

Saint Louis Senegal

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

With an urbanization rate below 45%, the Saint Louis region is underdeveloped, with frequent flooding damaging infrastructure and hindering transportation. Children and young people, especially girls, face limited access to education-, health-, and economic resources. Extreme poverty further limits job opportunities and stifles innovation in entrepreneurship and self-employment.

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

Additionally, 65 girls received support in developing their plans to establish their businesses to become financially independent.



Girls participating in training initiatives.

"My family has benefited from sheep breeding training programs, which has helped them provide us with adequate health and education services."
- Soda, 12, Sponsored Child.



Impact in Numbers

500

girls learned about early marriage risks and sanitary pads

437

young people trained in career searching

59

girls trained in advocacy and web activism

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 Work with 7,506 Sponsored Children in Saint Louis

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Sustainable Saving

High poverty, inadequate funds and lack of access to property means that young people are struggling to find decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities in Saint Louis. This can have detrimental effects on youths' future career prospects.

In collaboration with the community, Plan has established 50 Youth Savings and Loan Associations (YSLA). The groups will support young people aged 16 to 28 years old, including 768 girls and 235 boys, to master the savings and loan methodology and actively partake in weekly savings meetings.

Additionally, 90 young people were trained in digital finance, helping them become familiar with various forms of digital finance, and their advantages and disadvantages. They also learned about best practices for developing and implementing a successful resource mobilisation campaign.



A Youth Savings and Loan Associations project meeting being held in Saint Louis.

1,003

young people joined Youth Savings and Loans groups



Young girls participating in Plan's training projects.

Skills to Succeed

In Saint Louis, extreme poverty, lack of quality education, and gender discrimination lead many people from marginalized communities, particularly women, to struggle to find decent employment or entrepreneurship opportunities.

Through our initiatives, we have supported 9,001 women from Savings and Loan Associations in finding financial and technical partners to develop their businesses. Additionally, 45 girls were trained in sewing, catering and handicrafts to help them become financially independent and pave the way for them to become influential leaders in their community.

We also supported youth community initiatives for children, including the construction of classrooms and hygiene facilities to create an inclusive school environment for all students.



Banel, 15-years-old, from Saint Louis.

"Both teachers and students are thrilled with our new school building. It has helped us create a better learning environment. We are more motivated than ever to learn and succeed!" - Banel (15) from Saint Louis

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Three children posing for a picture.

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

Young people lack access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information. Next year, Plan will raise awareness by establishing and training girls' clubs to make reusable sanitary pads.

In Saint Louis, malnutrition and insufficient knowledge about maternal health harm children's long-term development. Next year, Plan will enhance nutritional services, including weight monitoring for children.

Many young people, especially young women, struggle to find decent work in Saint Louis. Next year, Plan will provide technical and vocational training in green and digital professions to ensure their integration in the workforce.

Message from Plan Staff

"This year we supported children and young people, especially girls, in vocational training and leadership activities. I would like to thank all the sponsors who have supported us in improving the children's living conditions."



Abibou Faye,
Programme Unit
Manager, from
Saint Louis.

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

135

young people
trained in
vocational skills

187

children were
trained in child
protection

56,976

children screened
for acute
malnutrition

7,915

women learned
about child
nutrition