

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Kwekwe is home to 174,727 people, 44% of whom are under the age of 15. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated poverty and food insecurity in Zimbabwe.

Since 1990, Plan International has built primary and secondary schools and early childhood care centres in Kwekwe. We have also provided materials and training to teachers, raising the graduation rate to 90%.

With your support, we have reduced child mortality in Kwekwe thanks to the provision of medical supplies and the construction of new hospitals and clinics.

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



182

Participated in Youth Education Through Sports



300

Residents received vocational training



1651

People in Kwekwe now have clean water



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 5,734 CHILDREN IN KWEKWE

OUR PROJECTS IN KWEKWE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



NO LONGER HUNGRY



Food insecurity in urban Zimbabwe rose dramatically between 2019 and 2020. During the first year of the pandemic, 42% of urban residents in Zimbabwe struggled to have enough to eat. This was up from 30% just the year before.

Plan International's Urban Resilience Building Programme aims to meet the needs of Kwekwe's families, building resilience for future crisis. Two new market shed sites will provide nutrition to 120 households. An additional two boreholes will provide water.

In order for Kwekwe residents to become more financially stable, Plan trained 70 educators and 300 residents as part of our Skills Outreach Programme. 660 households benefitted from agriculture and livestock trainings.

To keep these projects self-sustaining, Plan supported the creation of 15 Savings and Loans groups.

From sports days to skills training workshops: Kwekwe residents addressed big issues like gender-based violence and food insecurity with a spirit of collectivity and joy.

THE POWER OF CLEAN WATER



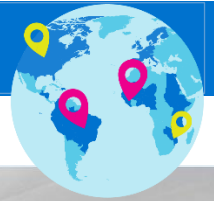
In many schools, girls do not have access to gender-inclusive toilets. In a culture which considers menstruation taboo, shame and a fear of violence can be enough to force girls to miss school during menstruation. Enough absences can mean a risk of dropping out.

Plan International collaborated with four communities in Kwekwe to improve water resources. 4 water points were rehabilitated and 2 new boreholes were created, bringing clean water to 5,000 people.

20 gender-inclusive latrines were built at 4 schools, benefitting 1,099 students. 605 girls received menstrual hygiene supplies. 182 children and 391 adults participated in a sports day to raise awareness about menstruation.



"I always looked to men and boys to repair boreholes. We used to spend days without water. Things changed when I was encouraged to do the same work. I am happy that my village is no longer walking long distances for water as I provide the service for us."
- Nyasha (28) from Kwekwe



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



29%

Of pupils left school since the pandemic began



33%

Of girls in Zimbabwe are married before age 18



36%

Of the population have no access to toilets



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

- Students with disabilities do not have sufficient resources in school. We will improve access to education for these learners.
- Zimbabwe's youth struggle to find employment. We will implement a new project to promote the financial self-reliance of young people, particularly women.
- Child marriages continue to increase in Kwekwe. We will introduce a new project that will implement social safety nets for girls and women.
- Increasing poverty means an increase in dangerous child labour. We will collaborate with local government to encourage protective policy changes.

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



"I acknowledge support from all sponsors to the children in Kwekwe. Plan reached many disadvantaged children through initiatives like menstrual hygiene management and inclusive quality education. Thank you for supporting Plan International."

Lynah Matsikiti
Programme Area Manager, Kwekwe