

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Children and young people in Ifakara are empowered with information and resources for healthier lives. This year, 400 youth learned life skills and how to make healthy decisions about sexuality and relationships.

The community is challenging harmful social practices and gender-based violence. With more awareness of the consequences of child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), parents and religious leaders are advocating for girls' rights to healthier lives with full access to educational and leadership opportunities.

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



990

Children learned about their rights



19544

People learned the consequences of child marriage



891

Pupils supported with educational materials



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN TANZANIA

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

"I thank Plan for educating us on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Plan supported our schools with hand-washing facilities like buckets, soaps, and hand sanitisers. We conveyed the knowledge to other people in the area. I am grateful these measures helped us minimize the spread of COVID-19."

CASE STORY: AIDING FAMILY EMPOWERMENT



NAME: SIWEMA

AGE: 8

HOBBY: SINGING

"I am now happy that I have my chair, I can move without hurting my grandmother. After school I go to play, sing and do homework with fellow pupils."

Meet Siwema

Like your sponsored child, Siwema has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Eight-year-old Siwema lives with her grandmother. She likes school and singing. Siwema was born with a walking disability and depends on her grandmother's support, who carried Siwema to and from school on her back every day for over a year.

As a result, her grandmother experienced debilitating chest and leg pain—but it was the only way Siwema could get to school.

Facing Disability Discrimination

In Tanzania, children, especially girls, with disabilities experience exclusion and injustices as a result of their disability and gender. They are less likely to go to school and are often considered a burden on the family because they are seen as non-productive members of society.

As part of initiatives on inclusive education, Plan International provided 100 wheelchairs to children with disabilities. The result was life-changing for Siwema and her grandmother. Now, Siwema can attend school more comfortably and participate more easily.

Creating Changes

Empowering people with disabilities is key to fulfilling their right to an education and a life free from discrimination—and helps them to achieve their dreams. Now Siwema can attend school and her grandmother is better able to care for herself and her granddaughter.

Siwema's grandmother shares how their family has benefitted: "I thank Plan for supporting my granddaughter. She now actively attends school, and I have also regained my physical well-being since I struggled a lot to carry her on my back. Now I believe she will achieve her dreams, as she aspires to become a teacher."



Siwema and her classmates

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 3,866 CHILDREN IN IFAKARA

OUR PROJECTS IN IFAKARA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



PROTECTING THE GIRLS OF IFAKARA



Through outreach and club activities, children learn about their rights and share their views on how to end child marriage in the community.

Gender-based violence is a serious issue in Ifakara. Rates of child marriage and early pregnancies are high, as 42% of girls marry before age 18. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is also common, and district reports reflect a number of girls undergo this dangerous practice.

In partnership with local authorities, community dialogues helped influence positive parenting. Parents gained information about children's rights. As a result, 4,750 girls acquired birth certificates, enabling them to attend school.

In addition, 50 traditional leaders are better able to address harmful beliefs and behaviours that result in child marriage, empowering them to become agents of change in their communities. With intervention from community leaders, 136 girls re-enrolled in schools, and 31 girls were rescued from early marriages and can now access vocational training. Girls aged 13 to 22 participated in feminist leadership training to commemorate the International Day of the Girl.

PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



Advocating for children's rights was vital in Ifakara, where many families and leaders are unaware of their obligations. To help, we promoted children's rights -especially the right to an education - to children and youth, parents, media, policymakers, and law enforcement.

An empowerment programme reached 8,280 girls in 40 schools, teaching them about their rights and providing them with skills and knowledge to plan for their futures.

Parenting groups promoted positive parenting and child protection. Action plans were developed to identify children who were not in school and help them access their education. Participants committed to enforcing child protection and ensuring children enjoy their rights.



"I participated in the girls' empowerment programme in my school. We learned a lot from our facilitators and peers, including children's rights and self-awareness. I realised that girls like myself can become anything in life. I am working hard in school because I want to become a doctor." - **Agnes, 16, from Ifakara**

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



38%

Lack access to safe drinking water



27%

Of female pupils in Tanzania complete lower secondary education



46%

Of women in Tanzania experienced physical violence



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

The official unemployment rate in Tanzania is 15%. In Ifakara, many unemployed youths are exploited in jobs as domestic workers or street vendors. We will continue providing vocational training support and enhancing youth employment opportunities, especially for at-risk girls.

We will continue raising community awareness of children's rights and the responsibilities of community members to support them.

We will support Giving Rights to the Silent Majority, the project that works with more than 1,300 children in seven districts.

Ifakara is a high disaster risk zone with frequent flooding. We will raise awareness in the community for risk reduction, hazard mapping and risk assessment.

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



"During this period, we implemented a wide range of projects. Ifakara made major strides in helping vulnerable and adolescent girls to reach their full potential. Thank you so much for your continued support!"

Emmanuel Asaph
Programme Area Manager, Ifakara

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