

Mulanje

Malawi

Positive changes are happening in Mulanje. Learn more about how we're supporting children and girls' rights through our collaborative, equality-driven work.

Plan International has been a proud partner of communities in Mulanje since 2006.

The families we work with in Mulanje rely heavily on the income earned and food grown through agriculture. However, this region is very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change: at present, 78,541 households have been affected by a severe lack of rainfall in the area, and another 2,727 families have fallen into poverty as a result.

With your help, 750 families are now earning extra money through the use of their new goats, and 560 households have additional seeds and fertiliser to make their farms more resilient. As part of our work to make sure that no student falls behind due to lack of funds, 79 girls and 67 boys have received academic scholarships to continue their studies.

"Thanks to our new goats and compost, we're harvesting more than before."— Janet (14)



1,081 students nationwide have received scholarships.

Impact in Numbers

146

students received scholarships

7,000

families received aid after Cyclone Freddy

2

new classrooms built

Knowledge Is Power



NAME:

Hannah

AGE:

14 years old

HOBBIES:

**Playing Games and
Cycling**

“Plan has helped me focus on my classes more. I’m doing a lot better in school now.”



Meet Hannah

Like many girls in Mulanje, Hannah is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.

Hannah was a star student until she dropped out in 2020. In partnership with a local parenting group, we were able to bring this promising student back into the classroom.

Overcoming Obstacles

Illiteracy and school dropout are the main factors contributing to poverty in Malawi. Due to unequal beliefs about gender, parents are more likely to pull their daughters out of school than their sons. High rates of child marriage or teen pregnancy also cause girls and young women to end their education early.

Hannah excelled in school until 2020. That year, obstacles started to get in the way of her education – a problem shared by many girls in Malawi. For many girls, their schools are simply too far away for them to safely walk there and back. In other cases, taboos around menstruation and a shortage of menstrual hygiene supplies force girls to stay home from school during their periods, causing them to fall far behind their classmates.

Breaking Free

Plan International’s Break Free project is a collaborative effort with local mothers in Malawi. When Break Free members noticed that Hannah had stopped attending school, they connected with her parents to find out what was going on.

With the help of Break Free, Hannah returned to school in 2022. Today, she is in Grade 7, and is again at the top of her class.



Hannah, back in the classroom.

We Currently Work With 5,398 Sponsored Children In Mulanje

Projects That Support Lasting Change

No Longer Hungry

The Goats Pass On project empowers women to take control of their families' finances.

For many families in Mulanje, poverty is the root cause of many social issues, from a lack of education to high infant mortality rates and malnutrition. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable in these conditions, as they are more likely to have incomplete education and limited financial independence.

A central part of the 'Goats Pass On' programme is the empowerment of women and girls. After donating 750 goats to 150 families and providing livestock management workshops, we are encouraging mums and young women to manage their families' new livestock businesses, supporting them as they take more central roles in decision-making processes. 'The goats have enabled us to cover household expenses, including my education costs,' former Sponsored Child Lackelo (age 20) tells us.



A beneficiary with her family's new goats.

750

goats donated to sponsored families



Together, we're making education more accessible for girls in Mulanje.



Loveness now earns additional income by training other aspiring tailors.

Sustainable Skills

Thousands of family farms in Mulanje are struggling through a long dry season.

Loveness (bottom left) is the mother of sponsored children. At one time, she tells us, 'My household was in dire poverty.' With severely limited means, she worried that her daughters would have to leave school.

Loveness and her family are far from the only ones in Mulanje facing these overwhelming obstacles. As climate change continues to impact these primarily-agricultural communities, many families struggle to make ends meet, which often includes school tuition. Loveness is one of 118 adults involved in Plan's vocational skills training programme, where she learnt about tailoring and financial literacy. Within months, Loveness was not only running a successful tailoring business, but also operating side businesses in dairy and transportation.

"Thanks to my business, my daughters are still in school. Things are much better at home."

– Loveness (30) from Mulanje

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Rose bought a goat with the help of her Village Savings and Loans group.

Together, we're working to create a more just world.

Mulanje is vulnerable to cyclones and other natural disasters. We will work with community members to practise climate-resilient agricultural techniques, like building water and soil conservation structures and agro-forestry.

Additionally, we will work with community members to assess their existing risks and vulnerabilities to develop preparedness plans for future climate events.

There are not enough health clinics in Mulanje to meet the population's needs. We will provide mobile health clinics to make medical attention more accessible.

Message from Plan Staff

"I have witnessed firsthand how Plan International's programmes, such as Goats Pass On and Scholastic Support Initiatives, have transformed our community. For instance, I have seen girls who were on the verge of dropping out of school and at risk of child marriage receive scholarships, and they are now pursuing higher



Mary,
Community
Volunteer,
Mulanje

The Plan Effect

Sponsored children are at the centre of everything we do, and they help plan our programmes based on what's important to them. Sponsors' donations are a gateway into a community. This helps build trust and credibility to attract even more funds from new sources. This makes more sustainable programmes possible in sponsorship communities. This powerful synergy is something we call The Plan Effect.

Progress in Numbers

2 gender-inclusive
washrooms built

300 mobile health
clinics dispatched

1,287 women building
financial literacy

6,000 families received
hygiene kits after
natural disaster