

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM MOZAMBIQUE

We wanted to share some exciting progress made possible in Mozambique - thanks to support from you!

Children in Mozambique has low access to quality education. Poor learning conditions and poverty lead many children to leave school, and girls are more likely to not complete their education, resulting in high rates of early marriage and pregnancy. 48% of girls in Mozambique are married by age 18.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to improve the quality of early childhood education. We were also able to ensure that more girls stay in school when they have their periods by providing menstrual hygiene workshops and improving access to sanitary products. By promoting girls' rights and gender equality, we worked to reduce the number of adolescent girls who are married early. And by training midwives and improving local health centres, we have helped ensure that young women have the best possible care during childbirth.

We are grateful to you for making these changes possible. We know you will enjoy reading on to see how your generosity is changing the lives of children, like your sponsored child, across this region.



OUR IMPACT

175 CHILDREN IN
INHAMBANE AND **312** IN
MOGOVOLAS ENROLLED IN
CHILD CLUBS TO PROMOTE
GENDER EQUALITY

2,400 HOUSEHOLDS
HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN
WATER IN MOGOVOLAS

210 COMMUNITY LEADERS
CONDEMNED CHILD
MARRIAGE IN INHAMBANE

40 PARENT GROUPS
WERE FORMED TO LEARN
ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT
IN INHAMBANE

PLAN INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE



COVID-19 is having devastating impacts all over the world. It is not only a health emergency, it is an education and protection emergency. Since girls are often worse affected during a crisis, Plan International is putting them at the heart of our response and long-term outlook. We have scaled up healthcare systems, food security, access to clean water, handwashing and awareness campaigns, and keep education in children's lives via radio broadcasts.

IMPROVING EARLY EDUCATION

Early education and stimulation is important for childhood development. In Inhambane, the government has limited resources to promote and support early education.

We have helped more young children attend early childhood centres which are integrated into the community and supported by parents.



We trained 82 teachers in early childhood development techniques, so they can ensure children attending the centres develop and improve their language, cognitive, physical and emotional skills.

467 children who attended the centres have now moved into primary school. These girls and boys showed greater skills in writing, maths and social skills than their peers who did not attend an early childhood centre.

We have also ensured that these centres are inclusive to all children. 37 children with disabilities have now enrolled, and these children have significantly improved their speech and their mobility skills.

1,131 CHILDREN HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE COGNITIVE, PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL STIMULATION THEY RECEIVED AT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES

IMPROVING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

Many girls in Inhambane are not taught about their sexual and reproductive health. This lack of knowledge about menstruation has serious health implications as girls do not know how to safely use menstrual products. Limited access to sanitary products and hygienic toilets in schools means that many girls do not attend classes while on their period. As a result, they often fall behind or drop out from education completely.

To improve knowledge about menstrual hygiene, we have held workshops with both girls and boys in schools. We have also taught community groups on how to produce low-cost hygienic sanitary pads from locally available materials, so more girls can safely manage their periods. Girls are now more confident in going to school, thanks to improved sanitary facilities and support from teachers.

“The Menstrual Hygiene Management Project is important because we girls do not have good hygiene care practices during our menstrual period. What we need to do is to teach the girls how to look after themselves when they are menstruating.”

Advencia, 16 years old



KEEPING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

Children in Mogovolas face significant barriers to accessing education. A lack of schools in the area has led to overcrowding, and girls often face sexual

harassment from boys in their class. As a result, many girls drop out from school.

A lack of clean water, both at home and at school, means that many children suffer from illnesses such as diarrhoea which prevent them from attending school.

We have built new classrooms in early childhood centres and provided them with learning materials. We have also built 8 new boreholes. Now, 1,128 children enrolled in the centres have clean drinking water and an inspiring learning environment.

We have also trained 1,367 parents on gender equality, the importance of education for girls and the negative impacts of early marriage and teenage pregnancy. This will help ensure that more girls are able to grow up while safely attending school.



405 PEOPLE ARE NOW MEMBERS OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOLS ARE WELL MAINTAINED AND EQUIPPED

PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF YOUNG WOMEN

Girls growing up in Mogovolas have limited access to sexual and reproductive health education. More than 60% of girls were married between the ages of 15 and 17. This has resulted in high rates of early pregnancy, which can cause serious health issues for young women.

We have held workshops for 14,880 youth on sexual and reproductive health and rights

and gender equality. Now young people can confidently take charge of their bodies and relationships.

We have supplied 8 health facilities with much needed equipment and have also trained 180 community midwives on high-risk pregnancies and safe delivery to give young women the best possible healthcare during childbirth.

"The 'Champions of Change' programme has made me aware of the concept that girls have a right to equal opportunities. I want to continue my education and then earn a living. I will not get married early."

Leima



YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

With your support, we will continue to protect children's rights so they are able to thrive.

In the coming year, we will continue to work with the children, families and partners across Mozambique:



- Continuing to improve access to early childhood education centres for children aged 0 to 6 to ensure they build strong learning and social foundations to continue into primary and secondary school.



- Providing training to teachers, improving centres and building school wells.
- Providing training to young people so they can gain entrepreneurial and life skills to start their own businesses and open the door to a brighter future.



- Establishing child protection mechanisms in collaboration with governments and community leaders and working with families and communities to promote children's rights and prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children.



- Expanding and supporting menstrual hygiene education to both girls and boys at school and providing opportunities for girls and young women to produce sanitary pads from locally available materials. This will help girls to avoid early marriage and pregnancies and reach their full potential.

These are just some of the many ways your kindness will continue to touch the life of your sponsored child and other children. We wouldn't be able to do this without supporters like you!

MESSAGE FROM ABUBACAR BACAR

Programme Area Manager,
Mogovolas



"Last year was challenging. We actively participated in the fifth 'Girls' National Conference'. 500 girls raised their voices. Their demands for a better life echoed in our plans and materialised through your unconditional and valuable support. Thank you for your presence in the lives of our children!"

MESSAGE FROM MOISES MUTUQUE

Programme Area Manager,
Inhambane



"I would like to express my gratitude for your valuable contribution so that the children of Inhambane can enjoy their rights to quality education, health, freedom of opinion and grow up in an environment where adults protect them."

