

Maradi Niger

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

Maradi has the highest early marriage rate, with nearly 9 in 10 married off before 18. The region has a high number of displaced families due to armed conflicts, and for many parents marriage is considered a protective measure for daughters against potential predators amidst insecurity and widespread violence.

Through accelerating schooling programs, school materials, safeguarding measures and child protection advocacy work, we work together with parents, local government and civil society to raise awareness of the harmful consequences of child marriage and transform harmful gender norms. Moreover, hundreds of young boys and girls have their birth certificates now. It has enabled them to access basic provisions and higher education.



Young boys play their favourite game.

"The remedial courses have improved my school performance. With better reading and writing skills, I am now at the top of my class." - Balkissa (10)



Impact in Numbers

564

members are part of child protection committees

1,094

youth attended sexual health and rights sessions

2,800

women are generating their own income

Advocate for Girls' Education



NAME:

Rahina

AGE:

22 Years Old

DREAMS TO BE:

A Teacher

“Because of our collective efforts as volunteers, our municipality is the cleanest and people are becoming more and more aware of the importance of schooling.”



Meet Rahina.

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

Rahina is in the final year of her high school. In her free time, she enjoys sewing and reading. Rahina was inspired by her parents to work as a community volunteer. Her peers chose her to be a member of the children's and youth club, which strengthened her school and working life. She has four sisters and two brothers.

Challenges for the youth

Less than 8% girls obtain upper secondary education. Driven by poverty, these young girls drop out of school to get married. Early marriage and low levels of education hinder girls' empowerment and have a negative impact on their children keeping them in a cycle of poverty. Thousands of girls lack agency to make their own life decisions and have few opportunities to participate in social or professional activities. Rahina's club holds sessions to promote the education for young girls, recognise violence against women, and organise awareness in sanitation and hygiene.

Rahina's team at work

Together with Rahina and her youth organisation, we strengthen partnerships with municipalities, local non-governmental organizations to make services more democratic. We also partner with radio stations and decentralise technical services for better outreach. These community-managed projects carry out activities prioritising participation of children and youth. By building capacities of the youth through income generating activities, they are able to stay enrolled in schools and continue their education. As a result, the school enrolment rate has improved by over 10%.



Rahina and her classmates prepare for their exams.

We Currently Work With 5,300 Sponsored Children in Maradi

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Break Free Maradi

Lack of information and stigma around sexual and reproductive health in Maradi present significant barriers for the region's youth. To address this, communities are uniting to not only prevent teen pregnancies but also to ensure that young people can fully exercise their reproductive rights. Awareness sessions support local communities, and equips them with resources to safeguard the future of their children.

Safe space networks run by 21 local youth groups have enhanced skills and knowledge. In addition, 200 adolescents have formed 20 "Future Husband Clubs," equipping themselves with essential knowledge about reproductive and maternal health services. Through health fairs, both women and children are learning about the preventive and curative aspects of health, contributing to more informed communities. At institutional level, 50 officials have participated in awareness session to develop policies and acts in favour of development and well-being of the youth.



A nurse administering the dose of polio vaccine.

500

girls are part of safe spaces network



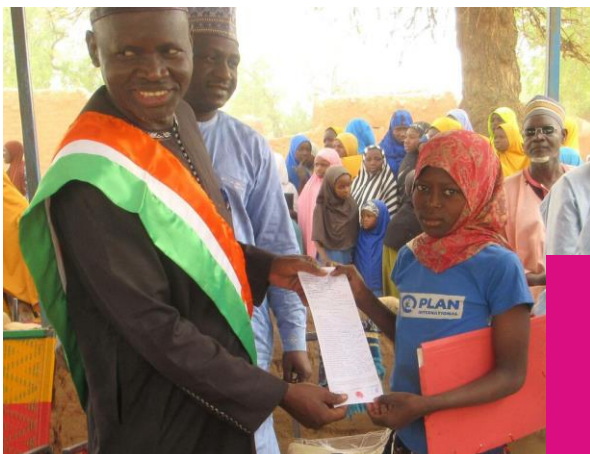
Young girls using their new latrines.

Children of the future

Systematic challenges like poverty and food insecurity, along with deeply rooted cultural and social norms, often force families to marry off their young daughters.

Deprived of education and economic independence, these young girls are trapped in a cycle of poverty. This project strengthens the resilience of local communities, enabling them to safeguard children's rights and create lasting, sustainable change.

In the past year, 1,094 people participated in awareness sessions focused on sexual and reproductive health. Beyond this, we worked with communities in Maradi to promote equality and access to basic resources for young girls and children. Our initiatives included scholarships, income-generating activities, school infrastructure improvements, and school canteen provisions. By placing girls at the centre of our efforts, and collaborating with communities, schools, and local leaders, we are creating a safe, secure, and violence-free environment that empowers youth to thrive.



800 children like Charifa have received their birth certificates.

"Without my birth certificate, I would not be accepted as a college candidate. Now I can continue my education and even travel when I grow up." -Charifa, 12

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Karima revising her lessons at home.

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

In the coming year, we will retain young girls in school through improved advocacy among parents and communities, and raise awareness on the risks linked to child marriage.

To promote economic empowerment among women, we will ramp up income-generation activities in the region, and promote entrepreneurship.

We will strengthen the infrastructure and management of cereal banks and agricultural production materials. Additionally, we will support implementation of National Response Plan to address food and national insecurity in the region.

Message from Plan Staff

"With your support we continue our mission to empower children, young people and communities to adapt to change, be more resilient and bring about essential and lasting change."



Barira Magagi
Goube, Program
me Unit
Manager, Maradi

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

800

children benefit
from new birth
certificates

50

parliamentarians
advocate girls'
education

2,700

girls receive
menstrual
hygiene kits

5,300

families with
children received
mosquito nets