

Kisarawe Tanzania

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

Young people in Kisarawe face significant challenges due to poverty and limited economic opportunities, with young women being particularly affected. Many struggle to acquire the skills needed for meaningful employment, and a lack of awareness about child rights and protection leaves children vulnerable to violence, jeopardizing their future development. And in 2024, Cyclone Hidaya severely impacted Tanzania's coastal regions, causing widespread damage and casualties.

Plan is working with the community and government to support economic and educational initiatives focused on children and young women. This includes training teacher and educational staff and creating student-friendly materials. Additionally, Community Resources have formed Village Savings and Loan Association groups in local areas, empowering members to start small businesses.

"After this program, I feel confident to address child marriages and teenage pregnancies and make informed decisions." - Minza, 15-year-old, Sponsored Child



Children teaching their classmates how to read numbers.

Impact in Numbers

3,005

**children supported
by community
health funding**

757

**men and women
were engaged in
savings groups**

21

**advocates trained
in Enhanced School
Readiness Program**

Breaking the Silence around Menstruation



NAME:

Grace

AGE:

14 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

A Nurse

“I can now sew my own sanitary pads by using locally available products. I have also helped 13 fellow students sew their sanitary pads with local materials.”



Meet Grace

Grace, a 14-year-old in Standard Seven, is passionate about science and loves to spend her free time singing gospel songs and hanging out with friends. She lives with her parents and siblings in a small house made of burnt blocks with a metal roof, which has three bedrooms. Her parents are dedicated livestock farmers, raising cows and goats for food and sale. Inspired by her desire to make a difference, Grace dreams of becoming a nurse and hopes to positively impact both her family and community.

Lack of Awareness about Menstrual Health

In Tanzania, limited information about menstrual health leaves young girls ill-prepared to manage their menstruation and hygiene. Additionally, traditional gender norms have fostered discriminatory attitudes towards menstruation, making it difficult for many girls to discuss menstrual health and hygiene issues with their families.

To avoid embarrassment and inconvenience, Grace has had to miss school during her menstruation days, resulting in poor attendance and performance in her class.

Breaking Barriers

To support girls' education in a safe environment, Plan has launched menstrual health and hygiene workshops in schools and communities. Grace has learned about menstrual hygiene management, the science of menstruation, and how to make and use reusable sanitary pads.

These workshops have empowered her and her classmates to confidently address menstrual health, helping to break the silence and reduce cultural stigma in their community.



Girls making reusable sanitary pads in schools.

We Work With 2,889 Sponsored Children in Kisarawe

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Advancing Child Education

In Kisarawe, poor quality pre-primary education, lack of gender sensitivity, and long distances to schools have severely limited educational opportunities for children.

To address these issues, Plan is collaborating with the community to develop evidence-based, high-quality, gender-sensitive early childhood education programs tailored to both girls and boys from vulnerable communities.

Through this initiative, we have taught 533 children across 29 School Readiness Program centres. By addressing barriers at both school and home, we are strengthening children's educational foundation, ensuring they have access to quality education.

Additionally, teacher training on gender-sensitive and inclusive curricula has improved teachers' understanding of how gender roles affect education. We trained parents on gender-sensitive parenting and provided equal support for caregivers in their children's education.



Community teaching assistant providing learning materials to students.

1,587

parents were trained in positive childcare practices



Savings groups during a share distribution meeting.

Economic Support

High poverty and limited economic initiatives have severely restricted economic opportunities for youth, especially young women.

To address this, Plan's initiatives have engaged 757 people - 559 women and 198 men - in Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) monitoring and support supervision across 20 groups. Additionally, Community Resource Persons (CRPs) received training in VSLA methodologies, business planning and management, gender equality, and child protection.

Moreover, 110 youth aged 18 to 35 participated in the Youth Village Savings and Loan Association, focusing on economic empowerment.



Salama, 15, in a blue sweater, smiling after receiving support from Plan.

"Plan provided us with essential items after our dormitory burned down, so we could study comfortably and sit for the ordinary level national exam." - Salama, 15, from Kisarawe

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Children participating in Plan's initiatives in Kisarawe.

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

In Kisarawe, 39% of young people are unemployed and have no income generating activities at the District level. Plan will work together with families to strengthen their socioeconomic well-being.

In Kisarawe, 75% of the families of sponsored children and young people lack access to income-generating activities. Next year, Plan will partner with the government to support diverse income opportunities, especially for women. This will be achieved by offering financial and entrepreneurial training through savings group projects.

Message from Plan Staff

"Thank you for supporting the Kisarawe community and programs for children from marginalised communities. It has made a meaningful difference and is still needed to continue helping children belonging to vulnerable communities throughout Tanzania."



Ruth Kazoka,
Programme Unit
Manager,
Kisarawe.

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

50

teachers received
further skill
training

138

students were
trained in reading,
writing and math

15

community
workers trained in
gender sensitivity

74

youth trained as
menstrual health
facilitators