As we found this project very useful, my friends and I started a saving group among ourselves. I used the money to buy school uniform and a school bag. One of my friends gave the money to his mother to pay the school fees for him. Thanks to this program, we were able to solve some of our financial problems in a simple easy way”. Fatma A, 13 years old.

Rehabilitation for our siblings with disabilities

Our brothers, sisters and friends with disabilities face many problems on daily basis. People in our area were not aware that children with disabilities have the same rights as other children. Families used to be ashamed when they had a child with disabilities, even us, children, we used to treat them in a different way. They were always kept apart from our games and gatherings. Plan, in cooperation with the local development association, established a rehabilitating centre in our area for children with disabilities. A team from the local development association registered all children with disabilities in our area. Mothers go to the rehabilitating centre on weekly basis to take their children for physiotherapy and other rehabilitating activities. This centre is a great achievement as many parents used to travel for a long distance to visit physiotherapy units outside our area. Through the centre some of the children received wheelchairs; others received rehabilitation services and activities. For example, camps are held for all children together whether with disabilities or not, so that children with disabilities feel included in all their community's activities and not feel different. Also a mothers committee was formed and they meet regularly to discuss all the issues that affect them and their children to try and solve them together or through the centre.



All children together on one of the camps

“My daughter had a mental disability. She is seven years old and she used to play all day alone, as children in her age never wanted to play with her. They even sometimes called her crazy and others used to be afraid of her. After Plan started the Community Based Rehabilitation program in our area, children and even adults 'concept of children with disabilities has greatly changed. Our children with disabilities have many services now.” Fatma A, a local mother

We enjoy working with Plan, because our lives are improving and we are taking part in the development of our area. Next year with the support of Plan, our government and local development associations, we plan to:

- Raising families' awareness on health and educational issues which face children on daily basis.
- Have more awareness sessions to make the whole community realise the importance of women's role in bringing up children.
- Raise the awareness of our families on the rights of children with disabilities and how to deal with them.

This document was reviewed and edited by Plan staff.