

“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.”

We Need Quality Education

Dear Sponsors,

We are a group of children living in the Lofa area of Liberia. We want to share with you, our experiences and ideas on education.

Without quality education there would be no development in our area.

Educational Problems

Many of us living in towns and villages have had no formal primary school education.

Areas like Foya Kolahun and Kpellor are as old as Lofa County, which has been in existence for over 50 years.

Although these areas have been around for a long time we cannot boast of any good school.



An existing school structure.



Children exposed to the weather as they learn.

Educational problems such as poor school facilities, unqualified teachers, lack of basic textbooks and compulsory early marriages of the girl child have led to the low standard of living in our areas.

“One of our visits took us to Kpellor, a town that has been in existence for over 40 years with no primary schools.

What serves, as a school building is not permanent as seen above. Illiteracy among us and other areas is very high”.

How To Achieve Our Dreams

Plan Liberia's Children Advisory Board (CAB) has been involved in local projects. Once a week every Saturday, we come together with our elders to see how best we can use local materials to build educational structures. We members of the Children Advisory Board and Lofa County have pledged to take the following actions to ensure good quality education in our area.



Evelyn.

- * Advise Plan on issues that are important to child welfare and development.
- * Participate in local development efforts.
- * Advocate for the right of every child to education.
- * Ensure that the government provide free and compulsory primary education for children in Lofa.
- * Organise vacation classes every year to teach our little brothers and sisters.

My name is Evelyn M., "I am thirteen years old I live in Kpellor, a village 2 km from Foya Town. I am in Grade 5. I am also a member of CAB representing my village. There is no primary school in Kpellor. There are over 300 children between the ages of two and nine years in my village who are not in school today because they

are too young to walk to Foya Town to get to the nearest primary school. Recently, Plan Norway's CAB visited our village and promised to build a primary school for us, the first school ever that will be built after 40 years of existence. Everybody is happy for this school and grateful to our Norwegian friends. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, our parents go to the riverside - 4km away - to dig up sand for making bricks for the new school. When built, we would be encouraged to go to school, be educated and become useful citizens in the future. It will bring improvement in our lives. Less I forget there is only one primary school teacher in Kpellor to teach in this school. When the school is built, we hope that more teachers will come and help us".



Plan constructs a school building at Lofa.

What To Do In The Future

After discussing our educational problems among our advisers and ourselves we think that the way forward is for the government of Liberia with the support of local and international organisations like Plan put into practice the following:

- * Construct good and lasting school facilities.
- * Provide trained and qualified teachers in our schools.
- * Provide basic textbooks to all primary pupils.
- * Ensure free and compulsory primary education for every child.
- * Create awareness for parents to send and keep their children in school.

"This document was reviewed and edited by Plan Staff."