

# Rural School Girls Get Educational Assistance

A community development organization named "Daughters of Bomi" this week distributed 180 backpacks, notebooks, pencils, pens and crayons to mostly rural school girls in Klay District, Bomi County.

The educational supplies were donated by the MayInstitute in Massachusetts, United States, to help encourage and support the Daughters of Bomi's girl education initiative in Klay District.

Students from 15 schools across the district benefited from the supplies.

According to the US president and board chair of the Daughters of Bomi, Helena Jones-Wreh, "so many girls are out of school in Klay District because of ignorance, cultural practices and poverty...and this sad situation needs a lot of efforts to correct."

A program specialist at the MayInstitute, Helena said the management and employees of the MayInstitute were moved to learn about the many hindrances contributing to the

low level of girl enrollment, as well as the high levels of school dropouts and teenage pregnancy in Klay District where she was born and bred.

At the Guie Town elementary public school, Principal J. Mulbah Taylor thanked the Daughters of Bomi and the MayInstitute for helping some of the students.

A school committee qualified some students for the help based on their high academic achievements and others for their level of poverty.

Principal Taylor said: "This is the first time for the 15 students who received the gifts to own backpacks," adding "In the entire school, less than one percent of the students have backpacks."

Principal Taylor appealed to the Daughters of Bomi to conduct health and sex education workshops in their community to help curb the rising rate of teenage pregnancy.

In his school of about 225 students, 10 girls between the ages of 12 and 16 years have dropped out of school this year because of pregnancy. And "usually their chances of returning to school giving birth are slim," the principal said.



**Helena Jones-Wreh, Principal Taylor and students pose for photo**



**Helena Jones-Wreh, students pose for group photo**