

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, more young people were empowered with skills, information, and resources to make informed decisions about their health and sexuality. Youth, especially girls, learned about their rights and gained skills as they developed life plans that allow them to visualize their futures.

Communities established child protection structures, empowering them to safeguard children from violence. Children and youth now have a greater ability to exercise their rights, thanks to the project investment that help the community advocate for a healthy future.

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



765

People learned how to prevent gender-based violence



67

Community leaders trained to identify and report rights



3,760

Pupils supported with school supplies



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN HONDURAS

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

“Last year I finished my studies virtually. It has not been easy to study this way. This year I am attending school in person. Every year I receive school supplies from my sponsor. I do not lose hope of achieving everything I set out to do.”

CASE STORY: DARLIN SPEAKS HER MIND



NAME: DARLIN

AGE: 18

**HOBBY: READING,
STUDYING SPANISH**

"We became participative young women; with a different perspective towards a distant but not difficult future. We have learned many things about our rights, how to help others if they suffer some kind of violence, identify types of violence, talk about our self-esteem, among other topics."

Meet Darlin

Like your sponsored child, Darlin has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Darlin is the oldest girl in her family, and lives with her mother and three siblings. Darlin's father died when she was just nine years old. In school, she was a quiet girl, often bullied because she did not have a father.

But Darlin is no longer a shy young girl. Now, she is able to stand at a podium and advocate for girls' rights. She plays an active role empowering youth in her community, helping other girls achieve their goals.

Lack of Opportunity

Darlin suffered bullying at school due to the loss of her father and because of her religious beliefs. As a result, she was very shy and afraid to speak up for her rights. After finishing high school, Darlin wasn't financially able to continue her studies. Life as a young woman is a challenge for girls in Darlin's community because of the lack of job and academic opportunities. In fact, 24% of young women marry or take on manual labour after high school. Darlin was not able to continue her studies because she supports her family economically by working in the fields.

Quiet Leadership

Darlin was invited to a Plan International training session. Shy at first, she gained confidence with each meeting. Eventually, Darlin and the other girls developed the ability to express and contribute their ideas.

Darlin's role in the community is no longer the same. She and her peers are leaders. In fact, they've led two "We Believe in Girls" forums in which they've represented the youth of the entire municipality.

Darlin now sees a different future: One where there is space for a quiet girl to speak her mind—and be heard.



Darlin speaking at a celebration

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 3,760 CHILDREN IN INTIBUCÁ

OUR PROJECTS IN INTIBUCÁ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



EMPOWERING GIRLS TO DECIDE

In Intibucá there are high rates of early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and sexual violence. In fact, Honduras has the second-highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Latin America, with 30% of these occurring in rural areas.

Comprehensive sexuality education is key to addressing these concerns. The programme My Body, My Rights empowers youth and their parents with information, enabling them to make informed decisions about their health, and sexual and reproductive lives.

Educational Fairs helped connect the community and provide resources on gender-based violence, menstrual hygiene, and children's rights.

Youth in four communities with high rates of early marriage and teenage pregnancy participated in seminars on topics such as self-esteem and creating life plans. Seminars for parents led to positive dialogues within the families. Youth gained life skills and participated in violence prevention training. Together, families developed resources for informed decision-making, communication, and learned how to create a healthy future for young people.

PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



Many children in Intibucá experience violence. Studies show that abuse occurs in both public and private spaces, due to the custom of normalizing and underreporting verbal and psychological violence.

The Leading to Transform project helps trained community leaders on children's rights and how to report violations. It also helps empower youth with tools to challenge gender-based violence and advocate for their rights.

At educational fairs, over 765 children and adults learned about gender-based violence prevention and self-protection. Youth participated in a regional meeting to share their experiences on the Girls Raise Their Voices platform, where they discussed issues that affect them and learned about feminism and citizen participation.

"Today at the educational fair I learned about the care we should take with social networks and when we use the internet, also about forms of abuse and child labour. I learned where to report and how important it is to study so that girls can achieve our dreams."

- Suany (14) from Intibucá



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



46%

Of households do not have access to sanitary toilets



25%

Of girls drop out of elementary school



37%

Of Honduran women are married or in unions before age 18



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

- Teenage pregnancy in Intibucá exceeds 20%. We will work with the community to improve knowledge of comprehensive sexual education.
- We will continue to strengthen community mechanisms for the prevention of gender-based violence, child marriage and sexual abuse.
- Studies show that one in four Honduran girls is left behind in the educational system. We will continue supporting educational services through teacher training and by providing children with supplies and resources.
- We will coordinate with other organisations to train young people with life skills for a healthy adulthood.

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



“Thank you for your valuable support to continue developing the leadership of girls and the safe return to school for our children. Next year we will continue working to build safe environments for children.”

Sohanny Salmerón Knight
Programme Area Manager, Intibucá

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