

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of girls and boys gained the knowledge they need to protect themselves against violence and abuse in their homes, schools and communities.

More than 600 young people are also able to take charge of their bodies and prevent early pregnancies with training on sexual and reproductive health.

66 parents took part in workshops on girls' rights, ensuring they can build gender equality into their families now and into the future.

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



# 1480

Children learned how to prevent sexual abuse



# 625

Youth learned about sexual & reproductive health



# 500

Youth trained on entrepreneurship



## 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 6,445 CHILDREN IN CHINANDEGA**



# OUR PROJECTS IN CHINANDEGA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## YOUTH ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS



Chinandega has a large youth population, but only 40% of young people are working. Youth struggle to gain skills that are in demand for the job market, and many have left the country to look for work elsewhere.

To help young people open the door to a brighter future, we provided scholarships to 124 young women and 30 young men. The scholarships helped cover transportation, food and education fees for technical courses or university degrees.

1,460 girls and boys gained financial literacy skills, setting them up for success with budgeting and saving their money as they get older

And a further 72 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.

## LIVING WITHOUT FEAR



**More than 30% of girls in Chinandega have experienced sexual violence.** For some, this occurs in their early marriage; for others, violence occurs in their family home. Sexual and physical abuse can have a long-lasting impact on children, preventing them from reaching their full potential.

201 community leaders in 19 communities have strengthened their connections with the justice system to ensure children and families receive the support they need when reporting a case of abuse.

And 310 children, along with 343 parents, also improved their knowledge on children's rights and how to identify risks and protect themselves from violence.



"I learned a lot by participating in the workshops. I was also able to share this information with my family. It is important to be able to identify violence and prevent abuse, and to have trust with our families so we can tell them what we are going through."

- Maynor, 13, from Chinandega

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



21%

Of pregnancies are among girls aged 15 to 19 years



59%

Of young people are not employed



2%

Of students drop out of school



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

- Cases of physical and sexual abuse against children remain high. We will continue working with communities, teachers, parents and children to promote children's rights and strengthen child protection mechanisms.
- Out of every 100 youth admitted to hospital, 65 are related to issues with early pregnancy. We will empower young people to make informed decisions about their bodies through sexual health education.
- We will increase opportunities for youth to gain the technical and vocational skills for employment.
- Chinandega is vulnerable to the risks of climate change. We will support communities to build their resilience and adapt to changes taking place in their environment.

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



"Your support contributes to creating safe communities, promoting the prevention of teenage pregnancies, and economically empowering young people so they achieve their goals. We hope for your continued support for children in Chinandega."

**Erika Maria Aguirre**  
Programme Area Manager, Chinandega

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