

## “See Our World”

“An essential part of Plan’s work is to help create spaces for children and young people to discuss together the issues which affect their lives, then ensure adults respect their views so that children may be involved in community decision-making. This communication has been prepared with and by children directly and is intended to give a general sense of the kinds of issues children discuss and how they work together.”

### History

Greetings from Guinea Conakry! Macenta is in the southern part of Guinea Conakry. Plan has been with us for almost a decade now. One major challenge facing us is unwanted pregnancy. With the help of Plan, our parents, the school and local authorities we have come together to discuss and control this problem.



“My name is Gaou,  
I became pregnant when I was in grade 7  
and because of baby-sitting I was compelled to  
spend two years at home. Today, I very much  
regret having a child to cater for and not being  
able to continue with my education. Being a  
single mother is not my dream but today I am  
compelled to accept it. My concern is not to let  
my daughter go through  
the same problem.”

Teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18 with unwanted pregnancies become school drop outs because they are disappointed with themselves and are ashamed of going back to school. Some of their reasons are;

- \* They feel humiliated in front of their peers who look down on them.
- \* Some of them are rejected by their parents.
- \* Some have to stay at home and take care of their babies.



18 year old Gaou

## Reasons

Sex education is considered a taboo in our area. Illiteracy is very high and as a result most of us have no idea of the negative sexual implications. Poverty, ignorance and peer pressure makes some of us engage in bad practices such as watching pornographic films and indecent exposure to our girls.



"I am Mariame, I like studying but now that I am pregnant, I don't know whether I will take care of my child after birth or go back to school".



"My name is Gbawoui, I left school when I was in grade 7. I was good at school and friends and teachers appreciated me, visited me often and offered me gifts. So, I started going to dance and watching all kinds of movies. Consequently, I became pregnant and was sacked from school and my parents' home. Today, I am a mere housewife living with my aunt. The "father" of my child cannot take care of me let alone my child. What a terrible thing for me?"

## Sex Education

With assistance from Plan we have established Radio Clubs. We sensitize our friends and parents on the effects of early pregnancies, contraception, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases to the entire locality. We are educating our people on the following

- \* Sex should be discussed openly.
- \* Our leaders should prevent teenagers from watching pornographic films.
- \* Sex education should be taught in our schools.
- \* Our radio broadcast programmes on sex education should be in all local languages.

"This document was reviewed and edited by Plan Staff."