

Country strategic plan summary for 2007-2017

This document describes how Plan Zimbabwe and its partners will mobilize the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2007- 2017.

About Zimbabwe

When it gained its independence in 1980, and for 18 years thereafter, Zimbabwe was one of the most promising countries in Africa. It had a skilled workforce; well-developed agricultural, mining and industrial sectors; efficient governance and public administration systems; and solid social development infrastructures in health, education and tourism. However, the situation has changed over the last decade due to poor management of the economy, international isolation, bipartisan politics, natural disasters and HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Plan Zimbabwe programs

Plan started operations in Zimbabwe in 1986 and currently operates in the following districts; Chipinge, Chiredzi, Kwekwe, Mutare, Mutasa, Mutoko Tsholotsho, Mwenezi, and in Epworth. To address issues affecting children's well being, Plan in the last six years implemented four core programs (i). Food security and poverty alleviation, (ii). Primary health care enhancement, (iii). Childhood and youth development and (iv). Communication for development. Evaluations of our programs in the areas where Plan works have shown that significant contributions were achieved in the areas of child protection, food security/poverty alleviation, health and education. However, due to the declining socio-economic conditions and unfavorable political environment, some of the positive impacts are being slowed down or being eroded.



Children learning in a classroom that was built in partnership with Plan.

Current issues affecting children and their families in Zimbabwe

The issues include:

- Large numbers of orphans and vulnerable children due to HIV/AIDs.
- Shortage of food in households.
- Abuse of children, physically, sexually and psychologically both at home and at school.
- Children walking long distances to schools and health centres.
- Low pass rate in schools.
- Low disposable household income.
- Youths failing to get employment.
- Low participation of children and women in development activities.
- Deaths of infants before they reach the age of five.



My name is Thoko. There are not enough books and school furniture for everyone”

How Plan Zimbabwe hopes to address these problems

Plan will adopt a rights-based program approach which entails facilitating communities to analyze their problems, underlying issues and resources, and design programs that fulfill the rights of children. Active participation and protection of children and their families in their own development will be the focus and in the next five years, Plan Zimbabwe will implement the following five programs;

Making the health of every mother and child count by;

- Improving nutrition for children less than five years of age.
- Supporting the improvement in the provision of adolescent reproductive health and safe motherhood services
- Reducing the incidence of childhood diseases through immunization and provision of drugs.
- Providing potable water and sanitation facilities.
- Training health workers on control and prevention of diseases.



Boys collecting water from a borehole

Keeping children safe and fully involved in development;

- Involving children in understanding their rights.
- Promoting and creating children's committees and clubs in schools.
- Sensitizing communities on children's rights.

Fulfilling the right to quality education for all children by;

- Improving physical school environment.
- Supporting early childhood development.
- Providing in service training for teachers.
- Providing teaching and learning materials.
- Increasing access to education for all children.

Reducing vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through;

- Supporting orphaned and vulnerable children.
- Raising awareness on HIV and AIDS.
- Training and equipping home based care givers.
- Providing supporting to people affected by and living with HIV/AIDS.
- Helping to establish voluntary counseling and testing center.

Producing and earning enough for children and the family by;

- Training farmers on appropriate farming practices.
- Promoting natural resources management.
- Helping to establishment small irrigation schemes.
- Facilitating the training and formation of farmers groups.
- Supporting income generating projects.



A family processing groundnuts and maize after harvesting.