

## “See Our World”

“An essential part of Plan’s work is to help create spaces for children and young people to discuss together the issues which affect their lives, then ensure adults respect their views so that children may be involved in community decision-making. This communication has been prepared with and by children directly and is intended to give a general sense of the kinds of issues children discuss and how they work together.”

### Our Mothers Have A Voice!

Greeting from Ghana! We are a group of children from Wa in the Upper West Region of Ghana and we would like to share with you the story of how our mother’s can now contribute in decision-making and own property.

### Lack Of Gender Awareness

In our area, men are treated special. They receive the necessary help to pursue their dreams. They speak out when decisions are being taken which later favours them.



A woman and her daughter doing house chores.

It is not so with our mothers. Our society sees them as only good for household duties, farm hands and for other menial jobs. We spend little time with them because they are always busy, tired and have little or no time for us.

Our culture does not allow our mothers to own any land or property. Since they have no means to make money, their chances of taking part in decision making and becoming leaders in the society are very slim.

**Before the programme, my mother could not cater for any of our needs, but after she got pigs to rear through the**

**farm animal project, she can now cater for our basic needs like school fees, medical bills, school uniforms and clothes for festivals. She even helped my elder brother to start a small-scale business”.**  
says 16-year old Nalwiei

**10 year old Marama says “I have never seen a man bathing a child, since I was born, but now my father baths me to go to school and carries my younger sister when my mother is cooking”.**

The livestock project has really helped us a lot in this area. Formerly we the women do not meet regularly to talk about issues that affect us. We now meet regularly to discuss issues on our project as well as other issues that affect women in the entire area,” says a happy mother called Hawa

## Awareness Creation

Together with Plan and other organisations in our area we started a training programme on gender awareness. After the training, we put our skills into practice by carrying out a door-to-door education among children and adults.

Issues discussed were for our women to know and claim their rights and for men to appreciate the role of women in the society. Plan Ghana assisted our mothers to go into cattle rearing and other domestic animals like goats and pigs.



Hawa feeding her pigs

## Our Achievements

Our people now understand that it is necessary for women to own property like farmlands and cattle, which they can sell and make money to provide for our needs.



A woman leader in a meeting.

Women and girls now openly take part in the decision making process. Value is placed on whatever help they provide. Our brothers and sometimes our fathers now help with the household chores.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to see that in future the same value is placed on the roles played by both men and women in the society.

**“We have learnt that in every committee that is formed in our locality it is necessary that women also occupy leadership positions and their views be respected.**

**Because of the knowledge we have acquired there are a lot of girls who are executives in our children’s clubs. It has also made the girls in our locality active and contribute whenever we are taking decisions”. says 17 years old Ankibu**

“This document was reviewed and edited by Plan Staff.”