

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Bohicon. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted.

This past year, a focus on girls' education and sexual and reproductive health has helped thousands of girls stay in school and choose when to start a family. Teachers, parents, and community leaders also learned more about girls' rights and gender equality. They can now help support the young people in their lives reach their dreams.

And with technical and vocational training, youth now have the skills and confidence they need to get a good job or start their own business.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Bohicon.

**200**

Youth
completed
technical
training

**30,000**

Children
received school
supplies

**720**

Young people
learned about
their sexual
health



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN BENIN

Hear from Hermine about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

"When COVID-19 arrived, new rules of life were introduced and fear won all hearts – life became very difficult. Plan International helped us a lot. They organised awareness-raising sessions to inform the community. They also gave hand-washing devices to schools and protective masks to children. Many thanks to Plan International."

CASE STORY: YOUNG MOTHER, BRIGHT FUTURE



NAME: PATRICIA
AGE: 21 YEARS OLD
HOBBY: LEARNING

"When I started to participate in the Plan for Girls project activities, I started to feel confident that I could succeed. And that's what convinced me to go back to school."

Meet Patricia

Like your sponsored child, Patricia has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Patricia is among the top students in her class—she's also one of the oldest. When she got pregnant four years ago, she had to drop out of school. But after joining a girls youth club, she regained her confidence and is now dreaming of a brighter future.

Empowering Girls

A lack of sexual and reproductive health education often leads to early pregnancies. Many girls, like Patricia, are shamed by their parents—without family support, they struggle to care for their new babies while continuing their education. In most cases, girls never return to school.

In Patricia's village, the Plan for Girls project is working to support girls and young women to take charge of their lives and bodies. By learning more about their rights, gender equality, and sexual health, girls gain the confidence they need to decide what their futures will be.

Through taking part in community events, Patricia realised she could still achieve her dreams, and returned to school.

Supportive Families

Patricia gained new skills and knowledge—and so did her parents. During activities for parents, Patricia's father became supportive of her returning home and continuing her education.

With this support, Patricia is able to focus on her studies and overcome the perception that a young mother cannot do well at school.

She is proud of her accomplishments and is excited to take on her next challenge—completing technical courses so she can get a good job and support her young child.



Patricia studying hard at school

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 17,680 CHILDREN IN BOHICON

OUR PROJECTS IN BOHICON ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Young people learned about sexual health and can now share their knowledge with their friends

Early pregnancy rates remain high in Bohicon—5% of girls under the age of 15 have already given birth. Early pregnancy can cause serious health complications for young women, and it often forces girls to drop out of school.

Through Champions of Change sessions, more than 700 young people learned about their sexual and reproductive health. Girls and boys also learned about their rights and gender equality, helping them to take charge of their bodies and form positive relationships as they get older.

76 teachers also completed training on how to teach adolescent sexual and reproductive health to students at schools. Additionally, 120 community volunteers are now acting as mentors to youth in their villages, helping to inspire them to continue their education and dream big for their futures.

EDUCATION FOR GIRLS



Less than half of girls are enrolled in secondary school. Girls' education is not highly valued, and early pregnancies often mean girls do not complete their studies.

To help improve the conditions of schools in Bohicon, six new classrooms and 40 new toilets were constructed. 2,000 new benches and tables were provided as well, ensuring children have comfortable places to sit and learn.

672 new mentors are also coaching 16,800 girls in their communities on the importance of staying in school and how to make informed decisions about their bodies and futures.

And 300 young women have now completed apprenticeship training. They also learned how to draft a business plan, helping them earn an income as they become adults.



“A project run by women in my village is raising awareness on reproductive health so that young people avoid early pregnancies. I also learned that I should finish my studies and start working before getting married. I will share what I have learned with my peers.”
- **Anastasie (10) from Bohicon**

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



30%

Of people do not have access to safe water



24%

Of children drop out of primary school



66%

Of people do not have access to sanitary toilets



Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.

- Almost a quarter of children drop out of primary school. We will ensure more girls and boys can complete their education in safe and inspiring spaces by building new classrooms and sanitary toilets.
- We will also ensure that young people can gain the technical and vocational skills they need to get a good job or start their own business and support themselves.
- Early pregnancy rates remain high. We will continue to increase reproductive health education so youth can make informed decisions about their lives and bodies.
- We will also promote children's rights and gender equality and strengthen child protection mechanisms to help keep children safe from violence and abuse.

We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter, happier future for the children in Bohicon.



"With your great support, we continue our programmes to create an environment respectful of children's rights, and especially girls' rights, so that girls and boys can learn, lead, decide, and thrive. Thank you for your generous contributions."

Roger Bakary
Programme Area Manager, Bohicon

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS