

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM BRAZIL

We wanted to share some exciting progress made possible in Brazil—thanks to support from you!

In Brazil, families living along the river banks often lose their homes due to flooding, and relocate to schools and shelters until the river subsides. People are struggled with access to clean and safe water, which causes health and hygiene issues. Life in Brazil is especially difficult for children as they are facing the problem of gender-based violence and limited access to education.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to develop educational programmes on social and financial education and life skills to youths. We also held workshops and events addressing violence, self-protection and early childhood care.

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 SÃO LUÍS, **600** CHILDREN  
TOOK PART IN ACTIVITIES ON  
CHILD PROTECTION

**350** YOUTH WORKED TO  
PREVENT GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE IN CODÓ

**50** FAMILIES IN CODÓ  
DEVELOPED HEALTHY HABITS  
WITH COMMUNITY GARDENS

IN TERESINA, **172** GIRLS AND  
BOYS RECEIVED FINANCIAL  
EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

## 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.

# EMPOWERING GIRLS

Patriarchal social norms in São Luís lead to unequal gender roles and expectations. There is little opportunity for girls to take leadership roles.

The Leadership School for Girls addresses gender inequality while providing girls with skills and opportunities to advocate for their rights.



**YOUNG PEOPLE, AS WELL AS PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY, HAVE AN ACTIVE VOICE IN STRENGTHENING GIRLS' LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

12 girls participated in the Girls Take Over campaign, reaching more than 500,000 people. Other girls' leadership activities reached 700 people through lectures and advocacy programmes. 15 girls participated in web activism workshops, which were then repeated in schools for 87 children.

In addition, we are helping girls engage with the government. Two girls participated in the agenda of the state government to advance public policies for youth. Five girls participated in the State Conference on the rights of children in state policy. The programme helps girls recognise discrimination and empowers them with tools to build their future.

## IMPROVING HEALTH WITH SAFER WATER

Clean water is vital for healthy communities. The 'Water, Health and Life' project improves conditions for families by providing access to safe and clean piped water. This improves physical and menstrual health, contributing to a more equal environment among boys and girls. Children and adults participated in workshops on the correct use of water, managing menstrual hygiene, and community cleaning action.

New and improved water systems benefitted 400 families, and 60 people were trained in the Water Management Network. We helped 170 families develop good daily hygiene habits. The same families learned the importance of girls' full development, with a healthy division of tasks and domestic chores between boys and girls.

*"I am happy for the water well here in our community. We are very grateful to Plan because now we will have quality water, which is especially good for us girls, who during menstruation need to maintain our hygiene."*

**Iasmim, 16 years old**



# IMPROVING CHILD RIGHTS AWARENESS

Children and adolescents are often unaware of their rights. This makes it difficult for young people to take control of their lives and make their own informed decisions.

The 'Cambalhotas (Somersault) Project' strengthens the awareness of children's rights in 5 communities in rural areas of Teresina.



The programme taught children from 7 to 11 years old about their rights, with special focus on the prevention of gender-based violence. As a result, 200 girls and boys attended workshops, learning through recreational and educational activities, such as games and films.

2 committees were formed, pledging to provide safe environments for children. They completed a training process in management, gender and safeguard policies. Voluntary educators now work in partnership with Plan International to educate and mobilise community youth.

**THE 'CAMBALHOTAS (SOMERSAULT) PROJECT' ENCOURAGES CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

## BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

A strong community is a powerful tool that transforms lives and teaches values. It contributes to educational and social development, and mental and physical health. Community-wide sports, mediation and games strengthen ties while fighting gender stereotypes. We created community-building events for adults and children.

Recreational activities brought together 150 girls and 150 boys in the area, as well as 100 mothers and female caregivers. To help fight gender stereotyping, we encouraged fathers and local leaders to join in activities. Children, youth and adults all helped evaluate the project, identifying ideas and solutions for better community engagement.

*"There were many kids and we all had fun. The Plan people were very nice to us, they played a lot of games with us and I laughed a lot. Plan people also gave a speech to our mothers. My mother liked it a lot. Afterwards, we got some snacks and a school kit as a gift."*

**Brenda, 12 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 Brazil:



- Focusing on early childhood education, literacy and improving educational spaces. We will advocate to ensure that children between 11-14 years old complete their basic education in a safe and inclusive school environment.



- Empowering men to recognise and address discrimination and violence against women. We will develop groups of girls who work to promote and defend their rights through the 'School of Leadership for Girls' project.



- Working closely with local authorities to coordinate enhanced humanitarian assistance in response to climate emergencies, such as floods.



- Improving the life and marketable skills for young people to help them access their professional goals. Inclusive employment processes that benefit adolescents will be achieved.



- Educating adolescent girls on menstrual health, sexual and reproductive rights and HIV prevention. We will hold workshops to train girls to become menstrual health advocates and educators in their communities.

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 **KARLA KARINA DE OLIVEIRA FERNANDES**

Programme Area Manager, Codó

"Our work contributes to the transformation of the lives of children and young people in Codó. This is only possible thanks to your support and trust, and we thank you for your contribution."



## MESSAGE FROM **CREUZIANE BARROS**

Programme Area Manager, São Luís

"It was an intense year in which we were able to take many actions thanks to the support of people like you. We want to ensure children have access to their rights and equal development opportunities. We are grateful for your contribution that has been very transformative."



## MESSAGE FROM **GEYSE COSTA**

Programme Area Manager, Teresina

"Your support and confidence in our work makes it possible to implement projects that transform the lives of girls, boys, adolescents, young people, families and communities. Through these actions, we help them to fully enjoy their rights, contributing to a fair and equal world for all people, especially for girls."

