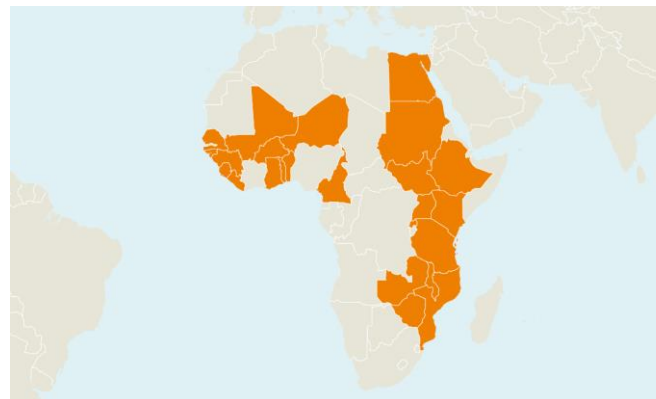


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# GUINEA

## KISSIDOUGOU



**Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Kissidougou. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.**

This past year, key projects focused on improving health care, and reducing harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). Educational talks and dialogues reached hundreds of girls and women with information about the dangers of FGM/C, and outreach sessions educated thousands of people on nutrition, vaccinations, and sexually transmitted infections.

As a result of these initiatives, girls and their families have a happier, healthier future.



**90**

Girls learned about menstrual health and hygiene



**230**

Girls learned sewing trades through vocational training



**940**

Children obtained a birth certificate or official documentation

**“THANKS TO PLAN FOR INITIATING THE AWARENESS PROJECT ON FGM THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO GIRLS’ WELFARE.”**

Germaine, 17-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: FATOU**

**AGE: 17 YEARS OLD**

**DREAMS TO BE: A  
BUSINESSWOMAN**

**“THANKS TO MY INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITY, I FEEL PROUD OF MYSELF BECAUSE I CAN DECIDE WHAT I WANT FOR MYSELF AND MY FAMILY.”**

## Meet Fatou

**Like the child you sponsor, Fatou is taking steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself.** Despite leaving school in the fifth grade, where she felt discouraged and bullied, Fatou now has a thriving business and has become a leader for girls and women in her community.

## Seizing the Opportunity to Learn

After leaving school early, Fatou spent her days working small jobs such as transporting water. With little social or economic capital, she was considered a shame to her family.

Fatou was identified as a good match for Plan's empowerment programme. The project supports at-risk and excluded girls with vocational training, and provides technical and financial support as the girls start small businesses.

Fatou seized the opportunity to learn – and for six months, she participated in intense training at a centre where she and 14 other girls learned about plant and animal production, food processing and artisanal skills. Fatou decided to specialise in soap-making.

## Becoming Independent

“After six months of training, I was able to set up my saponification workshop. I make and market soap in my village and three other surrounding villages in the community, and in return I make a financial profit allowing me to support myself,” says Fatou.

To date, Fatou's business and her income are both growing – as is her influence as a role model. Once marginalised, Fatou and the girls in her programme now contribute to social and economic development in their communities. Fatou is creating change in her world and empowering other girls to succeed.



*Fatou is a leader and role model for other girls*



# OUR PROJECTS IN KISSIDOUGOU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Fourteen cooking demonstrations engaged parents and children, and focused on using local products to create healthy meals.

## RAISING HEALTHY FAMILIES



**Empowering parents with information and resources is key to improving the health and well-being of children and young people.** This year, health initiatives included awareness sessions about essential nutrition, educational talks on infant and mother health, and radio broadcasts and discussions on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Educational talks, home visits, and focus group discussions reached more than 53,000 people and had a positive impact on their health. Broadcasts shared information on themes such as prenatal consultations, vaccinations, and sexually transmitted infections. As a result, more women attended prenatal consultations and rates of child immunisations rose.

In addition, 2,903 adolescents and girls learned about subjects such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C), early marriage, and the importance of staying in school.



## PROTECTING GIRLS FROM FGM/C



**In Kissidougou, 95% of young women aged 15-19 have undergone Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C).** This year, initiatives to protect at-risk and excluded girls from FGM/C and early marriage focused on improving resources and information on this dangerous practise.

Providing alternatives to FGM/C was a key initiative. People learned about the harmful lifelong effects of FGM/C, and trained in alternative rites of initiation. Educational talks and dialogues engaged hundreds of girls, women and children with information about the dangers of FGM/C, and 57 local child protection organisations were strengthened with resources to protect girls.

“Through this training, I learned a lot. I’m able to talk about FGM/C to my friends at school as well as in the village, and today, thanks to this training, the practice is diminishing in our community.”

**- Marie (10) from Kissidougou**



# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come – and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Kissidougou.

- Guinea has the second-highest rate of FGM/C in the world. We will continue to provide communities with information about the dangers of this practise.
- Only 26% of girls enrol in secondary school. We will work to reduce the gender gap in education with revision classes, school kit provision and teacher training.
- There is a general acceptance of violence, with almost 87% of teenage girls saying they felt men had the right to beat their wives. We will continue to advocate for gender equality and the elimination of gender-based violence.

Thank you for your continued support.



"I would hereby like to sincerely thank you for your valuable financial and moral support that enabled Plan Guinea to bring significant changes in the lives of children in our area."

**Faya Barthelemy Tinguino**  
Programme Area Manager

## THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment becomes long-term change – providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan's Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

## THE LAST 12 MONTHS



### JANUARY



50

Midwives trained on sexual and reproductive health

### FEBRUARY



12

Men and girls trained as mentors for gender equality

### SEPTEMBER



101

Educators trained on active teaching methods

### DECEMBER



2

Modern school canteens constructed