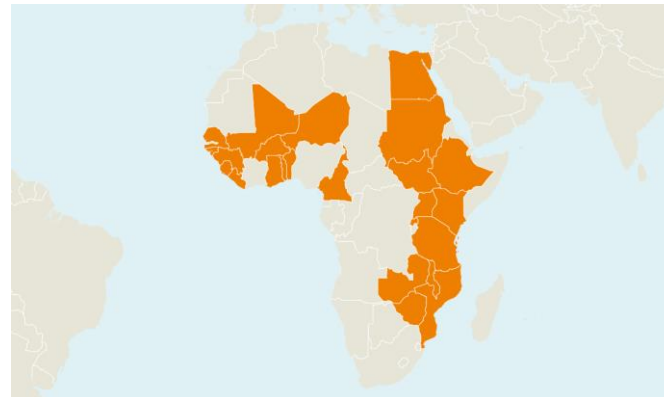


ANNUAL UPDATE

BENIN

BOHICON



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Bohicon. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

This past year, key projects focused on empowering young people with opportunities to learn, develop and grow. For example, students formed school governments in order to advocate for quality, inclusive education. In addition, young women learned income-generating activities, enabling them to create a future of financial independence.

As a result of these initiatives, children, young people and their families have a healthier, more secure future.



30

Youth attended vocational training on solar energy



179

Girls trained on income-generating activities



173

Primary school teachers learned about positive discipline

“MY WISH IS TO HAVE MY OWN WORKSHOP AND SHARE MY KNOWLEDGE WITH MY YOUNGER BROTHERS.”

Lagloire, 17-year-old Sponsored Child



SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN



NAME: CHARLOTTE

AGE: 17 YEARS OLD

**DREAMS TO BE: A
BUSINESS OWNER**

“I DREAM OF BEING A BENCHMARK FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MY COMMUNITY.”

Meet Charlotte

Like the child you sponsor, Charlotte is making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself. Charlotte left school early to help her brother earn money at a local market. Yet with ambition, perseverance and training, Charlotte is now on the path to a future of economic independence.

Seizing the Opportunity to Learn

Charlotte comes from a poor family. Due to a lack of resources, she had to leave school early to earn money. When her parents told her about an opportunity to train on renewable energies, she applied for the offer through Plan International Benin—and was accepted!

Now trained in electricity, solar energy, panel installation and safety at work, Charlotte knows how to assemble and install a solar panel. Thanks to her qualifications and the materials she received afterwards, Charlotte can make repairs for friends and relatives who have power cuts in their homes. The maintenance jobs and solar panel installations she carries out enable her to earn money to meet her own needs, and help her family and her community.

A Future of Independence

“I never thought I could still learn a trade. As far as I'm concerned, my life was over and I was determined to stay home without learning a trade. But you should not get discouraged in life. That's me, Charlotte, today. In 35 days, I've learned a trade that will keep me busy for the rest of my life,” says Charlotte, full of self-confidence.

Charlotte is currently on an internship to improve her knowledge of renewable energy, drawing up site estimates and managing a business. Thanks to Charlotte's courage and perseverance, she has turned an opportunity into a future of economic independence.



Charlotte is on the path to economic independence

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 15,528 CHILDREN IN BOHICON

OUR PROJECTS IN BOHICON ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Students participated in leadership and decision-making by setting up and running school governments and parliaments.

FOSTERING LEADERSHIP



An environment where young people can lead, grow and contribute to decision-making is key to a quality, inclusive education.

This year, educational initiatives empowered schools and pupils. Through leadership opportunities, students are better able to contribute to a healthy learning environment where they can succeed. Activities integrated education services with other socio-economic services such as health, protection, sanitation and income-generating activities.

As a result, 132 school governments, with democratically-elected members, have been put in place—including 116 at primary school level and 16 at middle school level. In addition, 176 child members of School Parliaments were trained on children's rights and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Almost half of the women in Bohicon lack educational opportunities.

Empowering young women with skills and resources for economic independence was a key initiative. This year, 177 adolescent girls and young women were trained to implement income-generating activities in order to achieve financial empowerment and be able to support themselves.

In addition, 813 girls improved their financial education and entrepreneurship through their participation in the Youth Associations for Savings and Credit project. Teenage girls and young women were able to start income-generating activities thanks to the loan received from their groups.

“The Savings and Loan group has helped me a lot because today I earn a better living through this activity and I take better care of myself and my children and above all I no longer ask my husband for money.” - **Pierrette (21) from Bohicon**



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come—and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Bohicon.

- We will support schools by building classrooms, latrines and kitchens. We will organise remedial courses for students who need extra help.
- One-third of women of working age remain outside the labour market. We will facilitate access to self-employment for young women, and provide vocational training. We will also support children outside of the formal education system with apprenticeships.
- Poor access to sexual and reproductive health education and services will be addressed this coming year. We will support activities to provide resources and information on sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights.

Thank you for your continued support.



“In Bohicon Plan puts particular emphasis on young people’s employability. Thank you for your support given to the children and communities.”

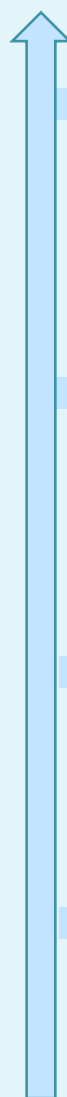
Pauline Marie-Norbert Setondji
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment becomes long-term change—providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan’s Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



FEBRUARY



132

School projects developed for inclusive education

FEBRUARY



165

Young women supported with financing for business plans

MARCH



3,300

Women equipped with supplies for entrepreneurship

OCTOBER



334

Student governments installed in primary schools