

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Northern Uganda is a rural region vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Its population is reliant on subsistence farming and will continue to be challenged by an increase in unpredictable rainfall.

With your support, Plan International has been working to make lives easier in Northern Uganda since 2007. During this time, malnutrition among young children (0-5 years old) has decreased from 14% to 11%. Pregnant mothers now deliver in health care facilities at a rate of 75% - in 2015 only 57% did so.

**We know the best is yet to come and your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Northern Uganda.**



1,721

Parents have learned about nutrition and hygiene



17

Fathers' clubs formed for men to share their experiences



7,389

Students received school supplies



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN UGANDA

**Hear from Charles about how COVID-19 has impacted his community.**

"I appreciate the money I received from Plan International. I bought a female turkey, sugar, rice, and cooking oil. This will greatly improve our livelihood as we shall be selling the turkeys and eat some. It will help me raise school fees for my daughter, who is a sponsored child."

# CASE STORY: KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



**NAME: EVELYN**

**AGE: 27 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: READING**

“Plan International Uganda picked me up from nothing. I would never have reached secondary school. Maybe I would now be an illiterate married woman and living a miserable life. I believe education is the best gift you can give a child.”

## Meet Evelyn

**Like your sponsored child, Evelyn has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** Growing up in a family with little money, Evelyn spent years unable to afford school supplies like notebooks and pens. While Evelyn’s classmates would take notes, the young student would pretend to scribble along as well.

## I Will Stay in School

Evelyn’s father decided to marry off her older sister, and it seemed inevitable that Evelyn would have a similar fate. This is not unusual in Uganda: In fact, 48% of girls in the country are married before they turn 18.

In 1997, an intervention from Plan International changed Evelyn’s life. Plan identified vulnerable students at Evelyn’s school – learners who were at a high risk of dropping out. That year, Evelyn became a sponsored child.

The girl who had mimed taking notes due to an inability to afford school supplies suddenly had support to finish primary, then secondary, school. “Anything that I would request to support my education, this organization would provide,” recalls Evelyn. “I was like a daughter of a rich man.”

## From Learner to Leader

After completing secondary school, Evelyn had discovered the transformative power of education first-hand. Backed by Plan International, the young woman who had narrowly escaped child marriage pursued, and completed, a teacher training course.

Today, Evelyn is a teacher in Uganda. With her earnings from her job, Evelyn has paid for her siblings to return to school. She is now a mother of three and is able to afford their educations because of her salary. Evelyn now has a bachelor’s degree and will have a master’s degree next year.



*Evelyn teaches in her classroom.*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 9,705 CHILDREN IN NORTHERN UGANDA**



# OUR PROJECTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## STRONG SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS



**The average primary school completion rate in Uganda is just 52%.** Plan International's Inclusive Quality Education project seeks to address student retention through three dimensions: Education, sanitation, and health.

This year, 3,660 girls and 3,729 boys from 10 schools in Northern Uganda received school supplies like books, pens, and pencils. Plan collaborated with 3 primary schools to improve their sanitation resources, including liquid soap and handwashing facilities.

As students returned to classes, Plan revived Health Clubs. Here, students could play, learn, and speak freely about sexual health and reproductive rights. Young learners also participated in latrine clean-ups.

4,136 young children returned to in-person learning at early childhood development centres across the region.

## YOU CAN COUNT ON ME



**Only 23% of children ages 3 to 5 in Uganda have access to early childhood development services.** Plan International's early childhood development programmes focus on families, emphasising positive parenting, nutrition, and the value of education for long-term effects.

As schools across Uganda reopened, so did Plan International's 17 early childhood development centres in Northern Uganda. This year, 2,678 young children enrolled in our centres in Lira province, while 1,458 young children returned to centres in Alebtong.

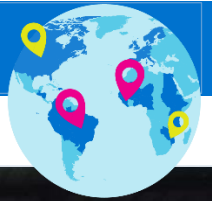
70 employees of ECD centres learned more about their responsibilities. 1,721 caregivers participated in parenting education sessions. As a result, 17 parenting groups and 17 fathers' clubs formed to support these lessons.



"I like going to school every day to learn with my friends. I also like playing. I thank Plan International Uganda for giving my school play materials and mats to sit on."

**- Mary, 5, from Northern Uganda**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



**5.3%**

The infant mortality rate  
in Northern Uganda



**64%**

Of students in Northern  
Uganda drop out before  
secondary school



**83%**

Of 10-year-olds cannot  
read or understand a  
simple text



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

- Nearly one-third of girls in Uganda give birth before their 18th birthday. We will collaborate on the local and legislative level to expand sexual health services for young people.
- School is a major site of violence and abuse for young people. We will team up with local schools to create safe, protected environments for young learners.
- To incentivise student retention, we will improve menstrual health and sanitation facilities in local schools.
- Girls and women are vulnerable to gender-based violence. We will educate men and boys about positive masculinity and harm.

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



“Our country was affected greatly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through your support, we have been able to create long-lasting impacts in the lives of vulnerable children, young people and their communities. We thank you very much for the continued support.”

**Patrick Emukule Ilukol**  
Programme Area Manager, Northern

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