

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

**Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in San Juan. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted them.**

Plan International has been collaborating with the people of San Juan, Dominican Republic since 1995. During this time, Plan has worked with the people of San Juan to implement disaster resilience strategies, with an eye toward nutrition, livelihood, and gender inclusivity.

This year, representatives from 11 community groups received trainings in critical topics like Gender Equality and Prevention of Child Abuse. 30 young people received vocational training, and 800 students will be reached by peer workshops on positive masculinity.

**Your continued sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in San Juan.**



# 90

Young people improved their literacy through reading clubs



# 30

Young people received training in business skills and marketing



# 240

Young people learned about their rights



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN DOMINICAN

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

“During the pandemic, Plan delivered a kit with materials for the prevention of COVID. That was good for the whole community, because not everyone had the means to buy a mask, and they still use the masks that Plan delivered. I felt happy because I knew they were taking care of me.”

# CASE STORY: FROM LEARNERS TO LEADERS



**NAME: MANUELA**

**AGE: 13 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: DRAWING**

"Plan International taught me about my rights, and also the rights of other people. My GONNA teachers teach us many nice things. Not only have I learned a lot, I also have fun, and I feel protected and part of a family."

## Meet Manuela

**Like your sponsored child, Manuela has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** Manuela is a hardworking student living in San Juan. Learning isn't exactly accessible in San Juan, what with limited school resources and school closures. Plan International has ideas for a solution.

## I Will Stay in School

Manuela is currently in Grade 8. She lives with her grandmother, her two sisters, and her father. Since Manuela's mother was diagnosed with cancer, she has had to move to another village for treatment.

Manuela's teachers describe her as a smart, dedicated learner. However, schools in San Juan are faced with an uphill battle. With limited space to address topics outside of the school curriculum – and limited space literally – young students in low-income areas like Manuela's don't have room to talk about their rights or struggles, or to participate in sports. Students across the Dominican Republic have fallen behind as the pandemic closed schools. Without access to remote learning, many young learners are losing step with their grade levels in reading, writing and mathematics.

## Strong Schools for Strong Students

Plan International's Children's Club creates nurturing spaces for young minds. Through her Children's Club, Manuela participates in GONNA, a guidance group for children and adolescents.

This year, Manuela and her classmates learned about human rights and gender equality. Plan donated supplies for volleyball and chess, as well as more than 200 books. Since participating in GONNA, Manuela's grades have improved. She has gone from being a shy student to a confident leader.



*A Children's Club group in San Juan participates in an activity.*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 7,298 CHILDREN IN SAN JUAN**



# OUR PROJECTS IN SAN JUAN ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## SKILLS TO SUCCEED



**23% of young women are unemployed, while employed women earn 24% less than men.** This year, Plan International collaborated with young people in San Juan to combat gender inequality and encourage financial growth at the same time.

30 young people received vocational skills and workshops. These lessons, developed in partnership with the Professional Technical Training Institute (INFOTEP), focused on small business entrepreneurship, network management, and tourism.

From judgement-free, responsibility-building workshops to hands-on vocational training, young people in San Juan are building stronger communities for tomorrow.

Plan International also collaborated with 2 local ecotourism companies, strengthening their business plans and marketing strategies to improve their annual income. As a result, close to 400 visitors have explored San Juan with the support of our two new partners.

An additional 80 visitors planted more than 2,000 trees as part of one tour group's offerings.

## YOUNG MEN FOR EQUALITY



**Fighting systemic sexism is a community-wide project.** Plan International's "Young Men for Equality" sets out to dismantle gender-based violence through workshops with children, adolescents, and young adults.

These lessons, which are geared specifically toward boys and young men, have units like "I am a supportive young man", "I am responsible in the exercise of my sexuality", and "I am committed to good treatment and gender equality."

This year, 90 young men between ages 13 and 17 participated in these workshops, with the intention of passing along these lessons as peer mentors. As a result, an additional 800 young people will be impacted by these sessions.



"I participated in Young Men for Equality and I really liked the workshop. The project impacted me in a positive way. Some of my personal taboos were challenged and resolved through the sessions."

**- Eduardo Luciano, 16 from San Juan**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



24%

Of the population lives below the poverty line



63%

Of children in the country have experienced physical or emotional violence



37%

Of women in the Dominican Republic are married before age 18



**Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.**

- Child marriage is a common practise in the Dominican Republic. We will address this issue from several angles, including poverty-reducing strategies with local families.
- The ongoing pandemic has exacerbated unemployment. We will collaborate with government agencies and NGOs to provide financial resources to the people of San Juan.
- Young people often do not know much about sexual health or contraception. We will increase access to adolescent health care in San Juan.
- The pandemic has also worsened access to early childcare and education. We will continue to focus on providing quality learning environments to San Juan's most vulnerable.

**We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter, happier future for the children in San Juan.**



"A considerable part of our achievement is due to the commitment made by you as a sponsor. Through your sponsorship, the programmes we carry out are transforming the future and realities of children and adolescents in San Juan. Thank you."

**Jean Beltre**  
Programme Area Manager, San Juan

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