

PLAN INTERNATIONAL SIERRA LEONE NEWSLETTER

YOUTH EDITION

We are in a complex time where talent is on the rise and new distractions pop up constantly. There's this weight on us to outshine the generations before. It often leaves folks from my generation in a bit of a tough spot. As a young person, you've likely felt this—it's not the best feeling.

But here at Plan International Sierra Leone, things take a turn for the better. That not-so-great feeling transforms into foresight, career mentorship, safeguarding, and first-hand apprenticeship. Plan International has built a safe space for us young people and a home away from home. While transitioning from teenage hood into a young adult, Plan's 'scheme has helped me and other young people purposefully choose career paths and professionally define our goals.

Plan has established an unprecedented impact in bringing school-going youth into the working space, while the majority of organisations, clearly shy away from incorporating young people into their work. As interns, we feel heard and seen, and we work with leaders who encourage us to learn and never force perfection. We are allowed to humbly make mistakes and learn from them. When one thinks of a conducive space for young people, they think of Plan International.

Granting space to young people consistently yields positive impacts on society. I firmly believe that more organisations should actively engage in promoting inclusive environments for youth. It is imperative for these organisations to be intentional and deliberate in their efforts, ensuring the provision of equal rights and equal power to all young individuals. By fostering an atmosphere that values and empowers the youth, we can collectively contribute to a more vibrant, dynamic, and equitable society.

Youths, on the other hand, should speak up and make their voices heard. We can only achieve equal rights when we fight for them. Make your voices heard against inequalities, violence, and discrimination in all their forms.

*Written by Mariam Samai,
23 years old, Plan
International Sierra Leone
Intern, Representative
of the Regional Youth
Advisory Panel for
Plan International
WACA*



**“WE CANNOT CONFIDENTLY
DESIGN OUR TOMORROW
IF WE ARE SCARED TO
MAKE OUR VOICES
HEARD TODAY”**

- MARIAM SAMAI, 23



Muniratu Issifu speaking at She Leads Conference in Koinadugu District

OPENING STATEMENT

Greetings to our esteemed supporters, partners, and advocates of Plan International Sierra Leone.

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to you all as we embark on a new chapter of growth, empowerment, and positive change in Sierra Leone. As the new Country Director, I am honored to join a community dedicated to fostering a brighter future for the youth of this dynamic nation.

In these pages, you will find stories that resonate with the spirit of resilience, hope, and progress. Our youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the driving force behind the transformative changes we witness today. Through the Plan International Sierra Leone newsletter, we aim to share the impactful journey of our young individuals, highlighting their experiences, challenges, and triumphs.

One of the cornerstones of our commitment to youth development is the internship program, as eloquently expressed by Mariam Samai, a Plan International Sierra Leone intern. As you read along, you will find testimonials from other interns that exemplify the tangible impact of our internship initiatives, providing a glimpse into the diverse opportunities we offer across departments.

I invite you to dive into the pages of our newsletter, filled with inspiring narratives, initiatives, and the collective spirit of progress. Together, let us continue to create a supportive environment for our youth, where their voices are heard, talents nurtured, and dreams realized. Plan International Sierra Leone is not just an organisation; it is home for the young minds shaping the future of this beautiful country.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a future where every young person in Sierra Leone has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

MUNIRATU ISSIFU

Country Director
Plan International Sierra Leone

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INTERNSHIP TESTIMONIAL



I am grateful for the enriching internship opportunity at Plan International Sierra Leone's (PISL) procurement department. Drawing on my academic background at IPAM University SL, this experience has not only refined my professional skills but also sculpted a better version of myself. I've gained profound insights and practical knowledge that will contribute meaningfully to my future endeavors. Thank you, PISL, for this invaluable opportunity. - **Augustine Martin**

My three-month internship at PISL has been an amazing experience. I've been actively involved in the Gender at the Center Initiative (GCI) project, monitoring deadlines, and supporting day-to-day implementation. Learning new skills and building strong connections with colleagues has made this opportunity incredibly valuable. Excited for the continued journey at PISL!- **Fatima Kamara**



My internship at Plan International Sierra Leone's Youth Engagement Department has been a journey of motivation, lessons, and inspiration. It has reinforced my commitment to youth empowerment, equipped me with practical skills, and instilled a deep appreciation for the complexities and rewards of development work. As I reflect on this experience, I carry forward the lessons learned and the inspiration gained, ready to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing efforts towards a brighter future for the entire youths in Sierra Leone. - **Sorie Koromba**

