

## Adjohoun Benin

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

This past year, the Youth Empowerment in West Africa (YEWA) programme supported young people to access training and resources for quality employment. They're gaining marketable skills and becoming agents of development in their communities.

In addition, school governments and parliaments are providing students with their own platform to lead and advocate. As a result, youth concerns like gender discrimination, early pregnancy and child protection are addressed with parents and community leaders.

With education, resources and leadership skills, young people in Adjohoun are making changes in their communities—and taking steps toward 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)



Today's children become tomorrow's leaders.

### Impact in Numbers

**80**

**associations taught income-generating activities**

**15,625**

**young women supported with vocational training**

**1,027**

**people reached with a campaign on early pregnancy**

# 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 9,314 Sponsored Children in Adjohoun**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Students Lead

**Children and young people in Adjohoun are learning, leading and making an impact in their communities.**

Students are engaging in school government programmes, where leadership initiatives strengthen students' knowledge and awareness and improve school retention rates.

This year, 12 school parliaments and 20 school governments were established, where student leaders advocate for children's rights and engage parents and community leaders through campaigns, workshops and events. One campaign, addressing high rates of early pregnancy, was carried out in ten schools.

Eleven-year-old Précieuse is the Minister of Health in her School Government. She says, "We speak in front of our classmates to give our viewpoints on problems we face. These awareness-raising campaigns also helped pupils change their behaviour."



Student leader Précieuse, answering questions in class.

# 38,376

**pupils supplied with school kits**



220 youth associations were established to promote citizenship.



Young people like Brigitte gain invaluable skills for the future.

## Empowering Youth

**Youth in the YEWA programme are becoming agents of development in their communities.**

The Youth Empowerment in West Africa (YEWA) Programme supports young people with vocational training, as well as communication skills—empowering them with the knowledge to become leaders.

This year, more than 500 young people trained in leadership, management and communication, and 119 young people trained in advocacy strategy development. As a result, 70 young entrepreneurs drew up business plans and obtained loans from microfinance institutions.

Youth also learned about themes such as the protection of adolescents, and sexual and reproductive health. Through YEWA, young people can also cascade the knowledge to their peers, supporting their community and making a difference.

**"I developed skills in leadership, communication and teamwork. I also gained confidence and self-esteem."  
— Brigitte (17)**

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Access to quality education is key to a child's future.

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

In Adjohoun, 38% of women are unemployed. In the coming year, income-generating cooperatives will help to economically empower mothers. Women will train on savings group methodology and have access to resources to invest in their futures.

The primary school dropout rate is 10%. We will support communities to improve school retention rates—one initiative is with the construction of school canteen kitchens.

We will also support young people in vocational training. We will help train young people for entrepreneurship and support them with resources to create their own businesses.

## Message from Plan Staff

"The exciting journey for the children and their families continues with your support. Once again, this year, thousands of people have been impacted by our programming and influencing activities, with our network partners. Thank you for that! Together, let's continue the adventure."



Roger Bakary,  
Programme Area  
Manager,  
Adjohoun

## 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

783

girls supported in  
professional  
internships

7

canteens built in  
schools

166

sessions held on  
gender-based  
violence

62

schools raised  
awareness of  
menstrual health