

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of children received much-needed school supplies so they can stay in school and thrive in the classroom. Parents and teachers are also working to make schools more inclusive, encouraging girls to continue their education.

And more than 200 girls and boys are now able to make informed decisions about their lives, bodies, and futures thanks to training on sexual and reproductive health. Young people are also standing up against gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices.

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



2219

Children
received hygiene
kit



226

Youth learned
about sexual and
reproductive
health



1695

Children were
supported with
school materials



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN CAMEROON

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

"I am so happy to receive the COVID-19 hygiene kits from Plan International. With these kits, my family and I are able to wash our hands more frequently and reduce the number of illnesses caused by unhygienic behaviours. Thanks to Plan for helping not only me and my family but also the community."

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 2,775 CHILDREN IN BITENG

OUR PROJECTS IN BITENG ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



With technical and vocational training, young people can use their skills to support themselves and open the door to a brighter future

EDUCATION FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE



Half of girls in Biteng do not complete secondary school due to early pregnancies. And schools often lack quality teaching materials, leaving many young people without the technical skills they need to support themselves as they enter adulthood.

To ensure both girls and boys can attend safe and inspiring schools, 58 members of parent-teacher associations took part in training on inclusive and gender-friendly education. And 152 parents and youth also learned about the benefits of science and technology courses, particularly for girls, to help them gain valuable skills for their futures.

More than 1,600 children received solar lamps so they can study their lessons at home in the evenings. Since many children often drop out of school after falling behind in class, these solar lamps help ensure children can continue their education.

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.

140 protection committee members improved their knowledge on child protection, ensuring they can act in cases of violence or abuse. And 9 protection committees were supported with much-needed supplies to continue their awareness-raising activities on the rights of children.



31 community members and municipal employees also took part in training on disaster risk reduction. This will help local authorities and leaders prepare their communities to respond to disasters and keep children and families safe.

"We witnessed the creation of the protection committee, especially on gender-based violence. Thanks to this training we are able to identify and refer cases of abuse and violence to the appropriate people."

- Judith, 17 from Biteng

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



24%

Of students drop out of elementary school



37%

Of people do not have access to health facilities



26%

Of girls aged 15 to 19 become pregnant



Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.

- School drop-out rates remain high. We will promote the importance of education, particularly for girls, and ensure all children have the school supplies they need to thrive.
- We will also support young people to gain the technical and vocational skills they need to get a good job or start their own business and support themselves.
- Negative gender norms have led to many incidents of gender-based violence. We will continue to promote girls' rights and strengthen child protection mechanisms.
- Limited reproductive knowledge and a lack of quality health care puts mothers and babies at risk. We will support early childhood care to help women give their children the best start in life.

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



“Thank you for your contributions that make a positive difference in the lives of children in general, and the most vulnerable in particular. The sponsored children and their communities are increasingly flourishing thanks to your support.”

Moukoudi Darline
Programme Area Manager, Biteng

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