

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Communities in Homa Bay, Kenya were hit hard financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last year, Plan's initiatives in Kenya have supported Homa Bay residents to get back on their feet. Over the last four years, food security in Homa Bay has increased thanks to Plan's efforts.

Special attention was paid to keeping girls in school, from buying 408 school uniforms to paying secondary school enrolment fees for 64 at-risk students.

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



589

Adults received positive parenting training



4450

Girls received sanitary pads



4879

Children have access to safe drinking water



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 10,667 CHILDREN IN HOMA BAY

OUR PROJECTS IN HOMA BAY ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



After the financial hardships brought by COVID-19, Plan provided a safety net for residents of Homa Bay.

STAYING HEALTHY AND HAPPY



COVID-19 has exacerbated gender inequality in Homa Bay. Teen pregnancies have increased and 11% of young girls are married between ages 15 and 19. The effect is that young girls are excluded from education and gender roles perpetuate.

In an effort to get vulnerable girls back in school, Plan sponsored the enrolment of 64 high-achieving students who were at risk of dropping out. 701 individuals were instructed on promoting gender equity within their homes. To date, boys and men in Homa Bay have held 5 meetings to discuss supporting women and girls.

2,376 students were educated about menstruation, sexual education, violence prevention, and reproductive rights. 50 “Speak-Out Boxes” offered young people a safe space to open up about and report traumatic experiences of violence

RAISING THEM WITH CARE



Community members of all ages were educated about protection and non-violence. In Homa Bay, vulnerable groups among children – including girls and the disabled – are often subject to abuse.

This year, Plan hosted workshops with 589 local parents to discuss positive parenting and financial empowerment. Since the workshop, local caregivers have established 153 self-owned businesses in Homa Bay.

In Homa Bay, disabled people can be treated with misunderstanding or cruelty. 500 people in Homa Bay were educated about disability. 19 disabled children were placed in schools specialised to fit their needs.



“I am really happy since I received my wheelchair. It enables me to sit, play with my friends and go to church. My friends help by pushing my wheelchair on the way to school.”

- Jane, 9 from Homa Bay

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



33%

Of teen girls in Homa Bay are mothers



56%

Of youths ages 5 to 14 are engaged in child labour



11%

Of girls ages 15 to 19 in Homa Bay are married



Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.

- While the national average for teen pregnancies is 18%, Homa Bay's is 33%. We will work on the local and policy level to ensure that young girls understand their reproductive and sexual health.
- 1 in 4 girls in Homa Bay misses school every month during her period. We will work with teen girls and their communities to spread education and hygienic supplies.
- Children are dropping out of school in high numbers to support their families financially. We will provide scholarships for 200 girls who are at risk of leaving school due to financial precarity.
- 89% of children experience violent discipline. We will foster safe spaces to discuss, report, and prevent child abuse.

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



"Our interventions in the last year have been geared at improving the economic well-being of families as part of recovery after COVID-19, which had devastating effects on incomes. Thank you for sponsoring a child in Homa Bay."

Douglas Ongoro
Programme Area Manager, Homa Bay

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