

Bam

Burkina Faso

Positive changes are happening in Bam. Learn more about how we're supporting children and girls' rights through our collaborative, equality-driven work.

Bam like much of Burkina Faso, has been deeply affected by climate change, political unrest and armed conflict, leading to increased displacement and strained social services. Vulnerable groups such women and children face limited access to essentials, and worsening gender discrimination restricts their opportunities.

Plan, in collaboration with the community and government, aims to boost employment for young people, especially women and those with disabilities. As part of economic empowerment efforts, we trained 50 village agents, including 46 women, in Village Savings and Loans methods to enhance their entrepreneurial skills. Additionally, 200 hygiene kits were distributed to malnourished mothers and children to support their recovery.

"As part of Plan's initiatives, I chose to train as a women's hairdresser. Now I am getting skills to start my own business." Kaligueta, 16-year-old, Sponsored Child.



Girls participating in Plan's programmes.

Impact in Numbers

66

children trained in sheep farming, and solar energy

27

young women trained in agri-food processing

30

young people trained in entrepreneurship

Rediscovering the Joy of School



NAME:

Solange

AGE:

17 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

**Physical and Sports
Education Teacher**

“With the support of Plan, I was able to be accepted as a scholarship holder, all my fees were paid and I went back to school after losing a year.”



Meet Solange

Solange is currently in the fourth grade of secondary school and loves playing sports and singing. After her father passed away in 2013, her mother remarried and moved to another village, so Solange chose to stay with her father's family under the care of her uncle.

Solange dreams of becoming a physical education and sports teacher and puts all her effort into studying so she does not fall behind or risk being expelled.

Economic Obstacles

Thanks to her uncle's support, Solange progressed to the third grade of secondary school. However, while preparing for her 10th-grade exams, she learned that her uncle could no longer support her financially due to economic hardships.

This news was a crushing blow to Solange, who was deeply committed to her education. She feared for her future, knowing that without a proper education, her options would be severely limited. In this situation she would be forced to abandon her dream of becoming a teacher.

Learning For The Future

To improve access to education, entrepreneurship, and vocational training for sponsored children, particularly girls, Plan International has provided scholarships to Solange and other vulnerable children to help cover their school fees.

The scholarship has helped Solange rediscover the joy of attending school, and she is now more determined than ever to achieve her dream of becoming a physical education teacher.



Solange, 17-year-old, writing on a board in her school.

We Work With 2,234 Sponsored Children in Bam

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Responding to Crisis

Political unrest has profoundly affected the security, livelihoods and food security for people in Bam. In collaboration with the government and community leaders, Plan focuses on providing a holistic, gender- and conflict sensitive, rapid and accessible response to the most vulnerable population, with a particular focus on children, women and people with disabilities.

As part of our initiatives, Plan organized 28 discussion groups and facilitation sessions to raise awareness about gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health, with the goal of creating safe spaces for women and young girls, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Additionally, we distributed 250 dignity kits to girls, teenagers, and young women at risk of gender-based violence.

Additionally, Plan provided 125 households out of which 60% are women and girls with soilless production kits and improved seeds to support sustainable agriculture development.



An internally displaced person (IDP) receiving a shelter kit.

100
household kits were
distributed to female IDPs



Girls trained on beadwork showing their products.



Sakinata, 12-year-old, from Bam.

Saving for a Good Future

Political conflict and poverty have led to a high youth unemployment rate, with women being at a serious disadvantage. This year, a key initiative focused on facilitating access to essential employment and vocational skills to develop capabilities for self-employment in young people.

Through our economic empowerment projects, local women have taken part in the savings group programme, and seen a rise in their income above the poverty line. In collaboration with the community, we raised awareness among 400 women in the savings group on various issues, including girls' education, gender-based violence, malaria, and financial literacy, to help them thrive.

Additionally, 30 women were trained in soap-making business to help them increase their income and financially support their families.

"Thanks to the group, my mother uses the loan she takes to sell millet drink and condiments which she uses to pay my school fees." Sakinata, 12-year-old, from Bam

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Children participating in Plan's initiatives.

Together, we're working to create a more just world.

In Bam, women and young people face severe poverty and limited career prospects. Next year, we aim to support employment opportunities for youth through entrepreneurship training and savings groups.

Political unrest and a strain on food resources have increased the risk of malnutrition in infants and children in Bam. Next year, we will raise awareness about nutrition and community health services for young children.

There is a rise in the abduction and use of children by armed forces and groups in Bam. Next year, we will collaborate with the government to strengthen national and community-based child protection systems.

Message from Plan Staff

"Having witnessed the smiles and, most importantly, the hope that your generous donations bring to children, adolescents, young people, and their communities in the province of Bam, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support."



Mathieu Mandi,
Programme Area
Manager, Bam.

The Plan Effect

Sponsored children are at the centre of everything we do, and they help plan our programmes based on what's important to them. Sponsors' donations are a gateway into a community. This helps build trust and credibility to attract even more funds from new sources. This makes more sustainable programmes possible in sponsorship communities. This powerful synergy is something we call The Plan Effect.

Progress in Numbers

45

bicycles were
provided to field
workers

20

girls trained in
bead-making
business

27

girls received
school grants

15

young boys
trained in positive
masculinity