

# **Annual Update**

# Sud-Est Haiti

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

Even as political instability, gang violence, food insecurity and climate change have created an extreme situation for many families in Haiti, the Sud-Est community is working to strengthen resources for young people and families.

For example, schools implemented climate emergency plans and pupils learned life-saving response measures. We distributed school-kits and worked with parents and teachers to keep children in school. We also established safe spaces for displaced children in some of the most crisis-affected areas of Haiti.

By empowering young people, the Sud-Est community is working to make positive changes.



A safe environment is key for Sud-Est families.

# "My parents couldn't afford the school fees. Plan helped pay a part of the required amount, and my parents paid the rest." —Roselove (15)

### **Impact in Numbers**

7,900

Pupils received school kits

7,735

Children received psychosocial support

6,000

People learned about gender equality

# A Seat in the Classroom for Everyone



Bessiqua

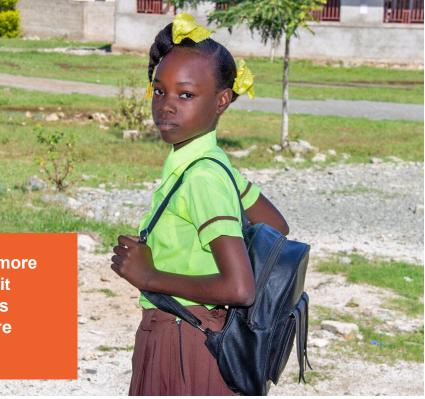
AGE:

14 years old

**DREAMS TO BE:** 

**A nurse** 

"Plan helped the school get more benches so students could sit properly. Nowadays, students write properly because they're sitting comfortably."



### Meet Bessiqua

Like many children in Haiti, Bessiqua faced challenges in her pursuit of an education.

Bessiqua is a 9th grader who lives with her mother and twin brother. Her favourite hobbies are reading, singing and dancing.

Financial difficulties make it difficult for her mother to buy all the necessary school supplies, yet Bessiqua loves learning and plans to be a nurse. She believes girls need support and encouragement to pursue their dreams.

### The Impact of Economic Resources

In Bessiqua's classroom, students sit on benches. Yet her school lacked enough benches for students and teachers, creating an uncomfortable environment. Bessiqua recalls students fighting over space, and describes how pupils found it impossible to focus with the distractions and disruptive behaviour of an overcrowded classroom.

By coordinating with schools, Plan was able to support an initiative to improve classrooms – enabling all students to have a place to access their right to an education.

### The Power of Education

With financial aid, 12 schools were able to build furniture such as benches, chairs, and sideboards, and repair old and damaged roofs. Schools like Bessiqua's contributed additional funds for labour and other expenses. Thanks to this collaboration, classrooms are less crowded and teachers have a suitable place to work – and the positive environment enables school management to focus on educational initiatives.

"Plan helped the school," Bessiqua says. "That meant a lot to me."



Improved classrooms provide students with a better learning environment.

# **Projects That Support Lasting Change**

### Girls Take the Lead

Students are empowered to act in times of emergency.

Sud-Est is extremely vulnerable to climate disasters. Schools are especially susceptible to damage during emergency situations, and access to healthcare and services is limited.

A new disaster-response project builds the capacity of girls and women to provide immediate first aid to victims of emergencies at school.

This year, four schools implemented an emergency plan. After making a risk analysis, the pupils developed an evacuation plan and participated in simulation exercises that enabled them to act effectively in a disaster situation.

This project strengthens community resilience, and enables girls and young women to be better integrated into disaster management plans and response efforts.



Pupils like Phadia learn risk response.

700

Students trained in lifesaving techniques



Youvica reads about the environment.

# A Sustainable Option

Switching to green charcoal can help save Haitian forests and provide opportunities for women.

In Sud-Est, 80% of the population use wood charcoal for cooking. This has a devastating impact on forests and soil. Green charcoal, which is produced from agricultural waste, provides an alternative.

This project equips young women and girls with technical knowledge on the production of green charcoal, biochar and the manufacture of improved fireplaces.

This year, 2,000 households learned about the use of green charcoal and improved stoves. In the community, 200 young women trained in green charcoal production techniques, and four innovative youth-led initiatives strengthened community resilience and promoted youth participation.



Young women are empowered with a green economy.

"The green economy will be useful. It will reduce deforestation and the risk of environmental disasters."

—Youvica (17)

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Today's children are tomorrow's leaders.

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

Children represent 50% of displaced people in Sud-Est. This coming year, we will strengthen community protection structures for children and establish child-friendly centres for psychosocial support.

More than half a million people are internally displaced in Haiti due to the ongoing crisis. We will strengthen community resilience, train on climate crises and support disaster response projects in schools.

Half the population faces high levels of acute food insecurity. Cash transfers will aid displaced families and resources and materials will help to develop agricultural initiatives.

### Message from Plan Staff

"Haiti is going through difficult times. Despite the difficult situation, Plan continues to adjust its programmatic agenda to assist children, by investing in education and health to have a positive impact on their lives. On behalf of Sud-Est, I would like to thank our devoted donors."



Renel Jerome, Programme Area Manager, Sud-Est

### 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**

Partnerships formed to provide job training

People trained on disaster risk reduction

Youth learned about green business

Schools worked to build resilience