



PLAN INTERNATIONAL SIERRA LEONE - ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Year 2023

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Presenting the Annual Report, a comprehensive overview of Plan International Sierra Leone's progress and impact during the period spanning from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, we refer to as "Financial Year 2023 (FY23)."

Over the past year, our collective efforts have directly impacted a significant number of individuals – **156,834 girls** and **151,276 boys**. Aligned with Plan International Sierra Leone's Country Strategy, our programming has centred around four strategic objectives: gender-transformative education, child protection initiatives, advancing health interventions including sexual reproductive health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and facilitating the meaningful involvement of children, youths, and women in decision-making processes.

Working in collaboration with our partners and through our donors, we have achieved significant milestones. Our work has encompassed a range of impactful activities, including the provision of school meals to in 6 districts, enabling young women to pursue careers in education as qualified teachers, amplifying the voices of youth to champion their rights through advocacy, and embarking on a journey to make sure young people have access to sexual and reproductive health services and exercise their rights.

Plan International Sierra Leone's commitment extends beyond implementation. We have strategically engaged with vital stakeholders, including government officials, to advocate for the passage of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act in 2023. Notably, we also contributed to the dissemination of crucial aspects of this legislation after its enactment in January 2023, reaffirming our dedication to catalyzing systemic change and fostering an inclusive society.

This report serves as a testament to the impact of our work and the collaborative spirit that drives our impact. Together, we navigate challenges, inspire transformation, and envision a future that places the realisation of the rights of Sierra Leone's children, youth, and women at its core.

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH

"Success isn't about how much money you make; it's about the difference you make in people's lives."
- Michelle Obama

As we stand on the threshold of a new leadership in Plan International Sierra Leone, Michelle Obama's words echo with profound resonance, guiding us to reflect on the impact and progress we've achieved over the past year. This year has been a testament to the power of collective action and the enduring spirit of change, and it is with a sense of gratitude and purpose that we share our reflections.

What does Plan International mean to you? For all of us, it symbolizes a commitment to creating a world where every child's potential is nurtured and celebrated. It embodies the belief that by investing in education, empowerment, and equality, we can pave the way for brighter futures and lasting change. Plan International is more than an organization; it is a catalyst for transformation and a vehicle for hope.

In the tapestry of the past year, we've woven threads of resilience, innovation, and collaboration. Through challenges and triumphs, a standout highlight has been witnessing the tenacity and creativity of our team and partners. From groundbreaking projects that uplift communities to initiatives that amplify the voices of youth, we've seen firsthand the profound impact of our collective efforts.

In the stories that unfold, you'll find narratives of courage, resilience, and transformation. These stories remind us that change is not a distant goal; it is a journey that we embark upon with every step we take. By working together, hand in hand, we can overcome challenges and forge a path toward a more equitable and just world.

As we look to the horizon, let us carry the torch of hope and progress forward. Each day presents an opportunity to make a difference, to leave an indelible mark on the lives of those around us. Let us continue to stand united, driven by the shared purpose of creating a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

- Written by Hajaratu, 22, Plan International Sierra Leone Intern and She Leads Regional Representative



Hajaratu, 22, Plan International Sierra Leone Intern and She Leads Regional Representative

**"YOUR VOICES MATTER,
AND YOUR DREAMS
ARE VALID. EMBRACE
THE POWER WITHIN
YOU AND LET IT BE A
GUIDING FORCE IN
SHAPING A BRIGHTER
FUTURE."**

- HAJARATU

OVERVIEW

About Plan International

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We strive for a just world, working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners.

We have worked with children, young people and communities for more than 85 years and are committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of the most vulnerable and excluded children while supporting children's rights and gender equality.

We aim not only to improve the daily lives of girls but also to advance their position and value in society, whilst actively working with boys and young men to champion gender equality.

