

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, parents learned about the importance of early childhood development, nutrition and health. Families challenged harmful gender norms, and fathers created new traditions of active, positive parenting.

In addition, more than 1,000 young people participated in flexible schools that enabled them to access their right to an education.

And over 400 young people gained the skills and resources needed to start their own businesses, allowing them to improve their lives and avoid migration, early unions and pregnancy.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Giza.



200

Families practiced positive parenting



108

Young people accessed quality jobs



6000

Families supported from food shortages



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN GUATEMALA

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

"The pandemic has been difficult. I have been unable to study properly. My parents motivated me to participate in Plan training workshops, where we were told about the importance of education. My dream is to continue studying and become a community leader. Thank you, Plan and sponsors, for the support to materialise my dreams."

CASE STORY: EDUCATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE



NAME: MABELIN

AGE: 14 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: BASKETBALL

"I believe in my dreams and goals. I understand the situation of many girls, due to their lack of education and sadly because parents accept it. Now, in my community, girls study to change their lives and have clear goals for their futures. Thanks to Plan for the work in my community."

Meet Mabelin

Like your sponsored child, Mabelin has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Mabelin is in secondary school, where she understands how vital education is—and to help other girls and young women in her community do the same. With resources from Plan, Mabelin challenged cultural and gender stereotypes that limit girls' access to education. She is now a leader in her community, helping others attain a better future.

Challenging Gender Expectations

Most girls in Mabelin's community are not encouraged to stay in school. Many parents do not believe education is a priority for girls. When they drop out of school, girls often become part of an informal couple and get pregnant at an early age. For Mabelin, this was normal—no one talked to girls about this, not even parents or teachers.

Yet Mabelin now has the knowledge to challenge these limiting expectations. Along with other girls, she learned about self-esteem and gender equality, and about her right to an education. With Plan's support of a school scholarship, Mabelin is more secure in her future.

Embracing Leadership

The Champions of Change programme helped empower Mabelin and other girls with leadership skills and opportunities. Today, Mabelin embraces her leadership position as she speaks with youth and adults in her community. As a spokesperson, she participates in meetings with community leaders at the municipal level, where she speaks about the importance of secondary education for girls.

As a result, teachers and parents in Mabelin's community see the importance of girls' education, and help to advocate for equality.



Mabelin participating in a workshop

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 6000 CHILDREN IN JALAPA

OUR PROJECTS IN JALAPA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



To help address malnutrition and food scarcity, 108 households participated in projects such as raising laying hens.

EARLY NUTRITION FOR DEVELOPMENT



Early childhood—from birth to eight years old—is considered the most important stage of life for health and development.

By strengthening parents' skills and knowledge of nutrition, sanitation, child development and protection, they are able and empowered to improve their family's quality of life. Last year, 200 families participated in workshops on early childhood development. As a result, both fathers and mothers know about their children's rights, positive parenting practices, and how to create a healthy foundation for growth.

Working directly with fathers allows them to create a new tradition of positive, involved fatherhood, and provides women with the resources they need to overcome the difficulties they may face, and also involves local governments and community leaders to provide better opportunities for children.

EDUCATION OPENING UP DOORS



Many youth in Jalapa leave school early in order to work. In fact, only 48% attend secondary school.

A flexible education programme is key to providing adolescents with the opportunity to access their right to an education. Sessions take place twice a month in person, with the rest in remote modality. This enables over 1,000 young people to develop skills for their personal and professional futures, an especially vital opportunity for youth in rural areas.

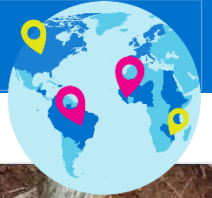
Student governments feature projects which benefit the community, such as reforestation. In the project activities, parents are also informed about the importance of education and gender equality, enabling them to support their children as they study and take part in leadership spaces.



"This project is a great support for young people who, regardless the reason, may be a bit stuck. Now, I take advantage of my time. I also help my sister with her entrepreneurial project, a mini store. These activities help us a lot to generate income for our family."

- Ramiro, 28, from Jalapa

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES TEST



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



52%

Do not finish secondary school



54%

Of children between 0-5 years-old are chronically malnourished



52%

Of young people live in poverty



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

- Only 20% of the 20,000 young people who graduate each year in Guatemala find a job. We will continue working on regional projects to generate job opportunities.
- Recently, two regressive bills put the rights of diverse people and children's lives at risk. We will continue working in cooperation with children's organisations to prevent the approval of regressive laws.
- We will promote comprehensive care for children under five years of age to help ensure healthy early childhood.
- We will expand educational opportunities for young people, especially those living in rural areas. We will continue with the project on flexible education for 1,400 people and provide support with scholarships.

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



"The COVID-19 pandemic has changed history, but with your help we have continued advancing the rights of children in Jalapa. We invite you to continue supporting the programmes and projects in favour of children."

Antonio Salguero
Programme Area Manager, Jalapa

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