

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Lofa. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted them.

This year, children and youth advocated against harmful and discriminatory gender norms, attending workshops to learn about sexual and reproductive health and rights. In addition, eight new school-based Girls Clubs empower girls aged 12 to 19 with the resources and information to demand their rights. This also helps to make schools a more welcoming environment for girls, thereby reducing dropout rates.

And life in Lofa is safer for young children, too: Access to safe water improved, and vaccination rates for babies has increased to 93%.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Lofa.



96,6

Children participated in gender-equality trainings



12

Village Savings and Loan Groups established



60

Teachers trained on child protection and safeguarding



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN LIBERIA

Hear from Justina about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

“During the COVID fight, Plan was seen in our communities with preventive materials: hand washing buckets, soap, etc... I have regularly been receiving educational supports. Bravo to Plan and all the supporting partners for their tireless support to Liberian children.”

CASE STORY: ADVOCATING FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION



NAME: MA WATTA

AGE: 24

**HOBBY: SINGING,
FITNESS**

"I was offered a scholarship by Plan International Liberia. My life has taken another dimension. I am self-reliant. Bravo to Plan and all the donors, our sponsors around the world."

Meet Ma Watta

Like your sponsored child, Ma Watta has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Ma Watta is a former sponsored child, living with her family in Liberia. Her father has three wives, and each wife is responsible for caring for her children with some support from the father for school fees and food. The family's main occupation is farming.

Ma Watta attended a primary school built and sponsored by Plan International. Now, she serves as an advocate for the school's Girls Club.

Barriers to Education

Accessing education has not been easy for girls like Ma Watta. Gender discrimination means that boys are given the preference for education, while girls stay at home. As a result, girls are often illiterate, and experience low self-esteem and social intimidation. Many girls are obliged to marry at an early age. Ma Watta was lucky. She thanks Plan for the community outreach on girls' education, remembering how her parents, as a result, enrolled her in school. "Today, I am one of the persons that have really benefited from Plan International Liberia," she declares.

Creating Change

Plan International works in 68 sponsorship communities in Lofa. Together with government agencies such as the Ministry of Education, we're creating awareness, training teachers and, supporting communities. Parents also become part of the change, and now more girls are earning their high school diploma. In fact, the number of girls in secondary school has increased to 85%. "In our girls' club meetings, I have learned the importance of a girl being educated. It is very shameful to appear in public and you are unable to write or speak fluently. I am grateful to Plan International for their tireless supports to female education in Liberia."



Ma Watta at a community meeting

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,000 CHILDREN IN LOFA

OUR PROJECTS IN LOFA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Last year, 2,600 boys and 94,000 girls participated in training and coaching sessions so they grow up knowing that sexual and gender-based violence should not be tolerated.

BREAKING DOWN TABOOS



It is vital to empower youth in Lofa to advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights, and demand equality for girls and women.

Trained Boys' and Girls' Groups organised learning sessions in their schools and communities to spread awareness of adolescent sexuality, the importance of girls' education, and reproductive health rights. As a result, 600 young women and girls participated in advocacy campaigns. In addition, 12 young women aged 12 to 24 have trained and now participate in radio talk shows to raise awareness of girls' rights.

Lofa facilitated a two-day awareness training on sexual and reproductive health and rights for 55 members of four girls' clubs. The training aims to help young girls learn about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and speak openly about related issues. Finally, facilitated dialogue sessions empowered 60 members of Boys Clubs and youth groups to discuss and promote the rights of girls and women.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



Economic independence for young women is a pathway to gender equality. This year, key programmes helped support women. In fact, over 100 women aged 24 to 35 benefitted from income-generating activities in this project.

Twelve Village Savings and Loan Association groups were created. Members in 12 communities were trained and empowered with materials for developing soap-making businesses. In addition, 15 weaving groups were trained and supported so members could establish economic independence.



Children participated in the start-up workshop and fully participated in the launching of the project. They have been considered as one of the project's most prominent agents of change.

**"I have been skilfully trained in weaving clothes, and I am making money every day. Today, I am able to provide for the family and support my children in schools through the help of Plan International Liberia."
- Makavee (32) from Lofa**

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



75%

Of girls are pregnant
between the ages of 11
and 16



57%

Of pupils graduate
annually



75%

Of people work in
agriculture



Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.

- Out of the girls enrolled in primary level, 60% get pregnant before graduating to the secondary level. We will use jingles, radio talk shows and community training to create awareness of teenage pregnancy and girls' rights to education.
- This year, we will provide gender equality training for schoolteachers.
- We will conduct trainings for Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) groups, with material supports for income-generating activities in the sponsorship communities.
- We will continue providing information about COVID-19 prevention with radio campaigns, flyers, and jingles.

We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter, happier future for the children in Lofa.



"Our projects have made important contributions to the lives of children and youth and guarantee them the enjoyment of their rights. This is only possible because of your contribution and support. I am grateful and my appreciation goes to our sponsors."

Nathan Johnny
Programme Area Manager, Lofa

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS