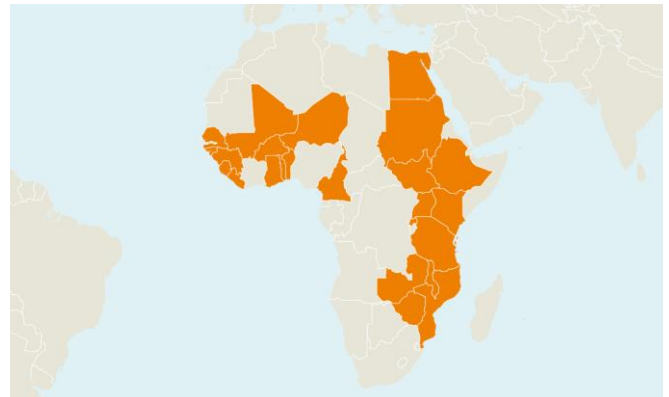


ANNUAL UPDATE

GUINEA

MACENTA



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

This past year, key projects focused on addressing violence against women and children, and eliminating harmful practices. For example, girls, women, families and community leaders learned about the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). In addition, awareness sessions reached thousands of people on themes such as sexual and reproductive health and rights.

As a result of these initiatives, girls and their families have a happier, healthier future.



2,942

Hygiene kits distributed for menstruation management



270

Children enrolled in school and equipped with supplies



714

Children obtained a birth certificate or documentation

“THANKS TO PLAN FOR INITIATING THE AWARENESS PROJECT ON FGM THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO GIRLS’ WELFARE.”

Germaine, 17-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: FATOU

AGE: 17 YEARS OLD

**DREAMS TO BE: A
BUSINESSWOMAN**

“THANKS TO MY INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITY, I FEEL PROUD OF MYSELF BECAUSE I CAN DECIDE WHAT I WANT FOR MYSELF AND MY FAMILY.”

Meet Fatou

Like the child you sponsor, Fatou is taking steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself. Despite leaving school in the fifth grade, where she felt discouraged and bullied, Fatou now has a thriving business and has become a leader for girls and women in her community.

Seizing the Opportunity to Learn

After leaving school early, Fatou spent her days working small jobs such as transporting water. With little social or economic capital, she was considered a shame to her family.

Fatou was identified as a good match for Plan's empowerment programme. The project supports at-risk and excluded girls with vocational training, and provides technical and financial support as the girls start small businesses.

Fatou seized the opportunity to learn – and for six months, she participated in intense training at a centre where she and 14 other girls learned about plant and animal production, food processing and artisanal skills. Fatou decided to specialise in soap-making.

Becoming Independent

“After six months of training, I was able to set up my saponification workshop. I make and market soap in my village and three other surrounding villages in the community, and in return I make a financial profit allowing me to support myself,” says Fatou.

To date, Fatou's business and her income are both growing – as is her influence as a role model. Once marginalised, Fatou and the girls in her programme now contribute to social and economic development in their communities. Fatou is creating change in her world and empowering other girls to succeed.



Fatou is a leader and role model for other girls

OUR PROJECTS IN MACENTA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Empowerment activities raised awareness and advocated for sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls. In addition, girls benefited from kits to help them manage their menstrual hygiene.

PROTECTING GIRLS



In Guinea, 95% of adolescent girls and young women aged 15-19 have experienced Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). Rates of early marriage are high, and many girls become mothers before age 19.

It is vital to provide the community with education and resources to protect girls from harmful practices. This year, a total of 15,900 people were reached through 915 awareness sessions on themes such as sexual and reproductive health and rights. In addition, 3,960 adolescent girls learned about FGM/C, early marriage and the importance of staying in school.

Groups of young girl leaders organised advocacy sessions on laws about FGM/C, child marriage, violence against children, and the Guinean Children's Code. These sessions reached a total of 652 people, as well as local elected officials and duty bearers.



PREVENTING VIOLENCE

There is a general acceptance of violence against children and women in Macenta. For example, around 87% of adolescent girls believe men are justified in beating their partners. This year, interventions focused on preventing family violence and strengthening family relationships.

The fundamental goal is to strengthen women and girls' positions so they are valued by society and able to realise their potential. We engaged with the media, policy makers and local elected officials in favour of changing norms and policies to support changing practices. The International Day of the Girl celebrations empowered girls with the chance to advocate for equal rights: Seven girls participated in the Girls Take Over campaign, where girls temporarily take over positions of leadership such as mayor.

"I am satisfied with what Plan has achieved this year for the respect of children's rights and especially for girls in my community. I hope that this work will continue in order to put an end to these bad practices for the well-being of children." - **Helene (15) from Macenta**



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 Macenta.

- Guinea has the second-highest rate of FGM/C in the world. We will carry out 3,000 advocacy sessions, educational talks, and home visits to advocate for the elimination of FGM/C and child marriage.
- Only 26% of girls are enrolled in secondary school. We will support out-of-school girls with revision courses for exams, training centres for vocational education, and the re-integration of young women back into school.
- Only 69% of children under five have been registered in the civil registry. With a birth registration campaign and system of issuing supplementary legal documents, we will help children access their human rights as citizens.

Thank you for your continued support.



“I thank you on behalf of our sponsored children. Through your contribution, children in difficult situations benefited from support for school fees and supplies. Thank you.”

Damas Tonguino
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



JANUARY



30

Girls supported with grants to start small businesses

MARCH



987

Awareness sessions held on menstrual hygiene

SEPTEMBER



103

Teachers accessed training on French and maths

DECEMBER



54

Tons of food distributed to 1,081 families in response to the COVID-19 crisis