Sierra Leone

Plan International has been working in Sierra Leone for over 45 years. In this time we have supported children, youth to enter and stay in school, be safe from abuse, and be equipped to take up employment opportunities.

In particular we have worked with girls and young people and their allies to build their capacity to speak out and advocate for their rights, the elimination of violence against girls and women and equal participation in politics.

Our programming addresses the barriers and unequal power relations which are the root causes of vulnerabilities faced by youth and driving change in policy and practice at the local and national level.

This work strengthens capacity not only of girls and young people, but also community-based organizations, community leaders, district authorities, and Civil Society Organizations, to advocate and speak out against harmful practices and on behalf of initiatives to empower girls and work toward gender equality.



Girls and Boys part of the Champions of Change

THE PAST YEAR IN NUMBERS

We reached

308.1 K

CHILDREN INCLUDING

156.8 K

GIRLS

Supporters sponsored

19,000

CHILDREN



Active in

7

DISTRICTS

We had

11

ACTIVE PROJECTS

We partnered with

52

ORGANISATIONS AND
INSTITUTIONS

IMPACT BY AREA

We directly reached

303.2 K

in the area of

**INCLUSIVE, QUALITY
EDUCATION**

We directly reached

7.5 K

in the area of

**SKILLS, WORK AND
INNOVATION**

We directly reached

1.2 K

in the area of

**SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND RIGHTS**

We directly reached

10.3 K

in the area of

**LEAD, GIRLS AND BOYS
AS ACTIVE DRIVERS OF
CHANGE**

We directly reached

5.4 K

in the area of

**PROTECTION FROM
VIOLENCE**

OUR VALUES

We strive for lasting impact

We strive to achieve a significant lasting impact on the lives of children and young people and to secure equality for girls. We challenge ourselves to be bold, courageous, responsive, focused and innovative.

We are open and accountable

We create an environment of trust inside and outside the organisation by being open, honest and transparent. We hold ourselves and others to account for the decisions we make and for our impact on others while doing what we say we will do.

We work well together

We succeed by working effectively with others, inside and outside the organisation, including our sponsors and donors. We actively support our colleagues, helping them to achieve their goals. We come together to create and implement solutions in our teams across Plan International, with children, girls, young people, communities and our partners.

We are inclusive and empowering

We respect all people, appreciate differences and challenge inequality in our programmes and workplace. We support children, girls and young people to increase their confidence and change their own lives. We empower our staff to give their best and realise their potential.

OUR AMBITION

Our ambition from now to 2027 is to see All Girls Standing Strong Creating Global Change.

Working together we will create:

- A world where all girls know and exercise their rights and live the life they choose.
- A network of supporters, communities, staff, partners, and donors, all supporting girls and young women to stand strong as they learn, lead, decide, and thrive.
- Global change, through breaking down the barriers and discrimination girls and young women currently face every minute, every hour, every day.

Plan International globally aims to improve the lives of **200 million girls in the next five years**. When girls thrive in a more equal world, we are all stronger for it.

ALL GIRLS STANDING STRONG CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE



OUR OBJECTIVES

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 1

Girls, vulnerable children, children with disability and youth access, retain, re-enter and transition to quality and inclusive formal and informal education both at pre-primary, primary and secondary school in an inclusive and safe learning environment.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 2

Contribute to increasing young women and young men's participation in decision making and enhancing their capacity to take leadership roles in community governance.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 3

Improve and facilitate gender transformative and adolescent friendly SRHR information and services, with a focus on influencing the environment, legal and policy frameworks of child protection systems and harmful traditional practices.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 4

Contribute to increased access to adequate water supply, improved sanitation, and hygiene behaviour practices to improve outcomes for children in targeted communities.



Young woman speaking during Plan International's Youth in Governance and Leadership event

INCLUSIVE, QUALITY EDUCATION (IQE)



IQE means that all children, regardless of physical, intellectual, social, emotional or linguistic abilities, learn and participate equally and effectively, in safety and free from gender bias. Our goal is that all vulnerable and excluded children – particularly girls – access and complete inclusive quality education from pre-primary to secondary level.

INTEGRATED SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME (ISFP)

The Integrated School Feeding Programme (ISFP) supported pre and primary schools in 6 districts across Sierra Leone. This means children have received daily, free school meals at lunchtime. Thanks to the funding from the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, and with financial contribution from Plan International Canada ISFP creates a social safety net for vulnerable children, families, and communities, increasing children's access, retention and completion of education.

"THANKS TO THE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME, I NOW EAT EVERY LUNCHTIME AT SCHOOL" - ISHA, 10

Sierra Leone faces food insecurity, which impacts over half of its population. There are almost two million children in need of nutrition and over one million in need of child protection measures. This situation has had a significant impact on children's ability to access education.

One effective way to enhance accessibility to education for children is through school feeding programs. These programs aim to provide students with a daily nutritious diet while attending school. Therefore ISFP serves as a vital platform for children to access education. The project ensures



Girls eating their school meal

that children receive a nutritious meal each day, challenges societal expectations around gender inequality, safeguarding, child protection, and other social norms that create barriers for women and girls. It enhances enrolment, attendance, and eases financial burdens for families in poverty.

Investing in school feeding programs and prioritizing children's well-being and education has a positive impact on the lives and the future of Sierra Leone.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read about ISFP on our website.

Click on the button below:

READ MORE



MEET ISHA, 10

Isha, a 10-year-old girl in Sierra Leone lives with her single mother and three sisters in a small community in Port Loko district. Despite her mother's financial struggles, Isha remains enthusiastic about learning. Previously, her mother could only provide her with 1 Leone (\$0.04) for school, leaving Isha without money for lunch and resulting in frequent delays or missed classes. However, the introduction of the Integrated School Feeding Programme (ISFP) has addressed this issue.

Musa Koroma is Isha's teacher. He describes her as a brilliant girl who absorbs everything that is being taught to her. However, Mr Koroma reveals that before the introduction of ISFP, Isha was often late for school as her family struggled to afford her lunch.

"The integrated school feeding programme is not just about providing meals; it is about giving children a chance to learn and succeed," says Mr Koroma. "I have seen the difference it has made in the lives of Isha and many other children like her, and I believe it is a crucial investment in our future."

Isha is motivated by her strong desire to overcome poverty and improve the living conditions of her mother and sister when she grows up. She encourages other children to prioritise their education and strive for excellence. Moreover, she appeals to those who are more fortunate to extend a helping hand to those in need. Her determination is an inspiration to all.



Isha, 10, eating lunch at school

**"THE SCHOOL
FEEDING
PROGRAMME
HELPS
ME STAY
FOCUSED IN
CLASS, I AM
GRATEFUL
FOR IT.**

- ISHA, 10

**WANT TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
ISHA?**

Read the full story on
our website. Click on
the button below:

READ MORE

TEACHER TRAINING FOR INCLUSIVE GIRLS' EDUCATION (TTIGE)

Creating a brighter future for young women and contributing to a skilled and diverse teaching workforce.



Young women on their way to becoming qualified teachers

The goal of the Teacher Training for Inclusive Girls' Education (TTIGE) project is to provide support to marginalized young women living in rural areas who face several challenges that hinder them from completing their education. These young women have not had the opportunity to develop professional skills but are eager to become teachers and contribute to increasing the number of qualified female teachers in Sierra Leone.

With funds from Dubai Cares and in partnership with The Open University, the project supports 210 young women in Kailahun district to become qualified teachers.

