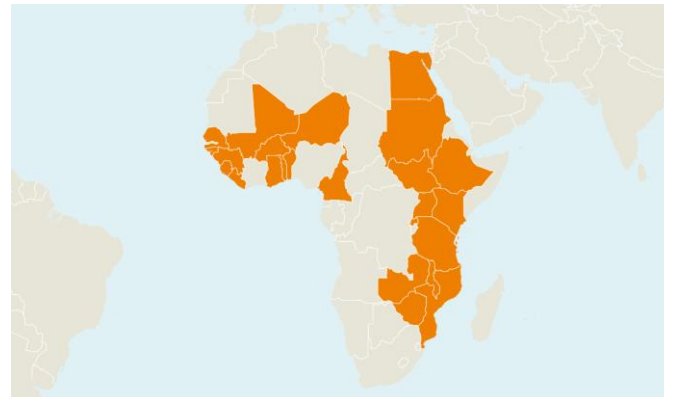


# ANNUAL UPDATE BURKINA FASO

## PONI



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

This past year, key initiatives focused on empowering youth with access to education and vocational training. Because of the on-going political and humanitarian crises in Burkina Faso, it was important to support children and young people with resources for quality learning, vocational training, and employment. Reducing rates of child marriage and gender-based violence was another focus, so that girls and young women are able to concentrate on their studies and entrepreneurial activities.



**812**

Internally displaced women received nutritional support



**575**

Children were awarded scholarships



**315**

Children and young people received birth certificates

**“I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP THAT MOTIVATED ME TO WORK HARD IN SCHOOL. I THANK PLAN FOR WHAT THEY DO.”**

Florentine, 17-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: MOHAMADI**

**AGE: 15 YEARS OLD**

**DREAMS TO BE: A  
TECHNICIAN**

**“THIS TRAINING HAS MADE ME FEEL USEFUL AND READY TO WORK TO MEET MY OWN NEEDS AND THOSE OF MY FAMILY.”**

## Meet Mohamadi

**Like the child you sponsor, Mohamadi is making steps towards achieving his goals and building a stronger future for himself.**

After poverty and Burkina Faso's political instability cut short Mohamadi's formal schooling, he accessed vocational training and entrepreneurial support. Now, he is on a path toward economic independence.

## Learning In Times of Crisis

Burkina Faso has been experiencing a security and humanitarian crisis since 2015. The deteriorating situation has had a devastating effect on educational access for young people.

Mohamadi's dreams were shattered when he left school and his parents could not afford to enrol him in vocational training. He saw himself as many of his older brothers and relatives who were forced to earn money through activities such as gold panning—dangerous work vulnerable to terror attacks.

Yet with perseverance and training, Mohamadi is now on a safer, more secure path. Through an educational empowerment programme, out-of-school children in Burkina Faso are able to access a more stable future.

## On the Path to Success

The project empowers youth with resources and connections to learn and thrive. Over 800 pupils earned scholarships, and more than 500 out-of-school youth are training in trades from mechanics to market gardening.

Now an expert on cell phone repair, Mohamadi plans to open his own repair shop with the support of his trainer and the installation kit. He is also helping other youth achieve their dreams. He says: “I would like to see children in the same situation as me being looked after. I have a cousin who is going to work with me as my first apprentice and I am confident things will go well.”



*Mohamadi learnt repair skills through vocational training*



# OUR PROJECTS IN PONI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Young people gained marketable skills—as well as improved self-esteem and critical thinking.

## LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE



**Many young people in Poni struggle to access education.** Those living in vulnerable situations often drop out of school, drastically limiting their chances for an economically stable future. Key initiatives focused on facilitating access to quality education for at-risk youth, and providing vocational training for young people who are not in school.

This year, over 500 children earned scholarships to continue their education, and 100 pupils received awards based on academic excellence. Vocational training empowered young people with the skills needed to develop income-generating activities. Some project participants trained in sheep farming, and others learnt climate-friendly farming techniques.

These educational activities are empowering youth—especially young women—with resources to thrive.



## GIVING GIRLS A CHOICE



**Early marriage and gender-based violence has a profound impact on girls and young women.** The Choosing Who and When to Marry (CHAM) project empowers youth with decision-making and leadership skills, teaching at-risk young women entrepreneurship so they can become independent. This year, girls affected by gender-based violence were trained in soap-making. After training, they're able to start their own businesses.

The project also engaged the community: Religious leaders are checking the age and consent of potential spouses, and men are acting as ambassadors among their peers to put an end to child marriage. In addition, young people are speaking up on issues relating to sexual and reproductive rights and advocating for a more equitable future.

“I set up my own business and now I sell the soap that I make. I’m able to meet my needs and save money with this business. I often help my parents. I’d like other girls to be able to benefit like me. Thank you to the CHAM project.” – **Victorine, 18 years old, from Poni**



# 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 Poni.

- More than 100 schools have closed in the region. By setting up temporary learning spaces, students will be better able to access education during humanitarian crises.
- Around 25% of the population lacks drinking water. The construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply points will enable families to access safe water.
- For many people, menstruation is a taboo subject. Facilitating information, education, and communication activities on menstrual health management will help eliminate the stigma and mystery.

Thank you for your continued support.



“The year draws to a close with satisfaction at the progress made, especially in education, protection, and the empowerment of young people and women. Thanks to your support.”

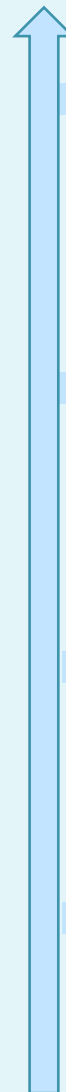
**Clement Meda**  
Programme Area Manager

## 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



808

Internally displaced children received nutritional support

### MARCH



2,657

Pupils trained on sewing reusable sanitary pads

### MAY



100

New easel boards distributed to schools

### AUGUST



498

Students benefitted from gender-sensitive latrines at school