

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of people gained crucial knowledge on how to keep themselves safe from COVID-19. Students are now able to access clean water at school and have the skills to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices to their friends.

Girls are going back to school and have the support of their families to say no to early marriage. And 80 youth and women are now able to grow nutritious food to sell at market, helping to improve their health and earn an income.

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



# 287

Community actors trained about child safeguarding



# 15

Youth completed technical training on gardening



# 2091

Children gained knowledge about their rights



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN TOGO

**Hear from Fabricia about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.**

“During COVID-19, our teacher asked us to wear facemasks every day and to wash our hands with soap and clean water. Our parents could not afford to buy us masks. Fortunately Plan International gave us a COVID-19 kit with masks and soap to protect us. It helped us a lot against this disease.”

# CASE STORY: SKILLS FOR SUCCESS



**NAME: DAHANATOU**

**AGE: 24 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: SEWING**

“Without Plan International’s support, I would have been left behind. They paid my training fees and equipped me with a sewing machine. I would like to assure my sisters that learning a trade is an opportunity for success in life”.

## Meet Dahanatou

**Like your sponsored child, Dahanatou has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** Dahanatou is a thriving entrepreneur – people from far away villages come to her for the clothes she makes. Four years ago, Dahanatou dropped out of school and was sitting at home with nothing to do.

But she was determined to learn a trade to support herself as she became an adult.

## Embracing Opportunities

Like many other girls in Togo, Dahanatou did not complete her education. Her family struggled to earn enough as farmers, and she lacked the means to gain technical skills.

In 2018, a new vocational training programme was piloted in her area, and she was able to enrol thanks to financial support from Plan International.

The personal struggles of a sick mother and the demands of housework could not deter her. With the encouragement of friends and family, and the support of her teachers, she completed her sewing apprenticeship in three years, distinguishing herself with her drive.

## Taking Charge of Her Life

Dahanatou received all the equipment she needed to start her business. Working out of her home to start, she eventually earned enough money to open a workshop and to buy a second sewing machine.

Now Dahanatou is a respected member of her community, and she plays an active role in making decisions, both at home, and in her local community association.

Her husband is supportive of her success, and Dahanatou is happy that she can contribute to running her household. She’s a role model for other girls to start their own businesses.



*Taking measurements to sew a dress*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,350 CHILDREN IN ATAKPAME**

# OUR PROJECTS IN ATAKPAME ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## QUALITY EDUCATION

**One in seven students drop out of secondary school in Atakpame, many of them girls.** School infrastructure is often poor, and girls' education is not highly valued.

To help improve the quality of schools and get children back to the classroom, 789 members of school management committees took part in training sessions to strengthen their capacities. Students, teachers, and parents are working together to make schools inspiring spaces to learn.

Construction has now begun on new classrooms, gender-friendly toilets with hand-washing stations, and playgrounds.

The 56 school management committees are also raising awareness of the importance of girls' education, gender equality, and children's rights. More than 2,500 people have now been reached, helping to ensure all children are supported to continue their education.

Girls are being encouraged to complete secondary school and open the door to a brighter future.

## CLEAN WATER



**Almost half of people in Atakpame cannot access safe water.** Water supplies are scarce, and many people have to travel long distances for unsafe water from rivers. Water collection is often assigned to children, particularly girls. This leaves them without the time they need to go to school.

Last year, new water wells were built in ten villages, improving access to safe water for more than 66,100 people. Eight schools have now connected to this water supply. 195 students are taking the lead on sanitation and hygiene through children's governments. Students are teaching their peers on the importance of good handwashing.

And 1,646 household latrines were also built, helping families improve sanitation at home and ending the practice of open defecation in communities.



"I'm the Prime Minister of the Children's Government at school. My ministers and I have been trained on the consequences of poor hygiene. Now we maintain the water points and latrines. We also raise awareness about handwashing. Thanks to Plan."

- Chimene, 11, from Atakpame

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



12%

Of children are malnourished



45%

Of people do not have access to safe water



14%

Of students drop out of secondary school



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

- We will also work to improve school infrastructure and raise awareness of the importance of education for girls.
- Over 30% of girls are married before the age of 18. We will promote girls' rights and the harms of early marriage so girls can reach their full potential.
- Access to clean water and sanitary toilets remains a challenge. We will ensure more families have safe water closer to home, and that communities can lead on good hygiene practices.
- Cases of maternal mortality and childhood malnutrition remain high. We will support mothers to stay healthy during pregnancy and provide nutritious foods to their children as they grow.

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



“The contributions from many of you enabled children and youth, especially girls and young women, to develop their leadership skills. Thank you very much for your support! Next year, we will continue to ensure a safe and protective environment for children.”

Palakeyem Soba  
Programme Area Manager, Atakpame

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