

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, more youth gained information and resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Thousands of young people accessed mentorship opportunities, academic support and awareness activities, and learned about gender equality and rights.

In addition, Village Savings and Loan Associations empowered young women with income-generating activities, helping them increase their economic independence and enable them to support their children's access to education.

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

**6,034**

Children
accessed
academic
support

**47**

Village Savings
and Loan
Groups
supported

**15,000**

Students
supported with
educational
materials



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 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 16,250 CHILDREN IN BOMI

OUR PROJECTS IN BOMI NAME ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



SUPPORTING GIRLS IN BOMI



This year, the Bomi community advocated for sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender equality. The community project focuses on reducing sexual and gender-based violence, and advocates for girls' sexual and reproductive health rights. As a result, 80 adolescents from 16 Girls and Boys Clubs participated in workshops, learning about menstrual hygiene management, domestic violence, child marriage, and sexual and reproductive health.

The project integrated a gender-transformative approach, addressing root causes of gender norms that influence children into adulthood. This helps educate a new generation of youth dedicated to

In addition, 80 duty bearers were trained to set up reforms and local laws that prevent domestic violence, transactional sex, rape, child marriage, and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). They will also support existing Girls and Boys clubs in their respective communities by creating awareness with other local authorities. Boys and men acted as agents of change, helping respond to gender- and health-based issues and advocating for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, FGM, and child abuse.

SKILLS TO SUCCEED



Economic independence for young women is a pathway to gender equality. This year, key programmes helped empower women and support them in the community.

As a result, 51 young women were trained in Village Savings and Loan (VSLA) activities, helping them establish income-generating activities. In addition, 180 VSLA members participated in a week-long leadership training course to enhance the saving activities at various community levels.

Through the Adolescent Girls Empowerment project, men learned how to give women space for their voices to be heard. Now these men encourage women to participate in decision-making in their homes, communities, and villages. The men act as agents of change, helping to create a more gender-equal world.



"Since I joined the VSLA in my community, I have been able to help provide the basic needs for my family, pay fees for medication, school, and food, especially as a widow I was able to construct my own house. Thank you Plan and everyone supporting the process. Indeed, I am grateful."- Catherine (40) from Bomi

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



41%

Of girls enrol in school



47%

Is the infant mortality rate



41%

Of Liberian women can read



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

- Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. More than 70% of the population is employed in the agriculture sector. We will continue to support farmers through the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Last year, we built the capacity of communities and institutions for child protection. We will continue to work to promote the rights of children, especially girls.
- We will provide training for schoolteachers, and coordinate with the Ministry of Education to provide quality education.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Health, we will increase access and treatment for children with malaria, especially in hard-to-reach communities.

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



"On behalf of my team, I appreciate your tireless effort and support to the children of Liberia. Today girls have the opportunities to Learn, Lead, Decide and Thrive through the work of Plan, with your great contributions. Thank you!"

Rebeca Amara Saah
Programme Area Manager, Bomi

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