

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

The rural region of Cabañas is home to 125,373 people, most of whom are heavily dependent on agriculture. As climate-related disasters continue to increase in El Salvador, this vulnerable area has been hit by everything from storms to droughts.

Since 2017 and with your help, 10,443 teenagers have learned about sexual health and reproductive rights. 4,906 caregivers have participated in workshops to break the cycle of violence. 2,510 youths have received resources and skills to kick-start small businesses.

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



# 2393

Youth received scholarships to secondary school



# 6479

Children aged 1-8 received comprehensive care



# 11065

Children have learned about self-protection & safety



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN EL SALVADOR

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

“My mom passed away from Covid-19. My father got depressed and was not able to work. It was a very hard time for my family. Plan helped us with a voucher to get food and for the funeral expenses. Currently, I have a scholarship from Plan. I am studying accounting. My dream is to work in a bank.”

# CASE STORY: BREAKING STEREOTYPES



**NAME: BRENDA**

**AGE: 19 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: MOTORCYCLES**

"We live in a country full of stereotypes. The biggest challenge has been gaining the trust of men. At first, they didn't believe that a woman would be able to fix a motorcycle. Plan supported me: I participated in the Plan programme that supports young entrepreneurs and obtained seed capital to start my business."

## Meet Brenda

**Like your sponsored child, Brenda has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** Growing up as a girl in El Salvador, the odds were stacked against Brenda. Close to 39% of girls in her community don't have access to education. Many grow up to be young mothers and later, housewives. Fueled by her love of motorcycles, Brenda knew that she

## Supporting An Inclusive Education

This year, Brenda was one of Plan International's 1,058 sponsored young women in Chalatenango. In our work to promote equitable financial independence, we work with Chalatenango's teen girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 29 who want to pursue formal employment or start their own businesses. Plan supported Brenda's ambitions of opening a motorcycle repair shop. We helped her afford the cost of her high school education, as well as her training to become a mechanic. After her vocational training, Brenda joined Plan's young entrepreneur workshops, where she learned about practical skills like marketing, basic accounting, commercial image, product prototyping and customer service. She also learned about generally important topics, like sexual rights and reproductive health.

## Skills To Succeed

Brenda then went on to Plan's Entrepreneurial Methodology course, 60 hours of training in vital business skills like developing a business idea through case studies, collaboration and exchanging ideas. Upon finishing the unit, Brenda received some of the best evaluations, meaning that she received equipment, materials and supplies to jump-start her motorcycle shop.

Through this training, young women build a lifelong sense of independence and agency, changing their lives by earning the equivalent of \$200 to \$300 a month. Brenda is proudly proving to the men that she can do anything.



*Brenda at her motorcycle workshop*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 9,922 CHILDREN IN CABAÑAS**



# OUR PROJECTS IN CABAÑAS ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Hundreds of young community members benefitted from vocational training and the distribution of hygiene kits.

## SKILLS TO SUCCEED



**75% of unemployed people in El Salvador are women with a low level of education.** We set out to change that statistic by encouraging and empowering young people, particularly women, in Cabañas to pursue entrepreneurial ventures.

This year, 175 at-risk young people – 60% of whom were women – received training in job interviews, appropriate dress, making a resume and vocational skills. An additional 110 young people learned how to start a business, from organization and production to administration and finance.

Our courses, which were virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic, offered a gender-inclusive approach. Since vulnerable women are at risk of criminal activity and struggle to pursue traditional employment, our courses emphasised knowledge, protection and confidence.

## STAYING HEALTHY AND HAPPY



**60 schools in Cabañas now have better sanitation systems.** In El Salvador, hundreds of schools are without basic sanitation and access to water. During the COVID-19 pandemic, that has exacerbated health and safety risks for vulnerable children.

This year, Plan International provided equipment and collaborated with 60 schools in Cabañas to improve their sanitation infrastructure. All 60 schools received hygiene kits. 500 sponsored children and their families learned in more detail about COVID-19 prevention and hygiene.

New handwashing stations were constructed in 12 schools. 30 schools without access to water received dispensers for hand sanitiser.



“Plan provided us with hand sanitiser, soap, toilet paper and sanitary napkins so students have all necessary services for their wellbeing and education. We are thankful to Plan for their support, commitment and dedication to children and adolescents.”

- Ana from Cabañas

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



**38%**

Of young people in El Salvador are enrolled in secondary education



**39%**

Of enrolled secondary school students are girls



**75%**

Of unemployed people in El Salvador are women with a low level of education



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

- From primary school to secondary school, large numbers of students in Cabañas drop out of school. We will strive to keep all children in school by training educators on inclusivity in both gender and ability.
- Most children in Cabañas experience violent discipline. We will work to protect the children of Cabañas by educating local leaders on gender-based violence and safety.
- The vast majority of unemployed people in El Salvador are women with a low level of education. We will continue our work to empower local women through vocational training.
- Thousands of women in El Salvador are victims of sexual crimes each year. We will create community spaces for women to speak up for themselves and develop agency.

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



“Your support has made possible the implementation of programmes that contributed significantly to the development, education and empowerment of women, children, youth and families with greater vulnerability in Cabañas.”

**Jorge Aguilar**  
Programme Area Manager, Cabañas

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