"BEING A LEARNING ASSISTANT AND NOW A STUDENT TEACHER HAS CHANGED MY PERCEPTION ABOUT LIFE AS I HAVE DEVELOPED CONFIDENCE."
- ADAMA, 22

Plan International Sierra Leone is committed to promoting inclusive education and ensuring that all girls, regardless of their background or location, have equal access to quality education. The aim is to break the negative cycle that involves a shortage of female teachers, low-quality education in under-resourced areas, and limited aspirations for girls within their communities. Sierra Leone currently ranks 139 out of 153 in Educational Attainment for the Global Gender Gap Index. This means that there is a significant disparity in educational opportunities between girls and boys.

Girls often face discrimination from their families and communities, who prioritize domestic duties over their education. A lack of female role models as teachers limits the social perspective on the vital role women can play in education and society.

By increasing the number of qualified female teachers and creating a supportive learning environment, we can transform the educational experience for girls in Sierra Leone.



Adama is now a Student Teacher thanks to the TTIGE project

A circular inset image showing a man in a blue patterned shirt handing a white certificate to a woman in an orange t-shirt. The woman is smiling. In the background, there are other people and some balloons, suggesting a celebratory event. The entire inset is set against a solid orange background.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read about TTIGE on our website.
Click on the button below:

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LEAD - GIRLS, BOYS AND YOUTH AS ACTIVE DRIVERS OF CHANGE



Girls, boys, and youth as **active drivers of change** supports the empowerment of adolescents and youth, and particularly girls, to take collective actions for systemic social and political change that contributes to the realization of human rights and gender equality.

SHE LEADS

Empowering girls and young women to advocate for their rights in Sierra Leone.

She Leads is dedicated to working with girls and young women, as well as engaging stakeholders (e.g. parents, government institutions) and boys and young men. The project aims to create a supportive environment where girls and young women can thrive and become influential leaders in their communities. Our primary goal is to enhance the leadership skills of girls and young women, providing them with mentors and empowering them to raise their voices and actively participate in decision-making processes. Girls and young women have actively planned and delivered their activities over the last year. Over a five year duration the project aims to reach 4,500 girls and young women.



Princess, 17, is not afraid to speak up anymore thanks to She Leads

We are excited about the positive change we are witnessing in the lives of the girls and young women involved in the She Leads project. With the continued support of the Government of the Netherlands and our dedicated team, we are confident that we can

inspire a new generation of empowered female leaders in Sierra Leone.

"I USED TO BE AFRAID TO SPEAK UP, BUT WITH SHE LEADS, I FOUND MY VOICE AND GAINED THE CONFIDENCE TO BECOME A LEADER." - PRINCESS, 17

Girls and young women continue to face discrimination in political, economic, social, cultural and education spaces. Disproportionally affected by sexual and gender-based violence, girls and young women in Sierra Leone face enormous challenges and barriers.

Plan International is implementing the She Leads project to support them to advocate for their rights, break down barriers and bring gender transformative change to communities, institutions, and society. Girls and young women have the right to take up leadership positions and participate in decision-making.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read about She Leads on our website. Click on the button below:

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GIRLS GET EQUAL - EQUAL POWER NOW

The **Equal Power Now campaign** stands with girls calling on leaders and powerholders to uphold their fundamental rights to participate in decision making and political processes.

The Government of Sierra Leone passed the ground-breaking Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act 2022 into law on the 19th of January 2023. This is a win for all women in Sierra Leone and gives hope and aspiration to future generations. The GEWE Act sets an opportunity to lastingly improve the broader socio-economic conditions for women and increase their representation in Sierra Leone. It aims to advance key priorities including reserving 30% of elective and public office positions for women, strengthening gender mainstreaming and introducing gender-responsive budgeting, and expanding access to finance.



Girls and Young Women at the Well of Parliament

On International Day of the Girl in October 2022, Plan International took over the Well of Parliament with over 140 girls and boys from Plan's various youth networks. Driven by Plan's global Girls Get Equal Campaign they debated on the GEWE Bill making powerful statements for it to be passed into law.

This not only showed the decision makers of Sierra Leone what the young generation has to say but also gave the participants the space to advocate for the tomorrow they want to live in.

