

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Plan International has been working in Northern Ghana since 2002. During that time, and with your help, health care services have dramatically improved for mothers: post-natal care has increased from 38% to 84%, while skilled birth attendance has increased from 48% to 60%.

Teen pregnancy also continues to decline, decreasing from 14% to 12% in just two years. 72,513 residents of Northern Ghana benefitted from savings groups, which train residents in financial literacy, employability, and entrepreneurship.

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



330

Adolescents learned about reproductive health



240

Communities provided COVID-19 prevention materials



60

Young women trained in sanitary pad sewing

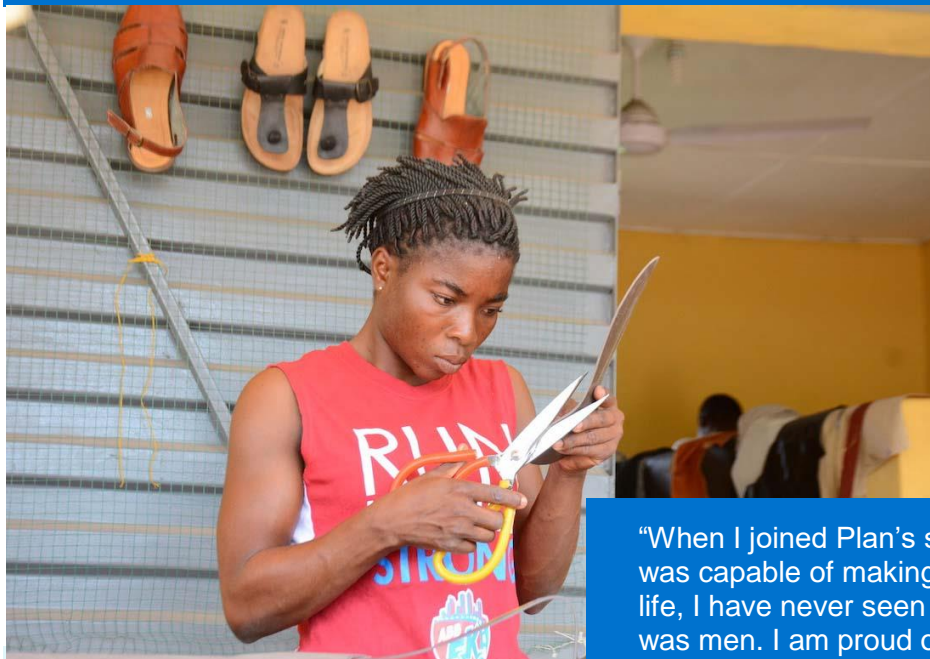


COVID-19'S IMPACT IN GHANA

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

“Plan International came to the aid of our community by providing e-learning facilities and PPE. General community sensitisations raised our awareness on what COVID-19 is and safety protocols. The result was that nobody from my community contracted the disease.”

CASE STORY: A BOLD STEP FORWARD



NAME: SHINE

AGE: 18 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: COOKING

"When I joined Plan's skills training, I wanted to see whether I was capable of making shoes as a woman because, all my life, I have never seen a woman in shoe production; all I saw was men. I am proud of myself. I feel empowered to take this further and confident to practise at home."

Meet Shine

Like your sponsored child, Shine has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. 18-year-old Shine lives on a compound in Ghana with her family of seven and two other families. Though she graduated from secondary school, her grades put her future plans into question.

Knowledge Is Power

Shine watched her former classmates continue their studies in faraway communities while she stayed at home.

Shine's parents, a petty trader and a peasant farmer, enlisted their eldest and only daughter in an apprenticeship as a dressmaker. After a month, Shine resigned from her study: It just wasn't right for her.

Once a year, Plan International offers skills training sessions to sponsored youth in Ghana. There, in a session on making footwear, Shine began to feel like she was finding her path. Plan supported Shine – the only girl pursuing shoemaking – by connecting her with a local business where she could apprentice.

Finding My Way

After Shine's initial lessons in shoemaking, Plan provided her with basic tools to continue pursuing her newfound trade. Plan also facilitated Shine's enrolment in a certification course on shoemaking.

With her new abilities, Shine has become financially independent from her parents. Soon, she will join one of Plan's Village Savings and Loans groups, where she hopes to use her funds to open her own shoe business. Today, she makes shoes for men and children, but tomorrow, the sky's the limit. "This was a big step for me," says Shine.



Shine with an instructor at the training shop.

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 12,289 CHILDREN IN NORTHERN GHANA

OUR PROJECTS IN NORTHERN GHANA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



SAFER TOGETHER

91% of women in Ghana are working in informal, unregulated sectors. These precarious working conditions both expose women to dangers on the job and perpetuate inequalities at home. Women often find themselves unable to pursue their own enterprises and feel disempowered.

Plan International's Savings Groups function as safe spaces for women to discuss finance and learn about important topics, from gender equality to children's rights. This year, 10,647 savings groups members in Northern Ghana supported one another in finding financial freedom.

From discussions about positive masculinity to institutional funding, girls and women in Northern Ghana are receiving support from the ground up.

299 men in the community participated in workshops on positive masculinity. 133 religious leaders discussed gender equality and the economic empowerment of women. 13 local women's rights groups were trained in advocating for businesswomen in Northern Ghana.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME



72 local women's rights organisations received significant funding. Plan's Women's Voice and Leadership project aims to support underfunded grassroots organisations to better support girls and women in their communities.

This year, 72 organisations received a total of 83 grants to continue their work in political advocacy and collective action. 46 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence received legal services. 25 women's rights organisations received valuable training in nationwide activism.

25 staff members from 21 different women's rights organisations participated in media training workshops in an effort to better spread the message about gender equity in Northern Ghana.



"I now have 3 apprentices learning from me. It feels good to be impacting others with what I know. I am excited about my success in this trade. The support and guidance I received from Plan International has really changed my life."

- Sakina, 21 from Northern Ghana

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



27%

Of women in Northern Ghana are literate



91%

Of women in Ghana work in unregulated conditions



21%

Of girls are victims of child and forced marriages



Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.

- Northern Ghana is home to some of Ghana's poorest population. We aim to set up our 650 trained entrepreneurs with strong business plans.
- In order to combat issues of gender-based violence, we will train 450 employers and employees alike in preventing sexual harassment.
- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we will provide resources to affected, adjacent health care fields like Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.
- Girls are excluded from decision-making spaces. Through our mentorship programmes like Young Female Influencers, we will work to foster a spirit of confidence and agency among women.

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



"We have impacted the lives of deprived children, especially girls and young women, in areas like learning and women's rights. We have been able to achieve these significant contributions through the support of donors. Thank you."

Eric Ayaba
Programme Area Manager, Ghana

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