

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Early childhood education has been a big focus for communities in Dioila, where preschool attendance rates are quite low compared to the rest of the region. Plan has provided resources and support to local preschools and education centers.

Literacy rates are also low, especially for women and girls. Plan has provided functional literacy training to women within the community. Combined with resources and opportunities to participate in income generating activities, this training has helped women in Dioila become more involved in the local economy and provide for their families.

Your continued sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Dioila.



40

Preschools provided with toys and food supplies



120

People learnt the dangers of child marriage



121

Women received agricultural support



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. - Bintou

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.

Having 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 13,504 CHILDREN IN DIOILA

OUR PROJECTS IN DIOILA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



To encourage continued community awareness and education on children's rights, 185 committees for the protection of children's rights were established in local villages.

WOMEN AND GIRLS' HEALTH



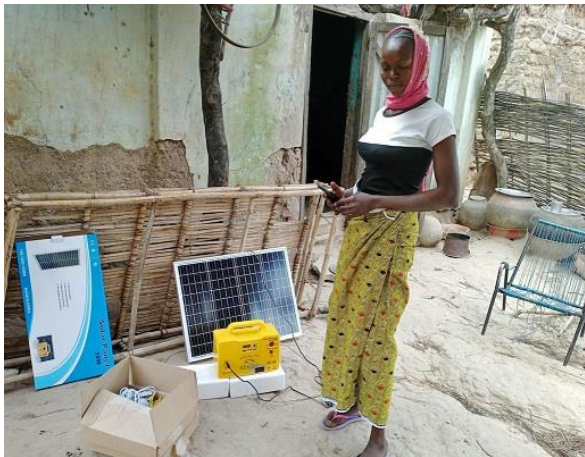
Women and girls often experience increased barriers to accessing health services and support, especially within rural communities. Plan is addressing this inequality through a combination of programs in Dioila, all aimed at improving health outcomes for girls and women at all stages of their lives.

40 Early Childhood Development centres have been provided with toys, outdoor equipment, and nutritional food resources, to promote healthy development and improve learning outcomes.

Children aged 12+ participated in sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness discussions, including awareness of gender based violence prevention.

Health centres within the communities have also been provided with resources to enable them to better support women and girls, especially those who have experienced gender based violence or disasters.

SKILLS TO SUCCEED



Women in Dioila often have low levels of education, which limits their economic and entrepreneurial capacity, even though they play an important role in the local economy.

This programme aims to address these barriers by providing women with entrepreneurial training, and an opportunity to participate in income generating activities within the emerging solar energy sector.

So far, 980 women in Dioila have participated in functional literacy training, which includes reading, writing, calculation, renewable energies, business plan development, and financial and administrative management.

The programme also aims to address gender inequities in the economic sector by establishing 29 'model men' committees, responsible for promoting and supporting the women involved.



"After getting a refrigerator I was able to sell fresh juice in my village. With the benefit of my sales, I could take charge of some family expenses and provide for my children, and I am happy and fulfilled."

- Djame (39) from Dioila

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



30%

Literacy rate for girls in Dioila



22%

Early pregnancy rate in Dioila in 2021



76%

Of girls aged 0-14 in Mali have undergone FGM



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

- Discrimination and stereotypes based on gender continue to have a negative impact on the development of young women and girls. Plan will continue to support local leaders to promote gender equality through advocacy campaigns.
- Awareness of children's rights is improving, but could be better understood and represented within decision making bodies. Plan will address this by advocating for children to be included and consulted in community decision making processes.
- Preschool rates within Dioila are some of the lowest in the world. Plan will continue to provide resources for early childhood education centres, including recruiting and training educators and providing secure environments for learning.

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



"Your support of coming years is greatly appreciated for the sustainability of achievement already initiated for the development of all children and their community and put an end to poverty. Thank you for your continuous support of Plan."

Mamadou Seck
Programme Area Manager, Dioila

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