I am currently interning at PISL's comms department, I am on a skill-building journey where I am learning social media management, crafting engaging content, and Mobile journalism (Mojo). From collaborative content creation to editing impactful videos, PISL is providing a hands-on environment for me to enhance my communication skills. Capturing staff, programme participants, project events, and creating visually compelling content are integral parts of my learning experience. I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to applying these skills in my future endeavours. - **Rosaline Judy**





YOUTH CHALLENGE FUND

RECYCLING TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE MINISTRY OF GENDER AND RECONCILIATION, Student Union Group -Fourah Bay College

In today's fast-paced world, young people are proving themselves to be powerful agents of change, spearheading movements that address global challenges such as climate change, disability rights, and sustainable development. These young advocates in Sierra Leone are making their mark through innovative initiatives, thanks to the Plan International Sierra Leone Youth Challenge Fund. By empowering and entrusting these young change-makers and encouraging their active participation, we can create a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable society for all. In the 2023 applications, six groups were successfully selected to receive USD 2,000. The selected groups work across 3 districts and in 2 thematic areas: climate action and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The groups had three months to implement their activities.

STRONG GIRLS EVOLUTION





EVOLVING CIRCLE

ON SKILLS BUILDING, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & FEMALE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Thank you


to all our participants, speakers and supporters for making this event a success.

FOLLOW US   Strong Girls Evolution


The Organizing Team

 Eunice N. Mustapha 25 LL.B Hons., B.L., & LL.M	 Teijeh G.S. Kahunla 25 LL.B Hons. & B.L	 Naomi J. Mustapha 19 Bsc. in Applied Accounting Student
 Kadijatu Barrie 25 Bsc. in Accounting & Finance, Gender Research & Development Student	 Alitta L. Conteh 25 LL.B & B.L	 Rosaline Judy 24 B.A Hons. in Linguistics, Law Student





Strong Girls Evolution



Stronggirlsevolution

The Youth Challenge Fund provided by Plan International has been instrumental in enabling Strong Girls Evolution to organize an impactful event designed to empower and inspire young women and adolescent girls. The event's focus is to broaden their understanding of various career paths and instill leadership skills that will contribute to their personal and professional development. Strong Girls Evolution successfully targeted over 250 girls with this initiative, making a significant impact on a substantial number of young participants.

RECYCLING HUB

WASTE TO WEALTH INITIATIVE TO RECYCLING MANAGEMENT

OUR RECYCLING HUB
FROM TRASH TO TREASURE:
UNLOCKING THE VALUE OF WASTE

WASTE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND RECYCLING EXHIBITION

MEET OUR ORGANIZERS

HAJARATU M BANGURA
Executive Director

MARIAN SAMURA
Program Coordinator

TITY SANNOH
Finance officer

TITIAN KOROMA
Safeguarding Person

LOIS JOSIAH
Communication Person

THANK YOU!

FOLLOW US OUR RECYCLING HUB



Community sensitization on waste management & distribution of bins at Waterloo



Handing over a setting table made from recycled tyre to Evariste Sindayigaya



Waterloo community children, happy to receive their dust bin



To address environmental concerns and promote sustainable living, the Recycling Hub has initiated a groundbreaking Waste to Wealth programme in the Waterloo and Susan’s Bay communities of Sierra Leone. This innovative initiative focuses on fostering proper waste disposal and recycling practices to create a positive impact on both the environment and the local communities. The heart of the initiative lies in the community outreach efforts launched by the Recycling Hub. Through these outreach programs, residents are educated on the importance of responsible waste management and recycling. The Recycling Hub has established four school clubs, each led by an ambassador, to engage students in sustainable waste management practices. With four school clubs led by ambassadors engaging students in sustainable waste management practices, the programme aims to transform waste into resources, fostering economic opportunities for a more sustainable future



The Children Forum Network during the training in Port-Loko District

THE CHILDREN FORUM NETWORK ORGANIZED A TRAINING FOR 100 SCHOOL PUPILS IN 10 SCHOOLS IN PORTLOKO AND LUNSAR ON SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS (SRHR)

In an impactful initiative, The Children Forum Network recently organized an SRHR training for 100 school pupils across 10 schools in Port Loko and Lunsar. The highlight of the program was the formation of school ambassadors dedicated to fostering conversations on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) within their schools. These ambassadors are now not just informed advocates but also empowered to report any violations of Reproductive Health Rights among their peers. The Children Forum Network is proud to shine a spotlight on these youth advocates, recognizing their crucial role in shaping healthier and more informed communities.



