

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, parents and children improved their knowledge of children's rights and how to protect girls and boys from violence and abuse. More than 200 community leaders strengthened their connections to legal systems to ensure children are protected.

Thousands of young people have gained crucial skills so they can confidently enter adulthood. Scholarships have helped youth complete technical courses, and knowledge on sexual health is helping girls and boys take charge of their bodies.

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



292

Community leaders trained on child protection



831

Parents improved their knowledge on children's rights



1788

Students learned financial skills



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN NICARAGUA

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

"I live in a rural area with my grandparents, mom and sister. Last year, my grandparents got sick from COVID-19. I felt very sad and was afraid they would die. At school, they taught us how to wash our hands, and Plan International provided sinks, soaps and face masks so we could protect ourselves."

CASE STORY: MY VOICE COUNTS



NAME: GLORIBETH

AGE: 13 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: SOCCER

"Since taking part in Plan's project, I have changed. Before I was shy and didn't speak up. Now I am more sociable with my peers. I have self-confidence and I share my opinion. My voice counts and I want to help other girls overcome their fear of expressing themselves."

Meet Gloribeth

Like your sponsored child, Gloribeth has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Gloribeth is striving to achieve her dreams in all areas - she loves to play soccer, go to school, and spend time with her friends. Gloribeth wants to help inspire other girls to develop their self-confidence and dream big for their futures.

Overcoming Fear

Children in Nicaragua are not encouraged to share their opinions or speak up for their rights. Gloribeth used to be afraid of expressing her ideas and was too shy to take part in activities at school and in her community.

After taking part in Plan's 'Living Without Fear' project, Gloribeth is a firm believer in using her voice for change.

During workshops, children and youth shared stories and played games, learning about their rights and building their confidence. They also learned where they can go to for protection, and how to keep themselves safe.

Seizing Opportunities

Gloribeth is now a student leader, helping to encourage and inspire other girls in her community to make their voices count on issues that affect them.

As part of the project, girls and boys also practiced assertive communication so they can play an active role in making decisions about their lives, bodies, and futures.

Now young people like Gloribeth are seizing their opportunity to stand up for their rights and have their voices heard.



Gloribeth speaking about rights and leadership to her peers

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 6,465 CHILDREN IN CHONTALES

OUR PROJECTS IN CHONTALES ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



85 young people participated in a skills course on job management

FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS



Many young people in Chontales lost their jobs or could not find work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Youth also struggle to gain skills that are in demand for the job market.

To help young people open the door to a brighter future, we provided scholarships to 117 young women and 55 young men. The scholarships helped cover transportation, food and education fees for technical courses or university degrees.

And a further 262 youth took part in employment skills workshops, helping them identify their strengths and interests. Young people gained experience in using digital platforms for job searching and learned how to prepare resumes.

With these skills, girls and boys are able to confidently enter adulthood and earn a good income to support themselves and their families.

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE



Around one in five pregnancies are in girls under the age of 18. Young women and men lack access to sexual and reproductive health education, leaving them without the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their bodies.

Through participating in cultural and sporting events, 1,719 young people learned more about their bodies and how to prevent early pregnancies.

Dialogue sessions with parents have also helped improve communication on sexual health between parents and youth, removing shame and stigma so young people feel supported as they enter adulthood.



“Participating in the project has given me more confidence. I learned how to prevent teenage pregnancy and to have zero tolerance for gender-based violence. I encourage other girls and boys to take part.”
- **Francheska, 18, from Chontales**

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



11%

Of children under 5 are malnourished



8%

Of students drop out of school



23%

Of pregnancies are among girls under the age of 18



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

- 82% of reported violent acts are sexual assaults against girls under the age of 17. We will continue to raise awareness of girls' rights and empower girls and boys to stand up for gender equality.
- Many young people cannot afford the costs of higher education. We will continue to provide scholarships so youth can complete university and technical training.
- In collaboration with communities, we will increase access to employment skills training, so young people can get a good job and support themselves.
- We will also work to increase access to agricultural studies so young people can play an active role in adapting to climate change.

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



"We share this year's achievements through the leadership of girls, boys, youth and families in Chontales, which has positively impacted their lives. We deeply appreciate your support so that these changes become a permanent reality."

Ruth Blandon

Programme Area Manager, Chontales

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