

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

In January 2022, Mulanje was direly impacted by two cyclones. This year, Plan International focused our efforts on building community resilience to disaster and protecting children.

1,250 households displaced by the cyclones received hygiene and dignity kits. 410 local farmers learned new skills to make their livelihoods disaster-proof.

Since Plan has gotten involved in Mulanje, the school dropout rate for students with disabilities has decreased dramatically, from 24% to 5% for girls and 6% for boys.

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



176

Young people received vocational training



995

Children re-entered school system after dropping out



2435

Young people received trainings on safety



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.

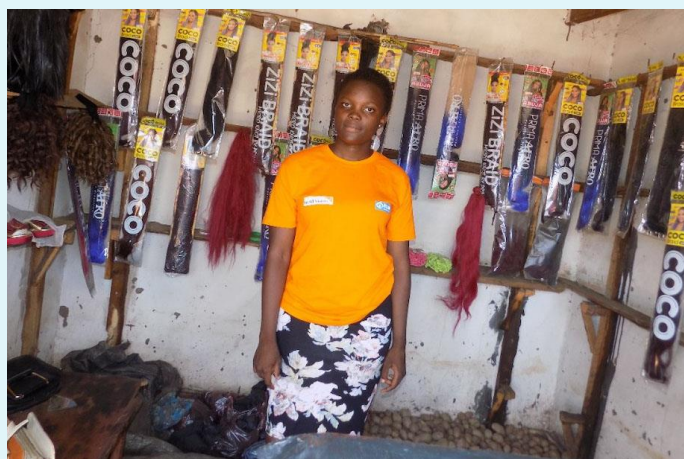
With limited resources, young people and girls especially can find themselves in dangerous employment situations. Plan International offers vocational training to adolescent girls and young women in Malawi just like Sara. These programs allow girls and women to build confidence, agency, and financial 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 6,318 CHILDREN IN MULANJE

OUR PROJECTS IN MULANJE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



PREPARATION IS RESISTANCE



Back-to-back storms in January 2022 left 65,606 people in Mulanje in need of help. Nearly 20,000 Mulanje residents were displaced from their homes. 131,144 children under 5 were impacted by the destruction.

Many of those impacted by Cyclones Ana and Gombe were left without any resources, which increased the risk for gender-based violence and sexual exploitation in exchange for meeting basic needs.

After devastating cyclones left tens of thousands displaced, people in Mulanje are now building resilience for the unexpected.

This year, Plan International provided 5,763 displaced Mulanje residents of all ages with hygiene and dignity kits. 2,571 girls and 1,015 women were reached in this effort. 150 sponsored children's families received goats, which will help them earn a living after the crisis. 38 young people participated in building a fishing pond to generate further income.

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE



Mulanje is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. From deforestation to natural disasters, the people of Mulanje are not prepared for climate crises. Women are statistically more likely to live in poverty, without access to income-generating activities.

Plan International collaborated with Mulanje residents to build resilience. 1,183 community members joined Village Savings and Loans Groups, spaces where locals can discuss financial planning and collectively pool money for anything from school fees to small businesses.

76 local farmers received training in adaptive agriculture, as well as their own plots of land. 170 residents learned about rebuilding after disaster, while 120 caregivers participated in new child protection community groups.

"Today, I am anticipating selling orange fleshed potato bundles. I am certain I will be getting MK5000.00 a week. This will definitely alleviate my poverty; I will be provided a source of stable income during the lean period of this year."

- Dyna (36) from Mulanje



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



80%

Of women in Mulanje
report being married by
age 18



20%

Of girls in Malawi
experience sexual abuse
before age 18



51%

Of Malawi's population
lives in poverty



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

·Mulanje has the third-highest number of child marriages in Malawi. We will support children's rights by supporting legal clinics and mobile courts.

·90% of women in Mulanje are sexually active by age 18. We will support the sexual health of young women through courses on menstruation, gender-based violence and contraception.

·Many sponsored children live below the poverty line, threatening their parents' ability to pay school fees. We will continue to pay enrolment costs for at-risk students.

·COVID-19 is surging in Mulanje. We will continue to spread awareness about virus prevention in community meetings.

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



"I would like to thank our sponsors for your support towards our work. With your support, we have made our communities safe from the COVID-19 pandemic and provided necessary support to families who were affected by Cyclones Ana and Gombe."

Christopher Katutu
Programme Area Manager, Mulanje

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