

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, the community worked to change harmful attitudes and behaviours that limit girls' rights. A recent report shows how these efforts to advocate for girls' equality, and condemning violence and early marriage, is taking effect: 74% of community members value gender equality and girls' rights.

In addition, adolescents' knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights has increased through youth participation in the Champions of Change sessions.

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



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN MOZAMBIQUE

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

"Two months into the pandemic, we were receiving lessons from the community radio which was established by the local government with the support of Plan. My parents even started listening to the radio lessons to help me with certain school topics I was not understanding."

CASE STORY: ESTÊNCIA STANDS UP FOR EDUCATION



NAME: ESTÊNCIA

AGE: 12

**HOBBY: PLAYING
FOOTBALL, DANCING**

I attended sessions on early marriage conducted by girls trained by Plan...I decided to focus on school and now I am having the support of my mother who also attends the sessions regularly. I will not get married early and be a statistic.

Meet Estência

Like your sponsored child, Estência has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Twelve-year-old Estência lives with her mother in a house made from adobe and thatched grass, like most of the homes in her community. Her mother is a peasant farmer who grows corn, sweet potatoes and cassava. She is a member of the local Association of Village

The Practice of Early Marriage

In Estência's community, it is common for girls to marry young and drop out of school.

Estência saw some of her older classmates marry at an early age. They could not continue with their studies. Some of the girls got sick, others experienced domestic violence. Many became young mothers.

Getting to school was not easy. Estência had to walk about eight kilometres each day, putting her at risk of harassment and sexual assault. Still, seeing the hardships endured by her former classmates inspired her to continue with school despite the challenges.

Creating Change

Estência says the long walk to school, combined with economic hardships, means many parents encouraged their daughters to leave school. She adds, "It was normal but I was so saddened by it."

Plan is helping create change. Now, Estência attends a new school near her home. Child marriage is reducing as girls can attend schools built closer to their communities. And families are better able economically to support their daughters, with Village Savings and Loan groups increasing family income and relieving the economic pressures that often force girls out of school.



Young women in Estência's community

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 9,498 CHILDREN IN INHAMBANE

OUR PROJECTS IN INHAMBANE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE



Child marriage is one of the most critical challenges in Mozambique. The country has the tenth-highest child marriage rate in the world, with 14% of girls married by age 15. Families often support this practice, which can lead to early pregnancy.

Working together with community leaders and government institutions, we helped to ensure that girls and young women had the resources and information to access their rights. Last year, 82 girls were rescued from premature unions, and subsequently went on to vocational and educational training and entrepreneurship.

“Community meetings helped raise awareness of the dangers of child marriage, and develop action plans to reduce early marriage and pregnancy. These meetings reached more

Awareness-raising campaigns included radio spots, posters and educational sessions. Community leaders committed to preventing early marriages and publicly condemning harmful practices that undermine the rights of girls. A national youth movement shared practices for preventing early marriages, and district and national networks promote solutions surrounding this critical challenge.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION



Early education is vital to a child's growth. This year, key activities helped build opportunities for children ages 0-6 to access inclusive, community-based Early Childhood Development.

Parents, caregivers, and leaders participated in meetings about the importance of Early Childhood Development, and strategised ways to serve the community during the COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, 1,415 children were enrolled in 35 pre-school centres. The project invested in the improvement of physical buildings, in order to prevent children from taking classes under the trees, facing extreme rain, heat and cold during the winter. Educational toys were also distributed to pre-school children during COVID-19 school closures, helping keep them active and ready to learn after the restrictions lifted.



“We continued to support pre-school children during the COVID-19 pandemic through radio lessons. With support from Plan, we also received and distributed educational toys. These activities stimulated the children, helping them be ready when the lessons resumed.”

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



48%

Of girls in Mozambique
are married by age 18



40%

Of people in Inhambane
cannot read



48%

Of people in Mozambique
live below the poverty line



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

- 60 schools are still closed in 2022 due to COVID-19. We will ensure children's access to pre-school centres and help their transition to primary school.
- We will work with communities to increase knowledge of children's rights, and address harmful attitudes and behaviours.
- Only 11% of girls in Mozambique go on to secondary school. We will increase sexual and reproductive health rights and services, helping to reduce early pregnancy and early marriage and helping girls to stay in school.
- We will continue to provide menstrual health and hygiene information and resources to girls and young women.

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



I would like to express my gratitude for your valuable contribution in the continued support of development initiatives especially during COVID-19. On behalf of Plan International Mozambique and myself, we greatly appreciate your support.

Moises Mutuque
Programme Area Manager, Inhambane

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