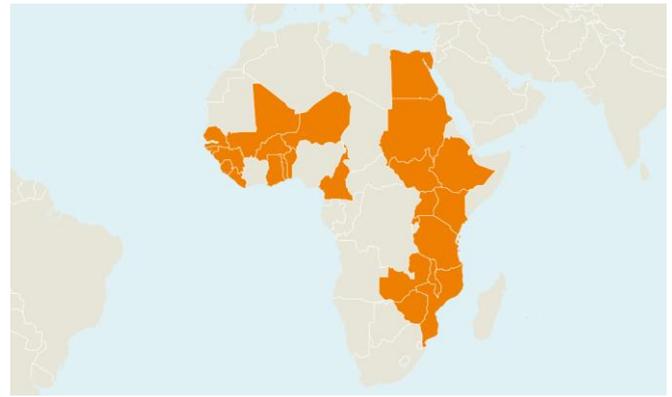


# ANNUAL UPDATE

# LIBERIA

## BOMI



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

Tropical Bomi is home to 705,960 people, including 16,250 Sponsored Children. Just 46% of girls in Bomi are enrolled in school, and less than 39% of those girls continue on to graduation. Child marriage and gender-based violence are significant contributors to these statistics.

Thanks to your support, students learned about sexual health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence. Community leaders are working on local laws to prevent child marriage, sexual assault and domestic violence.



**785**

Women improved their financial literacy



**190**

Boys and men discussed positive masculinity



**34,574**

Community members were treated for malaria

**“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 BOMI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



From sexual health education to malaria treatments and vocational training, our projects supported the people of Bomi in becoming stronger than ever.

## MALARIA: STOPPING THE SPREAD



**Child mortality rates in Liberia remain among the highest in the world, with malaria as a major cause.**

This year, we focused on providing care, treatment and prevention education to five hard-to-reach communities in Bomi. 39,648 community members with symptoms of malaria were tested for the disease, and when more than 34,500 tests were positive, all sick community members received treatment.

As part of our work to lower maternal mortality rates in Liberia, 5,787 pregnant women received preventative treatments for malaria. Today, more community members than ever report knowing how to recognise symptoms of malaria, and know where to go if they are sick, and child mortality rates have fallen.

## I CAN DO ANYTHING



**Just 34% of women in Bomi can read.**

Since July 2022, Plan International's Adolescent Girls Empowerment Project has worked to support the empowerment of girls and women through building vocational skills. This year, 785 women joined Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), where they discuss budgeting, business planning and setting financial goals.

99 Parent-Teacher Associations were formed to enforce and emphasise inclusive educations. 192 boys and men in 19 communities throughout Bomi joined clubs where they could discuss positive masculinities, gender-based violence, sexual health and women's rights.

“Before, our parents used to force us to marry instead of going to school. Today, with Plan's support, we are standing strong, advocating for our rights.”

**- Veronica (20) from Bomi**



# 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 Bomi.

- Incidents of child marriage and female genital mutilation are high in Liberia. With your support, we will work with the people of Bomi 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.



“Thank you for your support and collaboration in making our work a success. Your contributions have allowed us to make a strong positive impact in our sponsored communities.”

**Rebecca Amara Saah**  
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



### JANUARY



25

Communities formed new Savings and Loans groups

### MAY



45

Communities received scholarships for children

### NOVEMBER



50

local leaders collaborated to nurture equitable youth growth

### DECEMBER



113

Sponsored Children became peer educators about sexual health and rights