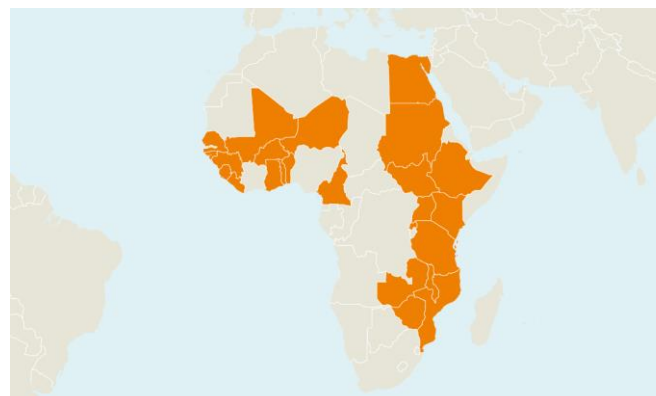


ANNUAL UPDATE

MALAWI

MZUZU



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

This year, we have worked with children, local governments and parents to prevent child marriage and decrease drop-out rates among girls. 121 teachers took part in Plan's gender-inclusive training to learn that girls stay home from school during menstruation and can fall behind, or even drop out. As a result, 4 new school lavatories were built for girls. 646 students, including 81 survivors of child marriages, received scholarships to continue school. We also worked with youth on economic empowerment through our entrepreneurship and vocational programme.



17

Girls with disabilities received scholarships



4,463

Young people trained in sexual health and rights



117

Child marriages stopped

“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 MZUZU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



The number of reported child marriage in the intervention district in Mzuzu have fallen by 30% from 2022 to 2023.

SUSTAINABLE SKILLS



More than 23% of young people in Mzuzu are unemployed.

Our EMIRIS programme focuses on providing young people, and particularly women and girls, with climate-resilient agricultural skills to build financial independence. Participants connected with mentors, learning not only about new farming technologies, but also skills in entrepreneurship, like business development. 167 young women and 137 men in this region now have seeds, fertilisers, and connections to larger markets, which will help them maintain sales from their small farms. Another 1,457 farmers in 10 communities were reached in our gender equality campaign.

SAFER TOGETHER



We aim to prevent and respond to violence against children and youth and promote their right to live free from violence and fear.

This year, we collaborated with community members of all ages in Mzuzu to support safety and accessibility from many different angles. 362 adults and 118 children came together in 50 Child Protection Committees, where they now have the training and resources they need to safeguard children's rights. 150 families of Sponsored Children received goats to increase their household income. We collaborated with local teachers to make education more inclusive for not just girls, but all students. Now, students with disabilities are also learning more easily through increased accessibility and support.

“Before I got a wheelchair from Plan, my mum used to carry me to school on her back. Now, I can go to school with my friends, and can go out and play.”

- Vitu (12) from Mzuzu



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 Mzuzu.

- 43% of girls in this region are married before their 18th birthday. With your support, we will hold intergenerational dialogues with parents to discuss girl's rights.
- Less than 40% of young people in Mzuzu have access to sexual health services. Next year, we will collaborate with care workers to provide more inclusive, high-quality sexual and reproductive health care.
- In this part of Malawi, over 23% of young job-seekers are unemployed. In 2024, we will provide vocational training and organize entrepreneurship training for young people.

Thank you for your continued support.



"I'm touched and excited how our programmes in inclusive quality education, gender and protection have greatly impacted the lives of children and youths, particularly girls."

McDonald Chatuluka Mumba
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



JUNE

897

students received access to clean water at school



SEPTEMBER

168

children helped by local Protection Committees



OCTOBER

646

students received scholarships



DECEMBER

4

school lavatories built for girls

