

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, Plan International's projects in Poni focused on sanitation, nutrition, education and the prevention of human trafficking. 2,047 infants will now be breastfed and given enriched porridge. 322 children will receive food from 7 local resource centres.

259 children with disabilities received medical care, and 5 visually impaired children received funding to pay their school fees. 823 girls learned about menstrual hygiene, while 14 organisations were established to prevent the trafficking of young children.

**Your continued sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Poni.**



# 14

Organisations established to stop child trafficking



# 322

Children received necessities including food



# 856

Students learned about menstrual hygiene



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN BURKINA

**Hear from Oho Grace about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.**

"This year, Plan came to our school to talk to us about COVID-19. They said that the disease is not over yet, and that we must continue to respect barrier measures. They gave us water stations so we can wash our hands and soap and gel. I thank Plan very much."

# CASE STORY: I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**NAME: ZONABO**

**AGE: 16 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: TRADITIONAL MUSIC**

"Thanks to my sales, I have become an independent person and a happier person. I sensitise other internally displaced girls to try to do something, instead of staying at home. There are even two friends of mine who come to my stand to learn how to become traders, too."

## Meet Zonabo

**Like your sponsored child, Zonabo has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** Since 2016, Burkina Faso has been overwhelmed by a violent political crisis. The unpredictable danger has forced more than 1.7 million families, including Zonabo's, to flee their homes.

## Safer Together

16 year old Zonabo escaped political turmoil with her family four years ago. At that time, she had already dropped out of school. Having left behind the land they knew how to cultivate, Zonabo's family – like many displaced families – struggled to make ends meet. Through Plan, Zonabo participated in a training on entrepreneurship, a vocational course that has now reached 1,500 displaced people in Burkina Faso. Plan provided Zonabo with unconditional cash support, which she used to start her business. In total, 1,734 sponsored children – including Zonabo – have received financial and emotional support from Plan's programmes for displaced people. Through Plan's workshops, longtime locals and their new displaced neighbours are learning to build peaceful communities.

## You Can Count On Me

Initially, Zonabo used her seed funding from Plan to sell mangoes. Then, she went on to selling condiments, which she still does today. Zonabo also helps her mother – another graduate of Plan's vocational training course – to prepare cakes and oil.

Zonabo has become a role model to other girls in her new community. She is proud and confident to be able to contribute in her family. With this new financial freedom, Zonabo helps her loved ones build a safer, stronger life in a village free from violence.



*Zonabo at her stall.*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 11,866 CHILDREN IN PONI**



# OUR PROJECTS IN PONI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



83.5% of infants in Poni are now exclusively breastfed, compared to 69.6% nationally.

## IMPROVING HEALTH AND SANITATION



**8,312 community members learned about safer hygiene practises.** In Poni, just 20.6% of residents have access to sanitation services. Women and girls rarely have access to private latrines, which can leave them vulnerable to violence.

This year, 16 village sanitation committees were established to talk openly about health and hygiene. 73 educators and community supervisors were trained to combat taboos around menstruation and educate people about the dangers of open defecation. In total, these leaders passed on skills to 8,312 individuals.

1,856 students at 31 schools received lessons specifically on menstrual health. In order to combat a scarcity of resources, 831 girls learned how to make reusable sanitary napkins.

## FEEDING THE FUTURE



**2,047 pregnant and breastfeeding women reported improved food situations for their children.** In Burkina Faso, a lack of information about early childhood nutrition perpetuates chronic malnourishment.

This year, Plan worked with breastfeeding and expecting mothers to improve the nutrition of their children. 2,047 women learned about the importance of breastfeeding in a child's first 23 months, the food groups and supplementary food.

75 villages in Poni received cooking demonstration materials, and 5 Nutritional and Recovery Centres received food donations. 148 community health workers learned about Infant and Young Child Feeding, and 60 health workers were trained to treat Chronic Malnutrition.



"My little brothers now have affordable porridge and they are very healthy. They like it very much. I am happy to see them like this and I say thank you to Plan Burkina."

- Alexandra (17) from Poni

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



**53%**

Of children with disabilities in Burkina Faso are in school



**21%**

Of people in Poni have access to sanitary toilets



**39%**

Of people in Burkina Faso are literate



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

- Poni is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We will strengthen disaster preparedness on the community and local government levels.
- Children in Poni remain at high risk of trafficking. We will continue to educate people of all ages about how to recognise and prevent the abuse of children.
- Ongoing violence in Burkina Faso has impeded childrens' continued education. We will offer alternative learning centres to close the learning gap and keep children in school.
- Many children in Poni are undernourished due to a lack of information about childrens' health. We will continue to advocate for breastfeeding and assisted childbirth.

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



"The Sud-Ouest team is grateful for your generosity on behalf of children and their families. Your invaluable contributions have made it possible to significantly advance the rights of children and their families. Thank you."

**Kafando Hawa**  
Programme Area Manager, Poni

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