

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, more than 3,800 young children received the medical care they needed to recover from malnutrition. Thousands of community health workers now have the knowledge they need to make home visits on helping children grow up safe and healthy.

Girls and boys also learnt more about girls' rights and gender equality. Training on menstruation is helping to remove stigma in communities, and with the power of football, girls now have the confidence to take charge of their bodies.

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



2,891

People trained on childhood health and nutrition



1,924

Community members learnt about children's rights



110

Young people gained vocational skills



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 ADJOHOUN ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Reusable sanitary pads are helping girls stay in school

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE



Taboos around menstruation prevent girls from playing an active role in their communities. A lack of reproductive health knowledge leaves girls unable to manage their periods with dignity – many girls miss out on their classes during menstruation, and some stop going to school.

To help girls and boys learn more about menstruation and reduce taboos, radio programmes reached nearly 3,000 listeners. Girls learnt more about their bodies and how to take care of their menstruation in a sanitary way. Boys are now working to dispel myths in their communities and to advocate for gender equality.

1,021 packs of reusable sanitary pads were distributed to students. With these menstrual hygiene products, girls are able to confidently manage their periods while at school.



THE POWER OF SPORT



Early marriage is common in Adjahoun, 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 are learning about their rights and gender equality and gaining confidence to make changes in their communities. New girls' football clubs have now been created at secondary schools in the area.

During football matches, time is set aside to discuss issues that impact girls and provide training on staying in school and protection against gender-based violence and early pregnancies. 700 girls have now taken part in football matches and are proving to themselves and others that girls are equal.



"Thanks to Plan International, I started playing football like the boys. This sport allowed me to start asserting myself and to learn that I also have abilities. I started to overcome my shyness. My parents now understand that girls can also do what boys do. I am very happy."

- Donatienne (14) from Adjahoun

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



46%

Of children are not fully vaccinated



22%

Of girls drop out of school



17%

Of children in Benin are underweight for their age



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

- 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.
- Around one in five girls drop out of school in Adjohoun. We will ensure all children, especially girls, 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 good job to support themselves.

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



“The projects implemented in Adjohoun contribute to improving the environment of schools. Remedial classes for children have improved school results. Sincere gratitude for all the support you are constantly giving to children in the communities.”

Pauline Setondji
Programme Area Manager, Adjohoun

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