

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

In Kisumu, Kenya, communities learned new sustainable agriculture practices and had critical conversations about sexual health. 134 children who had been unable to pursue secondary school education had their fees covered by Plan – something Kisumu residents say has “the biggest impact” on local children’s lives.

12 children with disabilities were given vital assistive devices, from wheelchairs to hearing aids, and another 60 students were given solar-powered lights to study at home.

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



# 2220

Teenagers educated about reproductive and sexual health



# 1400

Students received necessary school supplies



# 400

Tree seedlings planted by students at 10 local schools



## 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 organisation 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 brings food to his community*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 10,585 CHILDREN IN KISUMU**



# OUR PROJECTS IN KISUMU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



**Environmental crises in Kisumu perpetuate a cycle of poverty.** Kisumu's population relies heavily on subsistence agriculture. However, an uptick in droughts and floods challenges food and financial security.

Over the course of a year, 750 farmers – 562 women and 188 men – in Kisumu received seeds for high-yield, drought-tolerant crops like maize, beans, millet and cassava. The participating farmers have successfully reduced food insecurity in their homes and saved money by selling off their excess harvest.

During that time, 601 local leaders were trained in disaster preparedness. In addition to the environmental impact of climate crises, people in Kisumu often do not have money in savings to fall back on in an emergency. Thanks to this additional training, the response time to disasters has shortened, and the impact of the crisis reduced due to an effective warning system.

3,600 children learned to take care of their environment by caring for tree seedlings at their local schools.

## PROVIDING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



**Children and parents learned new ways to address safety and health.** Over the last year, education was used as a tool to challenge high rates of teen pregnancy and violence. 2,220 teenagers and 546 parents participated in sexual health programmes.

Meanwhile, Plan worked to reinforce children's commitment to school by providing 900 sponsored children with school supplies, from pens and pencils to workbooks. 865 teenage girls were given hygienic menstruation kits, which has improved their attendance. Without these supplies, the girls often stayed home from school on their periods.

We also provided wheelchairs, hearing aids, crutches, and vision aids to 12 students with disabilities.



"I was 9 years old when I was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. I thank Plan International for supporting me with a wheelchair because this allowed me to resume attending school regularly."

- Phillip, 13 from Kisumu

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



30%

Of girls in Kisumu are married before the age of 18



34%

Of students in Kisumu drop out of secondary school



41%

Of people between ages 18 and 34 in Kisumu are unemployed



**Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.**

- Girls in Kisumu experience discrimination and exclusion. We will continue our work to empower young women through activism.
- 15% of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are already mothers. We will fight for the rights of all girls to continue their education.
- Poor families in Kisumu cannot afford the cost of sending their children to secondary schools. We will provide access to low-income students to resume their education and have access to mentorship.
- Kisumu is prone to droughts. We will train residents of all ages in emergency preparedness, with an eye toward economic self-sufficiency and sustainability.

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



“Our interventions have enabled children and adults to cope with the social and economic challenges brought about by COVID-19. Thank you so much for sponsoring a child in Kisumu.”

**Sammy Ngomo**  
Programme Area Manager, Kisumu

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