

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in São Luís. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted.

Women and girls in São Luís, Brazil, learned new ways to build self-esteem, from entrepreneurship to sports. Through co-educational sports workshops, young girls and boys learned about gender equality. Young women learned practical skills and built community to grow greater economic independence.

Communities also learned about new, proactive tactics to address mental health. As students return to school after the pandemic, activities and family-focused workshops worked to ease the transition back to normal life.

We know the best is yet to come and your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in São Luís.



100

Parents participated in reproductive rights meetings



3509

Teenagers educated in sensitivity workshops about violence



199

Young girls taught in our workshop  
Leaders of Change



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN BRAZIL

Hear from Eline about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

"The pandemic came in a way that no one expected. I lost my grandfather in 2020. I never thought that I would lose a person as dear as him to this virus. And then came the Champions of Change project: I learned more about personal hygiene, about gender equality, also about protection and rights of girls and boys and many other things."

# CASE STORY: SAFETY IN THE CITY



**NAME: VIVIAN**

**AGE: 10 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: PLAYING WITH HER SISTER**

"It was the happiest day of my life, I received so much attention, everyone that was there talked with me and I learned that there was a place where people gather to talk about our education."

## Meet Vivian

**Like your sponsored child, Vivian has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.**

Vivian lives in Teresina, a city in northeast Brazil. Vivian's mother, Rosinete, often worried about her children's safety – a common concern in Teresina.

## Steps Toward Safer Lives

Vivian and Rosinete first discovered Plan through Infância Feliz "Happy Childhood", a participating project at Vivian's school. From there, Plan went on to develop the Espaço Brincar "Play Space" at Vivian's school.

Rosinete is very happy with how Plan has supported her community, from checking in with local families during the pandemic to collaborating with educators at the local school.

## International Day of the Girl

This year, Vivian participated in Plan's #Girlstakeover program on International Day of the Girl on 11 October.

With Plan's support, Vivian represented her community to Teresina's Secretariat of Education. In her role, Vivian delivered a letter about the state of public education in Teresina, which also advocated to provide greater digital literacy to local students.

Vivian's work on the #Girlstakeover day made her feel happy and celebrated. She learned that there are people in her community who care deeply about her education.



*Vivian colours with her classmates during a Plan workshop.*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 5,838 CHILDREN IN SÃO LUÍS**



# OUR PROJECTS IN SÃO LUÍS ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE



**Using interactive, fun activities, young boys and girls learn to challenge sexism.** Brazil has the fifth highest number of child marriages in the world. This past year, 250 teenagers in São Luís learned about respect, community and confidence through play by participating in weekly sports activities, including soccer.

Additional educational workshops on gender and girls' rights offered spaces for more teens to learn about sexism, violence, self-confidence, and equality. In order to address systemic questions of sexual and reproductive rights, as well as gender equality, 100 local parents took part in discussions.

Two additional campaigns in May and October reached thousands of local teens. One young participant described enjoying her lessons – and especially her soccer matches – as well as her new friends.

Community members of all ages investigated sexism and gender equality. From sports to small businesses, young women and girls discovered a new sense of empowerment.

## EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS



**5 in 10 economically active women in Brazil struggle to find work.** 39 women aged 18 to 29 participated in training sessions to learn sustainable skills in entrepreneurship. These lessons included practical workshops in marketing, time management and financial education. Participants were also able to share their personal experiences of gender inequity.

In addition to learning greater hard skills for economic independence, women were offered a new approach to empowerment, independence, and self-confidence.

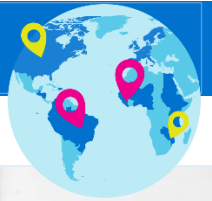
The project ended with an entrepreneurship fair, allowing the budding businesswomen to show off the projects they had developed. 150 people attended in celebration of their accomplishments.



"I had the opportunity to learn how to manage my enterprise and about female empowerment. Now, I can be whatever I want to be and I learned the importance of a support network of women. It was really fulfilling to participate in the project."

**- Valquíria, 27 from São Luís**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



18%

Of people living in São Luís do not have access to safe drinking water



31%

Of registered AIDS cases occur in people aged 15 to 24 years old



30%

Of children in Brazil have not received life-saving vaccines against MMR



**Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.**

- On average, women in Brazil earn 24.2% less than men. We will address economic gender-based inequality through collaboration with local government and community organisations.
- We will continue to build sports programs for young girls in order to encourage building self-confidence and gender equality.
- In Brazil, at least 70 girls are victims of rape every day. We will educate children and parents about safety, community harm reduction, and reproductive rights.
- Since the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of children in Brazil are no longer enrolled in school. We will advocate for the value of education through building awareness with families and strengthening community schools.

**We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work with the children in São Luís.**



“Together we can continue impacting lives and changing the reality of people who live in situations of social vulnerability. Thanks to your support, we have transformed the reality of thousands of people.”

**Geyse Costa**  
Programme Area Manager, São Luís

## YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS