

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, children had better access to education, with the construction of four blocks of classrooms in the community. In addition, 12 Early Childhood Development Centres benefitted from improved roofs.

More than 4,000 adolescents advocated for an end to the harmful practice of early and forced marriages through the Champions of Change programme; and parents, young people and community leaders were engaged and empowered to promote girls' access to education.

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



250

Community leaders advocated for girls' education



3600

People have improved access to clean water



120

Radio programmes taught COVID-19 prevention



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: ESTENCIA STANDS UP FOR EDUCATION



NAME: ESTENCIA

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 Estencia

Like your sponsored child, Estencia has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Twelve-year-old Estencia lives with her mother who is a peasant farmer and grows corn, sweet potatoes and cassava. By being a part of the local Association for Savings and Loans, she can support Estencias studies and enable her to accomplish her dreams.

The Practice of Early Marriage

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

Estencia 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. Estencia 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

Estencia 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, Estencia 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 Estencia's community

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 12,451 CHILDREN IN MOGOVALAS

OUR PROJECTS IN MOGOVALAS ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Training sessions focused on gender and inclusion for Early Childhood Development, helping teachers provide fair, equal learning opportunities for all children.

INVESTING IN EARLY EDUCATION



This year, our education programme helped ensure that children's access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) services and are prepared with a foundation for further education. The project also helps improve school retention rates of girls, and challenges harmful social norms that contribute to the prevalence of early child marriage.

Children in four communities enjoyed improved learning conditions with the construction of new classrooms, administrative offices and toilets equipped for people with disabilities. In addition, the roofs of 12 ECD classrooms were reinforced with the help of roofing materials.

Clean water was important too: 55 ECD management committees learned best practices for hygiene and sanitation in schools. New boreholes made it possible for 3,600 people to access clean water in their communities, reducing the time and effort of traveling long distances.

ADOLESCENT & MATERNAL HEALTH



Early marriage and pregnancy are common in Mogovolas.

Many young married girls do not know about contraception or are unable to negotiate its use due to fear of violence from their partners, who tend to be older. Providing information and resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights was important.

The project worked directly with 19,849 women and 2,632 adolescent girls as leaders of change. Champions of Change sessions increased their knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as maternal and neonatal health and gender equality, building leadership and life skills. Community radio, theatre performances and campaigns were instrumental in sharing information and knowledge to girls and women in the community.



"The Champions of Change club changed my mind and the community. I don't intend to go through early marriage. I still dream of one day being a teacher."

- Greci from Mogovolas

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



53%

Of girls in Mozambique
are married before age
18



11%

Of female pupils in
Mozambique continue on
to secondary school



13%

Of women aged 15-45
can read



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

- Over 28% of the population in Mogovolas is between 10 and 24 years old. We will help children access education, and train youth with life skills and entrepreneurship.
- Mozambique has one of the highest rates of early child marriage. Last year, Plan supported the government's law against early marriage, and we will continue to advocate on a national level.
- Agriculture is a main form of livelihood. By engaging communities with mitigation and adaptation initiatives, we will help families better cope with climate changes.
- We will increase girls' access to education by promoting sound menstrual hygiene practices at school.

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



"Thank you for your kind and generous support. Your support helps to achieve our mission through education, promotion of reproductive health and rights, building of skills and opportunities. Your support is invaluable to us, thank you again."

Abubacar Bacar

Programme Area Manager, Mogovolas

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