

## Dakar

### Senegal

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

In Dakar, young people, particularly girls and women, are especially disadvantaged by gender stereotypes that restrict their access to financial resources, land, and decision-making opportunities affecting their career prospects. A lack of awareness regarding sexual and reproductive health rights and services negatively impacts the health of girls and young women.

In collaboration with the community, Plan supported vocational skills initiatives in promising careers by training young people in entrepreneurial skills to effectively work in the startup sector.

Additionally, 200 women from 20 Women's and Youth Savings and Credit Associations were celebrated on Women's Day.

"My family has benefited from sheep breeding training programs, which has helped them provide us with adequate health and education services."

- Soda, 12-year-old, Sponsored Child



Mahib participated in a communications workshop.

### Impact in Numbers

699

girls participated in saving group activities

93

young people were trained in digital finance

416

children were registered for healthcare services

# Girls Become Leaders



**NAME:**

**Adama**

**AGE:**

**16 Years Old**

**DREAMS TO BE:**

**An aviation engineer**

**“The poor situation of girls is the reason I was motivated to take part in Plan’s activities and strengthen my leadership and public speaking skills.”**



## Meet Adama

Adama, a 16-year-old girl, currently in high school, wants to become an aviation engineer. She lives with her family in Thies, and in her free time enjoys reading, and watching news on the television and social media.

In her community, caste is still a prevalent issue and acts as a barrier towards gaining access to inclusive education and services for all groups.

## Barriers towards Gaining Equality

In Adama’s community, harmful societal beliefs, particularly related to caste, create tensions and discrimination. The devaluing attitudes toward certain groups undermine young girls’ self-confidence and hinder their potential in school, the workplace, and the community. Such beliefs generate mistrust among community members and restrict girls’ independence.

Adama has been deeply affected by this situation, which has impacted her and other girls’ education and often leads them to drop out of school. She wants to work toward creating a more equal environment for everyone in her community.

## Leading the Change

Adama is an active member of both the Champions of Change Club and the Joining Forces Senegal ambassador network, where she holds the position of National Secretary General. In these roles, she has cultivated strong leadership and public speaking skills, boosting her self-confidence and establishing herself as a key representative for ambassadors within her community.

Through her dedication, Adama has become a powerful advocate and a leading voice for change.



Adama participating in Champions of Change activities.

**We Currently Work with 500 Sponsored Children in Dakar**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Skills to Succeed

**High poverty, inadequate funds and lack of access to property means that young people are struggling to find decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities in Dakar, which can have detrimental effects on their future career prospects.**

In collaboration with the community, Plan has established 50 Youth Savings and Loan Associations (YSLA) to support young people aged 16 to 28 years old to master the savings and loan methodology and actively partake in weekly savings meetings. The organised forum also helped guide 335 young people, including 236 girls, into green and digital professions.

Through our programmes, we also trained 116 young people, including 102 girls and 14 boys, in digital marketing, web development, hairdressing, catering, and sewing, to support them in finding promising future careers.



Girls participating in a leadership programme.

# 1,063

**young people joined Youth Savings and Loans groups**



Women participating in a reforestation initiative in Dakar.



Fatou (17) is the first Plan Ambassador from Dakar.

## Promoting Young Leaders

**In Dakar, children and young people are often not included in community and political decision-making. That means they are not able to become active actors in economic and social change.**

Plan has collaborated with the community to train 100 members of 10 youth organizations in decentralization, community decision-making bodies, and organizational dynamics. These sessions supported the expansion of the youth movement with stronger, better-structured youth organizations.

We also joined forces with the Guédiawaye Health District and teen advisory centre to organise six focus groups and four parent-youth dialogues, raising awareness on topics such as sexual and reproductive health, including menstrual hygiene, early pregnancies, and related school dropouts.

**“The Ambassadors project has enhanced my leadership skills and boosted my confidence in advocating for myself and my peers on important issues.” - Fato (17), from Dakar**

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



A team of children posing for a picture.

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

Many youth organisations working with Plan lack financial independence and legal recognition. Next year, Plan will help them gain legal status and strengthen their capacity to empower young people.

In Dakar, young people often struggle to find decent work opportunities, leading to a high youth unemployment rate. Next year, Plan will support the integration of young people into the workforce through the creation of a career hub.

In Dakar, young people lack knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Next year, Plan will raise awareness through intergenerational dialogues and open days with health services focused on youth.

## Message from Plan Staff

"With your support, we have been able to register children, including girls in the universal health coverage program and carry out community initiatives to ensure a more inclusive, safe learning environment for students in schools. Thank you."



Nathalie Coly,  
Programme Unit  
Manager, Dakar.

## 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

**676**

**children benefited  
from a new school  
library**

**369**

**girls benefited  
from a school  
canteen**

**400**

**children  
benefitted from  
child protection**

**54**

**school leaders  
trained in Gender  
Based Violence**