

Bertoua Cameroon

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

In Bertoua, climate change worsens financial difficulties for families, making it hard for many to provide for their children and send them to school. Harmful practices, such as early child marriages leading to teenage pregnancies, and a lack of sexual and reproductive health services further limit opportunities for young people, especially girls. These issues contribute to high school dropout rates, restricting their prospects.

In collaboration with the community, Plan supported educational initiatives that included 3,460 young people participating in children's governments.

Additionally, 23 people participated in educational talks on menstrual hygiene and positive masculinity to support girls in thriving within the community.



Sponsored Children in Bertoua.

"The notebook distribution in schools and the soap-making training were very useful to me, as I can sell the soap I produce."

- Hadjara, 17-year-old Sponsored Child



Impact in Numbers

200

**youths trained as
Champions of
Change**

2,609

**primary school
children received
school kits**

2,972

**girls received solar
lamps**

Girls Become Entrepreneurs



NAME:

Fadimatou

AGE:

22 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

An entrepreneur

“I’ve been able to set up my business and sell cosmetics online. I also don’t hesitate to help my younger peers with advice whenever they need.”



Meet Fadimatou

Like many girls in Cameroon, Fadimatou is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.

Fadimatou, a 22-year-old aspiring entrepreneur living with her parents in Yaoundé, Cameroon, has a passion for reading in her spare time. She dreams of starting a professional training centre focused on manufacturing cosmetic and household products.

Her goal is to empower young girls by providing them with training and helping them become entrepreneurs.

Lack of Economic Opportunities

High poverty rates and early marriages have led to many young people, especially girls, dropping out of school, severely limiting their economic and social opportunities. Fadimatou is one such girl who had to leave school because her family could no longer afford the fees.

Apart from these challenges, there are also no training centres for Fadimatou to further develop her entrepreneurship initiatives and help other girls.

Working Together to Succeed

Through Plan’s training sessions, young girls and women who dropped out of school, like Fadimatou, gain vocational skills to support them in earning an income and becoming financially independent.

As a result, the young girls who participated in these training sessions have started their businesses, including in making and selling soap. Additionally, girls who had dropped out of school received financial support, enabling them to complete their education.



Fadimatou participating in a soap-making training programme.

We Currently Work With 5,191 Sponsored Children in Bertoua

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Promoting Education

In Bertoua, early child marriages and gender-based violence in schools limit young girls' access to inclusive, quality education.

Plan collaborated with the community to raise awareness about the importance of violence-free education for all children, especially girls.

As part of our initiatives, 4,109 children received school kits, allowing their parents to allocate savings to other needs. The kits also helped children take lessons more effectively and keep their school supplies in better condition.

Additionally, 4,295 Sponsored Children received solar lamps, which helped them study and light their homes at night.



Raising awareness of the importance of education for children.

5,566

people discussed inclusive education for youth



A radio broadcast about contraceptive methods.



Chantal participated in a workshop on sexual and reproductive rights.

Staying Safe and Healthy

In Bertoua, harmful social and gender norms that have normalised gender-based violence, along with limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, have affected young people's health – especially girls – further restricting their social and economic opportunities.

In collaboration with the community, Plan raised awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights for young people by training 30 women leaders through a workshop on zero tolerance for violence, where the community shared insights on different types of gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation (FGM), and discussed laws to combat these practices.

Additionally, 557 people were reached with information on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights through commemorations of significant days, such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

"I have learned about the dangers of gender-based violence, STIs, and early marriages, and now I am better informed about how to deal with these issues."

- Chantal, 20, from Bertoua

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Stephanie participated in leadership training in Bertoua.

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

In Bertoua, 36% of girls aged 15 to 19 are at risk of early pregnancies. Next year, Plan will support access to adolescent reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education for young people.

The eastern region is among those with the lowest literacy rates in Cameroon. Next year, Plan will strengthen educational opportunities for children, including identifying sponsored children who are unable to attend school for economic reasons.

Children under the age of five in Bertoua are often not registered for birth certificates. Next year, Plan will support communities in producing and delivering birth certificates.

Message from Plan Staff

"With your support, we strive to improve conditions for people from vulnerable communities, particularly children and girls. The communities are flourishing a little more every day. Thank you for supporting our programmes in Bertoua."



Ngo Djon Dorine,
Programme Unit
Manager,
Bertoua.

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

293

student leaders
trained in quality
education

27

talks held about
youth's access to
education

7

alumni girls
trained in soap-
making

319

birth certificates
distributed to
children