

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

**Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Madriz. 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 100 community leaders strengthened their connections to legal systems to ensure children are protected.

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

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



# 210

Youth gained knowledge on sexual & reproductive health



# 47

Girls completed technical courses on digital skills



# 109

Parents learned how to prevent violence against children



## 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 6,367 CHILDREN IN MADRIZ**



# OUR PROJECTS IN MADRIZ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



62 young people completed technical courses on residential electricity, giving them skills to become electricians

## SKILLS FOR SUCCESS



**Many young people in Madriz lost their jobs or could not find work during the COVID-19 pandemic.** 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 131 young women and 42 young men. The scholarships helped cover transportation, food and education fees for technical courses or university degrees.

And a further 116 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.

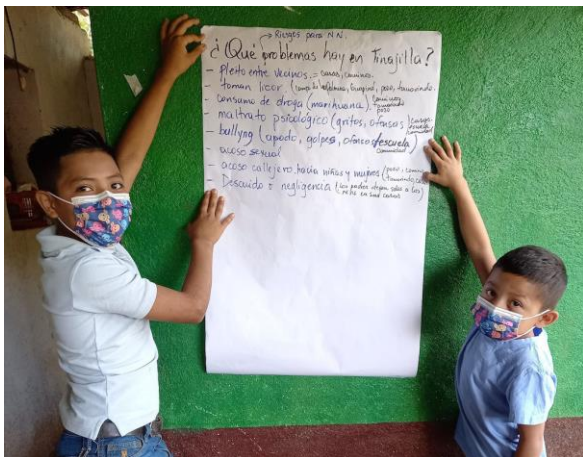
## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



**Around 70% of children in Nicaragua have experienced physical violence.** In Madriz, 19 cases of sexual violence and 92 cases of neglect were reported in the last year.

68 girls and 54 boys took part in training sessions on children's rights and child protection. Through weekly games, children built up their skills and confidence, and are sharing knowledge with their peers on how to keep themselves safe at home, school and in their community.

116 community leaders joined protection networks and strengthened their commitment to keeping children safe. Training sessions were led by facilitators with a background in the criminal code. Communities now have the skills to prevent, detect and report cases of violence against children.



"I liked the sessions because I learned how to identify violence; like if a parent hits a child, it's abuse. I share this with other girls and boys in my school so that they take care of themselves."

**- Rosmary, 9, from Madriz**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



18%

Of children under the age of 5 are malnourished



20%

Of pregnancies are in girls under the age of 19



2%

Of students drop out of school



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

- Teenage pregnancy rates remain high, preventing girls from reaching their full potential. We will increase access to sexual and reproductive health education so young people can make informed decisions about their bodies.
- Physical punishment and abuse continue to occur. We will work with families, community leaders and governments to strengthen child protection mechanisms.
- We will increase opportunities for youth to gain the technical and vocational skills they need to get a good job.
- There were 9 reported cases of early marriage in Madriz last year. We will continue to promote gender equality and empower girls to stand up for their rights.

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



“Our sincere thanks to sponsors for your support on children’s rights and equality for girls. The last few years have been difficult, but we are proud to continue making significant changes in the lives of girls and boys in Madriz. Thank you!”

**Daryl Antonio González Rodríguez**  
Programme Area Manager, Madriz

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