

Manicaland Zimbabwe

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

Manicaland, like other Zimbabwean regions, is struggling with El Niño-induced drought and a cholera outbreak, which have strained health, food, economic and educational resources, especially affecting children, young girls and women.

Early child marriages and increased gender-based violence have further limited young girls' access to education and social resources, causing many to drop out of school early.

In collaboration with the community and government, Plan has supported educational and economic initiatives to improve job prospects for young people, especially girls. Our life skills training has helped 2,533 girls and 645 boys gain skills for better employment. We also supported intergenerational dialogues for families to address community issues.

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

Lisa, 11, Sponsored Child



Girls in school in Manicaland.

Impact in Numbers

850

**children joined
school income
projects**

300

**families joined
income-generating
projects**

52

**participants joined
campaigns to end
child marriages**

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

Plan developed a multi-layered garden for Beauty and other children, featuring fish farming, fruits, and vegetables. It also functions as a learning centre for studying and outdoor family activities for children.

Beauty's family now enjoys fresh produce, and her brothers have returned to school. They now harvest fish for extra income and mentor others in their community for greater self-sufficiency.



Beauty and her family harvesting vegetables.

We Work With 8,910 Sponsored Children in Manicaland

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Ending Child Marriage

Child marriages and the rise in gender-based violence have led to an increased rate of school dropouts, particularly among girls, limiting their access to inclusive, quality education.

In collaboration with the community, Plan's initiatives focus on increasing access to quality, inclusive education for children, adolescent girls, and young people, while also advocating to end child marriages and all forms of gender-based violence (GBV).

As a result, 60 girls participated in a conference to enhance their knowledge about education, GBV prevention, and ending child marriages, helping them pursue their dreams.

Additionally, 50 children and young people attended vocational training centres, where they learned various skills such as baking, building, and garment-making.



Girls taking part in an activity at school.

103

learners supported with school fees and supplies



Girls and boys being trained in garment-making.

Supporting Girls' Education

In Manicaland, young girls face difficulties accessing education, which can have long-term consequences for their economic independence.

In collaboration with the community and government, Plan supports education for young girls, including essential life skills, vocational training, and gender equality. Through our accelerated teaching sessions, 5,027 girls have been able to develop their writing, reading and mathematical skills.

Additionally, 193 young women received training through the Integrated Skills Outreach Programme (ISOP). In this programme, Plan International partnered with vocational training colleges to equip youth with technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills to help them start viable enterprises in their communities.



Rumbidzai, 20, from Manicaland.

"I dropped out of school due to child marriage. Thanks to Plan's project, I now understand English on my own."
Rumbidzai, 20, from Manicaland

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Children participating in Plan's initiatives.

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

The El Niño drought has caused food insecurity in Manicaland, risking malnutrition for many children. Next year, Plan will support food aid and economic development initiatives to affected communities.

36% of girls are married at an early age in Manicaland. Next year, Plan will strengthen Family & Community Protective Environments against gender-based violence, and work on ending child marriages through policy changes.

A lack of employment and entrepreneurial skills has left young people in Manicaland struggling for jobs. Next year, Plan will support economic and skill development, including vocational and entrepreneurship training.

Message from Plan Staff

"We remain grateful to our sponsors for their commitment to helping vulnerable children in our communities. Your contributions have significantly changed the lives of many children by providing them with access to resources that offer quality education. Thank you for your support."



Stanley Dawa,
Programme Unit
Manager,
Manicaland

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

101

girls provided
with school fees

810

people trained in
child protection
committees

203

girls participated
in skills outreach
programmes

5,027

girls joined
accelerated
learning sessions