

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, girls connected with local role models and gained skills and confidence to stand up for their rights. Girls also learned more about their sexual and reproductive health and can now take charge of their bodies and lives.

Thousands of community members are keeping themselves safe through COVID-19 vaccines. And awareness campaigns on tuberculosis are helping thousands more get the treatment they need to live a healthy life.

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



24

Girls improved knowledge about their sexual health



3,659

People learned how to prevent and treat tuberculosis



30

Youth trained on community engagement



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 the 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.

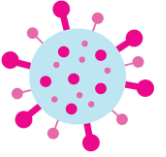
She is also gaining confidence and independence, and is hopeful of a bright and beautiful future ahead.



Aicha made a flower pot from recycled materials

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 13,000 CHILDREN IN DAKAR

OUR PROJECTS IN DAKAR ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



RESPONDING TO COVID-19



Youth leaders are playing an active role in keeping their communities protected against COVID-19

Many families in Dakar struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic. Misinformation around the virus and available vaccines also meant people lacked the knowledge they needed to keep themselves safe.

Young people are key drivers of change in their communities. With training on community engagement and vaccine safety, youth are leading awareness raising campaigns to promote COVID-19 vaccination.

Through more than 2,200 home visits, 5,819 people learned the importance of vaccination to prevent serious illness. And 72 community events reached another 2,980 people, helping to spread the message and encourage youth and adults to protect themselves and others.

Social media campaigns are reaching thousands more people, helping accurate and truthful information spread. Vaccination rates in Dakar continue to go up.

SISTERS CREATE



Negative gender norms in Dakar prevent girls from reaching their full potential. Early marriage and gender-based violence continue to impact the lives of girls.

In the Sisters Create project, girls and young women are connected to artists and role models to gain creative skills that will amplify their messages of equality for girls. 18 girls learned how to write musical lyrics, and they composed four songs on gender equality and online safety. Another 40 girls are creating paintings for theatre productions on child marriage and violence against girls.

And 42 young people also took part in workshops on online security. In an increasingly digital world, cyber bullying and misinformation are growing risks that youth, particularly girls, need to protect against.



“This training is one of the best we have had. With crucial topics such as online safety, the trainers helped us identify problems and come up with solutions. There was a big emphasis on misinformation. We will share the experience with our friends.”

- Adji (18) from Dakar

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



37%

Of students do not graduate from elementary school



20%

Of young children are not fully immunized



33%

Of teenaged girls are married before the age of 18 in Senegal



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

- Early marriage remains common in Senegal. We will promote girls' rights and engage with community leaders to raise awareness of the harms of child marriage.
- We will also empower girls to take charge of their bodies and lives through training on sexual and reproductive health, and on menstrual hygiene.
- Around one in three children do not graduate from elementary school. We will support school management committees and teachers to ensure all children can continue their education in safe and inclusive schools.
- Malnutrition, malaria, and tuberculosis are serious health risks in Dakar. We will ensure families have access to quality health care to keep their children healthy.

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



"Your commitment to children has enabled Plan International implement crucial interventions to mitigate the disastrous effects of COVID-19 amongst children, particularly girls, and to strengthen their well-being, resilience, and participation."

Mariama Kitane

Programme Area Manager, Dakar

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