

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, hundreds of parents, teachers, community leaders, and religious figures improved their knowledge on children's rights, gender equality, and child protection.

And 6,500 girls and boys are now empowered to stand up for gender equality and adopt positive masculinities to reduce gender-based violence. Young people also learned more about their sexual and reproductive health, helping them make informed decisions about their lives, bodies, and futures.

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



500

Young women trained in girls rights



550

Girls received menstrual hygiene kits



33

Child protection committees supported with materials



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN CAMEROON

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

"I thank Plan International for raising awareness about COVID-19 and giving us soap, masks, and advice. We felt very happy that Plan provided protective equipment. During all the training sessions we received masks to avoid getting sick. Thank you Plan International."

CASE STORY: STRIVING FOR PEACE



NAME: BELTIVATE

AGE: 21 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: PLAYING WITH HER SIBLINGS

"During the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, I had the opportunity to speak on the radio about GBV and how to respond to it. And talking about my experiences helped to improve my mental health. Thanks to Plan International for making me a GBV crusader."

Meet Beltivate

Like your sponsored child, Beltivate has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Beltivate is currently completing her second year of university, and is working hard to make life better for her younger sisters. Her family had to flee their home when conflict got too close – yet life is still uncertain and violence is an ever-present threat.

Continuing Effects of Conflict

For young people, acts of violence committed by adults can take a toll. Rates of domestic and sexual abuse have risen, particularly against girls. Children are also at risk of being trafficked and forced to pick up arms as child soldiers.

Many of Beltivate's classmates and friends have been the victims of kidnapping or sexual abuse. Impacted deeply by these traumatic events, Beltivate struggled with depression – she fell behind on her classes, and almost dropped out of school.

Then Beltivate joined her local youth group. She took part in training sessions on gender-based violence and learned about the help available for those who need it.

Inspiring Change

Through her youth group, Beltivate has found a passion and is now more confident to speak out against violence in her community. She's even spoken on the radio to empower other young people around her.

Along with other youth in her situation, Beltivate is now receiving psychological support and medical treatment to overcome her depression.

Community members and religious leaders also took part in the 16 Days of Activism, helping to strengthen the call for peace and protection during this difficult time.



Youth group members take part in 16 Days of Activism

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 5,911 CHILDREN IN BERTOUA

OUR PROJECTS IN BERTOUA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Young people celebrate
Day of the African Child
and stand up for their rights

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Around 60% of girls in Cameroon have experienced sexual violence. Many children are also forced to drop out of school and work to help support their families. These violations of children's rights can have lasting impacts and prevent girls and boys from reaching their full potential.

A new protection task force has been created in Bertoua, ensuring community leaders have the knowledge they need to act in cases of child abuse. And 500 protection committee members were supported with much-needed supplies to continue their awareness-raising activities on the rights of children.

800 young people learned how to identify different forms of violence and abuse, and where to turn to for support. More than 100 parents also took part in training sessions to improve their knowledge of children's rights and gender equality to prevent gender-based violence at home.

BRIGHTER FUTURES



In rural areas of Bertoua, only 53% of children attend secondary school, and more girls end up dropping out than boys. Schools often lack quality teaching materials, and young people do not have opportunities to gain the technical skills they need as they enter adulthood.

Through youth groups, girls and young women are gaining leadership skills and learning about the importance of completing their education. Girls are also being encouraged to take science and technology courses, helping them to break gender barriers and gain valuable skills.

And 10 young women also completed entrepreneurship training so they can start their own businesses and earn an income. Savings and loans groups will also help young women save their money and invest in their futures.



"I really appreciated the project on education and empowerment of young people. We know that from now on, girls must also go to school like boys. For this great initiative, we thank Plan International."

- Doli, 14 from Bertoua

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



23%

Of people do not have access to safe drinking water



13%

Of students drop out of elementary school



37%

Of girls are married before the age of 18



Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.

- Pregnancy and marriage are common. We will ensure young people have access to sexual and reproductive health education so they can make informed decisions about their bodies.
- We will also strengthen child protection mechanisms and promote girls' rights to reduce cases of gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices.
- School drop-out rates remain high. We will support schools to provide inspiring learning spaces for children and raise awareness of the importance of girls' education.
- We will also ensure young people gain the technical and vocational skills they need to get a good job and support themselves as they enter adulthood.

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



"I can only express my satisfaction and my gratitude for all the contributions made by sponsors for the benefit of children and girls in Bertoua. Thanks to you, communities are truly engaged in a process of lasting positive transformation."

Audjeu Njakam Martial
Programme Area Manager, Bertoua

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