

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM BRAZIL

Welcome to Codó, Teresina, São Luis of Brazil – the area where your sponsored child lives. We wanted to share with you some of the work that you are helping to make possible through your child sponsorship contributions. Plan International staff have written this document with the help of children from the area. Thank you for sponsoring a child with Plan International.

CODÓ - BORN TO WIN!

In order to confront the reality that children, especially girls, face and often prevent them from developing and achieving their dreams, goals and objectives, Plan International Brazil, through football, has worked since April with 165 girls and 159 boys from 12 to 18 years old from nine communities in the municipalities of Codó and Timbiras.

In addition to generate dialogue about social and political issues, and develop their capacity to work as a group, it will seek to contribute to the development of self-confidence, leadership, economic empowerment, and employability skills.

During the first year of the Project implementation, we will have formed 150 girls and 90 boys in the project methodology, and will have reached indirectly about 330 boys and 1,000 adults (fathers, mothers, caregivers and members of community in general) through sensitization on gender equality.



We bet in a methodology that engages parents and male figures built on diverse views, knowledge and practices. The fathers will be encouraged to do activities with their daughters and sons in their communities.

Another key point in the project is its goal to reduce the indicators of child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Researches show that Brazil ranks 4th in the countries with the highest numbers of child marriage, and every year, around 16 million girls under 19 years old give birth.

Therefore, as a means to face this harsh reality outside the four lines, Plan and Codó communities, alongside organisations such as Women Win and the Johan Cruyff Foundation, will work together until 2020 to contribute to the transformation of such reality and transform the lives of these girls and boys.

"I thought it was incredible and it was very good for me to have the ability to learn and reflect better about my dreams, because we have to move on."

Jessica, 15, from a community in Codó

For more information regarding this project, please look into <https://laleague.com/>

CODÓ - WATER, HEALTH AND LIFE

Improving the living and health conditions of children and families in rural villages in Codó and Peritoró is the main objective of the Water, Health and Life project. Six potable water supply systems installed and improved, and community leadership training are the key points of this project, benefiting directly more than 1800 people.

In addition to the infrastructure works, the project conducts thematic training of the Management Committees. Each community has a group of people, including adults and children, responsible for monitoring, managing and maintaining the supply systems.

They learn about basic health issues and how these issues affect girls and boys differently. The training program also includes topics such as menstrual health, suitable hygiene practices, healthy habits and the implementation of community gardens.



"Taking part in this Project has been very good. The project has developed activities that will help the community follow the management of the systems, not just for now, but for a long time. I think it is very good that children have the right to participate in the meetings".

Antonia, 34, mother from the community committee.

TERESINA - FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROJECT

Last year marked the end of the second phase of the Financial Education Project for girls and boys in Teresina, which trained more than 100 girls from 10 and 14 years old on financial education and gender-related themes. The project also reached another 2,177 people through replication of workshops and seminars. One of the highlights of this phase was the change that the girls demonstrated in relation to their visions of future; previously the girls had little prospect of personal and professional development, and now they can clearly express that they can be whatever they want to be.

The girls created clubs where they discussed financial and social endeavours, the importance of saving all kinds of resources, and the importance of fighting for a society more fair and equal, in which girls and boys, women and men have the same conditions for development.

"In addition to passing on this knowledge, we have learned from those children as well. And in each training session we realize how much we are overcoming the fear of public speaking, we are cutting loose and that is the way it is supposed to be, we have to strive for other girls and boys to learn about our rights and that we can make our dreams come true."

Danielle, project participant.



TERESINA - SOMERSAULT

The project worked in Teresina communities not only violence prevention issues but also the question of self-protection. During the period of three years, 658 children and 301 families of these children were sensitized to the different types of abuse and violence, as well as forms of protection.

The project also has a strong component to strengthen the capacities of the community organisations. After they participate in training sessions they visit child protection system to verify how effective they are and how they can improve their services. After the visit they leave recommendations to improve the services, especially if children victims of violence are receiving proper treatment.

Having the communities participating in the strengthening of the child protection services is the evidence that the parents and caretakers are applying the knowledge from the training sessions.

"It was really cool learning about who we can trust and how we can protect ourselves, and I really enjoyed drawing the people that I trust."

Juliana, Somersault Project participant.



SÃO LUIS - PREVENTING AND FACING SCHOOL VIOLENCE

To promote a school environment free of Bullying and Gender Inequality for boys and girls in school spaces was the main objective of the project that delivered actions in the municipalities of São Luís, São José de Ribamar and Paço do Lumiar.

The project counted with the participation of approximately 180 boys and girls. Workshops on Bullying prevention happened with 62 teachers, managers and officers from the Secretariat of Education. National specialists on bullying prevention supported the project delivering lectures to discuss current issues on the subject. The boys and girls from the groups also multiplied their knowledge to their peers in the schools they studied and also in other schools from São Luis.

