

Natitingou Benin

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

For example, the Champions of Change (COC) programme is empowering youth with information and resources to make positive decisions about their sexuality, health and futures. They're gaining leadership skills and abilities and becoming agents of change in their communities.

And educational initiatives are supporting young people to attend school and graduate. With additional classrooms and materials, schools can provide inclusive, quality education to more students. The initiatives also reduced the number of pregnancies in secondary schools by at least 50%.

With information, resources and leadership skills, young people in Natitingou are making changes in their communities—and working to improve their futures.

"With Plan's support, I'm now in 6th grade. My classmates appointed me president of my village children's club."

— Reobothe (12)



Young people participating in a training session

Impact in Numbers

2,160

pupils have new classrooms and furniture

264

young entrepreneurs trained for business

434

students learned leadership skills

Investing in her future



NAME:

Carole

AGE:

24 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

An entrepreneur



“When the project first started, during our training sessions, I saw young women speaking out. This gave me courage.”

Meet Carole

Like many women in Benin, Carole is making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself and her family.

Carole left school when she had her first child at age 20. In her community, many young women leave school or apprenticeships because of early pregnancies. Without education or income-generating work, however, these women become economically dependent on their families.

Challenging Gender Expectations

Carole joined one of the 58 Youth Saving and Loans Association (YSLA) groups set up by the project Plan for Girls. These groups enable adolescents and young people to save money and take out loans. Carole took out a loan to develop her small business—after repaying the loan, she took out another one and expanded.

The group inspired Carole to see a future of economic independence. “I said, if other women like me can have a job and become respected people, then so can I, even if I’m a stay-at-home mom.”

Empowering the Next Generation

Now, Carole is a member of the Girls’ Advisory Committee, where she represents her peers and helps to amplify their voices. Along with other women from the project, she helps identify the challenges facing adolescent girls and young women concerning economic empowerment.

Carole’s hope is for more young women to benefit from the same opportunities—and as a community leader, she is committed to helping the girls in her village become financially independent and invest in their futures.



As a member of the Girls' Advisory Committee, Carole proposes actions to improve economic independence.

We Work With 8,632 Sponsored Children in Natitingou

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Education for All

Over 2,100 children in Natitingou are empowered with better access to education, and improved learning conditions.

A quality, gender-friendly learning environment is key to supporting students in attending and completing school. This year, two modules of classrooms, plus offices, storerooms and eight latrines were constructed. With the addition of more classroom furniture and educational materials, it was possible for schools to increase their capacity to educate more pupils.

In addition, four Community Education Centres opened, re-enrolling students in the education system. Twelve-year-old Boukari says, “I dropped out in grade 4. When the Community Education Centre was created, I decided to go back to school. I’m very happy to be back in the formal school and to see my friends again. My parents are proud to see me back in school.”



Educational materials and resources are making a difference for pupils in Natitingou

2,100
children received school kits



A Champions of Change (COC) meeting

Empowering Youth

The Champions of Change (COC) clubs empower youth with leadership skills and resources.

Through COC, young people train on gender equality and inclusion, learning to become agents of change in their communities.

This year, 180 COC clubs, combined with Integrated Sexual Education sessions and parent-child dialogues, strengthened youth knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights. As a result, early pregnancy rates were considerably reduced.

The project promotes an inclusive civil society, with a focus on eliminating gender-based violence, preventing early pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and supporting the empowerment of young people—especially young women—in a favourable environment where rights guarantors are accountable.



60% of girls in COC report improved self-esteem and public speaking abilities.

“Since the implementation of the project, I noticed a big change, with girls enrolling in school in large numbers.”

— Rosine (13)

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Today's youth become the leaders of tomorrow.

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

We will support children's right to an education by improving learning and working conditions for pupils and teachers. Schools in the area lack classrooms and desks, so we will make tables and benches, and mobilise all education partners to raise financial resources.

Many areas of Natitingou are unstable. We will help provide a humanitarian response to crisis areas and protect communities from violence.

We will build the capacity of local leaders in emergency and humanitarian issues, who can then cascade the knowledge to others.

Message from Plan Staff

"There have been many movements of people in Natitingou and this is a result of security threats and recurrent attacks and explosions over the past two years. These shocks have made more fragile the precarious situation of those communities and seriously hindered children from enjoying their rights, especially girls."



Paul Sabi Boum,
Programme Area
Manager,
Natitingou

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

117

pupils attended 4
new Community
Education Centres

1,883

pupils accessed
specialised school
courses

180

health workers
trained on sexual
health

62

schools taught
menstrual health
management