

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of families gained access to electricity through new solar power plants. Children and parents can now spend their evenings focusing on homework or earning an income.

And young women and men have learned technical and vocational skills so they can get a good job or start their own businesses. Young people also have the knowledge they need to take charge of their bodies and protect themselves against early pregnancies and marriage.

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



19,038

People have access to solar-powered electricity



3,451

Young women have started their own businesses



40

Women leaders trained on childhood nutrition



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN SENEGAL

Hear from Cheikh about how COVID-19 has impacted his community.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, I was in grade 6. We received a lot of information about the disease and learned about barriers to protect from it. Plan International provided hand sanitizers to local schools and families. My community has not been impacted that much by COVID-19 thanks to the support of Plan International."

CASE STORY: ABILITY TO THRIVE



NAME: AICHA
AGE: 18 YEARS OLD
HOBBY: CRAFTING

"Thanks to Plan International, my situation and that of my family has changed a lot. The project helped me resume my studies, which I had abandoned. Today, I meet my basic needs and feel fully integrated into working life."

Meet Aicha

Like your sponsored child, Aicha has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Aicha is studying at the technical training centre, and is realising her dream to work in manual arts. With the right supports, Aicha's disability is no longer a barrier to reaching her full potential.

Overcoming Roadblocks

For children like Aicha, a lack of accessible infrastructure prevents young people from continuing their education. Aicha's school was far from home, and her mother and aunt used to carry her to and from her lessons. But as Aicha got older and bigger, this was no longer possible, and she had to drop out of school.

Aicha then struggled to support herself and help out her family as a young adult. One day, she heard about a new program organised by Plan International supporting vocational training for youth with disabilities.

Embracing this opportunity, Aicha decided to follow her artistic and creative passions by focusing on manual arts at a technical training centre.

A Beautiful Future

With transportation support, Aicha and other youth are able to travel to the technical training centre to continue their education and improve their skills.

Aicha now spends her time recycling objects to make practical, beautiful, and reusable items. She is earning an income through selling her pieces and can help support her family.

She is also gaining confidence and independence, and is hopeful of a bright and beautiful future ahead.



Aicha made a flower pot from recycled materials

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 9,317 CHILDREN IN KAOLACK

OUR PROJECTS IN KAOLACK ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Women are able to earn an income and support their children with nutritious foods

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS



Around 8% of young children in Kaolack suffer from acute malnutrition. Knowledge of nutritious foods is limited, and parents often struggle to earn enough to provide for their children.

To help children grow up strong and healthy, over 14,300 babies are receiving monthly checkups. To date, 3,707 young children suffering from malnutrition have been identified and provided with fortified foods to help them recover. And 232 community members took part in training sessions on early stimulation, helping to develop babies' cognitive skills while ensuring they remain healthy.

More than 550 households took part in training on livestock rearing, helping them increase their income and meet their basic needs. And 20 women improved their business skills in nutritious food with entrepreneurship training. They are now growing healthy food for their children and earning a living.

SEXUAL HEALTH



One in three girls under the age of 19 has already had at least one child. Early and unwanted pregnancies often force girls to drop out of school and can prevent them from reaching their full potential.

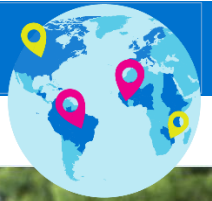
Through training sessions, 75 young girls learned more about their bodies and about their sexual and reproductive health. Topics also included the harms caused by early pregnancies and marriage, and how contraceptive use can protect against sexually transmitted infections.

With this knowledge, girls can now take charge of their lives and make informed decisions about their bodies. They are also sharing this information with others in their communities, helping to empower more young people.



"I appreciated Plan International's training on reproductive health, which made me aware of the dangers linked to early marriage. With my friends, we are sharing this training with others in our school. Thank you to plan for promoting girls' rights."

- Khadidatou (17) from Kaolack



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



74%

Of young children are not enrolled in pre-school



16%

Of young people are unemployed



16%

Of young women were married before the age of 15



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

- Rates of early marriage and teenage pregnancy remain high in Kaolack. We will continue to empower girls to take charge of their bodies and futures through sexual and reproductive health education.
- We will also strengthen child protection mechanisms and work with community members and religious leaders to end harmful traditional practices.
- Many children end up dropping out of school. We will continue to raise awareness of the importance of education, and support alternative models of learning so all children can open the door to a brighter future.
- We will also ensure young people have the technical and vocational skills they need to support themselves.

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



“Your valuable contributions have enabled Plan International to carry out programs to promote children’s rights and improve living conditions with solar facilities, female leadership, promotion of entrepreneurship, and nutritious foods.”

Abdoulaye Diop

Programme Area Manager, Kaolack

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