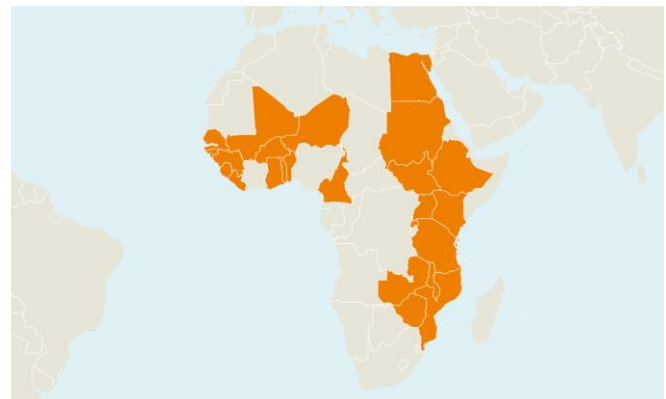


ANNUAL UPDATE

NIGER

MARADI



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

Girls in Maradi continue to face many challenges. Over the last year, hundreds of girls received scholarships, helping them to continue their education, and thousands of students benefitted from school feeding programs. Community members also learned about the harms of early marriage, and are now advocates for keeping girls in school.

And more than 800 young people gained new skills that will help them get a job or start their own business.



320

Young people learned about child protection



480

Youth trained on climate change and environmental protection



490

Students have new learning materials at school

“AT SCHOOL, WE PRESENTED A PLAY ABOUT EARLY MARRIAGE, CHILD ABUSE, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION.”

Kamilou, 12 years old





NAME: AMINA

AGE: 11

**DREAMS TO BE: A
TEACHER**

“A CONSEQUENCE OF EARLY MARRIAGE IS A LOW LEVEL OF EDUCATION WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO POVERTY. I HAVE GIVEN UP ANY IDEA OF MARRIAGE UNTIL I'M AN ADULT.”

Meet Amina

Like the child you sponsor, Amina is taking steps toward achieving her goals.

Amina and her family work hard on their farm. When she's not at school or helping out with chores, Amina loves to play with her friends in the village square. She dreams of becoming a teacher one day.

The Challenges of Poverty

In Amina's community, poverty rates remain very high. Although parents work hard to provide for their children, it can be a struggle to put nutritious food on the table or to afford school fees. Girls are often kept at home to help with household chores, or are forced into an early marriage, preventing them from reaching their full potential.

At Amina's school, a new canteen set up by Plan International is providing dry food rations to students and their families. By ensuring students are well-fed, parents can keep their children in school, and girls and boys can focus on their lessons.

Fuelling Big Dreams

With the security of good food at school, Amina has been able to devote herself to her studies. She's grown in confidence, and enjoys her time at school with her peers.

She also joined the school government, and learned about the harms caused by early marriage. Amina is now a leader among her classmates, and raises awareness about the importance of staying in school.

Amina and her friends are excited to complete their education and dream big for their futures.



Amina receives nutritious food for herself and her family

OUR PROJECTS IN MARADI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



BRIGHTER FUTURES



Close to a million people in Maradi are food insecure, and severe malnutrition rates among young children is high. Parents struggle to provide for their families and knowledge of children's rights is limited.

Members of 80 women's groups took part in workshops on micro-finance, building their confidence to develop entrepreneurship plans and start their own businesses. And young people gained climate-resilient agricultural skills, so they can earn a good living as farmers.

Girls in Maradi are staying in school and learning new skills for their futures

In 14 villages, school feeding programs are providing 4,679 students, including 2,473 girls, with nutritious meals so they can focus on their lessons. 200 girls also received scholarships so they can complete their education. And 160 community leaders learned about the harms caused by early marriage and the importance of girls staying in school.



KEEPING GIRLS SAFE

Gender inequality and violence against girls and women is widespread in Maradi. Girls face significant barriers to their reproductive health, education, and economic independence.

To help keep girls in school, 16 communities received cattle carts which are used to transport students to class. A further 800 girls joined savings groups where they gained financial literacy skills while also learning about their sexual and reproductive health.

20 new child protection committees have also been created, and members improved their knowledge on children's rights and equality for girls.

"I wanted to drop out of school because my parents couldn't afford school supplies. I received a scholarship and supplies which motivated me to continue. Now I love school."

Zina, 16, from Maradi



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 Maradi.

- Flooding caused by heavy rains affected thousands of people, destroying crops and livelihoods. We will support communities with disaster resilience plans that will address food insecurity by adapting to climate change.
- Child marriage rates are extremely high in Maradi, often as a result of household poverty. We will raise awareness of girls' rights and support families to earn an income so they can keep girls at home and in school.
- Around one in four young people are unemployed in Maradi. We will support youth with the technical or vocational training they need so they can get a job or start their own business.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We thank our sponsors for their constant support. We will continue our mission to promote the rights of children, particularly young girls, and we will ensure equal opportunity for all.”

Habsatou Hamani
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



16

Communities received improved crop seeds

FEBRUARY



37

Local leaders trained in girls' rights and gender equality

MAY



103

Vocational students have two new classrooms

JULY



550

Women trained in conservation of agricultural produce