The Children Forum Network members in Port-Loko



A boys school in Port-Loko were school ambassadors were formed



RECYCLING TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE MINISTRY OF GENDER AND RECONCILIATION, STUDENT UNION GROUP-FOURAH BAY COLLEGE

In partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Reconciliation, SUG-FBC conducted a two-day recycling training for 100 women and young girls in Kassada Farm Community. The initiative focused on raising awareness, imparting knowledge, and providing practical skills for active participation in recycling, with expert-led sessions covering waste management essentials. The goal is to empower participants to champion sustainable practices in their community and beyond.

 Children's Forum Network Sierra Leone

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR YOUTH CHALLENGE FUND

Click on the button

READ MORE

THE YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP MEETING : ENGAGING YOUTH IN DECISION MAKING



Muniratu Issifu and the Minister of Basic and Senior secondary Education are shaking hands towards partnership



The Youths' visit to the Minister's Office

In a significant stride towards fostering inclusive governance in Sierra Leone's education sector, a historic meeting took place on September 1, 2023, orchestrated by Plan International. The meeting brought together the Youth Advisory Group and the newly appointed Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Minister Conrad Sackey, marking a significant milestone in shaping the nation's educational landscape. Five groups were selected for participation, with one in Moyamba, one in Bo, and three in the Western Area, ensuring widespread and diverse representation. Sixteen youths, one from each district, were selected to form the group, emphasising diversity and regional perspectives.

Unifying Voices for Change

Sierra Leone's Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) has a strategic vision for engaging young people in internal decision-making, one that promotes attitudinal and behavioural change among MBSSE staff and young people. The goal is to enhance collaborative work within a spirit of openness and inclusion, recognizing the transformative potential of youth involvement. The Youth Advisory Group plays a crucial role in this vision by enhancing the role of young people in decision-making and fostering them as strategic partners to influence and support the ministry in policy design, strategy development, and program implementation.



The Head of Programme Development and Quality , Sponsorship Alumni Coordinator and the Youth Recruitment Panel Representative, with the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education



Head of Programme Development and Quality speaking with the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

Minister's Commitment to Youth-Led Change

During the landmark meeting, Minister Conrad Sackey expressed profound gratitude to Plan International for their pivotal role in supporting the formation and coordination of the Youth Advisory Panel. He passionately reiterated his unwavering commitment to integrate youth involvement into the very essence of decision-making processes. Minister Sackey recognizes the role of youth in reshaping Sierra Leone's educational landscape and underscores the pressing urgency of their active participation in shaping the nation's educational future.

A Vision for Educational Reform

The discussions during this momentous meeting were characterized by a constructive dialogue, and a shared vision for educational reform. Youth representatives adeptly addressed various critical issues, including equitable access to quality education, the integration of technology into learning, teacher training, the holistic development of the curriculum, and the enhancement of vocational skills.



Sponsorship Alumni Coordinator and young people presenting at the office of the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary education's office

A Profound Sense of Partnership

This open dialogue nurtured a profound sense of partnership and collaboration between the youth and the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. It laid a sturdy foundation for sustained engagement and cooperation, with both parties wholeheartedly dedicated to collaborative ventures aimed at addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities inherent in Sierra Leone's educational sector.

A Journey Towards Transformation

In conclusion, the familiarization meeting between the Youth Advisory Group and Minister Conrad Sackey of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education represents the commencement of a promising journey. It serves as a shining testament to the unwavering dedication of both Plan International and the to ensure positive transformation in Sierra Leone's education sector. This momentous event symbolizes a hopeful and progressive stride towards the advancement of education and the empowerment of Sierra Leone's youth. Together, they embark on a journey towards a brighter educational future, one that is truly youth-led and inclusive.

This meeting stands as a beacon of hope, lighting the way for a more inclusive and youth-driven educational system in Sierra Leone.



Abubakarr Sesay, 17

PLAN INTERNATIONAL SIERRA LEONE REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT IN NAIROBI

EMPOWERING YOUNG VOICES: MY PARTICIPATION IN THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT IN NAIROBI, KENYA. A CALL TO ACTION!

Written by Abubakarr Sesay, 17, child and youth activist focusing on climate change and gender inequality for women and girls

The Africa Climate Summit, which took place from September 4th to September 7th, 2023, served as a platform for global leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to address the pressing issue of climate change and its impact on the African continent. While discussions primarily involve high-level officials, it is crucial to recognize the importance of youth participation in shaping sustainable solutions for a better future. This article explores my involvement in the Africa Climate Summit as a young person from Sierra Leone supported by Plan International and highlights the potential to drive positive change.

As a young person who participated in the summit, I was inspired by the passion and commitment of my peers to create a sustainable future for Africa and the world. We shared our stories, experiences, and ideas on how we can collectively take action to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to its impacts.

One of the key takeaways from the summit was the need for youth-led solutions to climate change. As young people, we are creative, innovative, and have a unique perspective on the challenges we face. We must harness this energy and creativity to develop solutions that are tailored to our local contexts and address the specific needs of our communities.

Another important theme that emerged from the summit was the urgency of action. Climate change is not a distant threat; it is already affecting our lives and livelihoods. We cannot afford to wait for others to take action. We must act now, individually and collectively, to reduce our carbon footprint, conserve natural resources, and promote sustainable practices.



Abubakarr conducting an experiment to show the effect of climate change on plants using banana specimen



Abubakarr is speaking at the Africa Climate Summit in September 2023.

The summit also emphasized the importance of partnerships and collaboration. Addressing climate change requires a collective effort from all sectors of society, including government, civil society, private sector, and individuals. We must work together to create a shared vision for a sustainable future and develop collaborative solutions that can be scaled up for maximum impact.

Moving forward, the summit also highlighted the importance of education and awareness-raising. Many young people are not aware of the causes and consequences of climate change or how they can contribute to addressing it. We need to educate ourselves and others about the science of climate change, its impacts on our communities, and how we can take action to mitigate it.

In addition to these themes, I worked with other young people and children across Africa supported by Plan International and other child protection partners to develop the children declaration on climate change which captures our shared thoughts as children and young people of Africa on how climate change can be combatted; from increasing climate finances to continuous of children and young people in climate discourse with global leaders and stakeholders.

I also participated in several side events which comprised of the children pitching their ideas on mitigating climate change. A youth connect session was organized by the youth commission of children and sessions on the need for carbon investment. A high level intergenerational dialogue on climate adaptation and resilience took place that also highlighted the use of indigenous knowledge to improve climate adaptation, hosted at the first lady pavilion kicc etc.

Call For Action

1. Limited Representation: Despite efforts to include young people in climate discussions, there is still a need for greater representation from diverse backgrounds and regions.
2. Capacity Building: Enhancing the capacity of young people to actively participate in the Africa Climate Summit is essential. Providing training programs on climate science, policy advocacy, negotiation skills, and project management can empower young participants to effectively contribute to discussions and influence decision-making processes

As I reflect on my experience at the Africa Climate Summit, I am filled with hope and determination. Young people have a critical role to play in addressing climate change, and we must seize this opportunity to create a sustainable future for ourselves and future generations. We must continue to engage in dialogue, develop innovative solutions, take action, and hold our leaders accountable for their commitments.

I urge all young people to join this movement and be part of the solution. Let us use our voices, our skills, and our passion to create a better world for ourselves and for all living beings on this planet. The time for action is now!

ABUBAKARR'S CALL FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Abubakarr in a panel discussion on youth actions to fight against climate change at Africa climate summit



Abubakarr's been interviewed by Plan International Kenya about his take away and recommendation



Fatima Bangura taking over as the Plan International Manager of Port-Loko District

IDG CELEBRATION IN PORT-LOKO DISTRICT

Plan International Port Loko teamed up with Girls Out Loud, Youth Advisory Panel (YAP), Children Forum Network (CFN), Woman and Girl Protectives Services (WGPS), and other youth groups for three special events: Girls Taking Over offices, Girls' Inspiration Conference, and a media campaign. These activities marked the celebration of International Day of the Girl (IDG) 2023, a day dedicated to recognising the strength of girls and bringing attention to the challenges they face each year.

Girls Inspiration Conference

The IDG 2023 Girls Conference took place at the Pastoral Center in Port Loko, Sierra Leone on 11th October, 2023 with the theme "Our Time is Now, Our Right, Our Future". The event was led by young people, especially girls, and various youth organizations with active participation of promising girls and potential young women who shared their life testimonies and transformation stories.

