

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM MALI

**We wanted to share some exciting progress made possible in Mali—thanks to support from you!**

People in Mali are severely impacted by climate crisis. Unpredictable rainfall and long periods of drought challenge communities where most people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Poverty leads to high rate of early pregnancy and marriage. It also limits the accessibility to clean water and healthy food, leading to malnutrition problem. Girls in this area often experience violence and violations of their rights. Many parents don't consider education a priority for girls.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to improve livelihoods for marginalized families, support access to inclusive vocational training, and empower youth, especially young women, with information about their sexual and reproductive health.

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

**11,298** PEOPLE LEARNED  
THE DANGERS OF FEMALE  
GENITAL MUTILATION IN KITA  
KOUROU

**93%** OF DIOILA 'S CHILDREN  
UNDER 5 CAN ACCESS BASIC  
VACCINES

**IN BAROUÉLI, 1,929** PEOPLE  
LEARNED ABOUT SEXUAL AND  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

**2,067** PARENTS LEARNED  
ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT IN KATI



## 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.

# IMPROVING YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY

In Dioila, there is limited access to professional training and financial capital for youth, resulting in a lack of entrepreneurial opportunities for young people.

Plan International aims to close the entrepreneurial gap for young people by establishing professional training centers for learning trades.

125 young people received training through vocational courses. 400 young people are now members of Youth Clubs, where they can share their knowledge and experiences with their peers. We have also trained 46 craftsmen on learning models to teach young entrepreneurs, and have helped create and support five credit facilities with microfinance structures benefitting young entrepreneurs. Our project helped provide 200 young women and men with the technical and entrepreneurial resources they need to start and manage their own businesses, and take charge of their own futures.



**PLAN INTERNATIONAL IS HELPING VULNERABLE YOUTH GAIN ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND BECOME ENTREPRENEURS**

## IMPROVING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

It's difficult for children in Kita Kourou to access quality education. A lack of classrooms, textbooks and teachers are part of the problem. In addition, poverty forces many parents to remove their children, especially girls, from school in order to work. Our Primary School Access Project (PASS) helps formerly out-of-school children access their right to quality and inclusive education.

Over 1,200 pupils attended speed courses, which are accelerated learning programmes for children aged 6-14 who have either never enrolled in school, or have left school. We provided students with school kits, and trained teachers and school administrators on improved methods of educating and retaining students. In total, the project helped 1,279 boys and girls attend and stay in school.

*"I had not been lucky enough to attend school, but thanks to PASS campaign and sensitization in my community, I was able to take part in speed schooling. I am very grateful for that, and I will do my best to continue my studies at school."*

**Manda, 12, sponsored child**



# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Our Early Childhood Development programme improves access to quality care and education for vulnerable and excluded girls and boys under the age of eight.



**THE COMMUNITIES COVERED CHILDREN'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION FEES, MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS AND SNACKS**

Thanks to a village awareness raising campaign, over 2,000 children aged 3 to 5 have been enrolled in early childhood development centres in Kati, where they can learn and play safely.

Village events promoted the benefits of early childhood development centres. The campaign taught parents about children's developmental cycles, the importance of education, and the need to enrol and retain girls in school.

In addition, over 7,000 girls and boys received healthcare support through community health centres, with nutritional evaluation and vaccinations. Accessing quality, early childhood care helps children get a healthy start in life. It also enables parents, especially mothers, to participate in income-generating activities while their children are at school. This helps families break the cycle of poverty.

## RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastating effects on poor regions like Barouéli. Our COVID-19 response programme provided information and resources to help the community reduce the spread of the virus. To begin, we trained health staff and youth on COVID-19 awareness and prevention measures. Three local radio stations broadcast educational messages for several months, reaching 12,500 listeners.

Community engagement was strong. Young leaders mobilised four caravans in the weekly markets, providing COVID-19 prevention information through educational talks, and youth made masks to help prevent the virus from spreading. Because poverty and lack of resources made it difficult for families to access hygienic supplies, we distributed hygiene kits. Together, these initiatives helped Barouéli prevent the spread of the virus.

*"In our village, all the children and families are safe and healthy and wish the same for you. Thanks to Plan, we are aware of the disease and the actions to take to protect ourselves from infection."*

**Hamidou, 16, 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 Mali:



- Helping communities and local leaders put an end to Female Genital Mutilation and child marriage. Moreover, we will conduct awareness campaigns for girls' rights and empowerment, so that they can learn, lead, decide, and thrive.
- Helping the community provide quality and inclusive education for all children, especially girls. We will also strengthen Early Childhood Education Centres and develop safe learning environments.
- Promoting access to sexual and reproductive health information and services for adolescents, and advocate for their rights. We will support communities and local leaders to put an end to gender-based violence.
- Reinforcing community systems for protecting children's rights to safety, and increasing access to vaccinations and malnutrition screening for children.
- Advocating to families, communities, and local authorities to change social norms and investing in job creation and entrepreneurial possibilities for young women.
- Advocating for activities to raise awareness of global warming and climate change at the community and municipal levels, and supporting families with disaster response strategies.

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



#### MESSAGE FROM ADAMA KEITA

Acting Programme Area Manager, Kita Kourou

"Thanks to your contributions, the improvements in the living conditions of children and girls' equality is becoming a reality in the area of Kita Kourou. We had not expected such an amazing result because of the multidimensional crisis of our country, and we're very grateful."



#### MESSAGE FROM MAMADOU SECK

Programme Area Manager, Dioila and Barouéli

"This year, despite the COVID-19 crisis, our projects have achieved a lot thanks to the support from you. This success means the rights to education, health and protection for children in our community are met, and it is all thanks to you and your contributions. Thank you for your ongoing support to Plan International."



#### MESSAGE FROM OUMAR MALLE

Programme Area Manager, Kati

"We are delighted with the progress made with your invaluable contributions, which have made it possible to provide substantial support for the promotion of children's rights in the sectors of early childhood development, sexual health and reproductive rights and employment among young people. Thank you for your support!"

