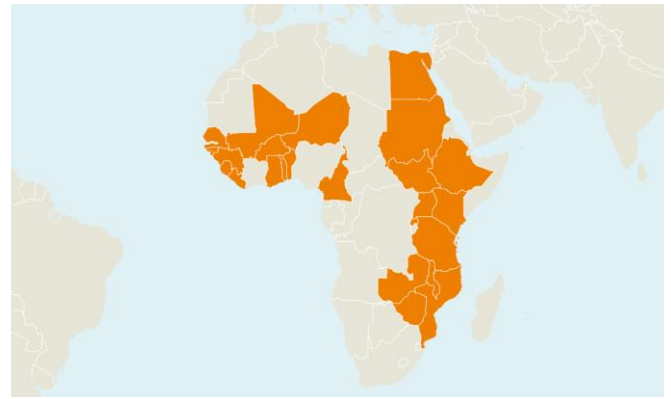


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# CAMEROON

## GAROUA



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

Garoua is the capital of northern Cameroon, where inequality in literacy between men and women is the highest in the country.

This year, thanks to your support, we have worked with schools to create safer, more inclusive learning environments for all students, part of an effort to reduce dropouts in this region. 768 girls now have brand-new school supplies, including backpacks and books, and 12 schools improved their sanitation.



**888**

Students received new school supplies



**4,332**

Community members discussed girls' education



**180**

Teachers are making schools more inclusive

**“PLAN’S YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT HELPED ME RAISE MY VOICE FOR THE CAUSES I CARE ABOUT.”**

- Louise, 13-year-old Youth Club member





**NAME: BLANDINE**

**AGE: 23**

**DREAMS TO BE: A DOCTOR**

**“I WILL NOT GIVE UP. I BELIEVE IN MYSELF: I WILL BE A LEGEND.”**

## Meet Blandine

**Like the child you sponsor, Blandine is making a difference in her community.** Ever since two of her closest friends at school were forced into marriages as children, Blandine has become a fierce advocate of girls' rights.

## From Learner to Leader

Blandine lives in Garoua, a region in northern Cameroon. A committed and ambitious student, Blandine was rattled when two of her best friends at school were forced into early marriages during their fourth-grade year. Recognising the inequality between men and women in her community, Blandine started on the path to becoming what she is today: a confident spokesperson about gender-based violence, reproductive rights, sexual health, and preventing early pregnancy.

Years after Blandine's formative experience with child marriage, today, she facilitates conversations between parents and their adolescent children in her community, where they can talk openly about gender, inequality, education, and the prevention of violence.

## I Can Do Anything

With Plan International, Blandine has been able to earn money facilitating workshops about gender-based violence and girls' rights, which helps her pay for her tuition. Blandine's work as an advocate for the rights of girls and women became a central part of her university dissertation, for which she earned the highest mark of any student in her region. Today, Blandine is continuing her studies, focusing on the impact of the internet on the safety of girls and women. Alongside her schoolwork, Blandine is an intern for Plan International, where she creates educational outreach programmes about the causes she cares about.



*Today, Blandine's work as a facilitator helps her pay for university.*

# OUR PROJECTS IN GAROUA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## STOPPING THE SPREAD: MALARIA



**More than 80% of children in Cameroon are not vaccinated against malaria.** In Garoua, community members of all ages struggle to access health care. From inoculation against diseases like tuberculosis to malnutrition and the spread of HIV/AIDS—threats to the health and well-being of children, young adults, and parents in Garoua remain concerning.

After community health outreach in Garoua to reduce the rate of maternal mortality, 69% of expecting mothers are now making at least three prenatal visits before birth: an increase by 33% from last year.

This year, thanks to your support, more than 1.8 million mosquito nets were donated, reaching an incredible 744,609 families. 117,210 Garoua residents with symptoms of malaria were connected to health care providers, and 82,350 people received treatment for the disease.

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



**Just over 30% of girls and women in Garoua are literate.** One of Plan International's primary projects in Garoua is increasing access to education for all students, and especially girls. From early pregnancies to unsanitary conditions at local schools, students face barriers to making it to graduation day. This year, 4,332 community members discussed the importance of girls' education, a key step to increasing female literacy in northern Cameroon. 12 schools were refurbished and given additional cleaning supplies, including 90 garbage bins, 180 brooms, and 27 boxes of soap. Five stellar girl students were honoured with awards for their high marks in science, part of our celebration of International Girls' Science Day.

"Plan International provided me with textbooks, a jersey, and a flashlight to help me if the power goes out, which happens a lot here."

- Habiba (14) from Garoua

# 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 Garoua.**

- Many schools in Garoua do not have access to water or sanitation. With your support, we will ensure that primary schools in sponsored communities have access to clean water and latrines.
- One in five adolescent girls in Garoua is married. Next year, we will coordinate an outreach campaign with local media to discuss girls' rights.
- School dropouts remain high in this part of Cameroon. In 2024, we will try to bring eligible students, and particularly girls, back to the classroom.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“Thank you to our sponsors for facilitating access to inclusive, quality education to boys and girls, and improving communities' living conditions.”

**Yenji Mairou**  
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**

**12**

Schools improved hygiene resources



**APRIL**

**20**

Training sessions provided to local health centres



**MAY**

**30**

Women learnt how to make reusable sanitary pads



**JUNE**

**2.325**

Benches donated to local schools

