

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM GUATEMALA

We wanted to share some exciting progress made possible in Guatemala - thanks to support from you!

Chronic malnutrition, gender-based violence and natural disasters are the challenges which children facing in Guatemala. 65% of girls are chronically malnourished – which is the highest rate in Latin America. Worldwide, Guatemala is ranked as the 7th most vulnerable country to natural disasters, 70% of Guatemalans are at risk of natural disasters.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to promote disaster management and reduction, inclusive quality education, and children's and girls' rights. We supported the educational scholarships. Trainings on self-protection and child protection were also provided.

We are grateful to you for making these changes possible. We know you will enjoy reading on to see how your generosity is changing the lives of children, like your sponsored child, across this region.



OUR IMPACT

IN JALAPA, THERE WERE
75% DECREASE OF SEVERE
MALNUTRITION CHILDREN
CASES IN 10 YEARS

100% OF BAJA VERAPAZ'S
PRIMARY SCHOOLS DEVELOPED
RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

100 ADVOCACY NETWORKS
AGAINST GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE WERE FORMED IN
CARCHÁ

140 YOUNG PEOPLE IN
POLOCHIC TOOK PART IN
ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUBS

PLAN INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE



COVID-19 is having devastating impacts all over the world. It is not only a health emergency, it is an education and protection emergency. Since girls are often worse affected during a crisis, Plan International is putting them at the heart of our response and long-term outlook. We have scaled up healthcare systems, food security, access to clean water, handwashing and awareness campaigns, and keep education in children's lives via radio broadcasts.

YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

In Polochic, 52% of youth live in poverty conditions due to lack of access to education and employment opportunities. Only 21% of youth reach secondary education.

This results in many young people being at risk of migration, violence, early pregnancy, and early marriage. Many girls are vulnerable to the threat of human trafficking.



YOUNG PEOPLE START THEIR BUSINESS USING THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED IN THE WORKSHOPS

Plan International aims to strengthen the skills and capabilities among young people, awakening their entrepreneurial spirit to enable them to develop and establish their own businesses. 140 young people (81 women and 59 men) aged 16-24 years have been trained through 12 workshops on life skills, gender, business development, and human trafficking prevention.

BRIDGING THE TECHNOLOGICAL GAP

In Guatemala, poor access to technology contributes to limited learning opportunities for children and youth. On average, only 7 out of 10 young people aged 15 to 29 years have access to mobile devices. In an effort to reduce the technological gap and consequent inequalities amongst students in Baja Verapaz, Plan International launched the Digilabs Digiradio project.

Students improved their knowledge of technology with the support of teachers and were able to learn about information security and the risk of online violence. This included face-to-face participation in workshops on the use of technology, radio classes, and virtual groups with teachers. With the support of Plan International staff, 1,820 students from secondary school increased their knowledge in technology.

"I decided to join the workshop and I learned many things I didn't know about technology. Now I have new knowledge for my future."

Zoila, 15 years old



PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Our Champions of Change programme seeks to improve the knowledge of adolescents about their sexual and reproductive rights.



IN JALAPA, ADOLESCENTS LEARNED MANY USEFUL THINGS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO HELP THEM TO BE WELL IN TERMS OF SEXUAL HEALTH

It also aims to promote relationships of gender equality and equity. In Jalapa, 308 adolescent girls and 341 adolescent boys from 10 middle schools participated in Plan International's Champions of Change workshops.

Over 10 sessions, the participants discussed gender norms, sexual and reproductive rights, and the consequences of early marriage and pregnancies. The workshops led to the group of "Spoke girls", young girls who are currently leading these workshops for other youth in their communities. The sessions empowered girls and young women to be the Champions of Change and encouraged young boys to commit to gender equality.

DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

In Carchá, schools have very little resources to deliver quality education to children and youth. There are not enough teachers, and girls are a minority in classrooms, despite being 51% of the local population. Only 2 out of 10 girls complete primary education. Most secondary schools operate in the afternoon, leaving girls feeling unsafe returning home in the dark. Many girls stay home instead.

Plan International is raising awareness on the importance of girls' education and strengthening secondary schools. The project, in alliance with the Ministry of Education, has increased secondary education coverage by 4%, endowed 881 scholarships to adolescents (74% were awarded to girls), and led to 28% of secondary schools operating during the mornings, making them safer spaces for girls.

"I am short of words to express my gratitude for all the support we have received. We know that it is on us to be great entrepreneurs. We also want to be a model for other young people. It takes effort and patience, and above all, it takes believing in oneself."

Martha, 19 years old



YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

With your support, we will continue to protect children's rights so they are able to thrive.

In the coming year, we will continue to work with the children, families and partners across Guatemala:



- Continuing to promote girls' rights through the "Girls Get Equal" campaign and increase opportunities to access education and economic empowerment among indigenous girls and young women. We will also strengthen our awareness-raising efforts to reduce violence against girls.
- Providing access to high school education through scholarships, so that adolescents can continue their studies and resulting in income-generating work opportunities.
- Continuing to train healthcare staff on reducing chronic malnutrition and infant mortality rates. Preventative health and safety measures against COVID-19 pandemic will also be implemented in communities.
- Training programmes will be continued for young people to start their own micro-businesses and search for employment. On the other hand, we help local small businesses and employees to overcome the devastating economic effects resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continuing to train young men and women to increase their knowledge of their rights, civic participation and the prevention of violence. We further encourage them to become Champions of Change in their communities.
- A new project will be launched to improve resilience amongst communities in the face of the adverse effects of climate change and undertake corresponding actions in schools and communities to strengthen livelihoods.

These are just some of the many ways your kindness will continue to touch the life of your sponsored child and other children. We would not be able to do this without supporters like you!



MESSAGE FROM ANTONIO SALGUERO
Programme Area Manager, Jalapa

"Thank you very much for supporting our programmes in Jalapa. With your contribution we can promote the rights of children, adolescents, and young people and we can continue promoting equal opportunities for girls. We hope you continue supporting the children of Jalapa."



MESSAGE FROM ANALÝ DUARTE DE DÍAZ
Programme Area Manager, Polochic

"With your support, girls and boys in the Polochic area are respected and valued in their family, school, and community. Thank you for your contribution through Plan International, which has brought many smiles and happiness to families."



MESSAGE FROM NICOLÁS VÉLIZ VILLAVICENCIO
Programme Area Manager, Baja Verapaz

"To all our sponsors around the world making an effort to change the lives of many children, adolescents, and young people, thank you very much for the kind support! Thanks to your contribution, we are able to support thousands of indigenous and rural girls. Thank you for sponsoring a child through Plan International!"



MESSAGE FROM ANTONIO JOSÉ GUTIÉRREZ LEÓN
Programme Area Manager, Carchá

"We want to express our gratitude for the priceless support provided to us. Without people like you, it would not be possible for Plan International to significantly change the lives of children in Carchá."

