

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Machakos is a rural community in Kenya with a population of 1,421,932 people. Due to climate change, this agriculture-dependent area now expects major droughts every 5 to 7 years. From our efforts, 61.5% of people in Machakos now have access to potable water and 2,349 farmers learned about crop diversification.

We also set out to tackle sexism and violence in the community. 160 children and 160 caregivers dialogued about their home and school lives. 2,132 parents learned about child protection and nonviolent communication.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Machakos.



5346

Children learned about mental & reproductive health



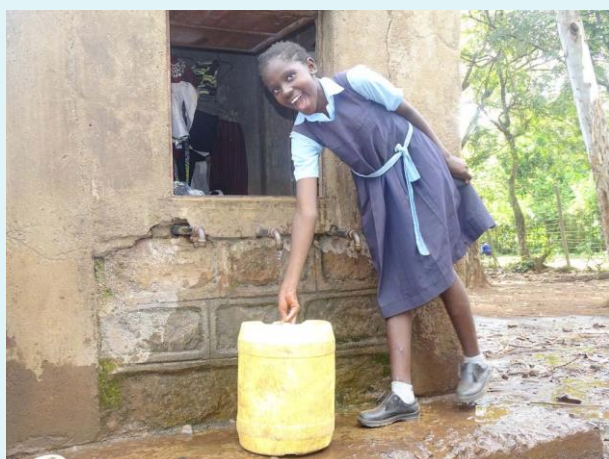
61

Families received funding for one year of health insurance



6930

People learned to prevent gender-based violence



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 4,302 CHILDREN IN MACHAKOS

OUR PROJECTS IN MACHAKOS ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



From supporting fruit orchards in local schools to enrolling 12 teen mothers in vocational courses, Plan is working with Machakos to build a safer, stronger community.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Thousands of local farmers learned new approaches to fend off famine. In Machakos, just 44.2% of families have diversified incomes. This agriculture-reliant population struggles to protect itself from the effects of climate change, and only 68.3% of farms are resilient to inevitable disasters.

This year, Plan teamed up with farmers in Machakos to explore climate smart agriculture. 2,349 individuals were trained in crop diversification. With new plants like green grams and macadamia trees, families experienced greater food security and developed new sources of income.

Meanwhile, 175 local families explored the buzzing world of beekeeping. Through learning modern beekeeping techniques, farmers are excited to see an increase in honey yields. Simultaneously, 4 local schools will be planting fruit orchards, which will support a total of 1,600 young learners.

STAYING HEALTHY AND HAPPY



97% of health workers in Machakos are not trained in youth friendly services. In a community that leads other counties in teen pregnancy rates, Plan set out to offer something new to young people.

This year, we trained 58 adult volunteers on adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights. These educators went on to teach 2,610 teenagers. 21 local leaders were also educated on teen pregnancy and discussed action steps to lower these numbers.

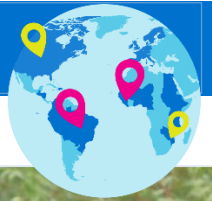
We also worked to support bonds between parents and children. 31 young mothers were given lessons on life skills, including relationships and the dangers of drug abuse, and 12 of these mothers enrolled in vocational training.



"I did not like myself, doubted my value and was not confident. Through Plan International's life skills session, I learnt how to believe and love myself; how to gather courage and establish a purpose."

- Faith (17) from Machakos

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



13%

Of families cannot afford the fees to keep their children in school



39%

Of girls in Machakos have experienced gender-based violence



22%

Of farmers in Machakos practice climate smart agriculture



Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.

- Sexism is a powerful force in Machakos. We will continue our work to support extracurricular activities in support of girls.
- Physical violence toward children is high in Machakos. We will continue our work to educate local parents in nonviolent discipline.
- Young people still lack inclusive, age-appropriate sexual reproductive health and rights education. We will continue to lobby the local government to expand these services.
- Machakos is not prepared for the full effects of climate change. We will work with local stakeholders to increase range rehabilitation in the area.

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



“The year saw reduced incidences of child abuse from 1,026 in 2020 to 772 in 2021. There was also effective case management of earlier reported cases. Thank you for sponsoring a child in Machakos.”

George Baridi
Programme Area Manager, Machakos

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