

Moyamba Sierra Leone

Positive changes are happening in Moyamba. Learn more about how we are supporting children and girls' rights through our collaborative, equality-driven work.

In 2023, the national government passed the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Act. The law calls for better access for women to funding, jobs, equal pay, maternity leave, and political representation. The Act is an opportunity to lastingly improve the broader socio-economic conditions for women and increase their representation in Sierra Leone. Last year, we spread awareness in the local communities to promote the law so everyone can benefit from it.

Climate change has devastating consequences for people, the environment and economic development. Increased food insecurity and poverty make it harder for families to prioritise children's education. We work together with the communities to find more resilient crops, making it easier for families to prioritise education.

"During Covid, Plan provided us with radios and other educational items like bags, books, pens and geometry set, to ensure our continued learning." -Lamin, 15-year-old



Hygiene kits are improving menstrual care in Moyamba.

Impact in Numbers

1,435

pupils have access to better sanitary facilities

2

accessible toilets for children with disabilities

375

village and saving loan associations members

Paulina leads her city



NAME:

Paulina

AGE:

13 Years old

DREAMS TO BE:

Bank Manager



“I like to engage and sensitise children and community members about issues affecting us and educate them about the child protection reporting channel.”

Meet Paulina.

Like many girls in Sierra Leone, Paulina is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.

Paulina is the eldest child in her family with three younger sisters. A hobbyist dancer, Paulina has been associated with Plan for nine years now, participating in our various workshops and activities, promoting children's rights and advocating for empowerment, for herself and hundreds of other girls in her community.

Representation matters!

In Paulina's community, there is a child welfare group. It is managed by adult men and women who take up the responsibilities for the welfare of children. However, in the absence of any representation and voice of children, the committee has a blind spot in recognising the actual issues that affect children.

Plan International's child protection project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, supported the restructure of the committee and empowered children to claim their rights and have a voice in their welfare. This not only instilled participation and representation but also leadership qualities and agency among young girls.

A seat at the table

Paulina is now a member of the child welfare committee, participating in school visits and spreading awareness about the committee's role and children's rights, making them active in decision-making.

This has enabled Paulina to create a reporting channel in the community. With this ability to participate in local decision-making spaces, children like Paulina are able to practice full citizenship, and directly address their grievances to drive effective changes.



Hundreds of pupils can continue education with assistance of basic school materials.

There are currently 9,500 Sponsored Children in Moyamba

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Livelihood Empowerment

In the last decade, food insecurity and climate vulnerability have worsened for 57% of Sierra Leoneans. Due to climate change and lack of market access, women farmers have low returns from agriculture, which often leads to poverty.

Supporting these farmers will not only improve their output and income level but also improve the health of the family and their nutrition. 100 farmers were trained in improved agricultural practices, like irrigation techniques, soil fertility, seasonal planting and harvesting. In addition, 15 Village Savings and Loan Association members learned more about savings and investing. Training on financial literacy and entrepreneurship empowers women to raise capital, mitigate debt risks and equip them with tools to succeed.

Women are primary caregivers in many countries around the world. 15 groups of women farmers were sensitised about child protection, gender and inclusion sessions.



Weekly meetings where women farmers provide financial support to each other.

380

women in trainings to save and invest



Education helps reduce inequalities and is essential to fostering tolerance.

Education for all

Only 64% of children complete primary education in Sierra Leone. Factors like lack of schools, gender-based violence and abuse, and inequalities in education influence the access and retention of pupils.

Families and School Together (FAST) project improves the conditions of schools, especially for girls and children with disabilities in the sponsorship communities, to improve access to inclusive and quality education. Teachers, school management and parents participated in positive parenting and gender equality trainings.

Intergenerational dialogues and radio discussions drew the community members on the importance of education and the need for better policies to shape the future of the family. The project further supported wider life skills that empowered girls and young people to get knowledge to make informed decisions about their bodies and speak up against coercion, violence and discrimination.



Processing of palm oil for trading and consumption purposes.

"My friends and I had to share pens before, but now I have my own! Now my family can use the money for our other basic needs, since Plan has provided us with school essentials." -Adama (11)

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Children and youth are taking charge of their future with leadership and education.

Together, we're working to create a more just world.

Through educational kits and financial support, we will ensure that children can be retained in schools.

We will improve sanitary facilities and make them inclusive and accessible for diversity in children, gender, and disabilities among other factors.

To address the massive food insecurity in the region, we will provide agricultural inputs for women farmers, and establish greenhouse farms for the youth for income generation.

We will lobby meetings with local authorities to improve youth and women's access to and use of land for their agricultural purposes.

Message from Plan Staff

"We have made significant strides in advancing child protection and gender equality, and improving educational opportunities for children. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of children and their families in Moyamba District."



Kamanda Kamara,
Programme Unit
Manager,
Moyamba

The Plan Effect

Sponsored children are at the centre of everything we do, and they help plan our programmes based on what's important to them. Sponsors' donations are a gateway into a community. This helps build trust and credibility to attract even more funds from new sources. This makes more sustainable programmes possible in sponsorship communities. This powerful synergy is something we call The Plan Effect.

Progress in Numbers

2 radio programs
for community
sensitisation

1,934 girls receive
menstrual
hygiene kits

100 women farmers
improved farming
practices

75 male teachers
trained in gender
pedagogy