

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, more than a hundred young women and men took part in savings and loans groups, helping them to meet their basic needs and plan for their futures. Youth also gained technical skills so they can earn a good living and support themselves.

Girls are being supported to stay in school and reach for their dreams, including 132 girls who received school supplies. Community leaders also strengthened their capacities to protect children from violence, abuse, and harmful cultural practices such as child marriage.

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



3759

Children received COVID-19 hygiene kits & face masks



133

People can save their money and access loans



72

Community leaders trained on child protection



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 4,500 CHILDREN IN MARITIME

OUR PROJECTS IN MARITIME ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



BRIGHT FUTURES

Negative gender norms prevent girls from reaching their full potential in Maritime. Dropping out of school, early marriages and pregnancies, and a lack of financial services are barriers which means girls struggle to support themselves as they enter adulthood.

To help improve economic independence among women, five new savings and loans groups have been created. More than 100 young women are taking part in these groups, and are able to save their money and afford their basic needs.

And another 174 young women completed training on project management and entrepreneurship. They now have the skills they need to start their own businesses and play leadership roles in their communities.

80 young people also improved their knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and are more confident to make informed decisions about their lives, bodies, and futures.

Ten girls completed sewing apprenticeships and they can now earn a living.

EARLY CHILDHOOD



The importance of early education is not well understood.

Around 24% of children do not enrol in primary school, and more than that do not attend pre-school. This prevents children from developing the critical emotional, social, and cognitive skills they need to thrive.

Parents, teachers, and community leaders have taken part in training sessions on the importance of early childhood development to give children the best possible start in life. Caregivers also learned more about childhood nutrition, children's rights and gender equality, and positive care.

And local kindergartens were equipped with play equipment, learning materials, and nutritious food for snacks. Now young children can learn and play in safe environments.

"My daughter Claire is in kindergarten. When she comes home, she washes her hands before eating and she tells us what she learned at school. I am happy that my daughter goes to kindergarten."

- Yawa and Claire (3) from Maritime



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



3%

Of students drop out of secondary school



43%

Of people do not have access to safe water



7%

Of young people are unemployed



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

- Sexual and reproductive health education remains limited. We will increase access to this knowledge so young people can make informed decisions about their bodies.
- Girls and young women are regularly excluded from taking on leadership roles. We will continue to promote girls' rights and increase opportunities for girls to play an active part in their communities.
- Youth struggle to gain the skills they need to earn a living. We will support technical training and savings groups so youth can get a good job or start their own business.
- Cases of violence against children continue in Maritime. We will empower children and youth clubs to raise awareness of children's rights and child protection.

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



"We are pleased to have your support to implement project activities with the participation of communities, children, and youth. Your contributions have helped us to work with our partners to advance children's rights in Maritime."

Kossi Ogoudoumi Atchrimi
Programme Area Manager, Maritime

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