

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Plan International has been working in Manicaland, a rural province with a population of 1.7 million, since 1986. This area is vulnerable to natural disasters: Most recently, a spate of cyclones and flooding impacted more than 5,340 sponsored children.

This year, Plan International improved access to health care for girls and women by training 2,760 community health care providers. Since 2021, child marriages and teen pregnancies in Manicaland have fallen from an incidence rate of 12% to 6%.

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



### 281,129

Manicaland residents learnt about COVID-19 safety



### 644

Young people learnt more about their rights



### 1,285

Young people acquired birth certificates



## 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 12,034 CHILDREN IN MANICALAND**



# OUR PROJECTS IN MANICALAND ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



What does a healthy community look like? From youth-centred empowerment groups to sexual health centres, Manicaland's vulnerable populations are receiving care.

## SAFER TOGETHER



**The prevalence of HIV among women in Manicaland is two times higher than among men.** This statistic, as well as the aftermath of Cyclone Idai, demonstrated that women and young people are at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing health care in Manicaland.

37 community mentors were trained in sexual health and reproductive rights pedagogy. They have gone on to educate 2,876 residents in Manicaland. Another 30 volunteers learned about Parent to Child Communication, eventually leading workshops for 920 caregivers.

Thanks to our interventions, there has been a 25% increase in adolescents and young people pursuing their local health centres. 10 mobile sexual health outreach centres have reached an additional 4,847 residents, including 33 women with disabilities.

## ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE



**39% of women in rural Zimbabwe are married before age 18.** These child marriages leave girls, and eventually women, vulnerable to abuse. Such unions also discourage girls from completing their educations, which impacts their financial futures.

This year, Plan International set out to empower girls and young women and educate communities in Manicaland to fight this practise. The establishment of 10 "18+" youth clubs encouraged 644 young people to think in a new way about their rights and brought their attention to laws regarding the age of consent.

12 authority figures and 80 community members learned about age of consent laws and the risks of early pregnancy.



"I was thrilled when I got the news that I had passed the Plan International competitive interview to become a Young Global Influencer. I will not cease to advocate until young peoples' rights are fulfilled."  
- Zvikomborero (17) from Manicaland

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



29%

Of Manicaland's population does not have access to toilets



47%

Of young people in Zimbabwe are not in school



39%

Of girls in rural Zimbabwe are married before age 18



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

- As the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated poverty, child marriages increased. We will conduct awareness sessions with community members about girls' rights.
- An uptick in poverty also means that children in Zimbabwe are at a greater risk of violence. We will conduct more parent-child communication sessions to boost safety.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and climate crises have emphasised that Manicaland is not equipped for disaster. We will reinforce eLearning infrastructure to keep students in school.
- Impoverished sponsored children do not have sufficient access to medical care when they are ill. We will work to improve and expand health resources in Manicaland.

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



"This year, Plan International Zimbabwe ensured that sponsored children, especially girls, learn, lead, decide and thrive. We focused on girls' rights with an approach that involves boys and men. Importantly, we thank our donors for funding us."

**Stanley Dawa**  
Programme Area Manager, Manicaland

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