

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Plan International has been working in West Nile, a rural region in Uganda, since 2018. Thanks to your support, primary school dropouts decreased from 12.5% to 11% between 2020 and 2021.

This year, 20 teachers were trained in adolescent reproductive health and gender-based violence. 192 girls learned how to make reusable sanitary napkins, and 437 locals joined Village Savings and Loan groups, through which they can afford necessities like school fees.

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



20

Girls returned to school, supported by school supplies



1,160

Girls received menstrual hygiene kits



64

Teachers trained in building positive learning environments



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 9,386 CHILDREN IN WEST NILE

OUR PROJECTS IN WEST NILE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



STRONG SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS



23% of girls are not enrolled in primary school, despite being eligible to do so. A wide range of factors block girls' continued access to education, from families' lack of ability to pay school fees, entrenched sexism, and diminished resources at local schools.

This year, Plan International collaborated with 223 students and 12 teachers in West Nile to break down stigma against menstruation and nurture the confidence of young women. By learning different menstrual hygiene methods, girl pupils can feel comfortable attending classes even during menstruation – increasing their odds of completing the school year.

It takes a village to keep girls in school. Hundreds of students challenged menstruation stigma, and 20 girls returned to their studies.

64 teachers were trained in creating a positive learning environment for children. An additional 20 teachers participated in workshops about adolescent sexual health and reproductive rights.

STAYING HEALTHY AND HAPPY



25% of adolescent girls in Uganda are pregnant. Most young people in West Nile have had limited sexual education training, which leads to low use of contraception and high rates of teen pregnancy. Most distressingly, many sexually active young people have never been tested for HIV.

Plan International trained 96 community members in West Nile to become peer educators on gender-based violence and adolescent sexual health. 353 young people in need, including teen mothers, were referred to public services for gender-based violence and sexual health.

Plan also worked to bring girls back to school. 20 girls returned to their studies, while 1,160 girls received menstrual hygiene kits.



“I started working as a peer educator after being trained by Plan International. I have gained knowledge, skills and confidence to talk to young people. I have also become known to county leaders, which makes me happy and feel confident of who I am in the community.”
- Felix, 21, from West Nile

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



25%

Of girls ages 15 to 19 in Uganda are pregnant or already mothers



54%

Of adolescents have never tested for HIV



39%

Of students in West Nile graduate



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

- Child marriage and school dropouts are high in Uganda. We will support girls' education through improving the livelihoods of families with agricultural techniques.
- We will also work with schools to improve their resources, from expanding their available materials to equipping teachers with menstrual hygiene information.
- Girls are vulnerable to teen pregnancy. Through youth-focused Village Savings and Loan Groups, we will offer sexual health education.
- Many Ugandans were financially impacted by the pandemic. We will offer young people career guidance and vocational training.

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



"In the past twelve months, we have continued to engage families in the communities through our programmes with your support. The changes accruing can be visibly seen. We say thank you for all the great support."

Isaac Obong
Programme Area Manager, West Nile

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