

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Tropical Kissidougou is home to 948,494 residents, 70% of whom are reliant on agriculture. Female Genital Mutilation is a common practise in Guinea, with 96% of women and girls being victims of this traumatic custom.

Since Plan began working in Kissidougou, 72 communities in the region have celebrated the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation. 49 preschools and 9 accelerated learning centres received vital equipment, and 1,000 children received school supplies.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Kissidougou.



2007

Students were given medical attention at school



1324

Children have been enrolled in primary school



130

At-risk girls are receiving vocational training



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN GUINEA

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

"Thanks to Plan International's support, I received protection kits (soap, protective masks, and bleach) and school kits (math box, pens, and notebooks). This has greatly helped my parents to reduce expenses and allowed us to avoid catching the disease. I thank Plan International and my sponsor for all they do for us."

CASE STORY: FINDING MY WAY



NAME: GUÉDOUO

AGE: 23 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: SPENDING TIME WITH HER FAMILY

"I thank Plan International for giving me a second chance. I have returned to my normal life and am reintegrated into my community. I am taken for a model young woman. Thanks to the support of Plan, I was able to find a new path, one that honours me and gives me back the joy of living."

Meet Guédouo

Like your sponsored child, Guédouo has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. As a child, traumatic loss led her away from the school system into exclusion and alienation. Today, she is a powerful saleswoman and a role model in her community of Macenta, Guinea.

Skills To Succeed

When Guédouo was 12, her parents divorced. Shortly afterward, her mother passed away, leading Guédouo into the foster care system.

Guédouo's foster family was destitute, and unable to provide basic resources to their new charge. At a young age, Guédouo had to leave school in order to provide for herself, which led her into dangerous, high-risk situations. Guédouo felt excluded and marginalised in her community.

Plan International's Girl Empowerment Programme specifically focuses on providing aid to children like Guédouo. Along with 79 other girls, Plan embraced Guédouo and provided her with vital skills in food processing. Six months later, the dedicated young student received her formal certification.

Knowledge Is Power

Today, Guédouo is a master of food processing. Plan International provided Guédouo with 8 million GNF (about \$920) to jump-start her own business in Macenta. Guédouo's fresh food business has earned her the admiration of her community. Long lines of villagers await to buy her produce every day, and she is able to support herself financially.

Inspired by Guédouo's business, three young girls have asked to train under her so that they may follow in her footsteps. The once lonely Guédouo is now married and a proud businesswoman.



Guédouo prepares food to sell.

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 15,097 CHILDREN IN KISSIDOUGOU

OUR PROJECTS IN KISSIDOUGOU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Thousands of children will be returning to school with new resources and a newfound sense of protection.

KEEPING GIRLS SAFE



97% of girls and women in Guinea are victims of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). While this is the most prevalent instance of gender-based violence in the country, it is, sadly, not the only one: 61% of domestic labour in Guinea involves hidden sexual abuse and violence.

In order to curtail FGM, Plan International educated 100 practitioners of the harmful custom about its dangers. As a replacement to FGM, Plan provided those who stepped away from it with new income-generating activities.

844 girls have been enrolled in school and 200 girls received their birth certificates, which will allow them to sign up to study. 10 at-risk girls received agropastoral vocational training, and another 130 girls were enrolled in vocational school. 189 women signed up for Savings and Loan Groups to discuss their finances and pursue entrepreneurship.

PROVIDING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



46,937 children were reached by Plan International's efforts to keep young learners in school. Just 7% of young children in rural areas are enrolled in preschool, while 76% of girls complete secondary school. Classrooms are overcrowded and undersupplied, with nearly 50 students to a single room.

This year, Plan International provided teaching supplies to 49 preschools and 9 accelerated learning centres. 19 community preschools were reconstructed to keep learning safe for all students.

336 children with disabilities received school supplies, while another 10 students with disabilities received kits to pursue trade skills. 2,007 children were reached by an in-school medical visit.



"I am one of the 336 children with disabilities who benefit from Plan International's Inclusive and Participatory Quality Education project. Thanks to Plan raising awareness about the rights of vulnerable people, people are starting to respect us."

- Koumba, 11, from Guinea

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



54%

Of children in Guinea complete primary school



28%

Of rural health facilities in Guinea are equipped to treat adolescents



95%

Of girls and women in Guinea ages 15 to 45 are victims of FGM



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

- From January to November 2020, 500 girls in Guinea reported experiencing violence. We will continue to assist sponsored children in registering their births, which will allow them to report such incidents.
- 1.5 million Guineans between 6 and 16 years old are not in school. We will work to identify and support disabled children so that they do not get overlooked.
- We will also work to renovate latrines and water access points in Guinean schools, which will encourage students, particularly those who menstruate, to stay in school.
- Guinea's health system is not prepared for a resurgence of COVID-19 infections. We will continue to work with the people of Kissidougou to inform them about prevention.

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



“Thanks to our sponsors, many girls have been enrolled in school, saved from female genital mutilation, and their knowledge about their rights strengthened. Many thanks to all our sponsors for giving hope to all the vulnerable girls in our communities.”

Fatoumata Diakite

Programme Area Manager, Kissidougou

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