

Bulawayo

Zimbabwe

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

Climate change, including El Niño, has worsened poverty, food insecurity, and strain on services in Bulawayo. Harmful practices like early child marriages and restricted mobility further impact girls' health and prospects.

In collaboration with the community, Plan raised awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights for children and young people. Our campaigns resulted in 38% of children learning about sexual health through our comprehensive sexuality education in schools.

Additionally, 119 community members received training on child protection mechanisms to help prevent and respond to exploitation and violence against children during crises.



Children studying in school in Bulawayo.

"The fish project has improved our health and helps us pay our school fees."

Lisa, 11, Sponsored Child



Impact in Numbers

484

girls learned about sexual and reproductive health

33

schools now have comprehensive sexuality education

328

teachers trained in early education methods

Kick Start To A Healthy Life



NAME:

Beauty

AGE:

17 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

A teacher

“Our diet has improved a lot as we are now able to have three meals a day. I have also been called many times by different areas to train them in fish farming.”



Meet Beauty

Beauty, a 17-year-old girl, lives with her eight siblings and parents. In her free time, she enjoys fishing.

Due to Chiredzi's dry climate, Beauty's family relies on subsistence farming, which produces low yields with limited nutritional value, resulting in an unbalanced diet.

Nutritional challenges

Limited farming methods and a lack of resources mean that Beauty's family and others in similar situations often struggle to make ends meet and obtain nutritious food, which leads to poor school performance and higher dropout rates in Chiredzi.

Additionally, the rise in gender-based violence and child rights violations, disproportionately affecting girls, exacerbates these issues by further increasing dropout rates and perpetuating a cycle of illiteracy in the community.

Starting a Healthy Life

To help Beauty and other children access nutritious food, Plan supported the development of a multi-layered garden. This garden focuses on fish farming, piggery, and growing fruits and vegetables. It also serves as a learning centre where children can study, share schoolwork, and engage in outdoor activities with their families.

Thanks to this garden, Beauty's family benefits from the fresh produce, and two of her brothers who had dropped out of school are now back in their studies.



Beauty and her family harvesting vegetables.

We Work With 5,754 Sponsored Children in Bulawayo

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Supporting Girls' Education

High poverty and El Niño droughts have increased financial struggles in Bulawayo, making it harder for families to send their children to school.

In collaboration with the community, Plan's initiatives support children from vulnerable communities, especially girls and those with disabilities, in attending school. Our programmes have provided age-appropriate learning materials, such as books, to support 3,500 primary and secondary learners.

Additionally, we focused on creating a healthy, inclusive, and gender-sensitive, violence-free environment in schools for all children. Our awareness campaigns addressed child protection in emergencies, sexual and reproductive health, child nutrition, and the prevention of early child marriages, all of which can hinder children's, particularly girls', access to education.



Girls participating in sexual and reproductive health and rights sessions.

600

youth trained in sexual and reproductive health



Young mother accessing sexual and reproductive health services.



Theron participating in a public speaking competition.

Promoting Strong Girls

In Bulawayo, girls' behaviour is closely tied to the family's and community's honour, often leading to their choices and actions being guided by community expectations.

The "My Body, My Future" programme in Bulawayo works with the community to raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health, helping young people make informed, responsible choices. It addresses topics like healthy sexuality, intimate relationships, gender roles, and the impact of climate change on sexual health. Our initiatives have increased the percentage of youth making informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health from 40% to 43%.

Additionally, our research shows that 53% of young people felt more satisfied with the sexual and reproductive health services provided in Bulawayo after participating in our initiatives.

"These sessions have been crucial in teaching us about our bodies and sexual rights."

Theron, 17, from Bulawayo

Your Support Means Better Futures



Young programme participants.

We're working together to advocate for a just world.

In Bulawayo, rural communities have recorded the highest number of children being out of school. Next year, Plan will promote inclusive, gender-sensitive education, including comprehensive sexuality education in schools.

Early marriages and teenage pregnancies are major reasons why girls drop out of schools in Bulawayo. Next year, Plan will support girls' school retention and attendance through clubs and financial grants.

The El Niño drought has worsened poverty in Bulawayo, increasing food insecurity and risking children's nutrition. Next year, Plan will strengthen food aid and economic empowerment initiatives for the community.

Message from Plan Staff

"Your continued support has helped us to scale up skills trainings for young people, especially girls. They are empowered to participate in the economic activities in their villages. We also worked with many young people in building their confidence so that they can make right choices for their future. Thank you."



Amkela Ndlovu,
Programme Unit
Manager,
Bulawayo

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

6,188

girls mentored in
AIDS prevention

3,484

children received
educational funds

2,147

youth took part in
"My Body, My
Future"

3,730

youth reached
with Sexuality
Education