"For a country to achieve sustainable economic growth, women must be included in decision-making"
– Fatmata, 16, acting as Clerk of Parliament during the takeover. Reflecting on the day she said: "It was



Lois, 22 speaking up for gender equality

a great experience. I believe that this will take me to another level of my life. The debate opened our eyes that women are capable of doing anything. So if we give them the opportunity to showcase their potential we will be able to develop the country as a whole."



Lucia, young women participating in the Parliament takeover



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read about the Girls' Takeover of Parliament on our website:

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PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE



Every child has the right to live free from violence at home, in school, in public spaces and in their communities.

Plan International aims to prevent and respond to violence against children and youth, especially girls and young women, and promote their right to live free from violence and fear. We do this by way of awareness-raising and advocacy, community-based programming, capacity-building and research and evidence-building whilst working with a variety of partners at all levels

SAFER SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS (SS4G)

Safer Schools for Girls (SS4G) is dedicated to making schools safe and creating supportive environments where girls can thrive and reach their full potential, funded by Comic Relief. Together with the Daindemben Federation as our local partner, Plan International is implementing the project in Koinadugu district, aiming to create a school environment free from all forms of violence, with the goal to reach over 5,500 participants.

"BEING PART OF THE CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE HAS OPENED MY EYES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF TREATING BOYS AND GIRLS EQUALLY" - SALIFU, 13

Girls in Sierra Leone face significant challenges when it comes to accessing education. They often experience different forms of violence at school based on their gender, such as bullying, harassment, and even sexual exploitation and abuse. Media reports have highlighted the alarming rates of sexual exploitation in exchange for good grades. Survivors of this violence are at risk of negative consequences such as early and unwanted pregnancies, early marriage, and lasting psychological effects that hinder their ability to reach their full potential.

The Safer Schools for Girls (SS4G) project, is dedicated to addressing School Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV) and creating a safe learning environment for girls in the Koinadugu district. A comprehensive approach is taken that focuses on the individual, community, and institutional levels.



Mamusu is part of the Champions of Change

The Champions of Change model encourages both girls and boys to explore and question gender norms. By engaging in ongoing reflection and learning, the children work towards transforming deeply ingrained beliefs and challenging existing power dynamics in their communities. SS4G has been conducting weekly Champions of Change sessions in the 10 schools where the project operates. We bring together 300 children (15 boys and 15 girls in each school) in separate groups based on their gender. These sessions are an essential part of the project and empower children, especially girls, by helping them understand their rights and their sexual reproductive health.

Plan International is working towards a future where girls in Sierra Leone can learn and thrive in a safe and supportive environment. By empowering girls and raising awareness SS4G creates lasting change and ensure that every girl has the opportunity to realize her full potential.

SKILLS, WORK AND INNOVATION



Plan International Sierra Leone is exploring new and impactful approaches using innovation and technology to tackle gender inequality and to support quality programme delivery.

We have spearhead innovation initiatives in line with the current national focus of the Government of Sierra Leone. With technical expertise combined with the commitment to working with young people, Plan International Sierra Leone is uniquely placed to deliver an integrated innovative approach with youth.

YOUTH INNOVATION FUNDS

Through the Plan International West and Central African office, a Regional **Youth Challenge Fund (YCF)** has run for the last two years. Sierra Leone has had youth groups funded through this both years, including innovation ideas such as solar school backpacks.



Our Recycling Hub funded by the YCF in 2023

From this we launched our own YCF as a youth-led, participatory, inclusive, and flexible fund initiated to foster youth groups and young people's access to financial and non-financial opportunities. PISL offers flexible funds to youth groups that promote gender equality and are primarily led by girls and young women between the ages of 15-30. The YCF supports innovation among activist groups working toward gender equality. In the 2023 launched call for applications, 6 groups were successfully selected to receive USD 5,000. The groups had six months to implement their activities. The fund is about supporting the innovation, creativity, and energy of

young activist groups working to create change in their communities. Over 70 groups applied, 20 were shortlisted and 6 selected across 3 districts and 2 thematic areas; Climate Action, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). One of the winning concepts in the area of Climate Action include inter school recycling competitions, that raise awareness about the importance of environmental protection. In the area of SRHR one youth-group is focusing on sparking conversations on SRHR including intimate partner abuse to reduce gender-based violence in schools.

PISL along with Plan International Ghana is running the **Education Uninterrupted Incubator**. It is a programme fostering innovative, youth driven solutions that secure quality and continuous education for children and young people, especially those most marginalised. The incubator is a collaborative, virtual space for participants in Ghana and Sierra Leone to develop and test their own ideas to ensure continuous and quality education. The review stage process was youth led and 3 out of the 4 groups funded were from Sierra Leone. These included groups focusing on students designing their own learning environment for the Bright Start Academy in Devil Hole, refurbishing school buses to create mobile ICT centres to reach children who are most marginalized and do not otherwise have access to IT education and accessible and engaging education through student-led videos.



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KAMARA YOKIE INNOVATION CENTER



Hawa Yokie, CEO and Co-founder of the youth-led Innovation Center

Hawa Yokie is one of our YAP Alumni, who is the CEO and Co-founder of the first youth-led Innovation Center in Sierra Leone. Together with her team she runs the Kamara Yokie Innovation Center (KYIC) in Freetown offering robotics training, coding classes and an innovation space for children and youth to learn about STEM and exchange ideas.

"THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE IDEAS COME TO LIFE TO CHANGE SIERRA LEONE AND AFRICA." - HAWA, 22

Her Center creates a safe, multicultural space where innovators, creative minds, and problem solvers come together to create solutions to pressing challenges affecting people. Using a human-centered, problem-solving approach, the Center uses 21st-century entrepreneurial leadership and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education concepts to harness the untapped potentials of young people. In order to expand her portfolio PISL handed over a 3D printer and 10 drones to her centre.



Girls and young women learning how to code during Girls in ICT Day

Hawa is optimistic that she and other girls and women in her country can become a catalyst for change in Sierra Leone, providing they are given access to the decision-making spaces where climate solutions are discussed. As a former member of Plan's Youth Advisory Panel and now member of the YAP Alumni community she played a key role in Plan's advocacy work and shaping our strategies. In December 2022 she attended Plan's "Global Girls Summit" conference in Nigeria advocating for enhanced support and investment in the activism, leadership and power of girls and young women globally for their meaningful participation in the decisions that shape their lives.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read about Hawa's Innovation Center on our website. Click on the button below:

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TELERIVET

Plan International Sierra Leone has adopted an innovative and youth-led feedback mechanism. Using the Telerivet software, data from affected populations is collected and their feedback received.

This digital system addresses communication challenges and creates a 2-way feedback channel. Telerivet works across various channels, including SMS, chat apps, polls, voice response, airtime transfer, mobile rewards, and integration with local messaging providers. The use of SMS channels is particularly beneficial for our projects as it allows communication over long distances, making it effective even in remote areas with limited or no internet access.

This youth centred approach provides a model where young people are hired as Information Focal Points (IFPs) in the community. Equipped with basic



Young people getting trained as Information Focal Points

mobile phones capable of sending SMS messages, they play a crucial role in gathering feedback and information from the project communities. By using Telerivet and engaging young people as IFPs, we create a trusted and safe space where community members can share their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. This feedback is vital for us to continuously improve our projects and ensure that they meet the needs of the community.

PISL sends interactive basic SMS alerts and questionnaires, as well as receives questions, suggestions and rumours from the IFPs. All the data across all projects is managed from the Telerivet Dashboard at the Country Office through a computer. IFPs are provided with a monthly stipend and regular training in both the Telerivet approach and gender and safeguarding. Additionally, PISL is piloting an established toll-free line for Telerivet, that can be reached through short code 511 to test the benefits of having a wider accessible community feedback system alongside the youth Information Focal Points.



