

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM GUINEA

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

Most families in Guinea rely on farming or raising livestock or fishing. However, the region is vulnerable to severe climate disasters, causing economic losses to many families. Apart from natural disasters, gender-based and sexual violence is common here. 95% of women in Kissidougou have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Children are also vulnerable to violence while 90% of children in Macenta experienced abuse.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to continue our efforts to end female genital mutilation by training the community. We also improved the learning environments at schools. Hygiene kits were distributed to help communities stop the spread of COVID-19.

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

86,605 FACE MASKS
DISTRIBUTED TO SPONSORED
CHILDREN IN KISSIDOUYOU

8,339 PEOPLE IN MACENTA
LEARNED ABOUT THE DANGERS
OF GENITAL MUTILATION

1,401 PEOPLE IN
KISSIDOUYOU CAN ACCESS
SAVINGS AND LOANS

205 CHILDREN IN LITTORAL
LEARNED ABOUT THEIR RIGHT
TO BE PROTECTED



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.

PROTECTING THE GIRLS OF KISSIDOUGOU

More than 90% of girls and young women in Kissidougou have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Despite being a violation of girls' rights and prohibited by international law,

FGM continues to persist because of gender inequality and discriminatory social, cultural and religious norms.

To raise awareness of the dangers of this harmful practice, we have held workshops with 280 students from local schools. Young people can now share this information with their peers and their communities.

We have also facilitated 35 generational dialogues in just as many communities. Through these meetings, 1,400 people have gained a common understanding of the consequences of the practice and the benefits of abandoning it.

We have also trained 133 people from the educational, healthcare and justice system in Kissidougou on how to identify girls at risk of FGM and how to ensure their protection.



1,400 PEOPLE LEARNED ABOUT THE DANGERS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND THE BENEFITS OF ABANDONING THE PRACTICE

PROTECTING AGAINST COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on families in Macenta. Without access to health information or supplies, communities are at a high risk of the deadly virus spreading.

To help keep families safe, we have raised awareness on how people can protect themselves and others from COVID-19. Through magazines and radio broadcasts,

we have shared messages on the importance of handwashing with soap, wearing masks and physical distancing in many local languages. We have also provided community centres with 272 hygiene kits and portable hand-washing stations. And 63,550 pieces of soap and 80,183 protective face masks have been distributed to families in need so they can keep themselves safe.

"Because Plan International has distributed handwashing kits, soaps and facemasks in our community, they have helped me and my family protect ourselves from COVID-19."

Henriette, 11, sponsored child



EDUCATION FOR ALL

In Littoral, the school enrolment rate of girls and children with disabilities is low due to cultural, social and religious reasons. Teachers lack the opportunity to receive proper training to provide quality education to children,

and additionally there are not enough teachers in the area.

To improve children's learning results, we trained teachers on inclusive education, gender issues as well as safety and security, so they know how to provide a safe environment for girls and boys with or without disabilities. To facilitate for children with disabilities, we made sure to improve the infrastructure of school to make them easily accessible.

We also raised awareness among the parents on the importance of inclusive education, the danger and consequences of early marriage as well as pregnancies, and the advantages of girls' schooling. We set up, reinforced and supported three school's governments consisting of 84 members. These school governments educated others on hygiene, sanitation, child protection and participation. Savings and loans groups were also sensitised on the topic of educating children in an early childhood, especially girls and those with disabilities.



CHILDREN RECEIVED SCHOOL KITS AND PARTICIPATED IN READING, WRITING AND CALCULATION COMPETITIONS

PROTECTING AND ENCOURAGING CHILDREN

Most children in Macenta are vulnerable to experiencing physical and sexual abuse in school and at home. A study conducted on violence in schools reported that corporal punishment is systematically applied in 71% of schools, while domestic violence is happening in 86% of families.

Plan International has established community structures, which are ensuring children are protected from all forms of violence.

We are also training communities on the importance of child protection by dedicating the month of June to celebrate children. We are providing health, education and psycho-social support to marginalised children, such as those from vulnerable communities, or children with a disability.

We have created seven support clubs where children and young people can engage with other children on issues affecting them. This is instilling them with self-confidence so that they can actively participate in promoting their own rights.

Additionally, young people have been given the opportunity to discuss issues of children's rights and protection in radio programmes as part of their role in promoting their rights.



COMMUNITIES ARE LEARNING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUPPORTIVE AND VIOLENCE-FREE CHILDHOOD

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 Guinea:

- Continuing to increase sexual and reproductive health education for both girls and boys, so they can make informed decisions about their bodies.
- Increasing vocational training and improving employment skills so young people, particularly young women, are able to earn a living and support themselves as they enter adulthood.
- Improving schools and learning spaces and providing training to teachers so all children have access to quality and inclusive education.
- Ensuring all children live a life free from violence by training parents on children's rights and supporting local child protection groups.
- Promoting girls' rights and working with communities to prevent child marriages and end the practice of female genital mutilation.

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 **FATOUMATA DIAKITE**

Programme Area Manager, Kissidougou



"My team and I warmly thank you for your valuable actions toward children, and girls in particular. Thanks to your contributions, Plan International Guinea has successfully supported our communities and children living in unfavourable conditions."

MESSAGE FROM **YAYA DIALLO**

Programme Area Manager, Littoral



"Our interventions have enabled hundreds of vulnerable youths, especially girls and women, orphans and disabled people, to become valued and independent and to contribute to development. This was made possible thanks to your valuable contribution. Thank you for your support."

MESSAGE FROM **TONGUINO FAYA BARTHELEMY**

Programme Area Manager, Macenta



"On behalf of my colleagues, communities and the sponsored children in Macenta, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your financial, material and moral contribution which enabled us to carry out influencing activities to create a just world that advances the rights of children and equality for girls."



Plan International Hong Kong sincerely thank volunteer Miss. Ho Man Ying, Annie for consolidating this report.