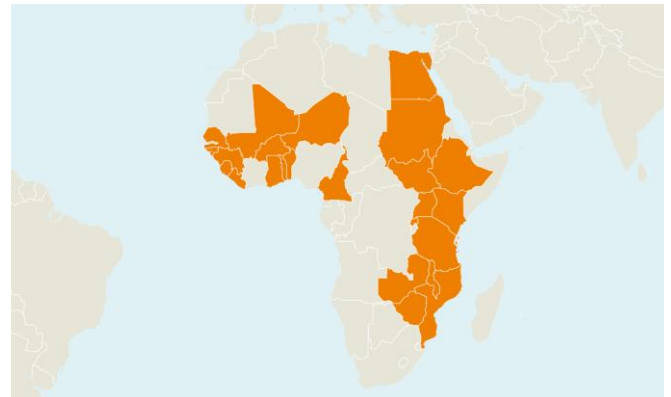


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# BENIN

## NATITINGOU



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

This past year, key projects focused on empowering youth with opportunities to learn, develop and grow. Educational initiatives enhanced the quality of 90 schools, reducing the number of school drop-outs. In addition, participants in the Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) project gained important skills and resources for economic independence.

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



**574**

Girls benefited from internships at training facilities



**60**

Community officers trained on Youth Savings and Credit



**120**

Supervisors trained in gender-sensitive learning methods

**“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 9,622 CHILDREN IN NATITINGOU**



# OUR PROJECTS IN NATITINGOU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



School governments were renewed in 90 project schools, with a 48% girls' participation rate.

## EDUCATION FOR ALL



**A large number of students in Natitingou are below sufficient thresholds in reading and mathematics. School drop-out rates are high.**

This year, educational initiatives such as enhanced teacher training and remedial classes made a difference, improving exam results and reducing the number of school drop-outs.

Pupils dramatically improved their performance. In fact, 73% of low-skill students who attended remedial classes during the year reached the proficiency thresholds—a great motivator for the students to stay in school. Students also learned life skills such as menstrual hygiene management, positive masculinity, leadership and self-confidence.

In addition, the construction of 22 new latrine blocks and the renovation of 9 classrooms made learning more accessible for 6,250 pupils.



## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**Education and opportunity are key to reducing poverty.**

This year, empowering young women with skills and resources for economic independence was a priority.

The SWEDD project aims to support 250,000 out-of-school, unemployed girls aged 14-24 with vocational training and support. Through the programme, 10,690 girls trained in rabbit and poultry breeding in 33 municipalities, learning technical skills as well as skills in leadership and entrepreneurship.

In addition, 522 unemployed graduate girls were placed in internships, and more than 340 girls enrolled in apprenticeships—empowering them to access work experience and career opportunities.

“I started an internship thanks to the SWEDD project. I'm very glad about the learning and experience. Thanks to the SWEDD project, my wish came true... I'd like to thank the project initiators, the NGO facilitators and Plan International.” – **Issa (22) from Natitingou**



# 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 Natitingou.

- The first challenge is to install 40,690 out-of-school girls in alternative training or schools. We will support these young people with the opportunity to access quality education and gain marketable skills.
- Our goal is to reduce early pregnancy among minors by at least 50%. We will organise awareness-raising and information sessions on sexual and reproductive health and rights to empower young women with resources to manage their reproductive healthcare.
- To improve access to child protection laws and regulations, we will translate information on sexual and reproductive health and rights into local languages.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Many children have benefited from vocational training and are now practicing the trades of their choice. They are economically empowered and fully enjoy their rights.”

**Paul Sabi Boum**  
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



**MARCH**

**120**

Leaders trained on advancing gender equality



**AUGUST**

**225**

Adults learned about child abuse prevention



**SEPTEMBER**

**352**

Girls attended vocational training



**OCTOBER**

**4**

Alternative education teachers trained in new methods