Chat GPT, Drones and Robotics at the Kamara Yokie Innovation Center



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read about Telerivet on our website.
Click on the button below:

[READ MORE](#)

GIRLS IN ICT DAY 2023



Girls in ICT celebration at the Kamara Yokie Innovation Center

Plan International Sierra Leone has joined forces with the Kamara Yokie Innovation Center, the Orange Foundation, the Ministry of Youth, and the Sierra Leone Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) in an exciting celebration to mark Girls in ICT Day 2023. This was designed to empower girls and young women in the realm of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Under the banner of “Digital Skills for Life,” a dynamic one-day learning event took place, filled with activities tailored to ignite the ambitions of girls and young women interested in ICT careers. Throughout the day, a mix of participants from diverse Plan youth groups such as Girls Out Loud and She Leads, as well as girls and young women invited from esteemed partners like the Orange Foundation, Ministry of Youth, and the Sierra Leone Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), had the opportunity to partake in a number of workshops. The agenda encompassed collective sessions on Safety Online and Chat GPT, fostering a sense of togetherness and learning. Additionally, participants delved deeper into their chosen areas of interest during specialized sessions: Digital Literacy, Introduction to Coding, Mobile Journalism, and Tech for Inclusion. These immersive breakout workshops allowed for personalized engagement in smaller groups, catering to individual preferences.

The event’s overarching aim was to grant access to technology and engaging activities, effectively equipping girls with digital skills, nurturing their curiosity for technology, and planting the seeds of leadership aspirations within the ICT industry. The Girls in ICT Day 2023 concluded with a collaborative reflection session, with participants sharing their insights and experiences from the day’s learning journey. The collective enthusiasm to pursue further knowledge and growth within this field came out among the participants, marking a promising step towards a future filled with possibilities.



Girls during the Mobile Journalism training



Hawa Yokie addressing her peers on Girls in ICT Day

"AS IT STANDS THE WORLD IS EVOLVING AND WE NEED MORE WOMEN AT THE FRONT, ESPECIALLY IN ICT. IF WOMEN ARE INCLUDED, I BELIEVE IT WILL HELP CREATE MORE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY."

— ALISHA, GIRLS OUT LOUD MEMBER

WANT TO SEE MORE ABOUT GIRLS IN ICT?

Watch the video on our Instagram. Click on the button below:

WATCH NOW

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)



Plan International's goal is to have children, adolescents, and young people in all their diversity have control of their lives and bodies, and make decisions about their sexuality, free from discrimination, coercion, or violence which includes whether, when, and with whom to have sex, marry, and have a child.

MY HEALTH. MY RIGHTS.

Let's start talking - Girls, in all their diversity, have the right to be educated and make active choices about their bodies.



Young woman part of the My Health My Rights Mojo training

The My Health. My Rights. project, co-funded by the European Union focuses on making sure young people, especially girls and young women have access to sexual reproductive health services and exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). We have forged a partnership with the local non-governmental organization called Sierra Leone Social Marketing and Development Agency (SLaDA) to bring this project to life in the Moyamba and Port Loko districts. This collective effort aims to empower young people (ages 10 - 19), and ensure they have access to the rights and reproductive resources they deserve.

Sierra Leone is facing significant challenges when it comes to realizing sexual and reproductive health rights, particularly for girls and young women. Social and cultural norms and religious beliefs prevent young people from getting accurate information

about their sexual development, access to sexual and reproductive health services and making decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

Across two focus areas we are working to create a supportive environment that caters to the specific needs of adolescents. By prioritizing quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and improving accessibility to SRHR services, we are taking steps towards a healthier and more empowered future for the youth. We are empowering young individuals with the necessary information and skills to make informed decisions.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read about My Health. My Rights. on our website. Click on the button:

READ MORE

MOBILE JOURNALISM (MOJO)

Mobile Journalism, or MoJo, is an exciting form of digital storytelling that involves creating content using only smartphones. At Plan International Sierra Leone, the program supports young people in enhancing their advocacy, storytelling, and influencing skills through creative media and journalism.

"DURING THIS TRAINING I FULLY GOT TO UNDERSTAND MY POTENTIAL AND MY TALENT." - MUNA, MOJO IN PORT LOKO

Since the first training in 2023 we have trained over 50 people across 4 districts in 3 projects; 45 Girls, 6 Boys. In line with our Youth Engagement strategy, this approach empowers young individuals to effectively hold others accountable, communicate their messages, and advocate for important causes such as access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.



Youth practicing mobile journalism

One participant from Moyamba District shared her experience, saying, "Through this training, I have gained the ability to edit videos, capture high-quality photos, and improve my writing skills. Now, I can tell stories that impact my community using just my mobile phone. Before the training, I used social media just for fun, but now the MoJo training has opened my eyes to the various ways I can utilize social media." Plan International is incredibly proud of the achievements of these young Mobile Journalists. They are equipped with the necessary tools and skills to create impactful content, bringing attention to the issues that matter most to their communities.



Young woman practicing her MoJo skills



Young aspiring mobile journalists during the training

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read about Mobile Journalism on our website. Click on the button:

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

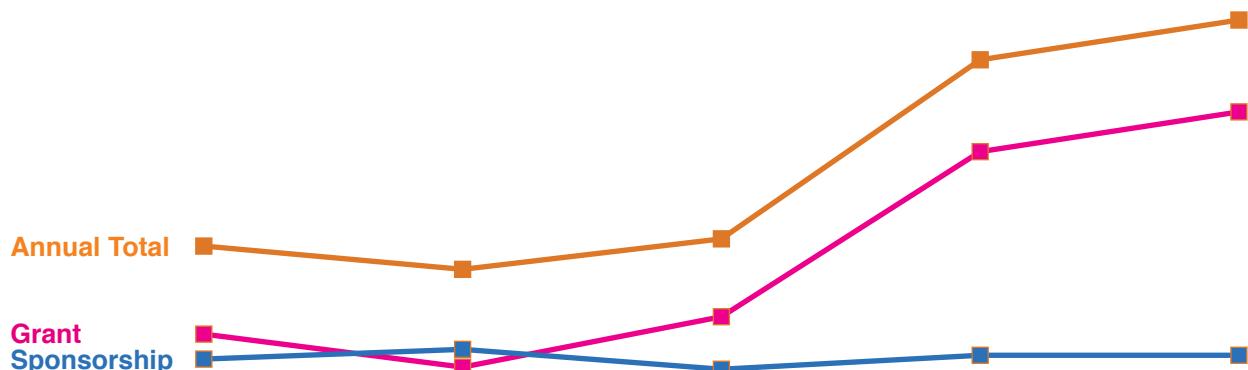
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT (EURO)	PERCENTAGE
Sponsorship	2,891,533.00	27%
Grant	7,919,728.00	73%
Total Budget	10,811,261.00	100%

Budget breakdown between Grant (restricted) and Sponsorship (unrestricted) funding.

THEMATIC AREA	AMOUNT (EURO)	PERCENTAGE
Inclusive, Quality Education Programmes	7,372,338.48	93.09%
SRHR Programmes	258,242.63	3.26%
LEAD Programmes	150,633.13	1.90%
Protection from Violence Programmes	138,513.61	1.75 %
Total Budget	7,919,727.85	100%

Composition of Grant budget by thematic area.



	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Annual Total	4.75	4.20	4.92	9.15	10.09
Grant	2.67	1.89	3.08	6.98	7.92
Sponsorship	2.08	2.31	1.84	2.17	2.17

Budget history Financial Years 2019 - 2023 in EURO (M)

THANK YOU

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