"Challenging harmful traditional and religious norms and stereotypes that perpetuate violence against girls." This topic made a significant highlight at the recent conference where girls and panelists engaged in an insightful discussion.

The IDG 2023 Girls Inspiration Conference in Port Loko, Sierra Leone, marked a significant moment in the ongoing efforts to empower girls and young women to challenge societal norms and discriminatory practices. The event did not only celebrate the achievements and resilience of girls but also served as a call to action for individuals and organizations to continue supporting their rights and futures. As we look forward to the future, it is clear that the time for change is now, and the commitment to achieving gender equality remains unwavering.



Fatima Bangura, 11, giving a speech at the Girls Conference in Port-Loko



Laminatu, 13, reading a poem at the Girls Conference in Port-Loko



Fatima Bangura Standing outside the Port-Loko office with the PIIA Manager and staff

Girls “Taking Over” Offices

The global GirlsTakeover is a call to action for radical social and political change to tear down barriers of discrimination and prejudice that continue to hold girls back.

From the United States to Thailand, hundreds of girls step into the roles of leaders for a day to demand equal power, freedom and representation for girls and young women.

Through the #GirlsTakeover, girls occupy spaces where they are rarely seen or heard, making it clear they have the right to be there without being silenced or ignored.

Girls across 16 major offices in Port Loko District participated in this event which included the Port Loko District and City Councils, Plan’s Plan International’s Port Loko office, District Health Management Team, Ministry of Education, Human Rights Commission, Regional National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT), and National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) Offices, among others. There was widespread participation in various sectors which symbolizes the diversity of opportunities for young girls.

Young girls were given the unique opportunity to “step into the shoes” of leaders and professionals working in these institutions. They temporarily assumed roles and responsibilities, Ozainatu A. Sesay as Deputy Director of Education in Port Loko courtesy of the MBSSE, N’yillah M. Kabia who take over as Teaching Service Commission Director, Fatima Bangura Program Influencing Implementation Area Manager amongst others giving them a firsthand experience of what it means to work in various fields. This takeover was not only symbolic but also a practical learning experience for these girls.

IDG CELEBRATION IN PORT-LOKO DISTRICT



Fatmata Barrie , As a Local Unit Commander for Port-Loko District



Ada JF Quaker , as Deputy chief administrator of Port-Loko city council



Ya Adama B Tawarally , 10, as resident Minister North West Region



Ozainatu A. Sesay , as Deputy Director of Education (Ministry of Basic & Senior Secondary Education)



A group of school girls from different schools who attended the Girls Inspiration Conference

IDG CELEBRATION IN MOYAMBA DISTRICT

In Moyamba this year, Plan International Sierra Leone worked with young people participially girls and young women observed the day with three main activities: activism session, media campaign, and a Girls' Inspiration Conference. The participants ranged from members of Plan's Youth Advisory Panel, Girls Out Loud group, She Leads project and trained Mobile Journalists (MoJo). In addition to members from the Children's Forum Network and Girls and Young Women groups in the district. The commemoration focused on the theme "Girls Activism, Accountability, and Resourcing: Our Time is Now, Our Right, Our Future".

The 2023 State of The World's Girls Report (SOTWGR) and the story telling were important tools used by girls throughout the commemoration to bring out facts and stories on the challenges of girls and young women activists, and the change they are achieving as a result. The commemoration also sought to roll out the Girls Get Equal campaign (Equal Power, Freedom, Representation).

Activism Session

As part of the pre-IDG commemoration activities, the girls held a stakeholder session on activism, where seasoned activists in the Moyamba District facilitated discussions and experience sharing on what activism is all about. The session brought together 30 stakeholders. 20 young women and girls, 6 boys, and 4 key stakeholders. This included a disability representatives, CSO representatives, Paramount Chief, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare. During this session, key discussion areas included strengthening adolescent girls and young women's participation in civic and political life, ceding power to grassroots girls and youth led groups, and accessibility to decision makers through open safe civic spaces. Girls were inspired, and at the end of the session, stakeholders committed to supporting girls and young women especially persons with disability to do their activism in safe, confidence building and conducive atmosphere.



Moyamba District Girls Inspirational Conference

Radio Programme

The commemoration continued with a radio discussion on MODCAR radio a day before the International Day of the Girl. Girls addressed activism challenges, discussing backlash against politically active peers, unequal opportunities, and struggles faced by disabled female activists. During the program's phone call session, participants emphasized the barrier of compromise and urged power holders to offer support. Recommendations included empowering young activists, addressing compromise issues, and providing mental health training to cope with activism-related stress.



