

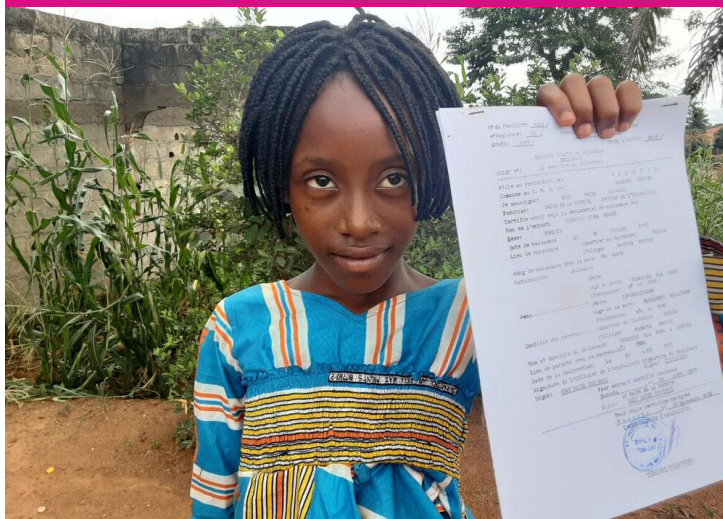
## Macenta Guinea

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

Hundreds of children now have their birth certificates which help them access services and be more secure about opportunities. Moreover, different stakeholders from communities, such as parents, teachers, religious leaders, and formal institutions, are coming together to support young girls in accessing opportunities like education, trade learning and sports facilities.

Families are generating awareness about the importance of vaccination for their young children, which has helped them mitigate diseases and lower the child mortality rate in the region. Additionally, the construction of new classrooms, and improved infrastructure facilities like borewells and school furniture, means that schools are no longer overcrowded and pupils do not have to walk long distances to fetch drinking water.

**"Many children in our community do not have birth certificates. But during the awareness raising, the project identified and gave me one, as well as many other children." - Helene (9)**



Youth participants at Labour Day celebrations.

### Impact in Numbers

# 138

**teachers have better capacities to protect the pupils**

# 5,938

**students sensitised about importance of education**

# 10,396

**pupils benefited from improved sanitary facilities**



# Education for Empowerment



**NAME:**

**Clarice**

**AGE:**

**16 Years Old**

**DREAMS TO BE:**

**A Seamstress**

**“Thanks to this training, I will be a good seamstress, and take care of me and my family without relying on the income of a future husband.”**



## Meet Clarice

**Like many girls in Guinea, Clarice is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.**

Clarice started school at 6 and dreamt of becoming a doctor or a public health worker. However, over time due to the strenuous financial situation in her family, she had to discontinue her education and her dreams were squashed. Subsequently, Clarice started supporting her family with farm work and house chores. Like Clarice, numerous girls in local communities come from families with high rates of poverty and illiteracy. The basic survival needs, like food and health, require that all family members have employment or caregiving roles. This also isolates the youth from fostering a sense of community with their peers and leads to isolation and helplessness.

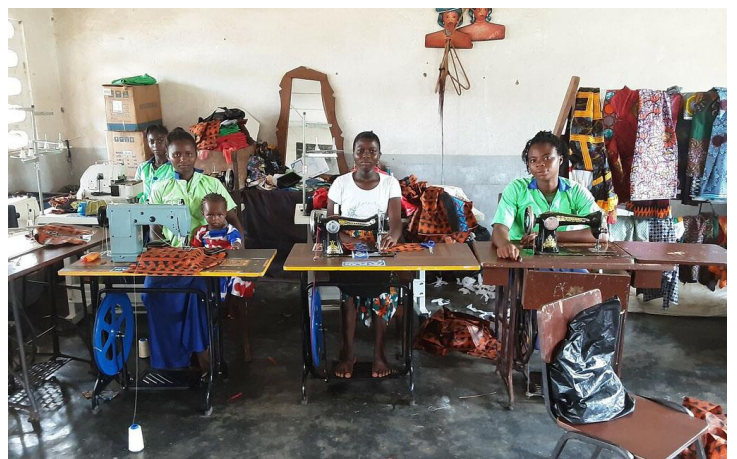
## Informal learnings

A local non-formal learning centre NAFA, is supported by Plan International to promote learning of trades among the youth - especially for young women - so they can specialise in income-generating professions and be financially independent. In the face of her hardships, Clarice joined the learning centre to train in sewing.

## A stitch in time

Clarice now has a community of peers who come from similar circumstances as her, who distribute their time between familial responsibilities and learning a new trade. They feel empowered to exercise and express their needs and rights in their family.

Their trade learning is accompanied by literary activities, like reading, math and noting basic measurements, which enable them to support the learning of their trade and also pave the way to re-enter formal schooling in the future.



Clarice and her friends practice sewing at the learning centre.

**We Work With 11,379 Sponsored Children in Macenta**

# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Equality in Education

**In Macenta, accessing education is a major issue for girls and children with disabilities. Only 26% of the girls are enrolled in secondary level of schooling.**

The school project focuses on quality and inclusive education to improve access to formal education for all. Additionally, it supports vulnerable groups in acquiring skills through social mobilisation, capacity-building of teachers and easy access to learning materials. Training centres have been equipped with tools and materials to improve the learning conditions. Moreover, sanitation facilities are rehabilitated and equipped to benefit 10,4019 students - of which 23 are students with disabilities.

Together, the communities are fighting against the exploitation of children by participating in talk sessions and learning about their consequences. These key initiatives have supported young girls and children with disabilities in accessing better equity and equality in getting access to opportunities to improve their lives.



Pre-school students with their new furniture at the drop-off facility.

# 5,938

**students mobilised by youth organisations**



Local community in Macenta who have access to clean water facility with their new borewell.



Hundreds of youth like Angeline have benefited through local access to water supply in Macenta.

## Improving Family Health

**Approximately one child out of 15 dies before reaching their first birthday in Guinea.** To support the communities in reducing their exposure to epidemic-prone diseases, and prepare them for disaster, Plan International carries out awareness-raising and advocacy to improve the response efforts.

40 vaccine awareness sessions were carried out for pregnant women. To improve access to quality water, five boreholes were developed, benefiting 1,225 people. Communities also have access to improved sanitation facilities and materials like garbage bins, wheelbarrows, shovels, gloves and boots. Four steering committees manage these materials and coordinate activities, manage stocks and ensure cleanliness and awareness.

Through children and youth structures, and local NGOs, boys and men are also better sensitised and informed to promote and adopt positive conceptions of masculinity.

**"We had to travel very far to find a water source which put us at various kinds of risk. With the new borewells, the entire community now has better access to drinking water." - Angeline (19)**



# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Elisabeth's mother is a birth attendant, often called to facilitate safe delivery for pregnant women in her village.

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

Protecting children from violence will remain our utmost priority. With birth registration campaigns, awareness programs against abusive exploitation, and child protection systems, we will provide support to children so they can lead a safe and secure lives.

To support better school enrolment, we will provide students with remedial courses, renovate of school and infrastructure, and build the capacity of parents and teachers to protect their children from violence. We will ramp up the operations of training centres to empower young women with their financial independence and trade learning.

## Message from Plan Staff

"Your sponsorship has contributed towards bringing significant changes in the lives of children, families and entire communities. We provided services to 27 communities in Macenta area implementing programs on health, education, protection and family resilience."



Damas  
Tonguino,  
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

**2,406**

people sensitised  
about child safety  
in schools

**313**

women are aware  
of vaccination  
programs

**1,225**

people benefit  
from 5 new  
boreholes

**1,734**

people know  
about risks of  
early pregnancy