

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, eleven communities received new hand-washing stations, helping families stay healthy and protect themselves from the spread of COVID-19. Thousands of children now have nutritious school lunches so they can focus on their lessons and open the door to a brighter future.

More than 350 community leaders improved their knowledge on child protection and girls' rights. And young people also gained leadership skills so they can stand up and say no to child marriage.

We know the best is yet to come and your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Moyamba.



400

Parents took part in positive parenting training



60

Girls completed vocational training



652

Girls received menstrual hygiene kits



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN SIERRA LEONE

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

"During COVID-19, it was difficult to access hygiene supplies to manage my period. Plan International supported us with hand washing stations and dignity kits. With this support and knowledge on the use of sanitary pads and hand washing, I can now go to school and feel more comfortable even during my menstrual periods."

CASE STORY: ABILITY TO THRIVE



NAME: SALLIEU
AGE: 10 YEARS OLD
HOBBY: MUSIC

"I am very happy to be in school with my friends, and my teacher is very helpful. I believe my dream of becoming a banker will be achieved."

Meet Sallieu

Like your sponsored child, Sallieu has been empowered by Plan International to change his life. Sallieu lives with his grandmother and uses a wheelchair to get around his rural village. He's currently in primary school and dreaming big for his future. And with the right support, Sallieu's disability is no longer a barrier to reaching his full potential.

Overcoming Roadblocks

Sallieu's school is far from his home, and he has to cross three streams to get there. His grandmother often goes to help him across, but her ill health and farming activities mean she's not able to take him every day. Other children take the same route, but never offered to help.

Children with physical disabilities are often left behind, and many, like Sallieu, experience bullying from peers and teachers. But a new project is working to ensure all children can learn in safe and inclusive environments.

Sallieu joined a children's club at school, where he was able to meet other students, share experiences, and build relationships. And children learned how to be more inclusive and supportive of those with different abilities.

Feeling Supported

Teachers at Sallieu's school also took part in training sessions on how to foster a more inclusive learning environment. They are ensuring children with disabilities are included in classroom activities and can thrive.

His teacher says: *"If children feel safe, they can take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings, and grow."*

Sallieu is now feeling more supported to continue his education. His new friends help him get to school every day, and he feels happier and more confident learning his lessons and joining in games.



Sallieu is enjoying being at school with his friends

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 9,000 CHILDREN IN MOYAMBA

OUR PROJECTS IN MOYAMBA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Girls gain confidence and leadership skills to advocate for their rights

SHE LEADS



Negative gender norms in Sierra Leone exclude girls from taking on leadership roles. Fewer girls than boys complete their education, and many girls drop out of school due to early pregnancies and marriages.

Training sessions on gender equality were held with 13 girls' youth groups. 260 girls learned about their rights and how to protect themselves against gender-based violence. With their new confidence, these girls are now raising awareness in their communities on the harms of negative gender norms and how to create a safe environment for girls and young women.

Young women also gained financial literacy skills, helping them to earn an income and save their money. This gives them the independence they need to take charge of their lives and support themselves.

SCHOOL LUNCHES



Almost half of children do not complete primary school in Moyamba. Many children were orphaned during the Ebola crisis and are now living with extended family members who struggle to earn enough to support them.

To help all children stay in school and open the door to a brighter future, a new school lunch program is providing nutritious meals to students at primary schools. 3,947 girls and boys are now receiving these daily meals. They are staying healthy and are better able to focus on their lessons.

Teachers also learned more about gender equality and child protection, helping to make schools safer and more inclusive for all children.



"I was not happy to go to school because at lunch I had no food to eat. I found it very hard to concentrate in class due to hunger. I had to stop going to school. Now I am assured of having food everyday - Plan is my lunch giver. I feel good coming to school."

- Esther (10) from Moyamba

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



53%

Of people do not have access to safe water



46%

Of children do not complete primary school



56%

Of women cannot read or write



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

- Gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and early marriages continue to prevent girls from reaching their full potential. We will continue to empower girls to stand up for their rights and promote gender equality.
- We will also strengthen child-based protection mechanisms and raise awareness of children's rights.
- Almost half of children do not complete primary school, leaving them without skills for the future. We will increase access to education, encourage girls to return to school, and ensure teachers have the training they need.
- We will also improve opportunities for young people to gain technical and vocational skills so they can get a good job or start their own business and support themselves.

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



"Allow me to express my gratitude to you for your sponsorship. Your support has helped make a difference in the lives of children and their communities. Next year, we hope to reach more children with reproductive health, education, and vocational training."

Abie Tholley

Programme Area Manager, Moyamba

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