

Kwekwe Zimbabwe

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

Kwekwe's severe El Niño drought has worsened poverty, driving families to harmful coping strategies like child marriage, selling livestock, and child labour. Girls are especially affected, facing reduced access to sexual and reproductive health services, higher rates of teenage pregnancies, and gender-based violence, which further limits their educational and economic opportunities.

To help young girls access education, Plan provided 350 girls with subsidies for books, uniforms, and fees, as well as comprehensive sexuality education.

Additionally, with these educational subsidies, two young girls were able to return to school after giving birth, enhancing their future economic and social opportunities.

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

Lisa, 11, Sponsored Child



Girls studying in school in Kwekwe.

Impact in Numbers

918

people trained in
comprehensive
sexuality education

4,389

youth reached with
sexual health
services

350

child protection
committee
members trained

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 4,525 Sponsored Children in Kwekwe

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Staying Healthy and Happy

Due to limited knowledge and resources on sexual and reproductive health, young girls and women in Kwekwe face a heightened risk of new HIV infections.

In collaboration with the community, Plan advocated for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools, and sexual and reproductive services for young people, with a focus on young girls and women between the ages of 10 and 24 years.

As part of our initiatives, we facilitated open dialogue between parents and children, reaching 3,809 adolescent girls and young women. This effort helped them, and their families, better understand the importance of sexual and reproductive health and how to prevent gender-based violence and abuse.

Additionally, 1,765 girls and young women received outreach services such as HIV testing, family planning, and gender-based violence screening.



Young women participating in Women's Day activities in Kwekwe.

24,487

**youth reached with
sexuality education**



Blessing, with her mother-in-law after school.



Beatrice, 15, from Kwekwe.

Ending Child Marriage

In Kwekwe, harmful social practices that normalize gender-based violence, along with child marriages and weak legal penalties, have limited many girls' access to inclusive educational opportunities.

To address this, Plan collaborated with the community to host positive parenting sessions, reaching 347 parents and raising awareness about the impact of child marriage on girls' rights.

Additionally, 260 girls and 260 boys participated in the Girl Empowerment Movement (GEM) and Boy Empowerment Movement (BEM) clubs, where they learned about harmful gender norms and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) to make better choices.

"I couldn't pay my fees and dropped out of school. Thanks to Plan, I can now attend school and pursue my dream of becoming a lawyer."

Beatrice, 15, from Kwekwe

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Rutendo posing for a photo with her mother.

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

The El Niño drought has strained resources and harmed young girls' sexual and reproductive health. Next year, Plan will raise awareness about the impact of climate change on these issues.

Child marriage has increased teenage pregnancies and labour complications, impacting long-term health. Next year, Plan will work with the government to ensure pregnant girls after giving birth are reintegrated into the education system.

Due to limited resources, parents in Kwekwe lack knowledge for effective parenting. Next year, we will train them in positive parenting and comprehensive sexuality education.

Message from Plan Staff

"We were uplifted by seeing our sponsors' joyful connections with the children they support. Together, we change the lives of many children by keeping them in school and helping them achieve their futures. Thank you for your support."



Lynah Matsikiti,
Programme Unit
Manager,
Kwekwe

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

328

teachers trained
in early education
methods

4,175

parents trained in
positive parenting
communication

1,195

boys and men
trained in gender
equality

86

teachers trained
in sexuality
education