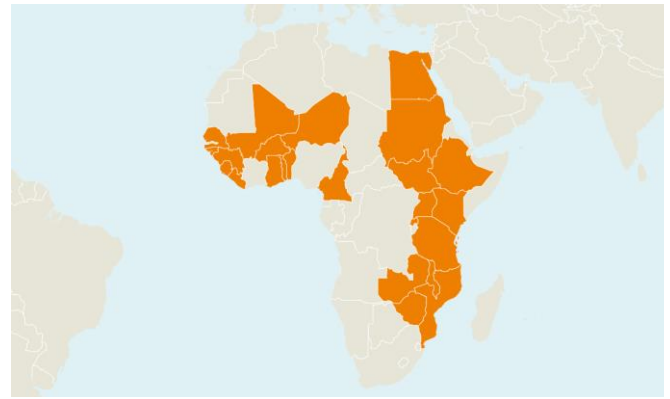


ANNUAL UPDATE

SIERRA LEONE

MOYAMBA



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

Many families in Sierra Leone are faced with food insecurity and poverty. This year, supporting women farmers with equipment and supplies has increased their productivity and raised their income. Participation in Village Savings & Loan Associations is helping women access economic independence.

Improving child protection was another focus, as communities strengthened child protection frameworks and addressed harmful practices like child marriage.



200

Families accessed agricultural tools and seeds



15K

Children benefited from nutritional meals



45

People formed 15 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 MOYAMBA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Girls and boys work together to address child protection issues and to overcome harmful gender norms, attitudes and behaviours.

PROTECTING CHILDREN



Many children in Moyamba face situations of violence and abuse. Girls are especially vulnerable to harmful practices such as early marriage and early pregnancy. In fact, early pregnancy accounts for 34% of all pregnancies in Sierra Leone, while adolescent childbearing contributes to 40% of maternal deaths. The high rate of early and forced marriage contributes to the high dropout rate among girls and young women. While boys are given priority to attend school, girls and young women are often forced into early marriage to supplement family income.

The Pikin Protection Project engages the community to address these issues. For example, 83 members of Mothers Clubs and child welfare committees were trained on gender-responsive child protection. Involving and educating young people was also key. Now, children in the region know about their rights and can act on the prevention and response to child abuse in their communities.



IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS



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

Supporting these farmers will improve their output and income level. This year, 200 families benefited from agricultural tools to improve efficiency, and 178 participants were trained on climate-smart agriculture practices. In addition, 15 new Village Savings & Loan Associations are helping members save and invest. Access to training on financial literacy and entrepreneurship will further empower women with the tools to succeed.

“Like many others restrained by poverty, my position seemed an endless cycle. But today I am confident that my life will improve economically. This has allowed my ambitions to flourish and now like many others I will live a resourceful life.” – **Mabinty (27) from Moyamba**



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 Moyamba.

- Harmful traditional practices towards girls and women are common in Sierra Leone. Working with district councils and community leaders to strengthen gender-protective laws will help address these issues.
- 77% of the rural population relies on farming as their livelihood. Providing farmers with improved seeds and fertilisers, plus training in financial literacy, will help families earn more.
- Nearly 60% of families cannot afford to send their children to school. With the implementation of Village Savings & Loan Associations, parents will be better able to pay for schooling.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thanks for your support towards improving the lives of vulnerable children in Mayamba. With your support, the lives of more children and their families can be transformed.”

Kamanda Kamara
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



898

Girls supported with reusable sanitary pads

FEBRUARY



178

People trained on climate-smart agricultural practices

APRIL



16

Processing machines boosted farmers' productivity

NOVEMBER



115

Children learned about safeguarding and inclusiveness