

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Education has been a focus for communities in Kita Kourou. While school enrolment is high, retention is still a challenge. Parents and teachers were provided resources to understand their role in supporting children, particularly girls, to stay in school, and community attitudes have begun to shift towards education.

Training programs teaching entrepreneurial and vocational skills have also enabled young people, especially women, to access employment opportunities while simultaneously providing resources for their communities.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Kita Kourou.



250

Women trained on income generating activities



340

Benches provided to 15 schools in Kita Kourou



50

Young people trained on renewable energies



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN MALI

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

"Plan International helped my village by donating masks, hydroalcoholic gel and handwashing devices that were placed at the entrance of markets, mosques, and schools in our village. These interventions by Plan have greatly contributed to cutting the chain of transmission. I thank Plan very much for saving our lives."

CASE STORY: AWARENESS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



NAME: BINTOU

AGE: 17 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: CINEMA

"Now we know our rights and we will be able to promote them within our families and with others. Now, talking with my father about sexual and reproductive health is no longer a taboo subject."

Meet Bintou

Like your sponsored child, Bintou has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. By participating in the Break Free programme, she has improved her understanding of girls' rights and is helping to prevent child marriage and early pregnancy in her community.

Protecting her rights

Bintou's sister passed away while giving birth to her first child, something Bintou remembers to this day. A lack of respect for children's rights means that many girls are married young and face early pregnancy, often dropping out of school.

The Break Free programme works with girls like Bintou to understand their rights regarding sexual and reproductive health. Through age-appropriate learning, they gain the skills to make informed decisions about their futures.

Young people who participate in the programme are able to share this information with others, reducing the risk of child marriage, female genital mutilation, and early pregnancy throughout the community.

Breaking down taboos

Despite legislation that exists to protect children's rights, cultural, social, and religious constraints can override this.

Bintou says that her whole family lives with the regret of her sister's death, but that through the programme she has learned how to speak about sexual and reproductive health rights of girls with others, including her father.

Breaking down barriers is a step forward. Open and informed conversations will reduce the number of girls subjected to forced marriage or pregnancy, keeping them safe and ensuring a brighter future.



Bintou gives her mother a session on child rights

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,676 CHILDREN IN KITA KOUROU

OUR PROJECTS IN KITA KOUROU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



315 women have already been trained in skills of entrepreneurship, administrative and financial management, business plan development, and renewable energy sales.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN



Women in Mali are increasing the availability of clean, reliable energy in their communities, while developing their own business management skills.

Currently, agriculture represents 80% of professional activities in Mali. However, agricultural jobs are being threatened by increasing desertification and deforestation, caused in part by the high consumption of wood for fuel...more than 76% of the energy available in the rural areas of Kita Kourou comes from the combustion of wood for the preparation of meals and lighting.

The Economic and Social Development of Women through Renewable Energies in the Sahel (DESFERS) programme aims to contribute to the economic empowerment of women in Mali by providing them with entrepreneurship skills and job opportunities in the sustainable energy sector, while also providing a reliable energy source to their communities.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION



Unemployment of young people, particularly women, is a key concern for the community in Kita Kourou.

Through the facilitation of community debates, which in total were attended by over 550 members of the community, this programme has raised awareness of the importance of education and employment opportunities for girls.

The programme also trained Children's Mothers Associations and School Management Committees about their role in supporting girls to stay in school, and provided them with resources and support.

30 young women have now completed a one-year training programme in sewing and garment making, providing them with valuable employment skills and experience.



"Before this project, I had dropped out of school and I did not know what to do. Thanks to my participation in this project, now I know that I can succeed in my life. I can earn money to meet my needs and contribute to support my siblings' school fees."

- Naré K (17) from Kita Kourou

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



95%

Of households practice some form of female genital mutilation



72%

Of the population have access to drinkable water



60%

Of the population have access to safe toilets



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

- Current studies in Kita Kourou suggest that 14% of marriages involve girls aged 10-14, while 60% involve girls aged 15-19. Plan will continue to advocate for girls' rights and work with survivors and their families.
- Some communities still lack access to schools. Plan will support the building of 3 classrooms equipped with toilets and offices.
- Plan will support 220 young people to access information about children's rights, sexual and reproductive health, and female genital mutilation.
- Plan will continue to provide training and resources for income generating activities for women.

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



"Thanks to your support, more than 545 young girls and young women have been able to earn an income and support their families. On behalf of all the communities and the children of Kita, I do thank you and remain grateful for all your support and

Aissata Traore

Programme Area Manager, Kita Kourou

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