

Atakpamé

Togo

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

For example, improved infrastructure like better sanitation facilities and water resources are empowering girls in multiple ways. They don't have to walk long distances to fetch water for their families and they can attend schools even during their menstrual cycles. This, along with the provision of new classrooms, notebooks, training on curriculum development, and study materials, has significantly improved the school enrolment rate.

Vocational training empowers young people to financially support themselves and their families. This has led to a more secure livelihood, as they are gaining independence and agency to make decisions about their lives – like avoiding early marriages and teen pregnancies and instead designing a safe, secure future for themselves.



Six public kindergartens were renovated this year.

“After dropping out of school, I joined Plan’s youth initiative and learnt weaving to support my family. Now I am one of 40 apprentices in my community.” - Esta, 16



Impact in Numbers

4,856

school children received hot meals every day

76,643

students benefit from quality school equipment

3,469

students received school and study materials

Naka defies community norms



NAME:

Naka

AGE:

16 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

A business leader



“Being the only girl doing men’s hairdressing in my community is a source of pride. I have the confidence to express my ideas without fear.”

Meet Naka

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

Naka likes music and dancing. With her eleven siblings and her mother, she lives in a village in Togo. Her father passed away when she was still in primary school. After finishing primary school, Naka dropped out to help her family both financially and with household chores. Poverty, limited support, and social norms like early marriage often prevent girls like Naka from pursuing education or gaining economic independence.

Empowering Youth

Naka’s village is supported by Plan’s Youth Empowerment Project, which has provided her the opportunity to support her family through vocational training for hairdressing. Alongside, she participated in workshops on life skills, sexual education, and rights, helping her understand the dangers of early marriage and gender-based violence. These programmes boosted Naka’s confidence, enabling her to voice her opinions and pursue her dreams. They also strengthened her entrepreneurial skills, empowering her to become more independent and work in a field dominated by men.

Economic Independence

Naka is now an apprentice at a local salon, where her skills allow her to independently manage the workshop. Her improved income helps her meet both her own and her family’s basic needs. She is also a member of a local youth association, Nokourouma, which provides her with a sense of community and supports her journey toward economic independence. With her new aspirations and growing confidence, Naka is lifting her family out of poverty and building a secure, promising future for herself.



Naka with her mother and her younger sister.

We Currently Work With 7,184 Sponsored Children in Atakpamé

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Reforming Schools

Inadequate infrastructures, shortages of teaching staff, and difficult socio-cultural and economic conditions pose challenges for young girls in accessing higher education.

To promote the retention of pupils in school, Plan International is collaborating with local institutions to improve school buildings, equipment, and study materials, and promote girl's education. Last year, 48 new classrooms were built and equipped with sanitary and drinking water facilities. Peer-educators joined clubs to raise awareness among friends, gain leadership skills, and encourage a social environment for students to thrive in. Teachers too are engaging in protecting the students by organising dialogue sessions with parents.

Pupils are gaining knowledge on topics like early pregnancy, menstrual hygiene, child trafficking, and positive masculinity that further their safety so that they can participate in school activities.



Project participant Machoura speaks in front of her classmates.

3,469

students have benefitted from school improvements



Neme and her friends during the cultural week.

WASH Project

Heavy rainfalls and soil instability are weakening sanitary systems and restricting access to drinking water for local communities.

Our WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) initiatives have supported the communities with the construction of sustainable water supply systems and sanitation facilities.

Regional forums collaborate with families to spread awareness about water-related hygiene measures. To promote menstrual hygiene management, Plan organised the celebration of World Menstrual Hygiene Day, strengthening the knowledge of 378 young girls. Young girls and women have improved their capacities to participate in decision-making spaces and develop positive masculinities in their households. Together, we create a system that promotes the fair distribution of household tasks related to WASH and female leadership in creating healthy communities in Togo.



Grace fetches water from the family's private tap.

"The WASH project has provided my family with a private water connection for the last 10 months, so we no longer drink river water or walk long distances to fetch it." -Grace, 11

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



16-year-olds Sponsored Child Yvette arranging the wood in her workshop.

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

To promote and make education accessible, we will continue to work with the communities in strengthening the school infrastructure, making it inclusive for people with disabilities. We will increase fundings for educational and teaching material support, and teachers will strengthen their capacities in curriculum development. Furthermore, we will offer entrepreneurship sessions, funding, innovation support, and financial education to empower young people to build economic independence.

Through our Champions of Change programme, we will build initiatives for young people to strengthen their leadership skills, self-esteem, civic engagement, and advocacy.

Message from Plan Staff

"Girls and young people in Atakpamé have strengthened their capacities and acquired new leadership skills. In the coming years, we will emphasise their empowerment through income-generating activities and entrepreneurship."



Ogoudoumi Atchrimi,
Programme Unit
Manager

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

2,597

youth participate
in events on World
Hygiene Day

1,374

students know
about gender-
based violence

36

children's
governments led
by girls set up

26

households
rehabilitated
after disasters