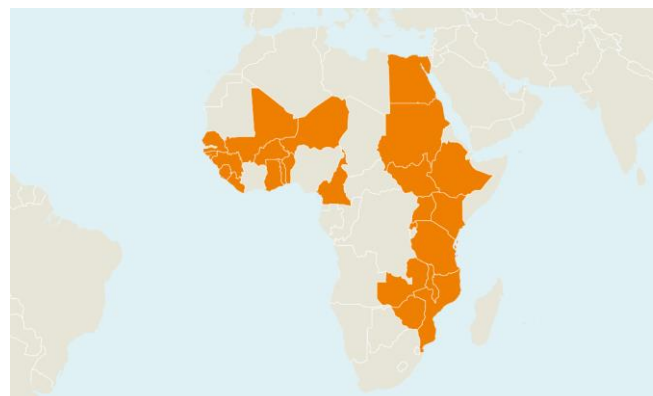


ANNUAL UPDATE

BENIN

ADJOHOUN



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

This past year, key projects focused on improving community health. Participants in the YEWA (Youth Empowerment in West Africa) project gained valuable knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and rights. In addition, screenings, workshops and awareness sessions helped reduce the malnourishment rate and empowered families with resources for cooking healthy meals.

As a result of these initiatives, children and their families have a healthier, more secure future.



543

Out-of-school youth supported for vocational training



8426

Parents trained on mutual health insurance groups



5302

Children received free birth certificates

“MY WISH IS TO HAVE MY OWN WORKSHOP AND SHARE MY KNOWLEDGE WITH MY YOUNGER BROTHERS.”

Lagloire, 17-year-old Sponsored Child



SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN



NAME: CHARLOTTE

AGE: 17 YEARS OLD

**DREAMS TO BE: A
BUSINESS OWNER**

“I DREAM OF BEING A BENCHMARK FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MY COMMUNITY.”

Meet Charlotte

Like the child you sponsor, Charlotte is making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself. Charlotte left school early to help her brother earn money at a local market. Yet with ambition, perseverance and training, Charlotte is now on the path to a future of economic independence.

Seizing the Opportunity to Learn

Charlotte comes from a poor family. Due to a lack of resources, she had to leave school early to earn money. When her parents told her about an opportunity to train on renewable energies, she applied for the offer through Plan International Benin—and was accepted!

Now trained in electricity, solar energy, panel installation and safety at work, Charlotte knows how to assemble and install a solar panel. Thanks to her qualifications and the materials she received afterwards, Charlotte can make repairs for friends and relatives who have power cuts in their homes. The maintenance jobs and solar panel installations she carries out enable her to earn money to meet her own needs, and help her family and her community.

A Future of Independence

“I never thought I could still learn a trade. As far as I'm concerned, my life was over and I was determined to stay home without learning a trade. But you should not get discouraged in life. That's me, Charlotte, today. In 35 days, I've learned a trade that will keep me busy for the rest of my life,” says Charlotte, full of self-confidence.

Charlotte is currently on an internship to improve her knowledge of renewable energy, drawing up site estimates and managing a business. Thanks to Charlotte's courage and perseverance, she has turned an opportunity into a future of economic independence.



Charlotte is on the path to economic independence

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 9314 CHILDREN IN ADJOHOUN

OUR PROJECTS IN ADJOHOUN ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



As part of the empowerment programme, 200 young entrepreneurs trained on financial education, marketing and communication.

EMPOWERING YOUTH



Empowering young people with resources and information is key to helping them thrive in a healthy community that values gender equality. The YEWA (Youth Empowerment in West Africa) programme aims to support young people aged 14-35 with knowledge, skills and attitudes to live healthy lives, and to take on leadership roles in their community.

This year 5,075 adolescents learned about sexuality and gender equality through training sessions focussing on rights. And twelve peer educators led discussion sessions around topics related to gender equality.

Secondary school teachers learned how to teach comprehensive sexuality education. In addition, 28 schools committed to teaching gender equality, signing a charter that promises the schools will prioritise sexual health education.

RAISING HEALTHY FAMILIES



Although Benin has made progress in child survival and maternal health, malnutrition remains a public health problem. This year, with the help of nutrition and early childhood development initiatives, the rate of malnourishment in children decreased. Through health screenings, cooking demonstrations and awareness sessions, families in the community improved their health.

This year, 20,316 children under five years old were screened for malnutrition, and 8,553 children aged 0-23 months benefited from growth monitoring. In addition, 400 women with children under the age of five have been empowered with training and support in gardening and raising small livestock.

“My mom often took me to cooking demonstrations.... I learned about the importance of a healthy diet and how it helps improve my health. I also learned that good hygiene is important when preparing food.” – **David (10) from Adjohoun**



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 Adjohoun.

- More than 200 classrooms in the area are in poor condition. This year, we will construct classrooms and gender-sensitive latrines to support pupils and students with a safe learning environment.
- In Benin, 30% of girls are married before age 18. We will continue to advocate for youth sexual and reproductive health and rights through assessment, organisation and training.
- 38% of women in the region are unemployed. To support the economic power of mothers in the community, we will set up an income-generating activity cooperative, and provide training on savings group methodology.

Thank you for your continued support.



“With your support, we aim to create an environment where children, especially girls, can learn, lead, decide and thrive. Thank you for your contribution.”

Roger Bakary
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



410

Youth trained in entrepreneurship

MARCH



23231

Girls learned alternative trades

MAY



80

Girls coached in women’s soccer and leadership

SEPTEMBER



4209

Students supported with school supplies