

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM TOGO

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

Approximately half of Togo population lack of sanitary toilets and healthcare facilities, 43% of people do not have sanitary toilets. As a result, the likelihood of water-borne diseases is increased. Early marriage and pregnancies are other challenges which Togo's children are facing. 76% of people in Sokode don't know the harm of early marriage. In addition, 66% of disabled children do not go to school.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to provide sexual and reproductive health knowledge and resources to girls and adolescents. We also constructed 10 boreholes providing clean drinking water in Atakpame. In order to let more children with disabilities can attend school, we equipped teachers with inclusive education tools and built accessibility ramps in 12 primary schools.

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

17,621 PEOPLE IN ATAKPAME TRAINED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SANITATION

63 COMMUNITIES IN SOKODE TRAINED ON EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN

22 HEALTH FACILITIES IN TOGO EQUIPPED WITH PEDIATRIC KITS

ALL PLAN COMMUNITIES IN TOGO HAVE ADOPTED A CHARTER FOR PROTECTING GIRLS

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 FOR ALL CHILDREN

In Atakpame, the school enrolment rate for children and youth is low, and children with disabilities are disproportionately affected.



132 AWARENESS SESSIONS HAVE EDUCATED 5,403 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 1,382 WOMEN AND 596 GIRLS, AND 857 BOYS ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Plan International Togo is supporting 24 communities in this area to improve the quality of education for children with motor, visual and hearing impairments.

Our work aims to strengthen and educate teachers, families, and communities of children with disabilities on inclusive education.

The project has equipped 24 primary schools with ramps to make it easier for children with disabilities to access classrooms, trained 48 teachers on inclusive education including the use of braille and sign language, and provided 16 schools with teaching materials specific to students with visual and hearing impairments. As a result, 323 disabled children in 24 schools, including 145 girls, are now able to access their right to education.

FIGHTING AGAINST CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

In Togo, social beliefs and norms about the gender roles of girls and boys have led to an unequal distribution of power. The added burden of poverty has made children more vulnerable and exposed to abuse and exploitation when families are unable to meet the basic needs of their children, often resulting in cases of child sex trafficking. Plan International aims to help prevent and protect victims and children at risk of child sex trafficking.

The 'Protection Project' has empowered children and youth to organize awareness activities for their peers through sketches and songs about sex trafficking, its causes and consequences. Thanks to this project, 1,325 children in Atakpame know their rights and can better protect themselves from sex trafficking, and 103 village savings and credit groups are providing financial autonomy and reducing the vulnerability of girls and at-risk parents.

"This project helped to strengthen my knowledge of sex trafficking and how to report cases that occur. We have ourselves reported cases to the authorities of the violation of rights of some young people in the neighbourhood."

Lelen, 16, president of youth club and project participant



SUPPORTING AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

In Sokode, teachers and families do not have the tools necessary to address the specific needs of disabled children in schools.

Gender and inclusion approaches are not well integrated into the education system in Togo.



Plan International aims to improve the quality of education for all children without discrimination and stigma, by increasing the access of girls and boys with disabilities to an inclusive education that takes into account their special needs. The project has raised awareness among community members of the perceptions and social norms regarding disability.

Additionally, four teachers were trained on sign language and braille, and 63 communities have been trained on the educational rights of children with disabilities through group discussions. These workshops included 9,862 children and 7,126 adults.

51 DISABLED CHILDREN WERE MONITORED TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF THEIR SUPPORT DEVICES. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEELCHAIRS

PREVENTING EARLY MARRIAGE

In Togo, there is no comprehensive sex education in schools and health centres. As a result, many adolescents are not informed about their sexual and reproductive health rights. 57% of young people in rural areas do not have access to friendly sexual and reproductive health services. Young girls are most at risk, 34% of teenage girls are victims of various forms of sexual violence.

Plan International's project aims to help improve adolescents' knowledge of their rights and consulted community members to understand their needs in Sokode. During the project, 72 girls benefited from modern contraceptives, and 343 girls were screened for sexually transmitted infections. A committee to report violence, made up of community leaders and adolescents themselves, was also created to jointly manage cases of gender-based violence.

"During my training, we discussed early marriage and its consequences. I finally abandoned the idea of marriage and started setting goals for my future. Thanks to Plan, I have not given up classes and I'd like to have a job before getting married."

Rachida, 16, beneficiary



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 Togo:



- Training out-of-school youth in Sokode on entrepreneurship so that they can gain a livelihood.



- Providing clean drinking water supply and promote basic sanitation through a community-led total sanitation approach in Atakpame.



- Transforming norms, beliefs and practices that promote the development of children and young people.



- Building school infrastructure and facilities, as well as build capacity for teachers and parents through training in inclusive education.



- Helping young people in entrepreneurship, empowering girls and young women economically by establishing savings groups, and supporting Girls' and Young Women's Clubs.

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 PRUDENCE KAYISSAN EKOUE

Programme Area Manager, Sokode

"With your support, many girls in our area are now able to share their concerns and claim their space in different decision-making processes. This helps us improve the way we work with them. The most vulnerable children (disabled, out-of-school, and girls) have a new chance to be included. Thank you!"

MESSAGE FROM PALAKEYEM SOBA

Programme Area Manager, Atakpame

"This year has been very critical with the COVID-19 outbreak. However, thanks to your generous contributions, we have succeeded in working together with communities and partners to create safe environments for children, in particular girls. Thank you for continuing to support Plan International."

