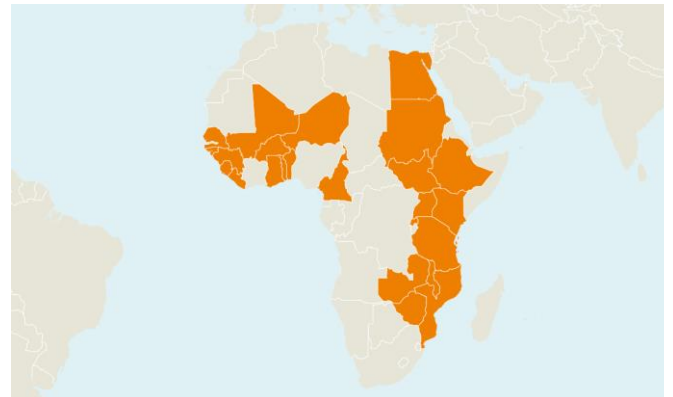


ANNUAL UPDATE

MALAWI

KASUNGU



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Kasungu. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

Welcome to tropical Kasungu, Malawi! In this rural community of 119,218 people, our projects this year ranged from an empowering Children’s Parliament to gender-inclusive agriculture training with local farmers, women and young people. 20% of Kasungu’s population does not have access to health care clinics. This year, 6,346 community members, including 4,862 children, in hard-to-reach parts of Kasungu, received medical attention through more than 120 healthcare events.



3,555

reusable sanitary pads distributed to girl students



117

child marriages stopped



3,609

people trained in child protection and sexual health

“I’M MORE CONFIDENT NOW. I GO TO SCHOOL AND WANT TO REACH MY GOAL OF BECOMING A TEACHER.”

Macloud, 8 years old, Sponsored Child





NAME: MARION

AGE: 17

**DREAMS TO BE: A
LAWYER**

“I’VE DEVELOPED LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS TO INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKERS IN MY COMMUNITY. I CAN SPEAK UP FOR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE.”

Meet Marion

Like the child you sponsor, Marion is becoming a leader.

As part of a Children’s Rights Club, Marion participates in Plan’s Girls Takeover projects, where young women step into decision-making positions. This experience has made her confident and determined.

Rising Above

In Marion’s community, child marriages aren’t uncommon, and, though protective laws exist, they’re rarely enforced. Early marriages and pregnancies can keep women trapped in cycles of poverty: without a complete education or vocational skills, many women struggle to build financial independence.

When Marion joined Plan International’s Children’s Rights Club in her community in Kasungu, she found a warm, collaborative space to talk about children’s rights, including girls’ rights to an education, safety and the importance of education. This programme also includes a Child Parliament, where young people build skills in speaking up with confidence about their rights.

Learners to Leaders

A cornerstone of the Children’s Rights Club is the Girls Takeover project, where young women are put into leadership positions, engaging with local decision-makers about the issues they care about.

As a participant in the Girls Takeover project, Marion bravely spoke to local leaders about girls’ rights. Today, she reports that this experience has made her more confident, unafraid to make her voice heard.



Marion is learning to become a leader.

OUR PROJECTS IN KASUNGU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Since 2022, our projects in Kasungu have focused on girls' education and leadership, climate-resilient agriculture and sexual health education.

SUSTAINABLE SKILLS



As the climate changes, Kasungu's large population of subsistence farmers are learning to adapt.

In Kasungu, 80% of the community depends on agriculture for food and income. The changing climate has made Kasungu's rainy and dry seasons shorter and less predictable, threatening the stability of many of the community's families. This year, we joined forces with 13 Farmer Organizations, including one tailored for young farmers.

We provided seeds and seed funding to help local farmers stay competitive in the market. Together, we focused on promoting gender-inclusive business planning as well as ways to fairly distribute responsibilities at home.

I WILL STAY IN SCHOOL



Just 49% of students in Kasungu make it to graduation.

From child marriage to faraway schools, many children face significant social or resource-based obstacles when it comes to completing their educations. Our girl's education project is addressing negative cultural practices that hinder children, especially girls, from completing their studies. This year, 107 boys and girls who live far away from secondary schools in Kasungu received bicycles to reach school.

We worked with parents to promote positive parenting and worked to strengthen capacity of parents' teacher associations, mother groups, community leaders and child protection committees.

"My school is 4 kilometers away. Being able to get to school with my bike has given me more time to study and concentrate in class."

- Joana (17) from Kasungu



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come—and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Kasungu.

- Incidents of gender-based violence remain high in Kasungu. With your help, our projects in 2024 will include intergenerational discussions about reproductive rights, sexual health and equality.
- Climate change threatens the continued food security of residents of Kasungu. Next year, we will work directly with women and young people to practise climate-resilient agriculture.
- 40% of girls in Malawi miss school during their periods. In the future, we will work to provide girls with private changing rooms and reusable sanitary pads to ensure that no one falls behind.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Together we work to reach out to children with programming in education, health, livelihoods and protection. Thank you.”

Billy Mukwikwi
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment is turned into effective long-term change – providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan’s Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



MARCH



107

students receive bicycles to get to school

APRIL



54

scholarships distributed to local students

MAY



4,862

children access medical care

DECEMBER



776

young people trained in gender equality