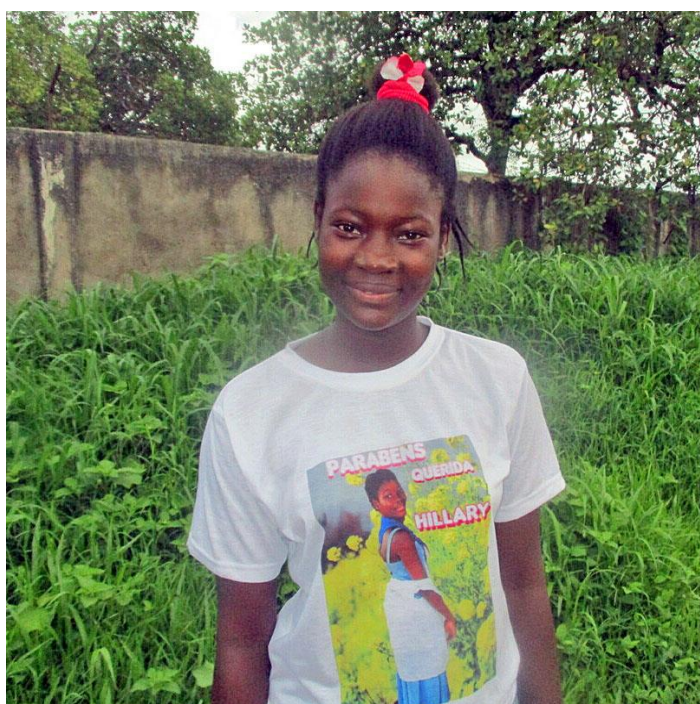
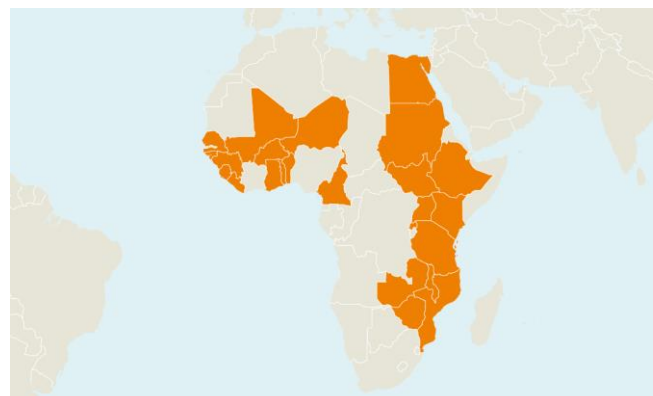


# ANNUAL UPDATE GUINEA-BISSAU

## BAFATÁ



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

Bafatá is home to 299,613 people in eastern Guinea-Bissau. Here, just 68% of the population is literate, and around 37% has a basic education. One of the contributors to the statistics is gender inequality: child marriage is particularly high, and boys are often given priority in continuing school.

This year, with your help, our projects in Bafatá have focused on supporting girls and womens empowerment, uplifting the voices of girls and advocating for education through play, community and celebration.



**5,000**

Students received Covid-19 hygiene supplies



**500**

Women received materials to start community gardens



**600**

Children participated in youth leadership organisations

**“MY FAVOURITE PLAN PROJECT ADDRESSES CHILDREN’S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING.”**

- Mariama, 15 years old, Sponsored Child





**NAME: DADO**

**AGE: 12 YEARS OLD**

**DREAMS TO BE: A DOCTOR**

**“I REALLY ENJOY PLAN’S ACTIVITIES IN MY COMMUNITY, BECAUSE THEY HELP ME KNOW MORE ABOUT MY RIGHTS.”**

## Meet Dado

**Like the child you sponsor, Dado is taking steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself.**

In Bafatá, fewer than 38% of people have a basic education. Thanks to projects from Plan International, Dado is now becoming a confident student.

## Overcoming Obstacles

Child marriage is high in Bafatá, where 10% of girls are wed before they turn 15. Relatedly, gender inequality is the norm: girls are often expected to do the housework, while boys are more likely to stay in school. As Sponsored Child Dado knew well, child marriage, school dropouts, and poverty are all connected – and now, she’s discovering the tools she needs to rise above these obstacles.

When Dado was 9, one of her friends brought her along to a community awareness session about the importance of education. Since becoming a Sponsored Child, Dado has learned to speak up for what she wants: she announced to her parents that she plans to stay in school and dreams of becoming a doctor.

## Never Give Up

Though Dado was far behind grade level in reading, writing and maths, she is fearlessly determined to complete her education. Today, with her parents’ support, she is enrolled in a school near her house.

Unlike many members of Dado’s family, the young student knows how to read and write, and does not think about getting married. She is aware that an education will give her an opportunity to change her life, and a chance at a better future. Dado will not stop studying: “Plan showed me the school and through this school I will have a better future”, she says.



*Dado is now a determined student.*

# OUR PROJECTS IN BAFATÁ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## GIRLS GET EQUAL



**It takes a village to break cycles of sexism.**

Female genital mutilation, child marriage and gender-based violence are high in Guinea-Bissau. While our projects take a number of approaches to overcoming these harmful practices, our Girls Get Equal campaign is devoted to fostering girls' leadership through celebration and joy.

This year, our projects focused on supporting the empowerment and educations of young women and girls in Bafatá.

This year, we marked International Day of the Girl with a Girls Takeover campaign, in which one girl became the head of the community of Bafatá for the day, and other girls took on positions as Chiefs of Staff.

Together, they advocated for equality, freedom and representation for girls and women and positive masculinities.

## WE ARE LEADERS



**22,384 young people are directly benefitting from youth organisations, sexual health education and developing leadership skills.**

Since July 2022, we have been working with thousands of at-risk young people in Bafatá to support collective empowerment, have sensitive conversations about sexism and girls' rights and build life and vocational skills.

With your help, we have been able to support youth organisations – holding Guinea-Bissau's government accountable all the while – to offer improved health and sanitation services, adolescent health education and child protective services, reaching 12,659 girls directly and another 53,613 girls indirectly.

“This project has changed my life by showing me how important girls' empowerment is.”

**- Idjatu (20) from Bafatá**



# 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 Bafatá.

- 53% of girls in Bafatá are not enrolled in school. With your support, we will collaborate with local leaders to make learning more inclusive for all students, including those with disabilities.
- Few children in Guinea-Bissau feel able to participate in decision-making in their communities. Next year, we will strengthen existing youth organisations to nurture a generation of leaders.
- 10% of girls in Bafatá are married before their 15th birthday. We will broadcast awareness-raising radio programmes in the region to discuss gender-based violence, sexual health and rights.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Your support has helped our projects in over 300 communities in Guinea-Bissau. Bafatá is one of our priority areas, and our goal is to help all children access prosperous futures.”

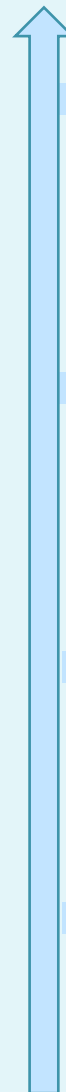
**Carlos de Barros**  
Programme Area Manager

## 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



MAY

400

Girls learned more about menstrual hygiene



AUGUST

60

Educators participated in early childhood development



SEPTEMBER

10,000

Students received school supplies



NOVEMBER

200

Teachers sharpened their skills in teaching maths and Portuguese

