

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM BURKINA FASO

We wanted to share some exciting progress made possible in Burkina Faso - thanks to support from you!

Burkina Faso, a landlocked country, one of the poorest nations in the world. Agriculture is the main source of income for about 90% of the population, yet climate changes like floods and dry spells have severe impact on the land. Security crisis in Burkina Faso has forced many families to flee their villages. Children, especially girls, are more vulnerable to violence and exploitation, and have limited access to education.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to increase learning opportunities for children, providing them with access to education and vocational training. Young women received entrepreneurial training, working capital and guidance to help them develop businesses and break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children.

We are grateful to you for making these changes possible. We know you will enjoy reading on to see how your generosity is changing the lives of children, like your sponsored child, across this region.



OUR IMPACT

8,933 HAND-WASHING
DEVICES GIVEN TO
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN
IN KOURITTENGA

3,872 CHILDREN HEARD
RADIO SPOTS ABOUT CHILD
ABUSE IN PONI

2,520 SCHOOL KITS
DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOL
CHILDREN IN
SANMATENGA

12,199 WOMEN AND GIRLS
IN BAM JOINED SAVINGS AND
CREDIT GROUPS



PLAN INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 is having devastating impacts all over the world. It is not only a health emergency, it is an education and protection emergency. Since girls are often worse affected during a crisis, Plan International is putting them at the heart of our response and long-term outlook. We have scaled up healthcare systems, food security, access to clean water, handwashing and awareness campaigns, and keep education in children's lives via radio broadcasts.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The political situation in Burkina Faso has spread insecurity across the country. Since December 2018, 1,088 schools have closed, affecting an estimated 145,985

students. Limited access to school spaces, combined with the ongoing conflict, results in disrupted education and exposes children to violence, abuse and exploitation.



NEW AND IMPROVED LEARNING SPACES HELP CHILDREN ACCESS EDUCATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Access to learning space is vital, so we built 10 temporary learning spaces and rehabilitated 10 defective classrooms in Sanmatenga. Another 26 classrooms were equipped with benches, desks and cupboards. Teachers learned educational strategies for times of emergency, and 20 teaching kits were provided to 18 primary and 2 secondary schools. School children, including 1,935 internally displaced girls and boys, were given school kits.

Girls struggle with menstrual hygiene management in times of crisis, so we provided 1,416 girls with menstrual health information, and helped 2,057 girls learn to make hygienic menstrual management kits.

ELIMINATION OF HIV/AIDS TRANSMISSION

The Kourittenga community faces several challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS, especially with at-risk mothers and children. A key issue is insufficient testing of men, and babies born to HIV-infected mothers. In order to improve the situation we have provided 680 health workers with information on techniques to eliminate mother-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

We coordinated with 84 district health facilities and distributed 428 medicine supply kits to health units. An integrated communication plan included radio programmes and games, health fairs, theatrical performances and informational film screenings to raise awareness. Men were encouraged to adhere to voluntary testing. As a result, 58 HIV-positive women have given birth to 59 healthy children.

"Before the awareness session, I knew nothing about AIDS. Now I have a lot of knowledge about AIDS, the ways of transmission and the means of prevention. I can now tell something about the disease to my classmates so that they can protect themselves to avoid being infected."

Salomé, 15 years old



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Poverty has a devastating impact on young women in vulnerable communities. In Poni, much of the population live in poverty and 82% of young people are unemployed.

Our project for economic empowerment provides security to women and young people through savings groups.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT ENABLES YOUNG WOMEN TO BECOME FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT AND PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN

Savings groups enable members to save and invest their money, and develop and maintain small businesses. This gives young people, especially women, economic security and independence. Savings groups also allow families to pay for the school and health expenses of their children.

We created 230 new savings groups in Poni, bringing the total number to 1,620. With these savings, women are able to initiate income-generating activities. In addition, 40 young people became apprentices in sewing, hairdressing, carpentry, welding, mechanics and masonry. A further 24 women trained in soap-making, producing soap that not only provides financial security but also helps in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastating effects, especially for vulnerable regions. As of March 2020, the political and social unrest in Burkina Faso resulted in 2,689,959 internally displaced people in Sanmatenga alone. This double crisis of pandemic and political insecurity worsens existing issues of gender-based violence, limited access to education, and food and water shortages.

We provided information and resources to help families manage the spread of the virus. Workers were given equipment for personal protection as well as for biomedical waste, plus handwashing devices and hygiene kits. We also distributed school kits to displaced children and organised classes for students whose schooling has been interrupted.

“Plan informed us that COVID-19 is a serious, contagious and sometimes fatal disease. To avoid it, I must wash my hands frequently with soap. I must also wear a mask, avoid shaking hands, and cough or sneeze into my elbow.”

Assanata, 14-years-old, sponsored child



YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

With your support, we will continue to protect children's rights so they are able to thrive.

In the coming year, we will continue to work with the children, families and partners across Burkina Faso:



- Ensuring quality and inclusive education, with a focus on completion for girls and the inclusion of out-of-school children and those with disabilities.
- Helping the community protect their environment and assist them with climate crisis response and the prevention of conflict in the region.
- Advocating for children's rights through support for child protection networks and focusing on reporting and managing cases of violence and abuse.. We will empower young people so they become drivers of positive and sustainable change.
- Providing vocational training and apprenticeships to young people. We will support youth with starter equipment for various trades. In this way, we will make a significant contribution to increasing the rate of access to employment.
- Strengthening maternal and child health and our activities to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- Addressing malnutrition with community nutrition resources, especially for young children and infants.
- Educating and empowering girls on hygienic menstrual management, through training, leadership and participation.

These are just some of the many ways your kindness will continue to touch the life of your sponsored child and other children. We wouldn't be able to do this without supporters like you!



MESSAGE FROM KAFANDO HAWA
Programme Area Manager, Kourittenga

"We have achieved very good results because you trusted us with your generous contributions. This is how we have been able to considerably improve the empowerment of women and girls, education, health, protection and more. Although we still have a long way to go, we are confident positive changes will continue. On behalf of all these children and their families we say thank you."



MESSAGE FROM MAHOMET OUEDRAOGO
Programme Area Manager, Poni

"Thanks to your support, significant progress has been made in the lives of children. COVID-19 led us to re-adjust our actions to provide girls and boys with the appropriate support. In the coming year, we will reach more children and young people for their education, health and training. We are very grateful for your continued support."



MESSAGE FROM MEDA D. G. CLEMENT
Programme Area Manager, Bam, Sanmatenga & Namentenga

"We are very happy with the progress made this past fiscal year, especially in the field of humanitarian assistance. This has been possible thanks to your support. Through my voice, the population of Burkina Faso say thank you."

