

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Kwale. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted.

Kwale is a rural province in Kenya. The population is very reliant on agriculture, which has become complicated by a severe, ongoing drought. In an effort to combat hunger, Plan distributed free meals at 22 schools in Kwale. As a result of this programme, attendance at these schools rose to 100%.

7,708 teenagers were educated about safer sexual health, gender equity and reproductive rights, and 5,000 teen girls secured necessary access to menstrual hygiene products.

We know the best is yet to come and your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Kwale.



3000

Households received climate resilient seeds for agriculture



2396

Parents attended Positive Parenting sessions



360

Acquired knowledge about forms of sexual abuse



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN KENYA

Hear from Maryanne about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

"My parents lost their jobs due to COVID-19. It was a bad experience. Through Plan International, my parents received some money which helped us to buy food. I still use the reusable masks provided through Plan International."

CASE STORY: CHILD SPONSORSHIP TRANSFORMING LIVES



NAME: SWALEHE

AGE: 31 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: MENTORSHIP

"After university, I was given an opportunity to work with Plan International as an intern in 2015. I am currently working as a project assistant in Kwale. It is exciting to work with Plan International because the organization has nurtured me to become a better person."

Meet Swalehe

Like your sponsored child, Swalehe has been empowered by Plan International to change his life. In 1998, Swalehe was a sponsored child of Plan International living in Kwale. Today, he is a community leader, a dedicated mentor, and a valued employee of Plan.

Education Opening Up Doors

In Kwale, just 29% of primary school students continue their education to secondary school. When Swalehe was a student, Plan built classrooms at his school and provided vital learning resources to children in Kwale. During school holidays, Plan worked to keep children engaged in their education, offering encouragement and mentorship.

Swalehe was a dedicated student. After graduating with high marks, Swalehe pursued development studies in university. In 2015, Swalehe reconnected with Plan, no longer a sponsored child but an intern. By the next year, he was an employee. During those years, Swalehe built on what he learned in the classroom with the coaching of Plan's staff, exploring project design, facilitation, and community mobilisation.

Skills To Succeed

Today, Swalehe assists with Plan's coastal livelihoods and environmental management projects in Kwale. In a mark of his financial stability, Swalehe bought his parents a home, so they no longer have to worry about their basic needs.

Swalehe's experience with Plan has made him a passionate advocate for mentoring young people, and many children in Kwale view him as a role model. Reflecting on his commitment to mentorship, Swalehe says, "I hope I can influence children to become better adults in the future."



Swalehe distributing food to his community

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 10,637 CHILDREN IN KWALE

OUR PROJECTS IN KWALE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



RAISING THEM WITH CARE



Plan worked with thousands of Kwale residents to foster safer, stronger communities.

At least half of children in Kenya experience physical violence. This year, Plan implemented training sessions in safety and non-violence for caregivers and children alike. Through safe spaces and scenes, children experienced a new sense of agency and confidence.

2,396 adults used role play, group discussions and storytelling to consider alternative approaches to discipline and strengthening relationships with their children. Meanwhile, 4,192 children participated in trainings to build self-esteem, confidence, and critical thinking skills.

Plan also approached the issues of violence and vulnerability on a systemic level, training 50 local leaders and government officials about Kwale's Gender Policy. As part of this training, officials must oversee the allocation of funds to promoting greater gender equality.

IMPROVING FAMILIES' LIVELIHOODS



47% of Kwale's population live below the poverty line.

Kwale is a rural community, and 80% of its population rely on agriculture for their income. However, the effects of climate change – particularly drought – have hit the region, worsening the living conditions of many local families.

This year, Plan distributed KES 3,000 (around \$30 USD) to 362 households in Kwale's most drought-impacted areas. Some families used this money to buy food, while others purchased livestock, like chickens, as longer-term investments.

183 residents of Kwale between 14 and 25 years old were given access to vocational training. They plan to study trade skills ranging from dressmaking to masonry.



"We have lunch prepared in school which makes us look forward to coming to school every day. We now focus during learning since we are not hungry."

- Fatuma, 13 from Kwale

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



57%

of the population are illiterate



18%

of people living in Kwale do not have access to clean water



24%

of teenage girls between ages 15 to 19 are mothers



Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.

- The teenage pregnancy rate in Kwale is 24%. We will offer sexual education and counseling to local teens.
- Girls are at a higher risk of sexual abuse and violence. Plan will continue its work to create safe environments for girls to connect with confidence.
- Poverty in Kwale is high. Plan will continue its efforts to provide access to financial training and skills development for youths.
- The effects of climate change are dramatically impacting Kwale's landscape, and, by extension, its food supply. We will work with the Kwale community to explore alternate food production models.

We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Kwale.



"Our work in the last year has contributed to positive changes for adolescent girls. Male parents have become more involved with their children, and we enhanced the economic wellbeing of families. Thank you for sponsoring a child in Kwale."

Albert Mlamba
Programme Area Manager, Kwale

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS