

## Bomi Liberia

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

In Bomi, patriarchal cultural practices and gender norms cause challenges for young girls, women, and children with disabilities. Limited childcare, health facilities, and resources for sexual and reproductive health contribute to school dropout rates, particularly among girls. These issues are exacerbated by forced child marriages, high teenage pregnancy rates, and sexual and gender-based violence, further restricting equal opportunities for girls and women.

In collaboration with the community, Plan supports sexual and reproductive health and rights, education for young girls and women, and has trained 35 girls and 10 boys in reporting violence and safeguarding rights. Our programmes also trained nine village savings and loans association leadership groups to boost economic opportunities in Bomi.

**"I advocate for girls' and young people's rights and support awareness programmes, especially those focused on girls' education."**  
- Finda, 14-year-old Sponsored Child



A parent of a Sponsored Child in Bomi.

### Impact in Numbers

**800**

**youth trained to address gender-based violence**

**460**

**girls participated in the Girls Get Equal initiative**

**337**

**children received school materials**

# Advocating for an Equal Future



**NAME:**

**Juliet**

**AGE:**

**18 years old**

**DREAMS TO BE:**

**A Journalist**



**“Plan has inspired us as young girls to become leaders, advocate for women’s and girls’ rights, and overcome challenges to continue our education.”**

## **Meet Juliet**

**Like many girls in Liberia, Juliet is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.**

Juliet is an 18-year-old 11th-grade student in Bomi, Liberia. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and meeting new friends. As an aspiring journalist, she advocates for equal rights for girls and women, believing they should have an equal voice in community decision-making in Bomi.

## **Challenges in Overcoming Gender Inequality**

Gender discrimination, early child marriages, and limited health facilities and awareness about sexual and reproductive health rights result in restricted social, educational, and economic opportunities for children, especially young girls and women.

Due to a lack of information and educational opportunities, girls often struggle to engage in issues affecting them, such as reporting sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence. For Juliet, these issues are crucial. She believes that raising awareness among girls and women is essential so they can actively advocate for their rights in the community.

## **Empowering Young Women**

Plan’s programmes support Juliet and other girls and women in overcoming community challenges. Through awareness campaigns, they have learned about teenage pregnancy, early marriage, sexual abuse, and the risks of peer pressure and low self-esteem, which affect their participation in public activities.

Inspired by these experiences, Juliet is now motivated to continue advocating for the rights of young women and girls.



Juliet leading an awareness campaign in her community.

**We Currently Work With 16,250 Sponsored Children in Bomi**

# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Empowering Girls

Harmful social norms and cultural practices, such as forced child marriages and insufficient awareness and access to sexual and reproductive health and hygiene services, put young girls and women at risk in Bomi.

In collaboration with the community, schools, health centres, and local authorities, Plan has developed a 12-month project to support young girls and women in challenging gender norms from childhood through adulthood and creating a safe, violence-free environment.

As part of our initiatives, we have conducted awareness campaigns on the importance of girls' education with schools targeting young people including 110 girls and 12 boys. Additionally, 38 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) committee members strengthened their knowledge on improving access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene practices for women and young girls in Bomi.



Sponsored Child participating in the distribution of hygiene kits in Bomi.

# 450

**hygiene kits were provided  
to young girls aged 12 to 17**



Young girls leading an awareness and advocacy campaign at the radio station.



Roseline strengthened her leadership skills.

## Learning to Lead

**In Bomi, gender bias, child marriages, and gender-based violence have contributed to many young girls being out of school.** In collaboration with the community, Plan supported the enrolment and retention of girls and young women in schools and empowered them to challenge all forms of gender-based violence in society.

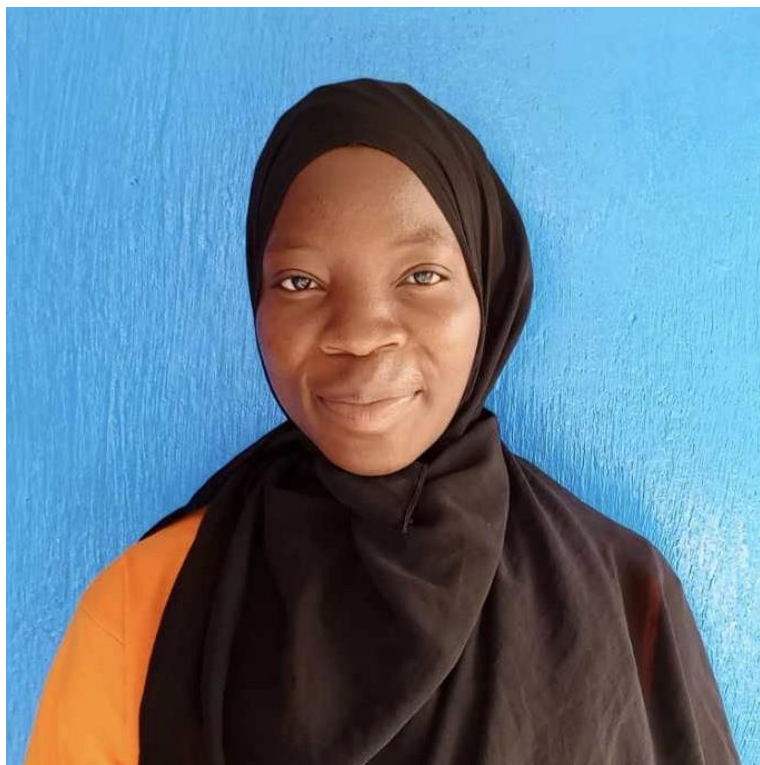
Our initiatives included awareness campaigns on gender-based violence and collaborations with media programmes and schools, reaching 500 women and 200 men. Additionally, 25 Youth Group members were trained in advocacy and awareness topics, including child abuse, child labour, child marriage, and sexual or gender-based exploitation.

These efforts empowered women and young people, especially girls, to lead projects and influence policy. Students, particularly girls, learned the importance of staying in school, while teachers were trained in gender-inclusive, learner-centred lesson planning.

**“I learned a lot about my rights as a child and can represent my community in meetings and conferences on education and other policies.”**

- Roseline, 14, Sponsored Child from Bomi

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



A member of the Alumni Network in Liberia.

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

In Liberia, women account for 97% of the gender-based violence survivors. Next year, Plan will support positive community dialogues about different topics, including gender-based violence.

In Bomi, there is a high rate of teenage pregnancies, with many girls becoming pregnant before the age of 18. Next year, Plan will raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights, including STD and pregnancy prevention and care.

In Bomi, young girls and children with disabilities struggle with access to inclusive education. Next year, we will advocate for this by training teachers and educational officials in gender-sensitive, learner-centred methods.

## Message from Plan Staff

"I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your support of the children of Liberia. Your kind gesture has truly touched our hearts and brightened the futures of our children."



Rebecca Amara Saah, Programme Unit Manager, Bomi.

## 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

154

children trained in children's rights in schools

87

teachers trained in classroom management

77

men and boys trained in sexual health and rights

93

volunteers trained in Plan's sponsor policies