

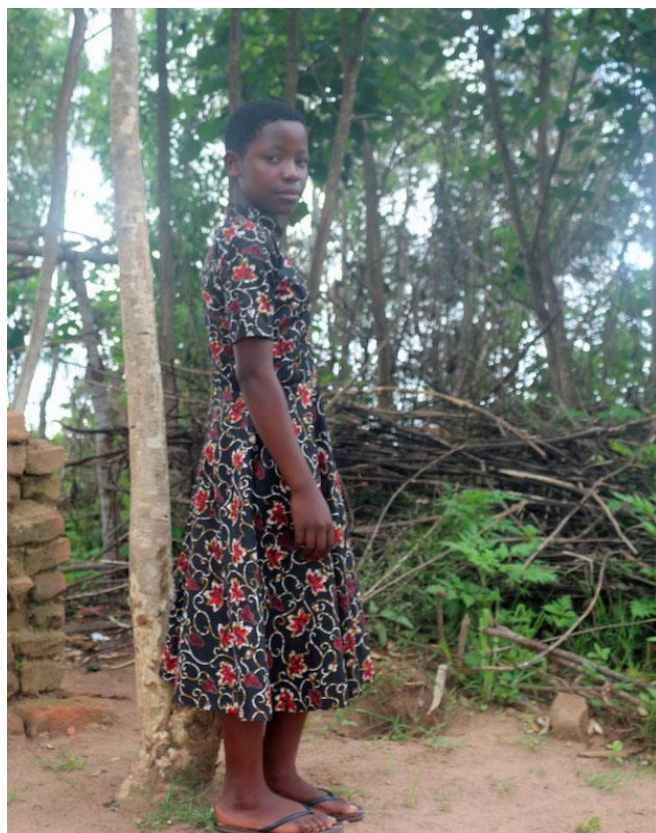
## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

In Kasungu, 42% of the population lives below the poverty line. Since Plan International first began working with Kasungu in 1995, small farmers have strengthened their livelihoods, children have become more involved in decision-making, and more children are completing both primary and secondary school.

This year, Plan International provided health care to 1,730 children in hard-to-reach parts of Kasungu. 1,560 local farmers' groups shared their knowledge with one another to build climate resilience.

Your continued sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Kasungu.



# 942

Children received COVID-19 prevention supplies



# 81

Children received funding for school enrollment fees



# 151

Farmers' groups learned climate-adaptive practises



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN MALAWI

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

"The pandemic made it difficult for my family to earn money. Thanks to Plan's Sustainable Livelihoods programme, my parents harvested manure and saved the cost of artificial fertilizer bags. They can sell the manure to other community members and their income can now support my household and school-related demands."

# CASE STORY: YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME



**NAME: SARA**

**AGE: 20 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: BEING WITH FRIENDS**

"I see myself becoming a more confident person, and I know where to seek support when I come across challenges. Through my business I can earn enough to support my two brothers, and they have both gone back to school."

## Meet Sara

**Like your sponsored child, Sara has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** At age 13, Sara and her siblings were suddenly forced into extreme circumstances. Without parents to provide for them, the children had to support themselves.

## Finding My Way

Sara and her siblings had nothing, except for the land their parents left them. Sara's two older siblings were the first to enter the workforce, but their earnings simply weren't enough- school supplies and fees for the whole family were too expensive.

A dutiful sister, Sara dropped out of school to help shoulder the burden. She joined the ranks of many other Malawian students, particularly girls, who do not complete their education due to poverty.

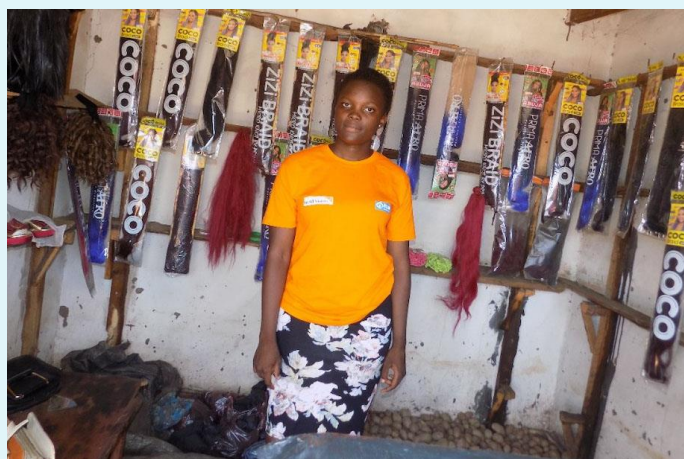
With limited resources, young people and girls especially can find themselves in dangerous employment situations. Plan International offers vocational training to adolescent girls and young women in Malawi just like Sara. These programmes allow girls and women to build confidence, agency, and financial stability safely.

## Knowledge Is Power

This year, Sara took part in one of Plan's girls' clubs, where she learned practical skills for employment and health. There, she connected with a Village Savings and Loan group, which provided her capital to start small businesses.

Today, Sara provides for her siblings by selling a range of products. Now able to pay their school fees, her younger brothers have re-enrolled in school. Her income allows her family to buy food, utilities, and clothing.

Powered by a newfound confidence, Sara is ambitious. She tells Plan, "My dream is to see my business grow."



*Sara in her shop.*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 6,164 CHILDREN IN KASUNGU**



# OUR PROJECTS IN KASUNGU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



The people of Kasungu strengthened their resilience against climate disaster and poverty.

## FARMING FOR THE FUTURE



**42% of people in Kasungu live below the poverty line.** Many in this rural region depend heavily on livestock, without diversified income streams or financial guidance.

This year, Plan International trained 120 caregivers in livestock management, providing the families with four goats each. Every three families now share one male goat. 183 parents of sponsored children participated in workshops where they spoke openly about their economic challenges and devised new solutions.

Throughout this programme, women were given priority in our trainings. By having exclusive knowledge about livestock in their homes, women will develop a new role, one with confidence, agency, and power. Women have also been put in charge of Kasungu's livestock clubs and will oversee the maintenance of this project.

## OVERCOMING POVERTY



**Rural Kasungu will be hard-hit by the effects of climate change.** This region of 119,218 people is heavily dependent on peasant agriculture. Increasingly unpredictable rainfall and land damage is already impacting food security and livelihoods.

This year, Plan International partnered with Kasungu as part of its Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Returns (BETTER) project. 151 farmers' groups received trainings in adaptive agriculture with an emphasis on soil and water conservation.

109 farmers' groups documented and shared their knowledge about pest control, while 1,560 groups researched and logged findings about their soil management, pests, and plant population.



"I aspire to be a journalist. I was worried my parents could not manage to support my dream, but when Plan gave us goats, it has encouraged me to work hard in class because I know that there is hope."

**- Linda (12) from Kasungu**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



50%

Of girls in Kasungu are married before age 18



33%

Of girls in Kasungu experience physical violence by age 15



20%

Of teen girls in Kasungu are mothers before age 18



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

· Young girls in Malawi are vulnerable to a wide range of violence and abuse. Our 16 Days of Gender Activism will reach 5,500 young people to celebrate the rights of girls.

· 51% of children in Kasungu do not complete secondary school. We will encourage at-risk youths to stay in school through funding their enrolment fees.

· Climate change has impacted rainfall, which affects the region's food supply. We will collaborate with other NGOs to provide disaster relief in Kasungu.

· Just 66% of girls and women over 15 years old in Malawi are literate. We will lobby local politicians to advance children's rights through strengthening child development programmes.

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



"We are very grateful for the support that you, our sponsors, provide which has enabled Kasungu to implement these interventions. Thank you very much!"

**Billy Mukwikwi**  
Programme Area Manager, Kasungu

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