

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Tharaka is a rural community in Kenya with a population of 393,170 people. A primarily agricultural economy, Tharaka has suffered from the effects of climate change: too light or unpredictable rainy seasons, with the persistent threat of famine.

This year, 2,120 local adults learned climate adaptive solutions to farming that will offset the worst hurt of the long drought. 45 peer educators and 2,100 trained parents worked to keep girls in school by spreading knowledge about preventing teen pregnancy.

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



# 45

Youth received funding to attend secondary school



# 7506

Girls aged 10-19 years were provided with dignity packs



# 2100

Parents educated about Sexual Health



## 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 1,687 CHILDREN IN THARAKA**



# OUR PROJECTS IN THARAKA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



After collaborating with thousands of local parents to discuss sexual reproductive health and rights, 100% of their daughters went from primary to secondary school.

## STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY



**Community members of all ages are breaking down sexism with knowledge.** In Tharaka, there is a devastatingly high rate of female genital mutilation, with 70 reported cases in the last year alone. We set out to address gaps in sexual reproductive health and rights knowledge with an inclusive approach.

2,100 caregivers received our training in sexual reproductive health and rights. These parents brought the lessons home, pointing their children in the direction of reproductive health care facilities. Many children acted on their parents' new guidance, creating a positive ripple effect.

Within a safe environment, 900 teenage girls were educated about menstrual hygiene, and the downsides of female genital mutilation. In the past, these trainings dramatically reduced dropout rates and teen pregnancies.

## SKILLS TO SUCCEED



**Just 21% of people in Tharaka have completed secondary school.** This has been shown to negatively impact people's financial futures, as it can be hard to find employment.

We took a multifaceted approach to combating poverty in Tharaka. 45 students received funds to cover their school fees, and all of them completed secondary school without dropping out.

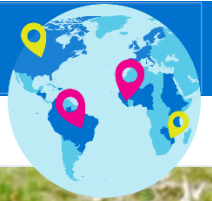
We also trained 2,120 local parents belonging to a Village Savings and Loan Association on food value addition. These adults learned more about finances and received seeds that will be more resistant to the effects of climate change.



"My mother is a member of the village savings group. She attends the meetings every week and saves some money from her vegetable business. The group has helped her get money to pay for my school fees and meet other family needs."

**- Judith, 9 from Tharaka**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



**41%**

Of the population in Tharaka Nithi live below poverty line



**45%**

Of girls and women in Tharaka experience FGM



**21%**

Of Tharaka's population has a secondary school education



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

- The majority of people in Tharaka live below the poverty line. We will continue to empower community support groups and educate residents about finance.
- Most adults in Tharaka do not have a secondary school education. We will continue our advocacy for education for all people, particularly girls.
- FGM continues to be a widely-adopted practice in Tharaka. We will continue training local peer educators to spread knowledge within the community about gender equity and women's health.
- Climate change has been hard on Tharaka's agricultural economy. We will work with Tharaka's county government to strengthen climate smart agriculture to prevent famine.

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



"Our work in the last year has increased access to sexual reproductive health and rights services. Thank you for sponsoring a child in Tharaka."

**Charles Mutie**  
Programme Area Manager, Tharaka

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