

Plan International UK: 'Supporting marginalised girls to get a quality education in Sierra Leone' (MYG010.15)

Summary of Year 2 Report

Project objectives

- Increase access and retention in grades 5 and 6 of primary school (10-12 years), and grades 7, 8 and 9 of Junior Secondary School (12-15 years), and of children with disabilities
- Strengthen girls' learning in grades 5 and 6 of primary school and junior secondary school
- Ensure that girls are learning in an inclusive environment and protected from harm
- Ensure that school-based learning can resume after Ebola by providing hand-washing facilities at each school
- Increase the number of qualified female primary school teachers by supporting 276 Learning Assistants to enter teacher training
- Directly improve the quality of education for 8,280 children through the support of a Learning Assistant in class
- Increase school retention rates for girls

Project status

This project aims to train female teachers in Sierra Leone through distance learning. Since passing their entrance examinations with a pass rate of 95%, 482 young women have now enrolled in Teacher Training College.

The Open University, a partner organisation for the project, has completed a mid-term impact study and found that the project has already had a "transformational impact on the participants; who have increased self-confidence, self-respect, competence and ambition."

Activities in the reporting period

All 482 student teachers have enrolled into their respective colleges. Tuitions fees have been paid for 375, with the remaining balance to be paid by the end of August.

Each college has held its first residential course, including a week-long orientation at the campus to learn about the distance learning methodology and the three-year syllabus.

Each of the student teachers has received learning materials such as workbooks and maths sets, calculator and pens. Additionally, each is supported with a small monthly stipend to cover living costs.

Budget

The Isle of Man's funding of £155,005 to date has supported the Teaching Training College fees, the provision of materials to the student teachers and project management, monitoring and support costs. The third and final payment for the project is £61,130.29.