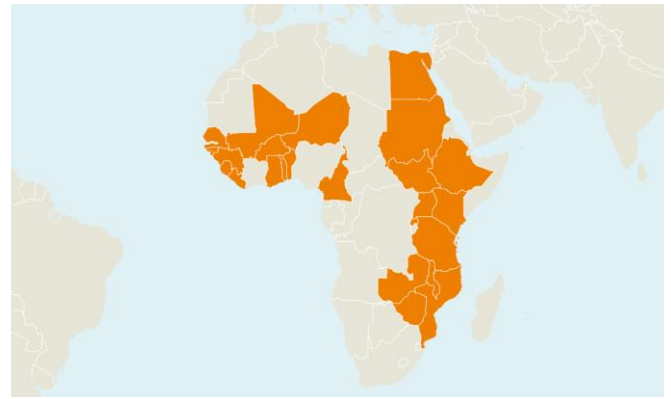


ANNUAL UPDATE

MALI

DIOILA



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

Most people in Mali practice income-generating activity through agriculture and small businesses. Empowering women with resources for economic independence is key—and this year, projects focused on solar energy to improve food self-sufficiency and increase women’s income.

In addition, nutrition and food security improved with screening for malnutrition. With resources and information, Dioila community members are creating a healthier, more equitable future for themselves and their families.



26

Children trained as activists



100

Peer educators learned to make and use reusable sanitary pads



304

Solar kits provided income-generating activity for women

“TRAINING TO MAKE SANITARY PADS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY LIFE. I EARN MONEY AND TEACH OTHER GIRLS.”

Djenebou, 12-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: BALAKISSA

AGE: 15 YEARS OLD

DREAMS TO BE: AN ENTREPRENEUR

“I THANK THE ALMIGHTY FOR HAVING PUT GOOD PEOPLE ON MY PATH SO I COULD LEARN A JOB, EARN MONEY AND RETURN TO MY NATIVE VILLAGE.”

Meet Balakissa

Like the child you sponsor, Balakissa is making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself.

She has overcome poverty, discrimination and uncertainty. Now with access to microfinancing resources, her small business is thriving—and she is a role model in her community, empowering other girls and young women.

In search of economic security

Balakissa comes from a very poor family in a small village. At age 12, she left school and, like many young people, migrated to the city to seek employment. She eventually found work as a housekeeper in a hair salon. Hairdressing has been a passion for Balakissa since her early childhood. She worked hard, learned the trade, then decided to return to her village in order to be closer to her parents, and to open a salon and train other girls.

The decision wasn't easy: her return meant a financial loss for her family, and she was criticised for her independence—in her village, women are expected to be dependent on a man. Yet Balakissa rented a shop by the side of the road. This was a first in her village.

From entrepreneur to role model

With support from the microfinance project Saving for Change, Balakissa is able to save, borrow and invest in her salon. She can purchase hairdressing equipment to expand her business—and train others to work for her, or to start their own businesses.

“I was able to train 30 girls,” she says, adding: “This will greatly reduce the rate of migration of young girls in urban areas.”

With her success and her position as a role model, Balakissa is making a positive impact in her community—and inspiring other girls and young women to do the same.



Balakissa inspires others to achieve their dreams

OUR PROJECTS IN DIOILA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



A woman uses a solar pump to water her market garden. Access to the solar pump means a reduction in time spent fetching water, enabling market gardeners to increase their income.

INVESTING IN RENEWABLES



Women in Dioila have little economic power. Involving them in the emerging solar energy sector helps empower them with income-generating opportunities—and the ability to establish economic independence.

For example, with the installation of solar pumps for market gardening, women are able to improve their efficiency and increase their income through the sale of fresh produce. The women invest this money in their families, buying school supplies for their children and paying for healthcare. Other income-generating activities can also use solar energy for improvements, such as keeping produce fresh with solar freezers, and grinding cereals with solar mills.

In addition, these women re-invest in their businesses. Over 100 income-generating women developed business plans in order to access credit to expand their initiatives.



A HEALTHY START FOR KIDS

Food insecurity and malnutrition continue to affect millions of people in Mali. The consequences are devastating: nearly 1.5 million children under the age of five will suffer from acute malnutrition.

This year, supporting children's access to nutrition and healthy development was a priority, starting with the immediate needs of pre-school age children. More than 1,400 pupils in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in six communities were screened for malnutrition.

Promoting pre-school enrolment was key in advocating for healthy childhood development. Workshops and radio interviews engaged the community, helping families see the importance of early childhood development.

“My daughter was screened for malnutrition. She is not suffering from malnutrition, but they advised us to give improved porridges and fruits so children are not exposed to illnesses linked to malnutrition.” - **S. Konate (37) from Dioila**



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 Dioula.

- Developing opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship for young people, especially young women, is a priority. Supporting youth with training will empower them with the skills needed to access quality employment.
- Only 73% of girls are enrolled in primary school. The continuation of advocacy campaigns will promote girls' access to safe, gender-inclusive education.
- Early pregnancy is a key concern in Mali. This year, children and youth will gain information and resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights, supporting them to make informed decisions about their futures.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Progress has been achieved in the domain of food security and employability. Thank you for your constant support to Plan.”

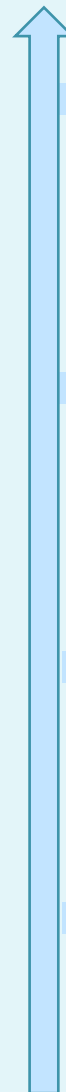
Mamadou Seck
Programme Area Manager

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



MARCH

100

Peer educators learned about sexual and reproductive health



MARCH

530

People trained on malnutrition screening



APRIL

164

People trained on child protection



NOVEMBER

204

Volunteers were trained in skills to support their community

