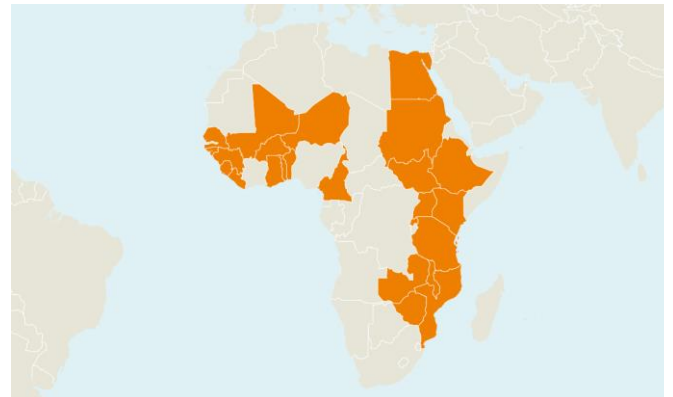


ANNUAL UPDATE

SIERRA LEONE

PORT LOKO



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

Many families in Sierra Leone are faced with food insecurity and poverty. The Integrated School Feeding Programme (ISFP) addresses food insecurity, providing nutritious meals for pupils. Children are growing healthier, and are encouraged to stay in school. And, supporting women farmers with equipment increased their productivity, raised income, and fostered a successful partnership with the ISFP.

Communities in Port Loko are working together to create a healthier, more equitable future.



281

Local stakeholders learned positive parenting techniques



565

People increased awareness of accountability mechanisms



750

People participated in Village Saving & Loan Associations

“I THANK PLAN FOR THE AWARENESS RAISING, WHICH HELPED ME IMPROVE MY HEALTH DURING MY PERIOD.”

Adama, 15-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: IBRAHIM

AGE: 10 YEARS OLD

**DREAMS TO BE: A
LAWYER**

“WINNING THIS COMPETITION MOTIVATED ME TO DO MORE. I HAVE BEEN WITHOUT LEARNING MATERIALS, BUT WITH THESE GIFTS I CONTINUE TO STUDY.”

Meet Ibrahim

Like the child you sponsor, Ibrahim is taking steps towards achieving his goals and building a stronger future for himself.

Ibrahim has a passion for learning and is eager to access anything that can improve his reading and spelling skills. Although his school is desperately under-resourced, Ibrahim is determined to excel.

The benefit of books

Education in Sierra Leone faces significant hurdles. Textbooks are in short supply, and it's common for four or five students to share a single book. Like many children, Ibrahim comes from a poor family of subsistence farmers who cannot afford to buy him learning materials.

A school reading and quiz competition was held to assess pupils' reading levels, and create improvements in the learning progress. Ibrahim was among the children who participated.

The children received learning materials as a gift during the competition, which they use for home practice. They're seeing the results: Now, Ibrahim can read fluently and even helps others to improve their reading.

A new focus on education

With this educational support, Ibrahim is thriving in school. His determination to learn has no limit and he is consistently at the top of his class of fifty students. Ibrahim's family is giving him all the support he needs, in spite of their financial limitations.

The wider community supports this emphasis on education, too. Families in this region traditionally encourage children to work in farming instead of going to school. However, with more educational resources – and with experiences like Ibrahim's – children are more likely to enroll in school and create a more secure future for themselves.



Ibrahim is ready to pursue his dreams

OUR PROJECTS IN PORT LOKO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



As part of the Integrated School Feeding Programme, students and teachers also learned about children's rights and the importance of education.

A PATH TO NUTRITION, AND TO SCHOOL



In Sierra Leone, 57% of the population face food insecurity. The Integrated School Feeding Programme (ISFP) is one way to address food insecurity and encourage pupils to stay in school. This year, 297 schools were supported with nutritious meals, benefiting more than 65,000 pupils. Female-led farmer and cooperative groups were linked to the school programmes. Schools also learned how to establish and manage a school garden, and hundreds of cooks and kitchen helpers trained in food safety.

The benefits have been dramatic: School enrolment, attendance and graduation rates increased. Pupils' overall health improved, and their ability to learn in school has grown. The school feeding programme has dismantled many barriers pupils face in the Sierra Leonean education system, giving pupils – especially girls – the chance to learn.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS



Women farmers in Port Loko are engaged in small scale agriculture, growing mostly cassava. Women are exclusively responsible for manually processing the cassava, a heavy task and a physical burden. Many cannot afford equipment, which limits their production and food availability.

Supporting these farmers will not only improve their output and income level, it will also provide a larger market for the Integrated School Feeding Programme. This year, 2,500 families benefited from agricultural tools to improve efficiency, as well as seeds, vines, and cassava cuttings. In addition, 10 new Village Savings & Loan Associations help members save and invest, while training on financial literacy and entrepreneurship empower women with the tools to succeed.

“Plan has come to our aid at the right time. Our problem is over. Our productivity will increase and more money will flow into our pockets.”

– Namina (32) from Port Loko



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 Port Loko.

- Domestic violence and harmful traditional practices towards girls and women are common in Sierra Leone. Collaborating with district councils and community leaders to strengthen gender-protective laws will help address these issues.
- Inadequate hygiene and sanitation facilities make it difficult for girls to attend school during their periods. With the construction of gender-sensitive latrines in schools, girls will be able to continue their educations.
- Increased awareness of menstrual health management and access to sanitary pads will help challenge the stigmas around menstruation.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We extend heartfelt gratitude for your valuable support and collaboration in transforming our society and impacting the lives of thousands of children, youth and families.”

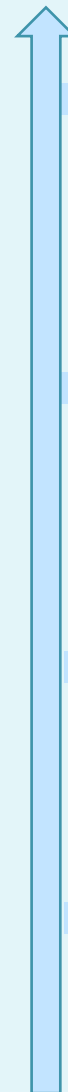
Ismail Bai Sanu
Programme Area Manager

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



FEBRUARY



30

Teachers trained in gender-responsive teaching methods

FEBRUARY



24

Schools learned to conduct risk assessments

MARCH



2,500

Parents learned about violence prevention

APRIL



2,500

Women farmers benefited from farm tools and training