

West Nile

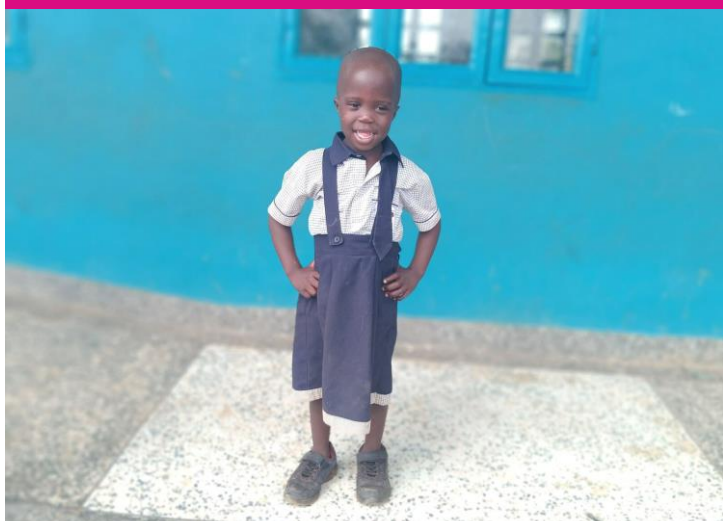
Uganda

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

Climate change has put intense pressure on social services, impacting vulnerable communities, especially children and young girls. Economic pressures and early marriages hinder children's education and development, with rising gender-based violence particularly affecting young girls and women in West Nile.

Plan collaborates with the communities to support early childcare initiatives to foster young children's education and growth. As a result, 59 teachers from 10 primary schools in Nebbi district have been trained in early childhood education, including curriculum interpretation and literacy skills. Additionally, we organised an integrated health camp benefiting 13,319 people, which raised awareness about nutrition, personal hygiene, menstrual health, and child protection against sexual abuse and harassment.

"I enjoy playing games like hide and seek, and I love learning new things at the centre."
Anne, 5, Sponsored Child.



Children with books under Plan's Raising Project.

Impact in Numbers

654

out-of-school children brought back to school

85

infants benefited from nutritious food sessions

5,012

students supported with exercise textbooks

Education Opening Up Doors



NAME:

Pretty

AGE:

12 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

A Nurse

“I used to feel bad about missing school but with the books from Plan, I am hopeful I can get good grades and achieve my dream of becoming a nurse.”



Meet Pretty

Pretty is a 12-year-old in grade four who lives with her parents and siblings in West Nile. She dreams of becoming a nurse and is dedicated to her education. When she is not studying, she enjoys playing dodgeball and helping her family with chores around the house. Her parents are peasant farmers who grow cassava, maize, and groundnuts, and they also raise goats, sheep, and cows.

Obstacles to Attending School

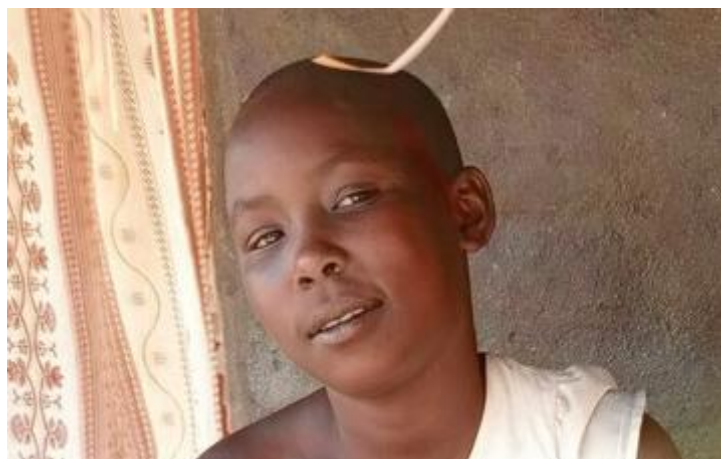
Pretty's family relies on peasant farming, but climate change has caused erratic rainfall, leading to poor harvests, and impacting their income. This makes it difficult for them to support her education and buy essential school supplies.

This financial strain has affected Pretty's school attendance, reading and writing abilities, and self-esteem. She faced difficulties in class due to a lack of books needed for her schoolwork, which impacts her overall performance.

Supporting Pretty's Education

Plan supports families to afford school by enhancing food security and income through drought-resistant crops and poultry training. This support helps improve school attendance by providing essential materials, allowing Pretty to focus on her studies and socialise.

Inspired by Plan's campaigns and local role models, her parents now value education more and are saving to support Pretty and her siblings, boosting her self-esteem and class performance.



Pretty, 12, talking about Plan's support for her education.

We Work With 9,356 Sponsored Children in West Nile

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Starting a Healthy Life

Harmful cultural practices, including early forced marriages and the lack of sexual and reproductive health rights and services, have led to a rise in gender-based violence in West Nile.

Plan works with the community to raise awareness about harmful cultural practices and has trained 46 peer educators, police, probation officers, health workers, parish chiefs, and senior women teachers on handling sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases. This training improved their understanding of SGBV, its types, impact, and legal aspects, and strengthened their skills in identifying, reporting, and managing cases, as well as providing support to survivors.

Additionally, 48 parents were trained in sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, and soap-making. This training aimed to boost their income, improve hygiene practices at home, and empower them to advocate for better health in their communities.



Health worker screening community members during a health camp.

270

teenage mothers trained in menstrual hygiene



Classroom block constructed by Plan in one of the schools in the sponsorship community.

Supporting Childcare

Economic hardship, climate change, and weak educational and early child development services have increased child labour and forced marriages, severely impacting children, especially young girls.

To boost early childhood education and development, Plan has built a new block at the education centre with three classrooms, an office, a store, and added a solar panel and water tank. This activity has supported 406 children from vulnerable communities to gain essential skills like mathematics, writing, and reading, ensuring they start school on time, stay engaged, and perform well.

Additionally, 6,000 children in Plan's sponsorship programme received educational materials such as exercise books, pens, handwriting books for young students, and pencils, helping to support their learning and future career prospects.



Children practicing writing in a classroom built by Plan International.

“The early childhood education centre has helped me improve my reading, writing, and math skills, and make new friends.”

Anne, 5, from West Nile

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Member of Plan's sponsorship community.

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

In West Nile, 33% of women marry before the age of 18. Plan collaborates with the community to raise awareness about child and early marriages through community bazaars, radio talk shows, and by providing economic support to vulnerable families, encouraging them to view their daughters' futures with new possibilities.

Limited educational infrastructure has significantly impacted student performance in West Nile. Plan works with the community, including Ageno Catholic Church and local primary schools, to enhance educational services. This includes providing learning spaces and training parents and families to support their children's learning outcomes.

Message from Plan Staff

"On behalf of Plan International Uganda, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support over the past year. Your contribution has supported us to positively impact vulnerable children, their families, and communities. We look forward to continuing our partnership in championing children's rights and gender equality."



Patrick Emukule Ilukol,
Programme Area
Manager, West
Nile

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

54

committee
members trained
in child education

18

caregivers trained
in academic
support

2

boreholes built to
access safe water

28

teachers trained
in child-friendly
education