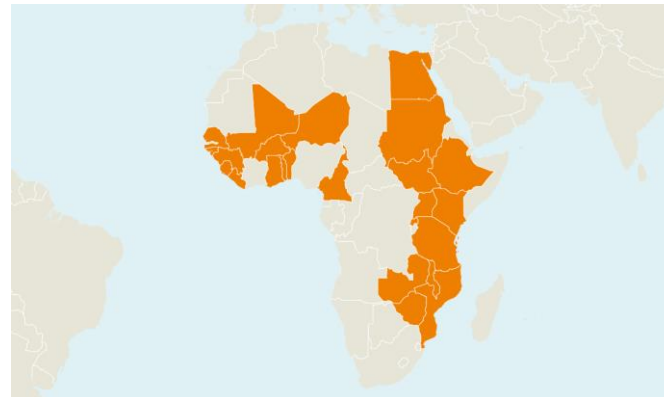


ANNUAL UPDATE GUINEA BISSAU

GABU



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

Hot, dry Gabu is located in eastern Guinea-Bissau, and is home to 286,452 people. Here, just 52% of the population is literate, with just over 74% of young people between 5 and 14 years old enrolled in school.

In this community, which has a dropout rate of nearly 47%, Plan International has focused our efforts on collaborating with residents of all ages to create safer, stronger and more inclusive learning environments for all students.



22,384

Young people have improved health and safety resources



1,500

Educators sensitised about gender-based violence



10,000

Students have received new school supplies

“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 the 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 GABU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



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 Gabu 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 year, our projects in Gabu focused on two primary goals: 'Lead, Decide and Thrive' and 'Learn: Promoting Quality, Inclusive Education'.

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 (GGE) campaign is devoted to fostering girls' leadership through celebration and joy.

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 Gabu 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.

"The GGE Campaign has taught me about my rights, especially not to drop out of school. It's shown me that I can shape my own future."

- Ramatulai (16) from Bafatá/Gabu



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 Gabu.

- More than 46% of children in Gabu drop out of school. With your support, we will uplift promising female students through awards ceremonies for stellar academic performance.
- Young people in Guinea-Bissau often feel unheard in their communities. Next year, we will continue to support the development of robust youth organisations for advocacy and leadership.
- More than 6% of girls in Gabu are married before their 15th birthday. In 2024, we will create spaces for young people to discuss gender-based violence, equality and positive masculinities.

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.”

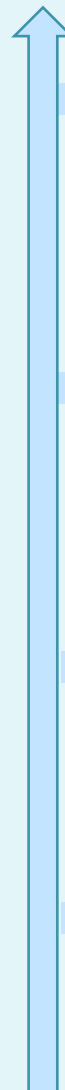
Carlos de Barros
Programme Area Manager

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 learn more about menstrual hygiene



AUGUST

60

Educators participate in early childhood development



SEPTEMBER

10,000

Students receive school supplies



NOVEMBER

200

Teachers sharpen skills in teaching maths and Portuguese