The project also included a festival called – “Enough of Bullying” – where 1,501 signatures were collected during the actions. As part of the festival awareness sessions were carried out involving every school in the municipalities.

Every boy and girl talked about bullying and culture of peace and produced cultural presentations using a fun approach. There were about 1,200 students.

The girls and boys who are peer educators continue to carry out in their schools a series of activities such as workshops, panels, contests and festivals with the support of the project staff to foster attitudes and values in a culture of peace.

"During the time that I have been in the project, I learned that a good conversation solves many things. The Learn without Fear Project was essential not only to me, but to all my friends. Everything that I learn, I also teach, in this way we are changing the mindset of people about all kinds of violence. "

Rita, 15 years old



SÃO LUIS - GOALS FOR A BETTER LIFE

The Project Leaders of Change has emerged from the experiences of girls and boys and how they are affected differently.

The project proposed to stimulate the development of new perceptions and the deconstruction of gender stereotype concepts that will contribute to change practices and attitudes and to promote a culture and youth leadership, especially having the girls taking roles as leaders.

In São Luís, the activities were carried out with approximately 500 children and adolescents from 13 to 17 years old in the municipalities of São Luís, São José de Ribamar and Paço do Lumiar in partnership with the Municipal Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescent.



A total of 224 socio-educational workshops happened in different communities in the municipalities covered by Plan in São Luis.

The topics addressed the culture of peace among girls and boys and favored an environment of healthy dialogue and freedom from any violence, especially the ones based in gender. Girls and boys also had opportunities to participate in spaces of political decision and social control, such as conferences and meetings of the Forum about the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

For the next few years the Project Leaders of Change, aims to foster a social movement of girls and boys who challenge social norms, with a broad community support to promote gender equality and girls' rights through sports practices, especially football.



"I have been participating in the project since it started in my community. I only have positive comments about it. I think projects like this should go to other communities, we learned about gender equality and that was very good not only for us but for the entire community."

Andre, 16 years old

"The society for many years has assigned women the role of cleaner of the house and the one responsible for the children. Thanks to projects like this, it is changing and we are beginning to understand that we have the same rights and it is good that these boys are here in the project learning about this, so they will be able to educate their children well"

Lucia, 17 years old

YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

With your ongoing support, Plan International will continue to work with the children, families and partners in Brazil to ensure that children's rights are respected and they are able to thrive.

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR

1. Implementing projects focused on girls' empowerment is one of our priorities. The Financial Education for Girls Project will enter in a new phase, in which we will continue to deliver workshops on financial, social entrepreneurship and life skills with girls, but now the boys will also participate in the Project, but in separated groups of the girls.
2. Strengthening the capacities of girls from 12 to 18 years old to become social leaders and promote lasting changes in their lives and in their communities through the Leadership School for Girls Project and the Leaders of Change project, focusing on issues like gender equality, participation and influence in the political context.
3. Strengthening the capacities of community based organisations to implement the Somersault Project in order to take better care of girls and boys from 07 to 11 years old so they know their rights and participate in their own protection, focusing on violence prevention.
4. The La League Project, with a socio-educational approach and sports practices, will involve more than 350 girls from 10 villages. It will help to cope with child marriage and to ensure that girls continue to study. The project will also involve 175 boys and countless fathers, mothers and caregivers, engaging them in addressing gender-based violence, prejudice and deconstructing hegemonic models of masculinities. There will be community exchange activities, football competitions, campaigns and championships involving women's and family teams.
5. The last priority is to keep influencing local governments to change laws and practices related to the rights of girls in every sphere, through campaigns such the "Because I am Girl" which celebrates the international day of the girl on the 11th of October every year.



MESSAGE FROM ANSELMO COSTA

Programme Unit Manager, Codó

"This small summary presents briefly how our interventions at territorial level are closely aligned with the strategies of Plan International Brazil, which in its new purpose wants "a fair and equal Brazil for all girls". This commitment motivates and challenges us to review our model, seeking strategies of engagement that allow larger coverage of our programmes. We will work to build effective and sustainable partnerships to implement more gender transformative programmes. We thank you for your support so more children, especially girls can have their lives transformed. "



MESSAGE FROM GEYSSE COSTA

Programme Unit Manager, Teresina

"Your support has made possible the implementation of the projects that contribute to transform the reality of the girls and boys in Piauí, through your support, we claim the guarantee of health and quality education, we strengthen the protagonism and the participation of the girls and boys and we strive to ensure that children have a happy and violence-free childhood. You are an important and transformative agent to ensure that we continue to impact the lives of these girls, boys and their families, thank you for your support and continue with us on this journey"



MESSAGE FROM CREUZIANE BARROS

Programme Unit Manager - São Luis

"I would like to thank you for your support, because through it we have achieved meaningful results this year. Thank you and we count on you to further impact the lives of girls, boys and communities in this coming cycle ".