

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Rural Barahona is home to 187,105 people and has been a Plan partner site since 1997. With your support, we have collaborated with multiple government agencies to formally protect the rights of children, and particularly girls, in this part of the Dominican Republic.

This year, 150 students participated in our leadership and reading programme GONNA, a guidance group for children and adolescents. In this region, which is home to the highest number of teen pregnancies nationwide, 110 children learned about gender and their rights.

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



# 2500

Menstrual  
hygiene kits  
distributed  
nationwide



# 1100

Sponsored  
children and  
families received  
cash assistance



# 55

Families took  
part in positive  
masculinity  
workshops



## 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 teachers taught 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 6941 CHILDREN IN BARAHONA**



# OUR PROJECTS IN BARAHONA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



What does leadership look like? Hundreds of young people in Barahona explored topics of agency, activism, and confidence.

## I AM A LEADER



**34% of the Dominican Republic's population is between 15 and 34 years old. Yet, many young people in the country struggle to find jobs.** Whether it's a lack of assets, training, or time, young people – and particularly girls and women – are vulnerable to unemployment and poverty.

This year, Plan International established an organization to offer vocational training with a gender equity focus to young people in Barahona. Acknowledging the limitations caused by the pandemic, and a lack of access to reliable internet, Plan's programme was usable for students both on- and offline.

100 young people, about 80 of whom were women, participated in sessions about gender equity and becoming spokespeople. An additional 10 adolescents received training in becoming spokespeople. 76 women and 23 men received vocational training.

## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



**Though the Dominican Republic's government banned child marriages in January 2021, the practise remains pervasive.** Plan International's Give Me A Chance To Be A Girl project emphasises the value of celebrating girls' rights, which intersects with the prevention of poverty, child marriage, and unemployment.

55 community members of all ages and genders participated in workshops about gender equity, girls' rights, opportunities, and generational mandates.

Empowered by our projects, young women leaders became mentors to 120 of their peers. Together, they will work to build a self-sufficient network of community organising as part of the National Network of Leader Mentoring Structures for the Implementation of Community Projects.



"Thanks to the positive masculinity workshop, my son was able to understand that he can help with the housework, and it doesn't make him less of a man. He also told me that if he wears a pink t-shirt or if he draws a flower, he is still a man."

**- Patricia, 35 from Barahona**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



**27%**

Of Barahona province residents live in extreme poverty



**49%**

The incidence rate of pregnancies in girls under 18



**63%**

Of children under age 15 in the Dominican Republic have experienced violence



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

- A high poverty rate has been linked to child marriages, which are common in the Dominican Republic. We will continue to advocate for girls' rights through programmes aimed at reducing poverty in Barahona.
- We will also work to protect girls in Barahona through increasing access to protective services, from birth certificates to community organising.
- Two-thirds of children in the Dominican Republic experience violence. We will educate children about their rights and protection.
- Barahona residents, particularly women, are vulnerable to poverty and unemployment. We will continue to provide vocational training to young people.

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



"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 Barahona. Thank you."

**Jean Beltre**  
Programme Area Manager, Barahona

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