

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Education has been a big focus for communities in Bougouni, where literacy rates and school attendance numbers are very low. Parents have been attending information sessions on early childhood development, and children are provided with learning materials so that they are able to benefit from their education.

Employment opportunities for young people has also been a focus. Parents were able to join radio listening groups to enhance their understanding of hygiene and nutrition practices when caring for their children. This helps to reduce the risk of infant mortality and provide better opportunities for children to learn and grow.

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



1253

Children aged
3-6 years
accessed
digital learning



832

Pupils learnt
about
reproductive
health



80%

Of the
population
have access to
health facilities

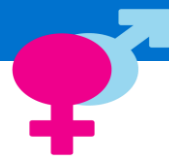


COVID-19'S IMPACT IN **HAITI**(MALI)

Hear from Sadio about how COVID-19 has impacted his 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 ON 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 program, 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 own sister passed away while giving birth to her first child, something Bintou remembers to this day although she was very young when it happened. 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 program works with girls like Bintou to understand their rights when it comes to 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 program are then able to share this information with others who have not had the chance to learn it, 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 program she has learned how to speak about sexual and reproductive health rights of girls with others, including her father. Breaking down this barrier is a huge step in the right direction. Having honest 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 14,680 CHILDREN IN BOUGOUNI

OUR PROJECTS IN BOUGOUNI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



Limited knowledge about childcare practices and child development means that there is a very low enrolment rate in early childhood development centres (ECDC). The preschool attendance rate in some of the poorest areas of Bougouni is just 1%.

The education of parents plays a big role in school attendance, so parents in Bougouni have been participating in training and information sessions on childcare. 16,272 women aged 25 and over participated in radio listening sessions to build their awareness on children's health, nutrition, hygiene and preparing children for school.

A further 373 young adults attended listening sessions on childcare as well as COVID-19 prevention.

1,253 children between the age of 3-6 years benefitted from ECDC programs that focused on digital learning, increasing their chances of further education.

The aim of the ECDC program is to enhance the early learning of 800 children through 20 centers, improving their skills in pre-mathematics in language.

YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY



In many areas, there is insufficient support for young people to find employment or self-employment opportunities. The unemployment rate is up to 18% in some urban areas.

Through a Trades Apprenticeship center, supported by Plan, 117 young people benefitted from training in business management as well as the provision of kits for the tailoring, metal construction and electricity sectors. A further 11,854 young people have been able to improve their income through a micro-finance program in partnership with Plan. With the loans, they were able to improve their income-generating activities and efficiency.

To allow for the continuation of such programs during COVID-19, Plan has adapted its communication for radio.



"After my training at the centre, I benefitted from training on everyday life skills and basic employability. I am very happy today because I manage to meet my own needs and I contribute to family expenses."

- Sanata Diarra (23) from Bougouni

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



67%

Infant mortality rate in some regions of Bougouni



46%

Of the population have received basic immunisation



43%

Of the population have access to safe water



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

- Employment rates for youth remain very low. Plan will continue to work with participants of training programs, and encourage more young people to attend.
- Plan will carry out awareness sessions on managing menstruation for young people, in order to reduce the number of girls missing school or dropping out because of their periods.
- With the support of Plan, advocacy meetings will be held with local authorities to promote children's rights.
- School enrolment numbers are very low in Bougouni. To encourage attendance and ease the financial burden for parents, Plan will provide school learning materials for students.

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



"Our most sincere thanks go to you for your support that has enabled children, especially girls, to be safe from abuse in a situation of insecurity. We have been able to establish fruitful partnerships with health, education and financial institutions. Thank you."

Oumar Malle

Programme Area Manager, Bougouni

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