

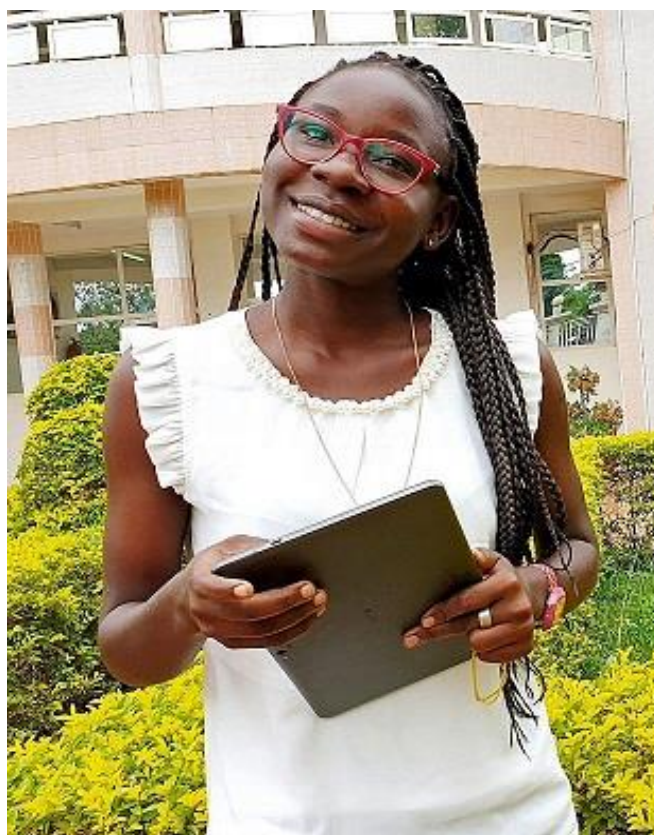
## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

**Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Gabú. 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 to make decisions regarding their lives. This year, we helped empower female leadership through the use of online tools to report gender-based violence and promote a gender-equal community that is safe for all.

Thanks to advocacy initiatives, community awareness increased on 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 Gabú.**



# 5000

People learned about gender equality



# 2944

Children benefitted from improved access to education



# 210

Girls are actively online promoting gender rights



## 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 says. "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 7,559 CHILDREN IN GABÚ**



# OUR PROJECTS IN GABÚ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Decision-makers and community leaders are empowered to develop initiatives which respond to child protection issues, especially for girls in emergency situations.

## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



Although Guinea-Bissau is part of the African Youth Charter, it does not have a national youth policy where young people can participate in the economic, social and civil decisions that affect their lives. It was vital to help raise community awareness about the importance of gender equality and children's rights, so that girls and boys enjoy the same opportunities: the right to education, health, housing, play and rest.

In partnership with the Gabú community, we helped strengthen structures to safeguard children. Advocacy events promoted children's rights and campaigns raised awareness of gender-based violence. Boys and young men participated as agents of change, promoting non-violent communication and positive masculinity.

Girls and young women advocated in youth organisations, leading change in national policies and governance, and holding government accountable.

## PROVIDING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



Children in Gabú, 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.

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.



"I would like to thank the project and encourage the tutors and guardians to enroll their children in school, especially girls, in the teaching and learning process".  
- Fatumata (13) from Gabú

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



**53%**

Of girls do not attend any institution for preschool or primary school



**63%**

Of children aged 5-11 are involved in economic activities



**52%**

Of people in Gabú can read



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

- The school drop-out rate for Gabú is 46%. Special focus next year will be on early childhood education, literacy and the improvement of educational spaces.
- We will continue to advocate for children, using radio programmes on children's rights to help raise awareness.
- Marriage before age 18 is a reality for many girls. We will focus on helping girls to lead, creating spaces for youth, and empowering men to recognise gender-based discrimination and violence.
- 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 know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter, happier future for the children in Gabú.**



“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, Gabú

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