

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of students at 33 schools continued their education in new classrooms. New sanitary toilet blocks and menstrual hygiene supplies are also helping girls manage their periods and stay in school.

Volunteers shared their knowledge on how to prevent and treat tuberculosis with more than 7,000 people. And mothers are able to access loans so they can start their own businesses to earn an income and support their families.

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



# 23

New  
classrooms  
built



# 4,320

People joined  
village savings  
and loans  
groups



# 7,126

People learned  
how to prevent  
and treat  
tuberculosis



## 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 8,885 CHILDREN IN LOUGA**

# OUR PROJECTS IN LOUGA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Children in Louga can learn and play at community playgroups

## EARLY EDUCATION



**Less than 20% of young children in Louga are enrolled in pre-school.** Early education is crucial for children to develop strong cognitive, emotional, and physical skills.

In 11 communities, 160 playgroups have been established and supported with learning and playing materials. More than 4,000 young children can now attend these playgroups and begin their path of lifelong learning.

And 160 mothers completed training on early childhood development and health. As playgroup volunteers, these women ensure that young children are healthy and happy while they learn and play in a safe environment. Volunteers also help to manage the playgroup, helping to keep it running for years to come.

Awareness raising sessions with local government and community leaders are also ensuring future investments in early education.

## STAYING HEALTHY



**Tuberculosis is a serious health risk in Louga, which can cause lifelong damage or death if not treated properly.**

Spread through the air, tuberculosis usually affects the lungs. Children, the elderly, and others with weakened immune systems are most at risk of an infection.

Through awareness events, 7,126 people improved their knowledge on how to prevent and treat tuberculosis. More than 13,100 home visits also helped to identify and refer 1,501 people, including 206 children, with chronic coughs to local health centres for testing and treatment. And community volunteers also accompanied patients to their treatments, providing support and encouragement at a difficult time. Ensuring tuberculosis treatments are completed is crucial to reducing drug-resistant infections.



"I support the fight against tuberculosis. We do home visits to inform people. If we meet someone with a cough, we refer them to the health centre, and accompany them as well. Tuberculosis used to be a shameful disease, but now, people receive treatment."  
- Dieynaba from Louga

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



82%

Of children are not enrolled in pre-school



43%

Of people do not have access to sanitary toilets



32%

Of people cannot read or write



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

- Around half of the students complete their education in Louga. We will continue to raise awareness of the importance of education, particularly for girls, and support communities to create inclusive learning environments.
- We will also support technical and vocational training for youth so they are able to earn an income.
- Malnutrition and communicable diseases like tuberculosis continue to impact the health of children. We will increase access to quality healthcare so children can get the best possible start in life.
- We will continue to promote children's rights and gender equality, and work with community leaders to raise awareness of the harms of child marriage.

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



"This year, significant progress has been made in the education, early childhood support, women's empowerment, and health outcomes. These results were possible thanks to your unfailing support to advance children's rights and equality for girls."

**Fatou Kine Ndiaye**

Programme Area Manager, Louga

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