

Information sheet for parents/guardians of participants who are under the age of 18

Endline Evaluation of the GATE-GEC Project

Your child is being invited to take part in a set of research. Before you decide if your child can take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please ask questions if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the evaluation about?

This research is part of an evaluation of the GATE-GEC project in Sierra Leone. The project, which runs from 2017 – 2021, is run by Plan International, ActionAid, and Humanity and Inclusion. This research is being conducted by the Institute for Development (IfD) in Sierra Leone and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) in the UK, under the supervision of Plan International.

Why are we doing this evaluation?

We want to know how the GATE-GEC project and benefits children, adolescents and other people in six districts in Sierra Leone.

Why has your child been invited to take part?

Your child has participated in some of the activities of the GATE-GEC project. We would like to ask the child some questions that will allow us to understand the child's experiences and opinions. This will help us to gain a better understanding of the project's activities, successes, and challenges.

What will happen if your child decides to take part?

We will ask your child questions and do practical activities that will help the child think and talk about the participation in the GATE-GEC project. Someone especially trained for this interview will be with the child. If your child is a girl, the researcher with whom she will be speaking will be a female. The interview will happen in school areas and take approximately 1 hour. The interview may take place during class hours but will not impact your child's attendance and the interview will be authorised by the headteacher and teacher. If that is OK for you, the researchers will take notes during the interview, record what the child says by using an audio recorder, and take some pictures of the activities.

Taking photographs

We will NOT take photos of your child. However, the researchers would like to take photos of drawings that may come from the research activities as part of the interview, if you give us permission.

How will your child's privacy and confidentiality be protected?

If you agree for your child to participate in the interview, anything they say will be kept private and confidential and what your child says will not be shared with GATE-GEC staff or anybody at your child's school. Anything your child says will remain confidential unless we have a reason to believe that a child, young person or someone else is at risk of harm. Then, we have a responsibility to share that information with Plan International or others so that they can help that person. The information your child tells us will be anonymised and analysed together with information from others participating in the GATE-GEC project. It will then be used to write reports that will help Plan International, its



donors/funders and other organisations including in the UK, to improve their work. Your child's name will not appear in any of these reports. The information will also be stored in the UK's Data Archive.

What are the benefits?

Your child's participation in the research will not result in any immediate reward to you/your child, but your child's information will be useful to help other children and adolescents in Sierra Leone who may participate in a project like this in the future.

What are the risks?

We will be asking your child questions about experiences with the GATE-GEC project, including what your child may have learned and what has changed at school, community and home. If your child feels uncomfortable with any of the questions, they do not have to answer them and can ask to stop the interview at any time.

Does your child have to take part?

Participation is entirely voluntary. We would like your child's help with this, but both you and your child will need to decide whether to participate.

Can you or your child change their mind and withdraw from the initiative?

During the interview, your child may choose not to answer a question and even stop the conversation. They may change their minds about participating and stop the interview. You and your child may ask us during the interview, or later, to change or delete any answers provided. None of this will have negative consequences.

Contact details for further information

If you or your child are worried about something, or feel uneasy about someone involved in this evaluation, it is important that you know that there are people you can go to. You can contact people from Plan International or at IfD. The contact person from IfD is Bintu Mansaray. You can contact her before or after the interview and she will ensure that any of your concerns are addressed properly.

Contact person	Contact organisation	Contact Information
Bintu Mansaray	IfD	078-502-942

If you would feel more comfortable contacting someone from the GATE-GEC project, please get in touch with the project's contact person in your district, who can also provide more information or help — you can find the contact information below:

District	Contact person	Contact organisation	Telephone number and e-mail address
Kenema	Hilda Massaquoi	Handicap International	099-106-503 h.massaquoi@hi.org
Kailahun	Francise Sahr Jame	Handicap International	099-106-453 a.koroma@hi.org
Kono	Augusta Yongai	ActionAid	088-785-334 augusta.yonga@actionaid.org
Moyamba	Mohamed Gassama	ActionAid	076-607-292 gassamamohamed61@gmail.com
Port Loko	Aminata S. Koroma	Plan Sierra Leone	076-960-197 aminata.koroma@plan-international.org
Karene	Aminata S. Koroma	Plan Sierra Leone	076-960-197 aminata.koroma@plan-international.org

Do you have any questions?

Allow time for participants to ask questions about the evaluation.