

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

The province of Sanmatenga is located in Burkina Faso's Centre-Nord region, one of the country's hardest-hit regions during years of political unrest. The crisis has resulted in the displacement of 1.7 million people, the majority of whom remain in Centre-Nord.

This year, 1,252 host families were reached with information about the importance of education for displaced children. 3,029 displaced girls received school supplies, and 506 out-of-school children were enrolled in remedial support centres.

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



# 682

Children received scholarships



# 181

Handwashing facilities installed in schools



# 1,416

Advocates dismantled menstruation taboos



## 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 yet over, and that we must continue to respect barrier measures. They gave us drinking water stations, 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 and a happier person. I encourage other internally displaced girls to try to do something, instead of staying at home. Two friends of mine even 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 and her family escaped political turmoil 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 International, 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 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, long-time 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 to 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 5,371 CHILDREN IN SANMATENGA**



# OUR PROJECTS IN SANMATENGA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD



In an area hard-hit by political violence, hundreds of students received vital support to continue their studies.

**A years-long political crisis in Burkina Faso has forced 41,089 students in Sanmatenga out of school.** As violence persists in Burkina Faso's Centre-Nord region, 419 schools have had to close, including 273 in Sanmatenga. 19,025 of the affected students are young girls.

Since 2020, Plan International's "BASE" programme has worked to offer remedial education, scholarships, emotional support, and resources to students and teachers in at-risk communities. This year, 1,498 sponsored children received funds to pay their school fees, while an additional 682 students received scholarships.

39 classrooms were built, which will support the learning of 2,670 students. 6,148 students received school supplies, along with 1,744 girls receiving menstrual hygiene kits. 62 teachers have been trained on safer schooling and gender equality.

## STAYING HEALTHY AND HAPPY



**Just 14% of Sanmatenga's population has access to latrines.** When girls in Sanmatenga are menstruating, that means that they are unlikely to have private, hygienic places to meet their needs. As a result, girls tend to stay home from school during menstruation. While their absences pile up, girls become more likely to fail their courses and drop out of school.

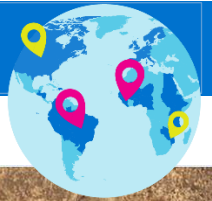
This year, Plan International worked to keep Sanmatenga's girls in school by training 39 educators from 4 schools, as well as 4 community leaders, about menstrual hygiene. By breaking down taboos from the top down, girls around Sanmatenga will learn to create reusable sanitary napkins.

224 girls and 192 boys have been reached by menstrual health education workshops.



"We were ashamed when our periods came and often didn't come to school because of fear or shame. But after Plan's sensitisation on Menstrual Hygiene Management, I know that it is natural. I really thank Plan and the Plan agents for everything they do for us."  
- Safiata (15) from Sanmatenga

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



14%

Of Sanmatenga's population has access to sanitary toilets



52%

Of young people in Sanmatenga complete secondary school



70%

Of women ages 20-24 in Burkina Faso are victims of Female Genital Mutilation



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

- Many communities in Burkina Faso are not equipped for crises. We will continue to sensitise locals in disaster resilience.
- Unemployment can lead desperate youths to dangerous and sometimes criminal jobs. We will continue to offer entrepreneurship training to young people, particularly women.
- Ongoing political upheaval threatens the education of thousands. We will continue to offer remedial education to close the learning gap for displaced youth.
- Displaced families are often without basic resources. We will support displaced families through the construction of housing shelters.

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



"We have been able to contribute to young people in Sanmatenga through concrete actions, thanks to your generous contributions. Thanks very much for your continuous support and for making a difference in the lives of vulnerable people."

**Clément DG Meda**

Programme Area Manager, Sanmatenga

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