

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

In Guinea-Bissau, social norms continue to be a barrier for girls and women making decisions about their lives. This year, we helped empower female leadership, using online tools to report gender-based violence and promote a gender-equal community that is safe for all.

Advocacy initiatives increased community awareness about the importance of gender equality and children's rights. Children – especially girls, and children with disabilities – also benefitted from better access to primary education.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Bafatá



1000

People increased awareness of gender equality



210

Girls promoting gender rights through Girls Out Loud



2904

Children have better access to education



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN GUINEA-

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

“With the programs and measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, through the awareness-raising activities carried out by Plan, our community has been able to minimise the risk of contagion from this pandemic.”

CASE STORY: DREAMS WERE REBORN



NAME: CADI

AGE: 19

HOBBIES: SUPPORTING OTHER GIRLS

"I'm encouraged to continue to grow and fight to achieve dreams. I have to be focused on helping all children in Guinea-Bissau, in particular girls, grow up in a safe and healthy environment."

Meet Cadi

Like your sponsored child, Cadi has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. As a child, Cadi didn't have the opportunity to play or pursue pastimes—she was too busy with housework. She left her parents' home at an early age. Then, she was busy with housework and school, but never had time to play or do other activities.

Too Busy Working to Play

"I wasn't happy during the time that I left my parents' house," Cadi remembers. "Living with another family, my freedom was limited. During my childhood my life was one of sacrifice and discomfort."

Growing Through Opportunity

Thanks to Plan's leadership programme opportunity for Cadi, she was able to integrate into a group that supports her learning and growth. She says: "I am learning very important things that are having a positive impact on my personal and academic life. I am aware of children's rights and their protection against harmful practices. It reminds me of how I was treated and at the same time it brings me dreams of being able to take care of children with love."

Becoming a 'Transformed' Girl

"I am becoming a transformed girl," Cadi says, "because my dreams were reborn."

Cadi is inspired by the other members of her group, young women who have graduated and taken jobs. "It encourages me and makes me believe that one day I can become a graduate with a job and have an improved life."

Cadi adds: "Where I am now, I have more freedom to enjoy my rights and recover my lost childhood. My challenges are not to disappoint my parents. I have to keep my feet on the ground to achieve my dream of successfully finishing twelfth grade."



Cadi at a community action on children's rights

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 12,444 CHILDREN IN BAFATÁ

OUR PROJECTS IN BAFATÁ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



PROVIDING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



Children in Bafatá, especially girls and people with disabilities, have limited and unequal access to quality inclusive education.

This year, we helped strengthen the capacity of children's and youth organisations to promote the importance of an inclusive education, and collaborated with local organisations that advocate for social change.

Community leaders, parents and guardians understand the importance of providing a safe, inclusive educational opportunity for children in Bafatá.

As a result, girls and children with disabilities have better access to inclusive and quality education. Young people have improved life skills, financial literacy and entrepreneurship. In addition, a national Early Childhood Care and Development policy and approach was adopted and implemented, helping children access their right to an education.

These initiatives directly benefitted more than 2,000 children, helping them to access their right to a quality, inclusive education.

PROMOTING STRONG GIRLS



Digital spaces are helping girls in Bafatá learn about their rights and take the lead on discussions about gender issues.

Through the Girls Out Loud project, hundreds of girls are able to use private, moderated social media platforms as a safe space to openly discuss issues relevant to them. The insights gained from these discussions are used to find solutions to the problems and support them to become leaders in their communities and beyond.

With more than 1,400 posts about gender-based violence, more than 44,000 comments and nearly 50,000 reactions, Guinea-Bissau is one of the most active countries for discussing and promoting gender equality.



"Girls Out Loud has brought an incredible change in the lives of the participating girls. It has been the best space that girls feel safe to share their problems and seek help from peers. In the words of the girls themselves the platform has created a family."

- Lizidória (23) from Bafatá

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



46%

Of students drop out of school



52%

Of girls in Bafatá are married before age 18



67%

Of people in Bafatá can read



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

- One in 10 men in Guinea-Bissau believe it's justified for a husband to beat his wife if she refuses to have sex. We will continue to strengthen sexual education, empowering girls to lead, and men to challenge violence against women.
- Special focus next year will be on early childhood education and literacy.
- We will work to improve access to sexual and reproductive health information and services by encouraging the inclusion of comprehensive sexuality education in the national curriculum.
- We will continue providing information about COVID-19 prevention with radio campaigns.

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



“Our projects contribute to transforming the lives of many children. We are mobilising efforts so children can learn safely, make choices, lead and participate, and ultimately have a prosperous life and future.”

Aissatu Lamarana Só
Programme Area Manager, Bafatá

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