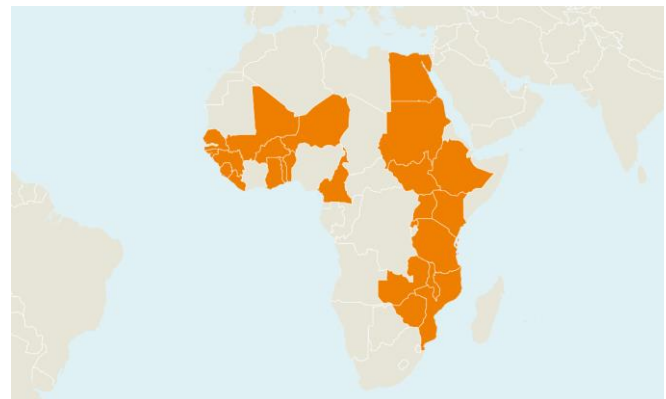


ANNUAL UPDATE

GUINEA

LITTORAL



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Littoral. 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. For example, families and community leaders learned about the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). In addition, it was vital to improve the position of women and girls so they are valued by their communities. Celebrations such as International Day of the Girl advocated for gender equality and an end to violence.

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



1,000

Youth participated in awareness campaigns on drug use



2,000

Young people learned about community development



48

Vulnerable girls accessed vocational training

“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 LITTORAL ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Hygiene plays a role in gender equity. Access to sanitary toilets in schools benefited over 1,300 students, and more than 1,800 students benefited from improved school water wells.

COMMUNITIES MAKING CHANGE



Empowering communities with information and resources is key to helping children, girls and young women lead healthy lives. Improving sexual and reproductive health and rights, reducing Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), and improving health and hygiene is vital.

This year, programmes supported communities, empowering them to make positive change. Intergenerational dialogues influenced community and religious leaders and round table conversations were held, centred on FGM/C and child marriage. This enabled participants and communities to understand the depth of these important issues. 48 people were trained on creating gender-equal spaces, along with income-generating activities and distribution of hygiene kits for girls.

CREATING COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT



Gender-based discrimination and violence stand in the way of people, especially girls, realising their potential.

This year, projects focused on improving the position of women and girls so they are valued by their communities. For example, 843 youth celebrated International Day of the Girl, 16 Days of Activism, and the Commemoration of the Convention of Children's Rights. These celebrations engage all youth to advocate for gender equality.

In addition, this year 3,800 young people participated in the Champions of Change programme, which empowers young people to develop leadership skills and advance gender equality through activism. And 2,000 people participated in Community Development projects such as volunteer work and nurturing marginalised children.

"I am a dropout student. I have been lucky enough to be chosen by our Local Community Development team to participate in the training in soap making. Now, I can make and sell soap which allows me to do my daily expenses." - **Amie (14) from Littoral**



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 Littoral.

- In Littoral, 40% of households believe in corporal punishment. We will continue to advocate for child protection and raise awareness of child safety.
- In Guinea, children have limited and inequitable access to quality education. At the primary school level, the net school attendance rate is 61%. We will organise study classes and encourage parents to enrol children.
- Early marriage and a high adolescent birth rate present economic and health challenges for girls. We will raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights through the project 'My Health, My Rights.'

Thank you for your continued support.



"Many children have become relatively self-sufficient through trade learning. This would not have been possible without your contribution. Thank you."

Yaya Diallo
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



FEBRUARY



30

Youth benefited from income-generating activities

APRIL



48

Girls and women learned about gender rights

OCTOBER



200

Pupils enrolled in school and supplied with school kits

NOVEMBER



90

Teachers accessed training on French and maths