

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of children were supported to continue their education and return to school. 176 teachers learnt how to create inclusive learning spaces. New classrooms, handwashing stations, and latrines are also helping children learn in sanitary environments.

Girls are gaining confidence through playing sports and can now make informed decisions about their lives and bodies. And more than 4,800 people are now aware of children's rights and child protection, helping to keep girls and boys safe in their communities.

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



18,564

Children received school supplies



4,893

People learnt about children's rights



1,440

Menstrual hygiene kits distributed to girls



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."

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 can 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 the Girls' Advisory Committee, she regained her confidence and is 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 open the door to a brighter future.

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 of completing technical courses so she can get a good job and support her young child.



Patricia studying hard at school

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 17,913 CHILDREN IN BENIN

OUR PROJECTS IN NATITINGOU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Young people are learning about their rights and their bodies so they can make informed decisions about their lives

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Young people in Natitingou do not have access to sexual and reproductive health education. Rates of early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections continue to be high, leaving youth unable to reach their full potential.

The Champions of Change project is helping empower young people with the knowledge they need to take charge of their lives. 1,522 girls and 1,417 boys took part in workshops to learn more about their rights and bodies. They have gained confidence and can now advocate for gender equality in their communities.

Young people also joined media clubs, where they created 24 radio programmes. These broadcasts are now reaching others with messages on sexual health, girls' rights, and how to prevent gender-based violence.

THE POWER OF SPORT



Early marriage is common in Natitingou, and many girls end up dropping out of school. Negative gender norms encourage girls to focus on domestic work, leaving girls without the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Through the power of sport, girls and boys are learning about their rights and gender equality and gaining the confidence to make changes in their communities. 60 girls' sports associations have now been created, with 1,800 children taking part.

These sports groups are now fully equipped with the equipment they need for practice and competitions. 120 leaders also completed training on children's rights, equality for girls, and protection against gender-based violence.



"I love football, but it was unusual for a girl. Thanks to Plan International, I now play with others, and I'm more confident. I believe this can give me the chance to become a lawyer. I am not ashamed to play anymore, and I am not afraid of boys."

- N'dah (13) from Natitingou

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



67%

Of children do not complete primary school



55%

Of adults do not know how to read or write



51%

Of women have experienced sexual violence



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

- More than 50,000 children are out of school in Natitingou. We will ensure all children can continue to learn, both within and outside formal school systems.
- We will also improve access to vocational and entrepreneurship training, so young people have the skills they need to get a job to support themselves.
- Negative gender norms continue to exclude girls from playing an active role in their communities. We will continue to promote gender equality and empower girls through sport to stand up for their rights.
- We will also increase access to sexual and reproductive health training to both girls and boys so they can make informed decisions about their lives and bodies.

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



“My sincere thanks to our sponsors for their invaluable support of children’s rights. Thanks to your contributions, girls and boys have gained knowledge and skills on their right to protection and have made informed decisions on sexual and reproductive health.”

Sabi Boum Paul

Programme Area Manager, Natitingou

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