

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Rural Namentenga is located in Burkina Faso's Centre-Nord region. Vulnerable to both ongoing political violence and the effects of climate change, children in the region are at a high risk of dropping out of school, living in poverty and/or experiencing gender-based violence.

This year, 30,247 Namentenga residents received necessary funds. 3,133 children and 1,958 pregnant women benefitted from three months of food rations, while 55 girls received scholarships to stay in school.

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



43,062

Women and children have received food assistance



31,932

Women learnt about finances, education & health



1,791

Community members learnt about gender-based violence



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN BURKINA FASO

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

"This year, Plan officers 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 hand washing 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 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 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 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, 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 1,753 CHILDREN IN NAMENTENGA

OUR PROJECTS IN NAMENTENGA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



From breaking down menstruation stigma to creating safe spaces to discuss finance, girls and women in Namentenga have new systems of support in their communities.

PROVIDING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



Just 29% of girls in Burkina Faso are enrolled in secondary school. From the risk of gender-based violence to a lack of adequate menstrual hygiene facilities, girls face an uphill battle in completing their education. A low level of education in youth raises a person's risks in adulthood.

This year, 1,791 community members of all ages participated in sensitisation trainings about menstruation, while 85 students learned to make reusable sanitary napkins. These lessons are a vital step in keeping girls in school who often stay home during their periods and are likelier to fail their courses due to such absences.

55 at-risk and high-achieving girls received scholarships to stay in school. 16 educators were trained on protecting children from gender-based violence, and 6 children's organisations about menstrual health received funding.

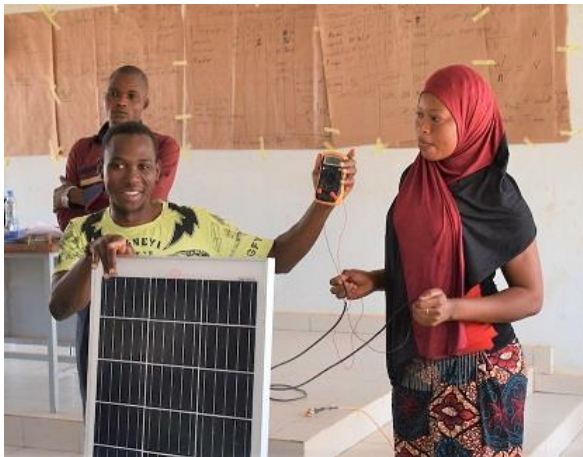
SKILLS TO SUCCEED



80% of women enrolled in savings groups report their incomes rising above the poverty line. Since Plan began working in Namentenga in 1978, 1,650 savings groups have formed in the community. This year, that number is still rising.

Between July 2021 and September 2022, 59 new savings and loans groups formed for local women. In total, 31,932 women in Namentenga participated in these circles, which discussed entrepreneurship as well as COVID-19 and education for girls.

As part of an effort to build income generating activities, 23 young women and 2 young men participated in trainings on sheep fattening, while 10 young people received poultry vaccination kits. 15 women were trained in hairdressing.



"I dropped out after failing my completion exam three times. I benefitted from a hairdressing course organised by Plan. I plan to open my own hairdressing salon. I would like to thank Plan and all the sponsors for what they do for us, and especially the young girls." **-Awa (20) from Namentenga**

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



14%

Of girls in Namentenga complete primary school



80%

Of girls report their schools don't have adequate lavatories



40%

Of families in Burkina Faso live below the poverty line



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

- As displacement continues in Burkina Faso, women and girls are vulnerable to gender-based violence. We will organise awareness campaigns about violence, safety and the rights of women and children.
- Displaced families often lack basic necessities. We will distribute essential household items to at-risk people.
- The security crisis has forced schools to close. We will encourage the continued education of Namentenga's youth through remedial education programmes.
- Cereal crops in Namentenga are challenged by climate change, which threatens food security. We will organise training sessions for locals about climate adaptive agriculture.

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



"We have been able to contribute to young people in Namentenga 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, Namentenga

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