

Dioila

Mali

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

This year, young women gained leadership skills through their advocacy initiatives—and made changes in their communities. Their campaigns directed at their peers, municipal authorities and community leaders promoted the rights of children and girls. By speaking out against discrimination and violence, these young women made female leadership visible in the community and established awareness among children, parents and leaders.

In addition, a Community Resilience project addressed food insecurity for preschoolers. New classrooms and food storage facilities were constructed, and preschools were supplied with cereal banks to feed pupils. This reduced hunger, improved students' attendance and provided a safe learning environment.

"We learned to talk to each other without taboos. Thus, many of us are well-oriented in matters of sexual and reproductive health."

— Assetou (17)



Education is key for children like Seydou and Moussa.

Impact in Numbers

75

Village Savings and Loan (VSL) groups established

2,750

pupils received extra preparation for Grade 9 exams

19,980

children were vaccinated

Investing in her future



NAME:

Tata

AGE:

29 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

An entrepreneur



“From a former Sponsored Family, I benefited from training. As a result, I became conscious about social problems that threaten our societies.”

Meet Tata

Like many women in Mali, Tata is building a stronger future for herself and her family.

Tata is a former Sponsored Child who now lives with her husband. She enjoys walking and chatting with her friends in her spare time.

Creating Opportunity for Independence

In Tata's community, many girls do not work due to the lack of training and income-generating opportunities. Instead, they marry early and manage the household work.

Raising awareness is key to creating community change and challenging restrictive gender norms. As campaigns promoted the importance of educating girls, young women like Tata saw their chance to become financially independent.

Tata enrolled at a vocational school where she studied tailoring for two years. Today these tailoring skills are the foundation of her small business, which helps support her family's needs. Along with other tailors, Tata participated in an awareness programme focused on youth entrepreneurship.

Empowering the Next Generation

And Tata is not the only young woman to invest in her future. Through campaigns carried out by youth, in partnership with Plan International, more girls and women are aware of their rights.

New classrooms are enabling more pupils—especially girls—to attend school, and vocational training at job centres provides the opportunity to learn marketable skills. With successful entrepreneurs like Tata leading by example, young people can plan for a future of economic independence.



Tata with her sewing machine.

We Work With 11,374 Sponsored Children in Dioila

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Feeding the future

A Community Resilience project addressed food insecurity and increased preschool attendance—especially for girls.

Most preschools in Dioila do not have resources to provide pupils with food, and few have adequate food storage.

The Community Resilience Project built 18 preschools and provided them with food for children. This increased pupils' attendance rate and improved their nutritional health. Three classrooms and two latrines were also constructed, as well as two storage units managed by a committee trained to protect the food from bad weather and insects.

Fifteen-year-old Bintou says the programme enables schools to nurture younger children. She adds, "This support brings much joy and development in the behaviour of all the children. In fact, many of them are in a hurry in the morning to join their peers to follow classes, dance, sing, and eat."



Bintou, in her village's cereal bank.

18

**preschools constructed
in Dioila**



A ceremony celebrated the new business owners here with their start-up kits.



Aminata participated in the workshop organised by young female leaders.

Learning to lead

Girls and young women are thriving with community-based leadership and empowerment initiatives.

In Dioila, two associations for young women conducted advocacy campaigns directed at their peers, municipal authorities and community leaders to promote female leadership. The project established advocacy actions to challenge existing gender-based discrimination and promote the rights of children and girls.

Vocational training and employment initiatives provided youth with opportunities to invest in their futures. For example, 53 young women who trained at job learning centres were supported with start-up kits. With these kits, the young entrepreneurs were better positioned to set up their businesses—and today, they are independent, and actively contributing to the development of their families and communities.

"I appreciated Plan selecting girl leaders' associations to conduct awareness and advocacy campaigns against violence and injustices."

—Aminata (16)

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



We will advocate for inclusive education in Dioila.

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

In the coming year, we will help youth associations to advocate in their communities, challenging existing norms around gender-based violence, early marriage and Female Genital Mutilation.

We will support school leaders to provide inclusive environments. We will ensure that gender-sensitive school programmes are established, which include Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

Supporting young women with quality employment opportunities is key. We will strengthen vocational training, and link youth to technical and professional opportunities.

Message from Plan Staff

"Plan International and its partners have made significant improvements in the achievement of children's rights and especially for girls' rights in Dioila. Your contribution is greatly appreciated to continue the achievements already initiated for the development of all children and girls in particular."



Mamadou Seck,
Programme Area
Manager, Dioila

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

40

teachers trained
on child
protection

2

solar water supply
systems installed

220

community
volunteers
trained

143

women's
business plans to
be financed