

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, Plan's interventions in Chalatenango focused on a wide range of issues, from climate change-related disaster preparedness to breaking down menstruation taboos and vocational training.

Over 1,060 migrant children forced to return to El Salvador were met in the country with food, menstruation supplies and clothing. 203 children learned about safety both online and in person, while 250 returned migrants received school supplies.

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



12674

Young people received sexual education



5192

Children received scholarships to complete their high school educations



6997

Children and teenagers received humanitarian aid due to violence



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 Chalatenango, the odds were stacked against Brenda. Close to 39% of girls in her rural community do not have access to education, and many grow up to be young mothers and later, housewives. Fueled by her love of motorcycles, Brenda knew that she wanted more.

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 in her group, meaning that she received equipment, materials and supplies to jump-start her motorcycle shop. Through this training, young women like Brenda 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 in her community that she can do anything.



Brenda at her motorcycle workshop

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 10,475 CHILDREN IN CHALATENANGO

OUR PROJECTS IN CHALATENANGO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



From emergency food kits to open conversations about menstruation, Plan is helping thousands of children find their place in Chalatenango.

THE POWER OF THE RED BUTTERFLIES



67 girls learned life-changing information about menstruation. Studies conducted by UNICEF have demonstrated that menstruation has been linked to absences from school or diminished social participation. Misinformation perpetuates a culture of taboo and shame around menstruation, and we seek to change that.

This year, Plan International collaborated with 67 girls to foster a supportive, safe environment to talk about menstruation, radically re-characterising menarche as a site of sisterhood. The girls also received critical menstrual hygiene supplies and information about teen pregnancy.

We took these lessons one step further by extending the conversation to the girls' families, as part of an effort to defeat the menstruation taboo. We promoted positive masculinity with an emphasis on zero discrimination for boys, adolescents, and young men.

FINDING A WAY HOME



Thousands of emigrated El Salvadorans have been deported back to their home country. Upon their return, these individuals often find themselves without resources from the state.

From October 2020 to March 2022, Plan International met over 1,060 returning children upon their arrival back in El Salvador. We provided them with emergency kits of food, clothing, and menstrual products. 135 families who had fled gang violence in El Salvador and returned with high protection needs received emergency cash transfers that allowed them to buy food and other supplies.

458 children at 9 schools in Chalatenango learned about migrants' rights and the dangers of irregular migration. 34 young people received funding to start small businesses.

"With the help of Plan's workshop, I have learned about the risks to people who illegally migrate. The things that Plan used to inform us are very creative. It is not like a speech; they are dynamic to get information to us; for us to learn more."

- Abigail, 14, from Chalatenango



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



15%

Of Chalatenango's population over the age of 10 is illiterate



38%

Of young people in El Salvador pursue secondary education



22%

Of women in El Salvador have health insurance



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

·Poverty in El Salvador increased by nearly 5% between 2019 and 2020. We will continue to offer vocational training to young people, particularly women.

·554 girls between 10 and 14 were registered as pregnant in El Salvador in 2019. We will collaborate with local midwives to offer bimonthly educational sessions with young women.

·As climate change-related disasters increasingly effect the people of El Salvador, we will collaborate with local NGOs to coordinate humanitarian assistance during crises.

·The majority of students in El Salvador do not complete secondary school. We will team up with local teachers to foster safe, welcoming environments for all learners.

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



“Thanks to your contribution, we have been able to work with boys, girls, adolescents, and their communities in the implementation of programmes addressing key problems that affect their rights. Thank you for supporting the children of Chalatenango.”

Meybel Avelar

Programme Area Manager, Chalatenango

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