

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of young women and men took part in savings and loans groups, helping them to meet their basic needs and plan for their futures. And girls are being supported to stay in school and reach for their dreams.

More than 1,200 girls and boys joined sports associations, where they have improved their confidence and gained knowledge on girls' rights and gender equality. These young people are now champions of change in their communities.

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



# 280

Girls provided with school supplies



# 4044

People can save their money and access loans



# 1280

Children are new members of sports associations

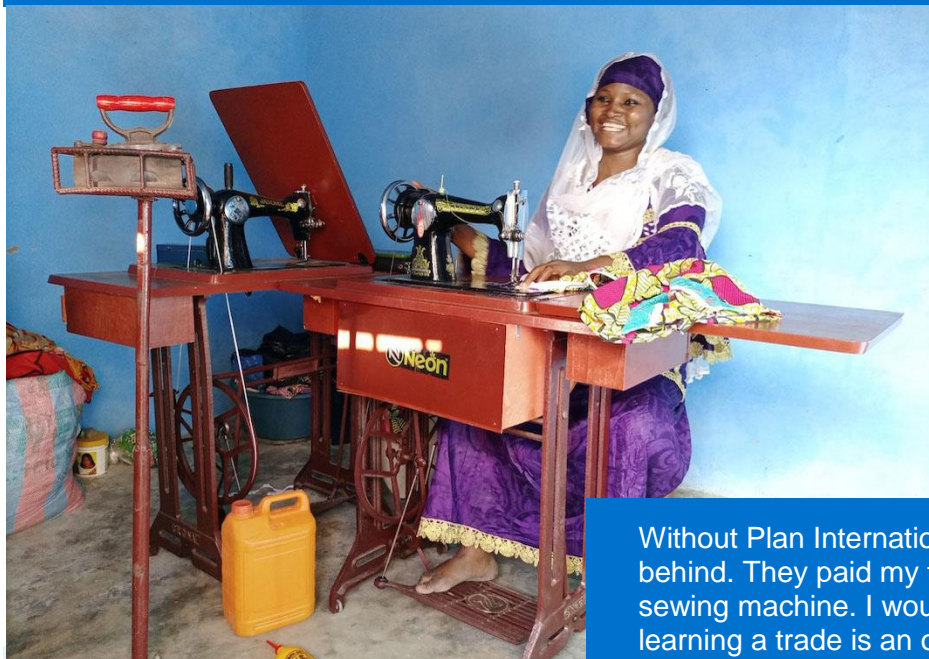


## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN TOGO

**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 of 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 had to leave school. Still, 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 and conviction.

## 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 7,791 CHILDREN IN KARA**



# OUR PROJECTS IN KARA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## SAVINGS WITH POSSIBILITY



Anne saved up enough money to achieve her dream of owning her own computer.

**Families in Kara lack access to quality financial services, which limits their ability to save their money and invest in their futures.** For women, a lack of financial independence can prevent them from playing an active role in their households and communities.

To help improve economic independence among women, 171 savings and loans groups have been created. More than 3,200 girls and young women are taking part in these groups, and are now able to save their money and afford their basic needs. The savings and loans groups are also managed by young women, helping them gain confidence and take on leadership roles.

Women also accessed loans so they could start their own businesses and earn a living. By investing in their futures, women are able to open the door to a brighter future for themselves and their families.

## THE POWER OF SPORT



**Around 18% of girls are married before they turn 19 in Kara.** Negative gender norms and limited understanding of girls' rights means many girls lack the opportunities to reach their full potential.

Through the power of sport, girls and boys are learning about their rights and gender equality, and gaining confidence to make changes in their communities. 60 sports associations have now been created, with thousands of children taking part.

Along with the confidence that sport encourages, 2,252 young people also learned about their sexual and reproductive health. They can now make informed decisions about their bodies and stand up for their rights.



"I used to be very shy and was always afraid of approaching my classmates. But since I joined the sports association, my shyness has decreased and I express myself more freely during classes."

- Larba (14) from Kara

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



55%

Of people cannot read or write



75%

Of people do not have access to sanitary toilets



50%

Of girls in Togo complete secondary school



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

- Rates of early marriage and teenage pregnancy remain high. We will increase access to sexual and reproductive health education and raise awareness of girls' rights.
- We will also work to empower girls with the confidence and knowledge they need to take charge of their bodies and futures through the power of sport.
- Many students drop out of school, and more girls than boys do not complete their education. We will support school management committees to create inclusive learning spaces.
- We will also support out-of-school youth to gain the vocational skills they need to get a good job or start their own business.

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



“Your contributions have enabled us to strengthen community to better protect children and young people, particularly girls. We will continue to focus on building the resilience of women and youth in the coming year. We are grateful to you for your kind support.”

**Naka Abalo**  
Programme Area Manager, Kara

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