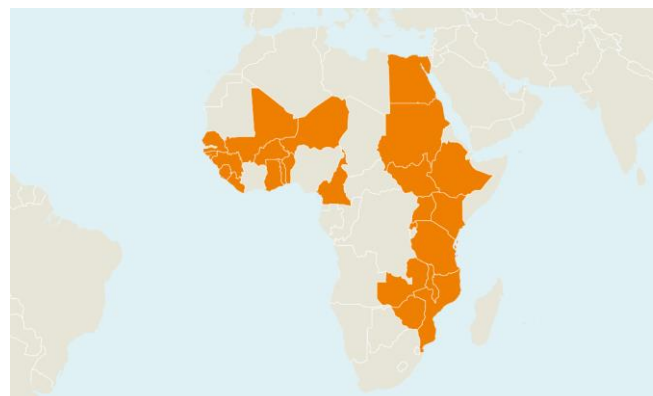


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# ZIMBABWE

## MANICALAND



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

Manicaland is home to more than 2 million people. This part of Zimbabwe is vulnerable to the effects of climate change, from cyclones to droughts.

This year, our projects focused on increasing access to quality and inclusive education, rehabilitating local schools and improving access to health care for young people.



**700**

students now have clean water at school



**84**

girls are now going to a subsidised boarding school



**672**

community members talked about adolescent sexual health

**“THE MONEY EARNED FROM PLANS’ FARMING PROJECT AT OUR SCHOOL PAYS FOR MANY CHILDRENS SCHOOL FEES.”**

Thandekile, 16 years old, Sponsored Child





**NAME: NEO**

**AGE: 17 YEARS OLD**

**DREAMS TO BE: A DOCTOR**

**“OUR BUSINESS IS GROWING. SOON, WE WILL BE OUR DISTRICT'S POWERHOUSE. I IMAGINE A FUTURE WHERE WE IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALL OF OUR NEIGHBOURS.”**

## Meet Neo

**Like the child you sponsor, Neo is taking steps toward achieving her goals and becoming a role model.**

When Neo's school exam scores threatened the future of her education, a vocational training course in leather skills offered a safety net.

## At Risk of Dropping Out

17-year-old Neo is the daughter of subsistence farmers and the older sister of a primary school student. She loves to play volleyball and dreams of being a doctor. When Neo took her school exams, she was disappointed to see that her scores were not as high as they needed to be for her to complete her education.

For girls in Zimbabwe, this poses a high risk: In Neo's community, unemployment and substance abuse are high among young people, which can be life-threatening. This is particularly worrisome for women and girls, who often struggle to become financially independent, getting married or pregnant at a young age and dropping out of school.

## Developing A Safety Net

Neo is one of ten girls in her community to participate in Plan International's five week-long leather product-making workshop, which provided materials, business management lessons and seed funding to start their own small enterprises. Today, Neo describes being more self-assured than ever. Neo and a few of her friends, also young women, earn money for their families selling their leather goods to the community, and are even talking about expanding their business. Neo plans to return to school with wind in her sails: she has a newfound sense of confidence and a back-up plan for the future.



*No matter what happens, Neo knows she'll be okay.*

# OUR PROJECTS IN MANICALAND ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## MY FUTURE IS BRIGHT



**A recent survey of education in Zimbabwe revealed a system that is overwhelmed and under-resourced.**

As part of our efforts to make sure that all children in Manicaland have access to education, we renovated classrooms at a local secondary school, which led to increased student enrollment.

Another local secondary school was provided with 56 tables and chairs for students, and we helped build 2 living spaces for teachers, reducing the attrition rate, and nurturing close, long-term connections between students and educators.

Two high schools now have access to clean water, and 80 girls from eight schools participated in our youth leadership programme.

From renovating local schools to assessing health clinics, we're helping make Manicaland's next generation stronger than ever.

## SAFER TOGETHER



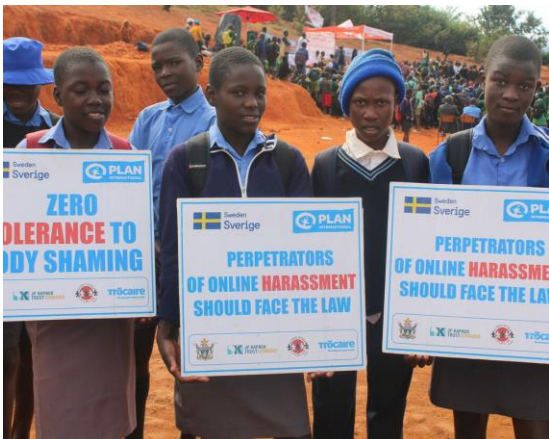
**Girls and women in Manicaland often do not have access to sexual and reproductive health care.**

Some of the biggest contributors to this trend are a lack of open dialogue between parents and children, and high rates of child marriage. This year, we collaborated with 18 health care providers from seven different facilities to provide accessible, teen-friendly health services to young people in Manicaland.

We also collaborated with the local government to perform assessments of six local health clinics. 1,552 parents were reached in our awareness-raising campaigns about adolescent health, and parents and children alike reported seeing positive changes in their relationships.

“During Plan’s sexual health education training, my friends and I realised that we did not know as much as we thought. Now, I can make informed decisions.”

**- Tariro (15), from Manicaland**



# 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 Manicaland.

- Manicaland has the fourth highest rate of child marriage in Zimbabwe. With your support, we will collaborate with the local government to implement a Marriage Act that protects the rights of girls.
- More than 115,345 households in Manicaland have been affected by cyclones. We will help vulnerable communities develop greater resilience to the effects of climate change.
- Youth unemployment in Manicaland is 2% higher than elsewhere in Zimbabwe. In collaboration with the local private sector, we will help young people in Manicaland develop professional skills.

Thank you for your continued support.



“You, our sponsors, have made it possible for us to place sponsored children at the centre of our work, supporting vulnerable young people, and especially girls.”

**Stanley Dawa**  
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



**FEBRUARY**



**3,456**

girls graduated from tutoring programmes

**MAY**



**680**

students benefitted from a new computer lab

**JULY**



**350**

youths played on confidence-building sports teams

**DECEMBER**



**2**

solar-powered boreholes were built at local schools