

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Chiredzi is both a rural and urban province home to 307,436 people in Zimbabwe. Here, temperatures can easily reach 43° C, with unpredictable weather events only increasing due to climate change.

One of the primary risks to young people in Zimbabwe is dropping out of school, which can lead to child marriage, unemployment and early pregnancy. Plan International provided dormitories to two schools, eliminating the long distances students would have to walk. Plan also implemented boreholes, which will provide water to 800 students. As a result, many more students are now regularly attending school.

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



800

Students now have access to clean water



960

Youth learnt more about STIs and HIV



10125

Community members have money for food



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN ZIMBABWE

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

"COVID-19 negatively impacted our economy. Prices of masks and sanitisers went up. Only a few families in my community could afford them. Plan International provided us with hand sanitisers and face masks, together with information about COVID-19. This protected us from the pandemic."

CASE STORY: I WILL STAY IN SCHOOL



NAME: MUNASHE

AGE: 14 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: NETBALL



I learnt that education is my key to success. I will make my grandmother proud as I excel in school. I know my rights, and I have learnt to say NO to any proposals for marriage. I thank Plan for their work.

Meet Munashe

Like your sponsored child, Munashe has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Munashe lives in Manicaland, Zimbabwe. When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened her ability to stay in school, Munashe found support with Plan International.

Finding My Way

Young Munashe has been an orphan since infancy. She now lives with her grandmother. Her only sibling – a sister – provided for Munashe by sending money earned through her job in South Africa.

The COVID-19 pandemic reached Munashe's home in Manicaland just after she finished Grade 7. Schools locked down, and Munashe had to care for her grandmother, who was already terminally ill. To make matters more difficult, Munashe's older sister was laid off from her job in South Africa, leaving the girl and her grandmother without income.

Afflicted by similar circumstances, Munashe's classmates started dropping out of school. Several girls she knew got married, while others got pregnant. With few other options, Munashe was at a high risk of joining them.

Stronger Together

Luckily, Munashe found Plan International's 18+ Project, which creates safe, supportive spaces for girls. Those who must drop out of school are given vocational training, like sewing and basketry, while others are given support to continue their educations.

With the help of Plan International, Munashe was able to resume her studies. She and her grandmother received information about COVID-19 safety, and Plan International helped her immunocompromised caregiver get vaccinated. Munashe now attends school every day, where she plays her favourite sport with her friends.



Munashe is now back in school

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 5,522 CHILDREN IN CHIREDI

OUR PROJECTS IN CHIREDZI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY



Chiredzi has high rates of child marriages and HIV infections. 43% of girls in the region are married by age 18, and nearly 12% of the population is HIV-positive. Similarly, young people do not have much knowledge about cervical or breast cancers.

Plan International seeks to ameliorate these statistics by providing inclusive sexual health and reproductive rights education to people of all ages in Chiredzi. This year, 158 community leaders, including 24 student mentors, received training to teach others about gender-based violence, teen pregnancy and STIs.

960 young people and 720 parents learned more about STIs, teen pregnancy, sexual health, and child marriage. 6 sporting activities provided gender-inclusive sexual health education to 2,700 people. 300 people received contraception.

From sports days to savings groups, thousands of people in Chiredzi are becoming stronger, safer and more resilient.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



108,583 residents of Chiredzi have been directly and indirectly impacted by resilience-building interventions.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising threat of climate disasters in Zimbabwe has demonstrated that many communities are unprepared for emergency.

This year, Plan International worked with the people of Chiredzi to foster resilience in the face of crisis by taking a range of approaches. 171 Village Savings and Loan groups were founded or revived. 153 of these groups invested in collective livestock production, including poultry, goats, and cattle.

1,759 households now have access to clean water, thanks to the implementation of 59 boreholes. 1,979 community members in 17 villages discussed disaster preparedness with a gender-inclusive focus.



“Village Savings and Lending has helped provide financial access for me, and I am now able to buy uniforms and books for my children and grandchildren. Through gender dialogues, my relationship with my husband has improved. Thank you, Plan International.”
- **Josephine (48) from Chiredzi**

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



26%

Of Chiredzi residents are food insecure



27%

Of girls in Zimbabwe drop out of school



34%

Of Zimbabweans live under the national poverty line



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

- Plan's involvement has successfully kept greater numbers of learners in school. We plan to raise this number still further by growing our programming relating to education.
- Chiredzi is vulnerable to natural disasters as a result of climate change. We will collaborate with local farmers to practise new methods of adaptive agriculture.
- Inflation in Zimbabwe is exacerbating food insecurity for families. We will scale up our programmes in youth entrepreneurship to encourage new ideas.
- Child marriage is common. We will spread information among community members about the legal age of consent.

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



"The work you do as sponsors is appreciated so much. Your support has enabled families, children and particularly girls to have access to education and food. Our activities continuously seek to prepare communities for climate shocks."

Track Murauzi
Programme Area Manager, Chiredzi

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