A youth representative moderating the radio discussion

Girls Inspirational Conference

Plan International's Moyamba office concluded its Girls Inspiration conference on October 11th, International Day of the Girl (IDG). The event, themed "Storm the Norms," empowered 100 girls, 30 boys, and 20 district stakeholders/leaders to address challenges faced by girls. Chaired by Bintu Bawah, the conference featured empowering speeches from female leaders, including a Member of Parliament and motivational speaker Madam Jane Lahai. Participants engaged in three panel discussions on topics such as girls' activism accountability and transparency, storming societal norms, and asserting their rights for the future. The discussions compelled stakeholders to commit to prioritizing issues like quality education, economic empowerment, equal representation, health, policy harmonization, and combating gender-based violence. Girls were encouraged to be bold, educated, and persistent in pursuing their dreams.



The Plan International's Port Loko office Manager addressing the audience at the girl's conference event



the Girl Inspirational Conference event in Moyamba District

IDG CELEBRATION IN MOYAMBA DISTRICT



Johnina Adama at the IDG 2023 Girls Conference in Moyamba District

**“DO NOT SEE MY
DISABILITY BUT
SEE MY ABILITIES.”**

- JOHNINA ADAMA,

A POEM BY JOHNINA ADAMA

See my abilities

Do not see my disability but see my ability. Brothers and Sisters, I am here to inform you that you should not see my disability but see my abilities. We have long been discriminated against because of our disabilities. Do not see only our disabilities see our abilities; Do not deny us our human rights but love us for who we are; we can deliver.

Do not ignore us because of our disabilities but embrace us because of our abilities. Do not reject us but bring us on board in your Planning and actions, we can do it, just create the space and give us the opportunities. Disability is not inability.

STATE OF THE WORLD GIRLS REPORT



**CLICK THE BUTTON
TO READ THE REPORT**

READ MORE

The State of the World Girls is a series of research reports released every year for the International Day of the Girl. This research series seeks to raise the voices of girls and young women across the globe. Each report celebrates the power and potential of girls while highlighting the barriers they face. This year, over 1,000 participants were interviewed to find out what it's like to be an adolescent girl or young woman activist leading the fight for equality today. This includes activists from Sierra Leone.



Young Individuals across the 16 district in Sierra Leone

She Lead Supports International Day of the Girl Child organized by GADNET in Bo

The She Leads Project played a pivotal role in supporting the recent International Day of the Girl Child organized by Girl's Advocacy Network (GADNET), contributing to the success of the 4th Edition of the National Girls Summit. Held from October 16th to 18th, 2023, at the Galliness Paradise Hotel Hall, the summit drew participation from 500 young individuals across Sierra Leone's 16 districts and various representatives from governmental bodies, UN agencies, CSOs, NGOs, and youth organisations.

The summit, themed "She can lead, she is a Leader," focused on building the confidence and leadership skills of girls and young women. Tithy Memunatu Sannoh, Programme Officer at GADNET, highlighted the impact and challenges of previous summits (2020-2022) and introduced the "girls call to action" derived from pre-summit activities. Sannoh emphasised the summit's role as a platform for sharing experiences, inspiring stories, and addressing gender issues affecting girls directly and indirectly.

Esther Elliot-Nyuma, Safeguarding and Child Protection Specialist representing Plan International Sierra Leone, delivered an inspiring message reaffirming the organisation's commitment to a world where every girl knows her rights and has the freedom to choose her path. The summit aimed to empower girls to learn, lead, and speak up on issues impacting their well-being and growth. It sought to overcome barriers, encourage networking, and help girls achieve their fullest potential.

In summary, the 4th National Girls Summit, organised by the GADNET, was a collaborative effort that brought together diverse stakeholders, including government bodies, international organisations, and youth groups. The event successfully inspired and motivated girls and young women, reinforcing the importance of their active participation in decision-making processes at all levels. The She Leads Project, in tandem with GADNET, played a crucial role in creating a platform for meaningful discussions and actions to protect and promote the rights of girls in Sierra Leone.

