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ALL
WE
CAN

STORIES OF Change

Hear the stories of lives transformed through your support



Images: Winnie, the
Safeguarding Officer at SHIFSD
Tom Price/All We Can

Winnie SHIFSD, LIBERIA

Every
Person's
Potential
Fulfilled

All We Can's local partner, the Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD), is transforming the lives of thousands of people in their local communities by improving adult literacy and upskilling individuals. All We Can is supporting the work of SHIFSD in Monrovia, Liberia, and is walking alongside them to help develop their capacity as an organisation to unlock the true potential of people and foster a legacy of self-determination, empowerment and progress.

Winnie is a graduate with a degree in Peace and Development Studies. Towards the end of her studies, she began an internship at SHIFSD which led to her being offered a permanent role. Now she trains adults who haven't had an education to read and write and she is also the Safeguarding Officer.

Winnie explains why literacy programs are so important in Liberia: 'It's important to have such programs because, looking at our society now, there are a lot of young women, there are a lot of young men out there who are illiterate. They don't know how to read and write. They want to have their own businesses, but how can they go about doing that business? In everything you do, you should be able to at least write your name, learn how to fill in forms, do your records.'



Winnie is particularly passionate about ensuring girls don't miss out on their education because of menstruation: 'People will leave school because of menstruation. I don't think it should be like that. So I started figuring out what to do. So I came up with this two months ago that, look, I need to do something at least to have a space where we can have sanitary pads in the bathroom so students can get back to class instead of going home. That's how it was opened, the Girl's Friendly Space.'

Thanks to your support, All We Can's local partners, like SHIFSD, are able to continue supporting local communities to help themselves through individual and collective initiatives that are shifting mindsets.



As well as providing a safe space for girls, Winnie's Girls' Friendly Space has opened up a conversation: 'Every Friday, I go into their classes, we sit and discuss and tell their stories, what's happening in their homes, what are some of the difficulties they are having in their homes, they share with me.'

Winnie talks about her hopes for the future of the Girl's Friendly Space: 'I would love this space to expand. To move forward, like, having this space in other institutions, in other schools, in the communities where our young girls can have a friendly space. Where they can share their experiences. So not only at SHIFSD, but my ambition is to have this space to other institutions within Liberia... I want to see the world where every woman and young girl is safe. They are open to speak their mind, to share their experiences without being judged.'

