

## Sokodé

### Togo

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

For example, improved infrastructure is supporting children's access to education at all levels, from kindergarten to secondary schools. The construction of ramps has made schools accessible for children with disabilities. Schools are also constructing merry-go-rounds, swings and fences to enhance the learning experience and children's safety, ensuring that children are motivated to go to school.

Through apprenticeships, hundreds of young people have found employment in diverse fields such as sewing, hairdressing, bakery, and woodwork, among other professions. The community in Sokodé is coming together to ensure a brighter future for their children and the youth to ensure that they have better opportunities to create a secure, independent future.

**"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**



Six public kindergartens were renovated this year.

### Impact in Numbers

**725**

**pupils benefit from new school buildings**

**23,875**

**girls and women know their sexual health rights**

**27**

**health centres offer improved sexual health services**

# 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 11,466 Sponsored Children in Sokodé**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Inclusive Education

**Many schools in Sokodé face significant challenges, with worn-out buildings and inadequate infrastructure that hinder a supportive learning environment.**

Classrooms are often overcrowded, and there are insufficient facilities to accommodate children with disabilities. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, Plan International is working to improve school conditions by providing essential resources like tables, chairs, desks, and teaching materials. So far, 4,146 desks and chairs have been manufactured and supplied to kindergartens. Moreover, building ramps has improved accessibility for children with disabilities.

Women and girls are playing a leading role in driving these improvements. They hold key positions of responsibility in decision-making processes, such as bid evaluations and supply management.



Kindergarten students trying out the new furniture.

**10**  
**ramps in eight primary schools ensure accessibility**



Eunice and her apprentices.

## Skills to Succeed

**27% of youth aged 15 to 24 in Sokode are neither in school nor employed, largely due to financial hardship, poverty, and a lack of learning centres.**

To address these barriers, out-of-school young people are identified and supported in learning trades and starting businesses, empowering them to achieve financial independence. So far, 149 youth have been trained in trades like weaving, sewing, hairdressing, and upholstery, with 70% earning enough to meet their daily needs. This not only improves their socio-economic situation but also enhances the roles of girls and young women within their families and communities.

Through training, equipment provision, and business setup, the project empowers youth by building their capacity for self-employment and entrepreneurship. It boosts their confidence, helping them take control of their future and achieve long-term stability.



Eunice trains four apprentices in her sewing workshop.

**“Because of the vocational trainings, I have my own sewing workshop. Now I am called a boss. The workshop has helped me support myself and my elderly parents.” -Eunice, 24**

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



A pupil with a disability using a ramp at school.

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

To bridge gaps in information related to sexual health, we will continue to collaborate with the communities to provide reproductive health services, sexual education programmes, intergenerational dialogues, and mobile clinics for awareness in remote areas, aiming to transform harmful social norms.

We will continue to support schools with specialised teaching materials and training for teachers to improve their curriculum. Additionally, we will sensitise communities to the needs of children and youth with disabilities.

## Message from Plan Staff

"We collaborate with the communities to support children's education and youth employment. The children Plan supports have easier access to effective medical care. Besides, programmes are designed to combat all forms of violence which undermine children's development."



Zireha Gandhi,  
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

**110**

**kindergartens  
improved their  
infrastructure**

**3,404**

**kindergartners  
benefit from new  
school furniture**

**1,198**

**people fight  
gender-based  
violence**

**721**

**primary schools  
provided with  
study desks**