

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of girls gained the confidence they need to stand up for their rights. They are raising awareness of the issues that impact them, and are taking charge of their bodies and futures.

Parents, teachers, and religious leaders are now able to recognise the harms of early marriage and are supporting girls to stay in school.

Young women and men are also gaining technical skills so they can earn a good living and support themselves as they enter adulthood.

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



1,200

Children and youth learned about their rights



24,325

Students participated in remediation courses



702

Young people completed vocational training



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 13,600 CHILDREN IN SOKODE

OUR PROJECTS IN SOKODE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



TAKING CHARGE OF OUR FUTURES



300 young people are gaining agricultural skills and learning about their sexual and reproductive health.

Close to one in four girls are married before the age of 18. Sexual and reproductive health education is limited, which prevents youth from making informed decisions about their bodies. And for girls who get married and become pregnant early, there are few options to earn a living.

Through farm schools, 300 young women and men are gaining crucial knowledge on agricultural techniques so they can earn a good living and support themselves. Many of these youth have dropped out of school and some of the girls are already young mothers.

Along with improving their livelihoods, young people at farm schools are also learning about their sexual and reproductive health. 53 awareness raising sessions have empowered them to take charge of their lives and bodies through healthy relationships, contraceptive use, and menstrual hygiene.

EMPOWERING GIRLS



Harmful gender norms in Sokode mean girls are often excluded from taking part in community events. Girls' education is not highly valued, and many young women are left without technical skills to support themselves.

Members of 59 girls' organisations received campaigning supplies such as poster materials and sound equipment. More than 1,100 girls have now held awareness raising sessions on menstrual hygiene, sexual and reproductive health, and the harms of early marriage.

New desks have improved learning conditions at schools, and 23,875 girls have completed extra lessons to help them catch up on their studies. A further 356 young women are also completing vocational courses so they can become skilled tradespeople and open the door to a brighter future.



"I'm pleased to be a member of the girls' organisation in my village. I take part in activities that develop my self-esteem. I can now speak up during awareness sessions alongside my sisters, which I was unable to do before. Thanks to Plan International."

- Mariam (16) from Sokode

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



11%

Of children are malnourished



24%

Of girls are married before the age of 18



61%

Of people do not have access to safe water



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

- Forced early marriage remains a concern in Sokode. We will continue to raise awareness of children's rights and empower children to say no to this practice.
- We will ensure children can make informed decisions about their lives and bodies by increasing knowledge on sexual and reproductive health.
- Around 13% of youth drop out of secondary school. We will continue to support communities to create inclusive and inspiring learning spaces for all children so they can open the door to a brighter future.
- We will support out-of-school youth with vocational training they need to get a good job or start their own business as they enter adulthood.

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



"My gratitude for your contributions that have enabled Plan International to strengthen the financial autonomy of young people and to improve access to sexual and reproductive health. Thank you for caring about the well-being of children in Sokode."

Zireha Gandhi
Programme Area Manager, Sokode

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