

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Plan International has been working in rural Bulawayo since 1992. Between 2010 and 2019, we have built 3 new schools in the region (2 primary, 1 secondary). As a result, enrolment has increased nearly 6%.

By 2019, between 60 and 80% of families in the area had improved access to water, thanks to Plan's interventions and your support. In the Peri-Urban area of Bulawayo, 100% of our sponsored children have access to water. This can be life-changing, and even life-saving, during the worsening droughts.

**Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Bulawayo.**



# 1935

Girls improved their skills in literacy and maths



# 200

Young people learnt more about using computers



# 2750

Caregivers trained on positive parenting



## 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.

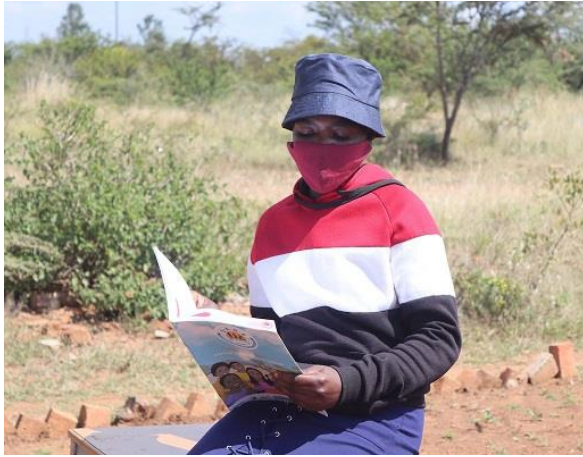


*Munashe is now back in school*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 5,668 CHILDREN IN BULAWAYO**



# OUR PROJECTS IN BULAWAYO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



More than 2,000 children participated in gender sessions and have improved knowledge about their rights and responsibilities.

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



**When girls drop out of school, they become vulnerable to child marriage, unemployment, poverty, and early pregnancy.** These high-risk situations can increase exposure to dangerous situations and gender-based violence.

Creating supportive environments for girls to learn requires a community effort. Plan International provided gender-inclusive pedagogy training sessions to 80 educators, while another 66 facilitators learned to provide inclusive counselling spaces for children and adults.

2,261 students learned about gender inclusion, girl's rights, and children's rights. Our Community Based Learning Hub provided literacy and maths tutoring to 1,935 girls, with 436 now on their way to graduation. 896 girls received vocational training in skills including baking and fence making.

## SKILLS TO SUCCEED



**By combining valuable life skills with technological training, 200 young people are now better prepared for adult life.** In Bulawayo, young people are vulnerable to unemployment, substance abuse and early marriages.

This year, Plan International established 2 training centres in Bulawayo to offer workshops for 100 students each (200 total). In addition to lessons about sexual health and reproductive rights, leadership, and safety, 30 computers were provided for students to begin learning practical vocational skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

66 young people (among them, 42 girls) learned Graphic Design. 71 students (51 girls) learned about Web Development, and 63 learners (34 girls) studied Application Development.



"Undergoing training in digital skills has opened my eyes to the opportunities that lie ahead for me. My life will change because I have been empowered. I am happy that I can be one of the beneficiaries of this project."

**- Dumisani (21) from Bulawayo**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



33%

Of girls in Zimbabwe are married before they turn 18



64%

Of people lack access to sanitary toilets



47%

Of youth in Zimbabwe are not in school



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

- Zimbabwe is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We will continue to collaborate with the government and other local partners to provide emergency aid.
- 34% of Zimbabweans live below the poverty line. We will continue to offer skills and entrepreneurship training.
- Teen pregnancy is closely linked to school dropouts. We will continue to teach girls and boys about sexual health and reproductive rights.
- Schools do not have adequate resources to serve students with disabilities. We will continue to scale up programmes that emphasise an inclusive education for all young learners.

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



“We began to see the light at the end of the tunnel as cases of COVID-19 began to subside. This allowed us to fully go back into the communities. We will continue working with children and young people to change their lives. Thank you for your support.”

**Noreen Makhurane**  
Programme Area Manager, Bulawayo

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