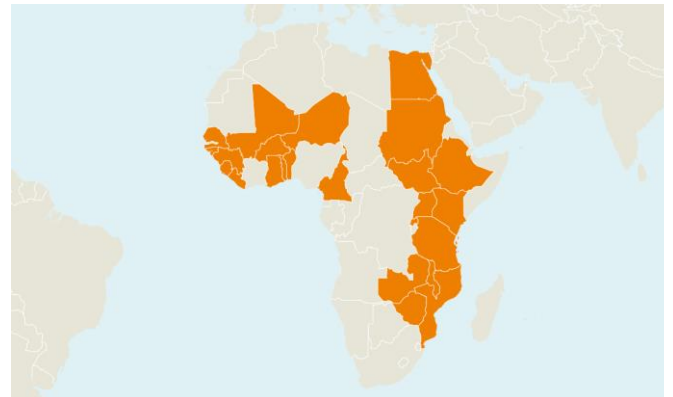


ANNUAL UPDATE

ZIMBABWE

KWEKWE



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

The dry region of Kwekwe is home to 325,773 people, many of whom work in mining. Here, just 29% of residents have reliable access to clean water, and 63% of young people are unemployed. This year, we focused our efforts on adolescent health, expanding access to HIV testing and legal services for young people. 1,524 girls were supported with examination fees, which determine whether they'll be able to graduate, and 3,810 Sponsored Children and their families participated in judgement-free communication workshops about sexual health.



1,057

girls have access to gender-safe private lavatories



205

people participated in Disaster Risk Reduction committees



5,539

girls received scholarships

“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 KWEKWE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



With your support, we have expanded health services to young people in Kwekwe. 21% of teenagers sought help at these clinics last year, compared to 13% the year before.

YOU CAN TALK TO ME



Many young people in Kwekwe do not have access to sexual health education.

In addition to high rates of early and unplanned pregnancies, young people – and particularly young women – are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. One of the largest contributors to this knowledge gap is a feeling among parents and children that they cannot speak openly about sexual health.

This year, 3,810 girls participated in our Parent-Child Communication sessions, which students say has made them feel closer to and more trusting of their parents. 1,992 teen girls and young people are now able to access HIV testing, family planning resources, gender-based violence screenings and legal aid.

MY BODY, MY FUTURE



We continued to expand sexual health resources for young people with the My Body, My Future project.

In an effort to reach young people who may not currently be in school, we provided Comprehensive Sexuality Education courses. 816 girls and 578 boys participated in these workshops, while another 550 students learned about sexual health in their classrooms.

We also worked with 11 educators on topics related to adolescent health and reproductive rights, ensuring that young people will have a network of trusted adults to turn to when they have difficult questions.

“Before, our parents would not talk about sexual health with us. Now, we have nurses and support networks. We can access information and services without fear.”

- Rumbidzai (22), from Kwekwe



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 Kwekwe.

- 500 girls in Kwekwe dropped out of school before the age of 18, and 201 were married. With your support, we will introduce Child Protection Committees for critical community dialogues.
- Social norms in Kwekwe discourage young people from taking sexual health education seriously. We will work with community leaders to address possible policy amendments.
- 1 in 3 girls in Kwekwe are not enrolled in school, putting them at risk of early marriage, pregnancy and contracting HIV/AIDS. We will offer scholarships to at-risk students to keep all students in school.

Thank you for your continued support.



“From community gardens to school repairs and menstrual health hygiene, your sponsorship is helping us make lasting impacts in the lives of children.”

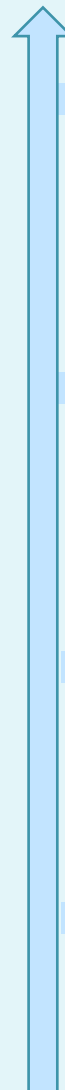
Lynah Matsikiti
Programme Area Manager

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



JANUARY



205

community members created disaster response plans

APRIL



50

people developed climate-resilient agriculture strategies

JUNE



9

leaders discussed gender-inclusive disaster response

OCTOBER



2.036

students and teachers benefit from boreholes at 2 local schools