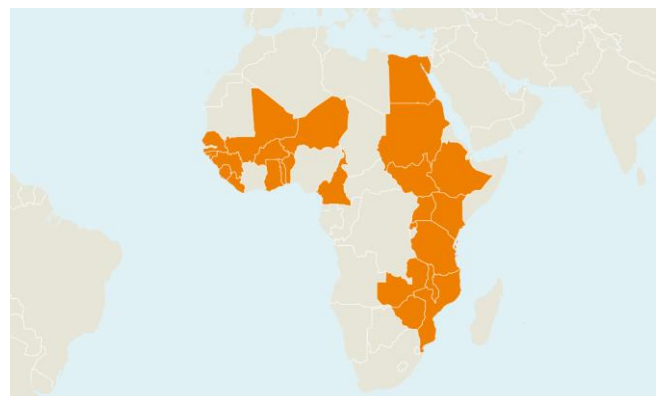


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# MALAWI

## MULANJE



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

In March 2023, Malawi was devastated by Tropical Cyclone Freddy. It wiped out communities and infrastructure, leaving more than half a million people displaced. Providing emergency response was essential. Families received food, clothing, hygiene items, and shelter kits. Mulanje is vulnerable to climate disaster, so Plan supported the community to establish systems to respond to future storms. Climate emergencies have a severe impact on the health, rights, education and protection of children, especially girls.



**240**

Women trained in menstrual health management



**47,439**

People reached with emergency support after Cyclone Freddy



**162**

Households improved their income and health by raising goats

**“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 MULANJE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



The Early Childhood Development centre provides a safe and fun learning environment.

## A SPACE TO LEARN



Children need access to quality early learning opportunities that develop social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills. Without this foundation, many children in Mulanje were struggling at primary school. In response, the Early Childhood Development centre (ECD) was established to provide children with a strong start to their education and development.

The ECD accommodates 221 children to learn in playful surroundings. In the afternoon, the centre provides a platform where youth can interact. As a gender-inclusive space, activities focus on challenging harmful cultural practices and inequalities. These sessions provide youth with information on gender-based violence, such as early and forced marriages. By supporting the development and growth of children and young people, the community is helping the next generation to thrive.

## REACTING TO EMERGENCY



In March 2023, Mulanje was struck by Tropical Cyclone Freddy. It was the most devastating disaster that Malawi had faced in over 30 years.

It was critical to support families with relief efforts. Families received food and non-food items, including blankets, clothing and hygiene articles.

Building community resilience is key to helping families cope with storms. Early warning messaging systems are helping reduce the cases of loss. Training sessions on Education in Emergencies help support children and community members. And, community workers trained on child protection, gender-based violence and their roles in cases of emergency.

“Three days before it hit, we heard a radio programme from Plan warning us of a potential cyclone. When it started to rain heavily, we all knew that something bad was about to happen as we heard the warnings, so we ran for our lives.” – Irene (13) from Mulanje



# 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 Mulanje.

- Cyclone Freddy left enormous damage. The Disaster Risk Reduction programme will support the communities to be prepared and introduce initiatives such as drip irrigation, afforestation, and drought-resistant crops.
- Cyclone Freddy damaged 62 schools. The rehabilitation and construction of buildings, scholastic support for secondary-school pupils, and provision of learning and teaching materials will help students return to learning.
- Many children in displacement camps are alone. We will work with local districts to enhance child protection issues.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Together with the children of Mulanje, we say thank you. Your support has gone a long way to support our response to the devastating cyclone Freddy.”

**Jane Mweziwina**  
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**

**24,181**

Children reached with food, protection and hygiene support



**AUGUST**

**25**

Farmers’ club members trained to be cooperatives



**OCTOBER**

**84,830**

People reached with improved water systems



**DECEMBER**

**58**

Youth health agents trained in sexual health

