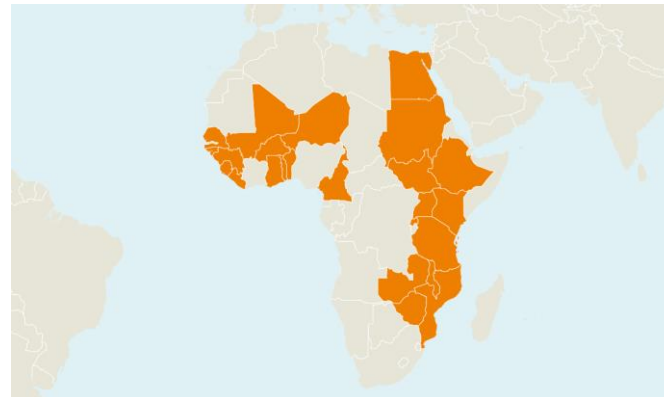


ANNUAL UPDATE

LIBERIA

LOFA



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

Welcome to Lofa, Liberia! This warm rural region of Liberia is home to 367,376 people, 74% of whom work in agriculture. Here, boys tend to be given priority when it comes to completing their educations: as of 2023, just 55% of women in the region can read.

That's why, this year, our projects focused on supporting the empowerment and educations of girls and women in Lofa, from providing menstrual hygiene education to supporting the scholarships of Sponsored Children in 14 communities.



68

Communities learned about gender-based violence



170

Young people discussed contraception and sexual health



38

Teachers were trained to support girls to stay in school

“TODAY, I’M A COLLEGE STUDENT BECAUSE OF PLAN’S INTERVENTION IN MY LIFE.”

Kebeh, 23 years old, Beneficiary





NAME: TINA

AGE: 15 YEARS OLD

DREAMS TO BE: AN ACCOUNTANT

“WHAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM PLAN HAS MADE ME FEEL PROUD. I WILL SHOW PEOPLE LIKE ME THAT THEY CAN ALSO OVERCOME CHALLENGES.”

Meet Tina

Like the child you sponsor, Tina has a strong support network keeping her in school.

In Tina's community, people with disabilities are often overlooked. This harmful social norm ripples outwards, affecting everything from education to advocacy and poverty.

Overcoming Obstacles

Tina is the daughter of cocoa farmers and lives with a disability. Though that doesn't stop Tina from playing with her friends, her special needs have gotten in the way of many other things in her life.

Last year, Tina dropped out of school: She was falling behind, and often felt marginalised by her classmates and teachers. Plus, her parents needed help around the house with her siblings, and – like in many families – since Tina is a girl, she was naturally called on to help with housework and childcare, with her education taking the backseat. Tina is far from alone: In Liberia, many girls drop out of school for similar reasons, and, without vocational skills, fall into poverty.

Learners to Leaders

As part of our work to break this cycle, Plan International's Girls Club offers accessible vocational training to girls, prioritising children with disabilities. As part of Plan's Girls Club, Tina learned how to start a small soap making business, collaborating with her friends to draw up a business plan. While in the Girls Club, Tina took part in important conversations about the dangers of child marriage, and she has passed these lessons on to her parents. Simultaneously, Tina is sharing the lessons she learned in Girls Club with other people with disabilities in her community, becoming a role model of confidence, possibility and resilience.



Tina has become a role model to her peers.

OUR PROJECTS IN LOFA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



This year, our projects in Lofa focused on supporting the health, prosperity and education of young girls and women.

SAFER TOGETHER



It takes a village to break cycles of gender-based violence.

Issues like domestic violence, rape and female genital mutilation are, sadly, not uncommon in Lofa. Until 2025, one of our primary projects will continue to be an intergenerational series of efforts focused on the rights of women and girls, positive masculinities, non-violent communication and consent.

Thanks to your support, 40 teachers in Lofa were trained in new teaching approaches on critical topics like menstrual hygiene management and sexual health. 140 boys and 288 girls participated in videography workshops, where they learned to craft and pass on engaging messages about the dangers of teen pregnancy and child marriage.

I CAN DO ANYTHING



In Lofa, just 47% of girls of all ages are enrolled in school. In 2022, we began our three-year-long Skills Opportunities for Youth Economic Empowerment programme, which aims to uplift at-risk young women, empowering them to access the education they need to thrive.

This year, with your support, we were able to construct a gender-sensitive primary school in Lofa, which will be able to accommodate over 600 children. 15 caregivers were connected to vocational training workshops, which will help to cover the costs of school fees and supplies. 40 Parent-Teacher Association members, 5 education officers and 20 student council representatives discussed safety in schools.

“I’m now a graduate from high school, and Plan’s lessons have been my guide.”

- Priscila (17) from Lofa



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 Lofa.

- Incidents of child marriage and female genital mutilation are high in Liberia. With your support, we will work with the people of Lofa to form community child protection organisations.
- Teenage pregnancy in rural Liberia occurs at nearly twice the rate of teen pregnancies in cities. We will continue to offer inclusive sexual health education to community members of all ages.
- 84% of young women in Liberia have begun childbearing before their 18th birthday. In 2024, we will work with young people to support their continued education and safety.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Your support has made important contributions to guaranteeing the rights of children and young people in Lofa, and we are grateful.”

Joseph Nyunkor
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

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



JANUARY



50

Teachers were trained to prevent child marriage

JUNE



14

Sponsored communities received scholarship funding

OCTOBER



68

Youth mentors learn about sexual health and rights

DECEMBER



105

Sponsored Children became peer educators