

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, more than 1,000 young children joined new playgroups where they built a strong foundation for future learning. And 64 mothers are now volunteer leaders of the playgroups, ensuring children are safe, healthy, and inspired while they learn and play.

Young people are taking on leadership roles and standing up for their rights. Awareness raising events have reached thousands of people on girls' rights and the harms of gender-based violence. Communities are now committed to ending child marriage.

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



1120

Children joined new playgroups



2700

People learned about the harms of child marriage



9946

Young children received health check-ups



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 6,373 CHILDREN IN THIES

OUR PROJECTS IN THIES ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



300 girls learned about their sexual rights and can now take charge of their bodies

STANDING UP FOR RIGHTS



Gender-based violence and early marriages are a violation of girls' rights. Incidences of violence continue in Thies, preventing girls from reaching their full potential.

A new local protection committee was created, made up of 30 young women and 26 young men. These youth, many of whom are former sponsored children, have improved their knowledge of children's rights and how to respond to cases of violence. These young people are also sharing knowledge with their peers on how to report abuse.

And community awareness events reached 2,700 people on gender equality and girls' rights. Thousands of people are now committed to ending child marriage and gender-based violence, and will work to ensure girls stay in school.

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS



Malnutrition rates in Thies remain high. Knowledge on nutritious foods is limited, and parents lack access to quality medical care to ensure the health of their children.

To help children grow up strong and healthy, over 9,900 babies are receiving monthly checkups. To date, 163 young children suffering from malnutrition have been identified and provided with fortified foods, iron supplements, and vitamin A to help them recover.

And through 283 nutrition education sessions, 4,350 people improved their knowledge on early childhood nutrition and development. Mothers, fathers, and other caregivers can now ensure children have the best possible start in life.



"Thanks to Plan International's interventions, my child who suffered from acute malnutrition benefited from food fortification. Now he is healthy and growing well. We thank Plan very much and invite other parents to take charge of the nutrition of children."

- Ngoné (26) from Thies

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



80%

Of young children are not enrolled in pre-school



83%

Of people do not have access to sanitary toilets



16%

Of children are not fully immunized



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

- Without technical training, young people struggle to support themselves as adults. We will increase opportunities for youth to gain entrepreneurship skills.
- 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.
- Around 10% of girls drop out of school. We will promote girls' education and encourage girls to join science courses so they can open the door to a brighter future.

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



"Your valuable support has helped us make significant progress in the social and economic well-being of families. In the coming year, we will strive to reach more children and youth to help improve education and health. We are very grateful for your support."

Mokhtar Seck
Programme Area Manager, Thies

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