SHE LEAD PROJECT SUPPORTS IDG 2023 IN BO DISTRICT



Esther Elliot-Nyuma Safeguarding and child protection specialist speaking at the National Girls Summit



Representatives from different organisations at the National Girls Summit



Hannah, CEO of the Girl's Advocacy Network speaking at the National Girl's Summit



Young people during the MoJo trainign taking pictures and videos, © MoJos, Plan International Sierra Leone

Plan International Sierra Leone sponsored an IDG event in Bo District, organized by the Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs

The Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs, in collaboration with partners, celebrated the International Day of the Girl 2033 in Bo District, Sierra Leone, under the theme “Our Time is Now, Our Rights, and Our Future.” Dignitaries, including the Deputy Minister, World Vision Director, and UN representatives, attended. The programme featured a play by the Children’s Forum Network emphasising education for future leadership and entertainment addressing societal issues. The network presented a position paper urging the passage of the Children’s Rights Bill. The minister pledged ongoing support, emphasising the commitment to end gender issues and discrimination against girls. The event concluded with gratitude towards the girls and partners for their contributions.

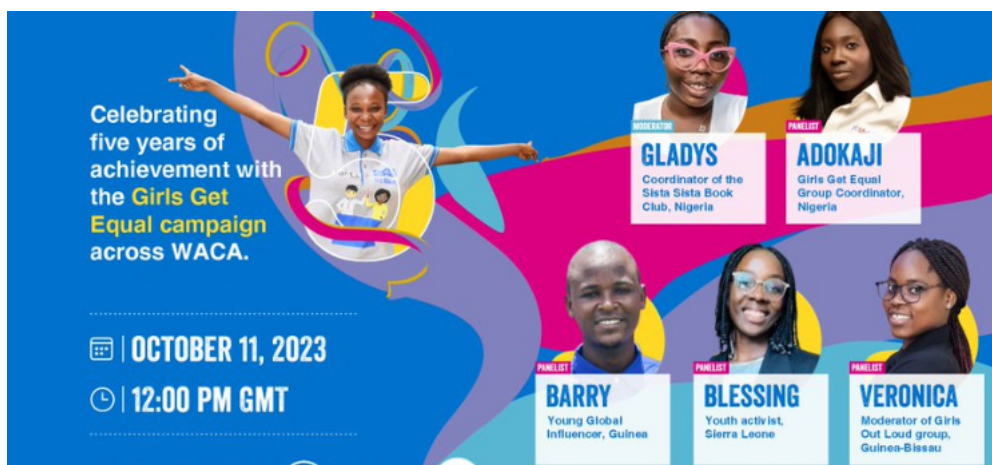
IDG 2023 CELEBRATION



Fatima, Child’s Forum Network Member and She Leads Member



A female speaker from the Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs



Plan International West and Central Africa Girls Get Equal Celebration

Plan International West and Central Africa recently organised a webinar to commemorate the fifth anniversary of accomplishments within the “Girls Get Equal” campaign on the International Day of the Girl. Blessing, a member of the Girls Out Loud initiative in Sierra Leone, served as a key presenter during a discussion highlighting girls’ activism. The conversation delved into the remarkable events surrounding the International Day of the Girl takeover of the Parliament of Sierra Leone on October 11, 2022. This dialogue united girls involved in activism from five diverse countries, ensuring full representation from Sierra Leone.



A Male representative from the ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs



Johnson Bien-Aimee with PISL Country Leadership team and the youth groups

EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES: PISL YOUTH GROUPS MET WITH JOHNSON BIEN-AMIEE THE MANO RIVER DIRECTOR OF SUB-REGION FOR PLAN INTERNATIONAL WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

During a recent visit to Plan International Sierra Leone's Country Office, the Mano River Director of Sub-Region for Plan Waca, Johnson Bien-Aimee, accompanied by the country leadership team, engaged with representatives of Plan Youth Led Networks. The primary objective was to amplify the voices of young leaders addressing issues in Plan-sponsored areas. In this meeting, dynamic youth representatives showcased their initiatives and sought support in areas such as funding, leadership training, and workshops. Madam Muniratu, the Country Director, praised their dedication and committed to exploring avenues for assistance. The youth's genuine appreciation for this commitment underscored Plan's responsiveness to their needs. This visit solidifies a robust partnership between Plan International Sierra Leone and youth-led networks, working collaboratively towards a future where the voices of the youth are not only heard but also empowered for lasting community impact.



Muniratu Issifu, country Director speaking to the youth groups at PISL's Country Office



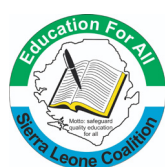
Johnson Bien-Aimee addressing the youth groups at PISL's country office



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