

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, 139 families were provided with goats so they can improve their income and provide nutritious food to their children. And more than 7,000 new mothers gained knowledge of childhood nutrition, ensuring their babies grow up strong and healthy.

Young people learned how to take charge of their bodies and lives with training on sexual and reproductive health. And technical and vocational training is helping youth gain skills to get a good job or start their own business.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Saint Louis.



605

Malnourished children received nutrition



6,666

Girls provided with sanitary menstrual products



924

Young people trained on digital communication



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 8,273 CHILDREN IN SAINT LOUIS

OUR PROJECTS IN SAINT LOUIS ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Youth leaders, like Lalla, are empowering others with knowledge on sexual and reproductive health

SEXUAL HEALTH



Access to sexual and reproductive health education is limited, leaving young people without the knowledge they need to take care of their bodies. Early and unwanted pregnancies often force girls to drop out of school and can prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Members of 30 school management committees completed training on how to teach adolescent reproductive health to students. 100 awareness raising events at schools reached more than 3,800 youth. Topics included the harms caused by early pregnancies and marriage, and how contraceptive use can protect against sexually transmitted infections.

Youth at school also took on leadership roles to share knowledge with their peers. By holding focus groups in the community, these youth reproductive health leaders have now reached 5,345 young people. Girls and boys in Saint Louis can now make informed decisions about their bodies.

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS



Young people in Saint Louis lack access to technical training, leaving them without the skills they need to support themselves as they enter adulthood. School closures during the pandemic forced many youth to stop their education.

Young people who had dropped out of school were encouraged to enrol in vocational training centres. Youth gained technical skills in trades such as sewing. 17 young people were also supported to develop a business plan once they completed their training, so they could start earning an income with their new skills.

And 828 learners also took part in sessions on girls' rights, gender equality, and how to protect themselves from gender-based violence. With new skills and confidence, young people are opening the door to a brighter future.



"I had dropped out of school and had almost no knowledge of my rights or any digital skills. After joining the technical centre, I learned about equality and gained technical skills. Now I make online sales of knitting patterns. I feel confident to face life's difficulties."

- Solange (19) from Saint Louis

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



84%

Of young children are not enrolled in pre-school



34%

Of people do not have access to sanitary toilets



15%

Of young children are malnourished



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

- Early pregnancies and marriage often force girls to drop out of school. We will continue to empower girls with sexual and reproductive health education so they can make informed decisions about their lives and bodies.
- We will also raise awareness of girls' rights and strengthen child protection mechanisms to fight against child marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Malnutrition rates remain high in Saint Louis. We will ensure parents have the support they need to provide nutritious foods for their children.
- Without technical training, young people struggle to support themselves as adults. We will increase opportunities for youth to gain entrepreneurship skills.

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



"I would like to thank all the sponsors who have supported us in the continuous improvement of the destinies of many children and young people, girls in particular. Our actions next year will focus on strengthening girls' education."

Pape Sidy Diop

Programme Area Manager, Saint Louis

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