

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM MALAWI

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

Agriculture is the main source of income and livelihood in Malawi. Yet climate change is amplifying risks to the region's inhabitants, impacting the rights of the most marginalized populations, especially girls. Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with 47% of women reported to have been married before the age of 18. In addition, 22% of women in the region reported experiencing gender-based violence in the last 12 months.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to support natural and environmental resource management, improve access to inclusive healthcare and education, and promote children's and girls' rights.

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

1,054 TEENS IN KASUNGU
EDUCATED ON PREVENTING
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

10,830 FARMERS IN MZUZU
TRAINED IN SUSTAINABLE
FARMING METHODS

1,390 PEOPLE IN
MULANJE TRAINED ON
WATER, SANITATION AND
HYGIENCE

252 YOUTH IN LILONGWE
EMPOWERED THROUGH LIFE
SKILLS TRAINING



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.

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with 47% of women reported to have been married before the age of 18.



THE 'YES I DO' PROJECT HELPED 3,328 PEOPLE ACCESS SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES AND 54 YOUTH GRADUATED VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

Plan International's "Yes I Do" project addresses the root causes of child marriage and teen pregnancy. We are empowering adolescent girls with knowledge of their sexual and reproductive health rights, enabling them to decide their own future and reach their full potential.

The project supports Lilongwe's adolescent girls who dropped out of school by providing them the opportunity to attend a science camp at the Malawi University of Sciences and Technology, inspiring them to pursue further education. We also conducted trainings on sexual and reproductive health with community authorities, religious leaders, and youth, and trained 41 teachers on inclusion and child protection in schools.

Both girls and boys engaged in meaningful youth participation through gender equality training, so they can be champions of change in their own communities.

IMPROVED QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Many schools in Mzuzu are not equipped to provide an inclusive learning environment. In particular, children with disabilities often lack access entirely.



WE'RE EQUIPPING SCHOOLS WITH MATERIALS AND RESOURCES TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Plan International is helping schools improve their learning and teaching environments, and increasing access for children with disabilities.

Through our Quality and Inclusive Education Project, we supported 22 children with school fees and learning materials. We provided equipment such as hearing aids to 103 children with disabilities. We also built 3 teachers' houses in schools to counteract a shortage of instructors.

We provided schools with agricultural supplies to support school meal programs, benefitting 19,508 students. Students participated in planting school gardens to grow vegetables.

Additionally, we are boosting students' food security at the household level with financial assistance and agricultural supplies.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In Kasungu, a growing population faces food insecurity. This increases pressure on land use. However, climate change is affecting soil quality, reducing crop yield.



THE 'BETTER' PROJECT TRAINED 65 VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS IN BUSINESS PLANNING FOR SECURE LIVELIHOODS

Plan International's BETTER project promotes sustainable agriculture growth and income to enhance food and nutrition security in the context of climate change.

The project encouraged farmers to use soil and water conservation technologies and to test sustainable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly methods of managing pests and diseases. Plan International staff also collaborated with research centres to conduct studies on soil and water conservation, pest and disease management, nutrient management and plant populations. We trained farmers in seed multiplication and disaster risk reduction and purchased and distributed tree seeds and polythene tubes for nursery establishment.

The project has increased farmers' knowledge and improved sustainable agricultural production in Kasungu.

DISASTER RESPONSE

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai had devastating effects in Malawi, killing 59 people and injuring 677, and negatively affecting 868,895 people. In Mulanje, 16,373 people were affected by heavy flooding, with 1,855 people forced from their homes and living in displacement camps. Plan International identified three priority areas in our emergency response: disaster risk reduction, child protection, and livelihood support.

Plan International is helping communities build back better, through disaster preparedness training, as well as training on crop preservation and nutrition. We are working with the government to provide child protection training in communities and psychosocial support for children in need. We are also supporting the most vulnerable families with livestock and farming resources to ensure they can continue their livelihood.

"I am so happy that we have received goats from Plan International. This will help our family very much as goats easily multiply and soon we will have many goats to sell and meet our basic needs."

Stella, 13, project beneficiary



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 Malawi:



- Training healthcare workers and young people in youth-friendly health services and providing outreach clinics for children under 5.



- Training teachers in inclusive education, promote school gardens, school feeding programs, and providing classroom materials like desks and chairs.



- Supporting children and young women in entrepreneurial skills development so that they can have meaningful livelihoods and build their own futures.



- Continuing to raise awareness on the importance of gender equality and girls' rights, and providing sexual and reproductive health rights knowledge and resources to girls and young women so they can learn, lead, decide and thrive. Social dialogue in communities will be promoted to target issues affecting young girls and women.



- Training community child protection committees on preventing and reporting cases of children's rights violations. We will also advocate for child rights laws.

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



MESSAGE FROM DANIEL KAPATUKA

Programme Area Manager, Lilongwe

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors for the support they provided to Lilongwe. The people here are very grateful for your support, without which they indicated they could not have afforded a better life for themselves and their children in the communities."



MESSAGE FROM CHAKUFWA MUNTHALI

Programme Area Manager, Mzuzu

"We remain committed to supporting children to attain their full potential. With your help we have been able to provide access to better quality of life. Thank you for your invaluable support!"



MESSAGE FROM HILDA CHIZULE

Programme Area Manager, Mulanje

"We are very grateful to our sponsors for the support they give us. Your help leaves a positive print in the lives of children in Mulanje. We hope this help continues so we can keep positively impacting the people in this region."



MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPHER KATUTU

Programme Area Manager, Kasungu

"I would like to sincerely thank you, our valuable sponsor, for your continued support towards the improvement to the lives of children in Kasungu. Through your support we have changed a number of lives and made it possible for children and community members to have increased access to their rights."



Plan International Hong Kong sincerely thank volunteer Miss. Ho Man Ying, Annie for consolidating this report.