

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM PHILIPPINES

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

In Philippines, life can be challenging for children because of poverty. Children grow up malnourished and school drop-out rates are high. Access to health facilities is limited, resulting in health issues and high infant mortality. Besides, children's rights are not well understood, thus many children experience abuse. Other prominent issues facing by children in the region include gender inequality, early marriages and pregnancies.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to ensure children have access to healthy and nutritious food. Awareness of children rights and gender equality were also raised. We also provided technical training to adolescents to help them open the door to a brighter future.

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

35,996 PEOPLE TRAINED ON
CHILD PROTECTION AND
GENDER EQUALITY IN
WESTERN SAMAR

IN CENTRAL MINDANAO,
38,227 PEOPLE HAVE
ACCESSED TO SAFE
DRINKING WATER

2,878 PEOPLE DEVELOPED
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
PLANS IN OCCIDENTAL
MINDORO

1,770 YOUTHS LEARNT
VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS
IN PHILIPPINES



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.

WORKING TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

Children in Western Samar regularly experience abuse, both at home and at school, and also in the community.



16 YOUNG PEOPLE COMPLETED THE 'CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE' TRAINING AND ARE ABLE TO ADVOCATE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Many children who are out of school are forced into unsafe working conditions. Girls and young women also experience gender-based violence and discrimination. Early marriages are common, and many girls are prevented from attending school due to family expectations.

To help ensure all children are able to live a life free from violence, we have distributed more than 6,000 brochures on preventing sexual abuse and harassment. Through these brochures and community events, 35,996 people have learned about child protection, how to prevent gender-based violence, and how to report cases of child abuse in their communities.

We have also held training sessions for 545 children on gender equality. Girls learned how to stand up for their rights, and boys learned about positive masculinities and how to advocate for gender equality.

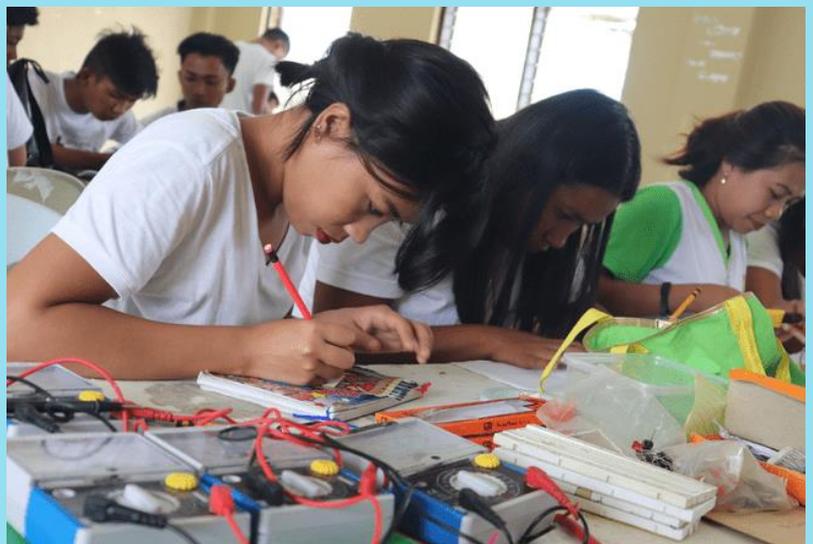
TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Almost 30% of young people are not attending high school, and many have been unable to complete their education because of widespread poverty. There are few opportunities for youth to gain vocational skills that will help them get a good job or start their own business. Young women in particular struggle with early marriage and cultural expectations to stay in the home.

To help young people open the door to a brighter future, we have provided technical training to 136 young women and 188 young men on electrical repair in Occidental Mindoro. They also attended life skill workshops, where they learned financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills, and gender equality. Now, these young people are able to get a good job and support themselves and their families.

"Thanks to Plan for giving me assistance. I thought I wouldn't be able to finish my studies but then by training in technical electronic assembly, my dream of finishing my studies and getting a good job was fulfilled. Plan gave me the tools to support my livelihood."

Evelyn, 20, project beneficiary



CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Malnutrition is a major problem for young children in Northern Samar. Poverty and a lack of knowledge on good nutrition means many families cannot feed their children



ADDRESSING CAUSES OF POOR HEALTH AND NUTRITION IS VITAL TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

healthy food. Poor maternal health and unhygienic practices also lead to preventable illnesses among young children. Since the growing number of teenage pregnancies negatively impacts children's health, we provided young people with education on sexual and reproductive health.

To keep mothers and babies healthy, we held training sessions for over 370 pregnant women and new mothers. These women learned about the importance of breastfeeding and early childhood nutrition. We also helped 11 schools develop gardens to ensure that students have healthy and nutritious foods available to eat.

In addition, 43 health workers improved their knowledge of early childhood nutrition and development and can provide the community with resources and support for better health.

PROTECTING AGAINST COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted vulnerable families in Central Mindanao incredibly hard. Families were already struggling under widespread poverty and a weak health system. Now, many people are not able to earn an income. Parents cannot afford to feed their children and this has led to high levels of stress. Mandatory lockdowns have also increased the risk of violence at home.

To help families survive through this crisis, we have delivered hygiene kits to 7,971 families in need, so they can keep themselves and their children healthy and reduce the spread of the deadly infection. We are also working to protect children from abuse by sharing radio messages about preventing violence at home. Messages about the importance of handwashing with soap, wearing masks, and physical distancing were also shared.

"I am thankful to Plan International for the support, especially in this difficult time during quarantine where our parents can't work to buy the essentials we need to keep us safe from COVID. Thank you for the help!"

Fithria, 12, sponsored child



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 Philippines:



- Ensuring continued access to education throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting teachers to offer alternative learning options, and providing learning kits and school supplies to children in need.
- Promoting equality for girls and increasing opportunities for girls to play leadership roles in their communities.
- Improving access to healthcare services for pregnant women, new-born babies, and young children.
- Increasing opportunities for young people, to gain the vocational skills they need to get a good job or start their own business.
- Supporting communities to adapt to climate change and prepare emergency response plans, and repairing community shelters to help communities withstand natural disasters.
- Improving access to water and sanitation by installing hand-washing facilities in community. Hand-washing kits will be provided to children and families.
- Raising awareness of children's rights and supporting local child protection committees to keep children safe.

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 JOSE FELIPE REBUENO II

Programme Area Manager, Central Mindanao

"We extend our sincere gratitude to you sponsors for your continuous and unselfish support to our children, their families and the communities they live in. Children and youth now have a high level of awareness of their rights. They have acquired the necessary skills and the right attitude to discuss their issues and act."

MESSAGE FROM EDGAR MARTIN

Programme Area Manager, Occidental Mindoro

"We are glad that you are with us in every endeavour we undertake with the community. Together we were able to contribute in the development of every child and their families. We will continue to help all children, particularly girls, in order to protect them and so they can achieve their dreams. Thank you for your continuous support!"

MESSAGE FROM WELSON L. RAMOS

Programme Area Manager, Western Samar

"On behalf of the sponsored families, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all sponsors who unselfishly share their time and resources to make valuable changes in the lives of children. With your support, we were able to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing accurate and reliable information. Thank you again!"

MESSAGE FROM RONALD TALAOGON

Programme Area Manager, Northern Samar

"I would like to extend my sincere thanks for another year of support to the children of Northern Samar. The sponsored children and families and communities are very grateful for your contribution, especially as we face the COVID-19 pandemic. Your continued support is essential for us to continue with our endeavours."

