

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of children continued their education in safe and inclusive schools. New classrooms, toilets, and desks are improving learning conditions. And teachers can now support students going through the trauma of displacement from the ongoing conflict.

Girls also learned more about their rights. They are able to take charge of their bodies and say no to early marriage. And with new technical skills, young women can support themselves and their families.

**Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Tillaberi.**



# 1,096

Students can use new desks and benches



# 71

Young women gained technical skills



# 1,788

People learned how to prevent and treat tuberculosis



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN NIGER

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

“Since the beginning of COVID-19, we have not recorded any cases in our community. But with the supervision of our teachers, we continue to respect the protective measures to fight against this pandemic and use the systems put in place in our schools with Plan International’s help.”

# CASE STORY: HELPING MY COMMUNITY



**NAME: MOUCHTAHIDA**  
**AGE: 24 YEARS OLD**  
**HOBBY: READING**

"This project has taught me a lot of lessons. I now understand that it is not only the degree I need to contribute to developing my community. I believe that with the knowledge from this project, I can improve my community's water and sanitation challenges."

## Meet Mouchtahida

**Like your sponsored child, Mouchtahida has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** Mouchtahida defied expectations in her rural area and was one of the best civil engineering students in her undergraduate class. Now she's pursuing her master's degree, and wants to help build sanitary toilets across her country.

## Health and Hygiene

For girls like Mouchtahida, getting an education is a challenge when water isn't close by. Fetching water is often a chore given to girls and traveling long distances means girls have less time to attend school or complete their homework. Dirty water can cause deadly diseases such as diarrhoea and typhoid.

And without sanitary toilets, many people practice open defecation, further contaminating nearby water and leading to health challenges.

Growing up, Mouchtahida read about how civil engineers can develop water and sanitation infrastructure to overcome these barriers. Throwing herself into her studies, she ignored her peers who told her that civil engineering is only for men.

## Community Leadership

Mouchtahida wanted to help her community, but she knew she needed something more. So, she joined the Sustainable Development Action Club.

Through this project, Mouchtahida gained skills in community engagement. She is teaching others how to manage access to water. Thanks to her sharing these technical skills, young people are now building their own household toilets. Good hygiene habits have improved, and people are healthier.

Mouchtahida is forging a path for other girls to stay in school and achieve their future goals.



*Mouchtahida teaching students good hygiene practices*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,640 CHILDREN IN TILLABERI**



# OUR PROJECTS IN TILLABERI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## KEEPING GIRLS SAFE



Radio programmes are raising awareness of girls' rights and gender equality

**Tillaberi is facing growing insecurity due to the threat of armed conflict.** Girls are most at risk during times of crisis, and cases of early marriage and gender-based violence are increasing.

Plan International is working to keep girls in school and help them take charge of their bodies. 88 girls took part in awareness sessions on the importance of girls' education. They also learned about their rights and their sexual and reproductive health. This knowledge empowers them to make informed decisions about their lives.

Radio broadcasts have now reached more than 200,000 listeners. Seven programmes shared messages on girls' education, respecting girls' rights, menstrual hygiene, entrepreneurship, and community leadership.

## BACK TO SCHOOL



**Almost 2,000 families have had to leave their homes due to the conflict.** Hundreds of schools remain closed, and many children have suffered trauma from being displaced.

Education remains crucial for helping children gain a sense of normalcy, while also developing skills for their futures. More than 100 teachers took part in training sessions on how to identify and support students in psychosocial distress. Teachers are now able to ensure schools are safe and inclusive spaces, even in this emergency, for 3,466 children.

85 community members also completed training in psychological first aid, helping to support more than 2,900 children in case of distress.



"We left our village because of the attacks. But with Plan International's help, I was able to go back to school, and my second-chance classes helped me catch up. I want to become a teacher after my studies to contribute to the education of children."

**- Alima (13) from Tillaberi**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



61%

Of girls aged 15 to 19 are already married



12%

Of young children are malnourished



23%

Of students drop out of primary school



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

- Widespread drought is causing a hunger crisis throughout the region. We will support communities to develop resilient forms of agriculture to improve food security.
- Almost a quarter of students drop out of primary school, and the conflict is forcing more children to abandon their studies. We will promote the importance of education and support teachers to provide safe emergency schooling.
- We will also support youth with technical training and financial literacy so they can earn an income and support themselves as they enter adulthood.
- Early marriage is widespread in Tillabéri. We will empower girls with the sexual and reproductive health knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their bodies.

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



“Our special thanks to all sponsors for the great contribution in changing children’s lives. With your support, many changes were made possible in such areas as children’s rights, equality for girls, access to education, and women’s empowerment.”

**Maidaji Alio**  
Programme Area Manager, Tillabéri

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