

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, hundreds of young people gained technical and vocational skills so they can start their own business or get a good job. And more than 300 youth are able to take charge of their bodies with new knowledge on sexual and reproductive health.

Parents and community leaders are also helping to keep children safe by strengthening child protection mechanisms and raising awareness of the right to live a life free from violence and abuse.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Costa Caribe Norte.

**344**

Youth learned about sexual & reproductive health

**1052**

Children learned how to prevent sexual abuse

**1600**

Students improved their financial literacy 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 3,501 CHILDREN IN COSTA CARIBE NORTE

OUR PROJECTS IN COSTA CARIBE NORTE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Costa Caribe Norte has a large youth population, but unemployment and poverty rates remain high. 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 transportation scholarships to 92 young women and 58 young men in high school, university, or technical courses. Youth can now afford to travel to complete their education in the mostly rural region.

And a further 48 youth completed technical courses at the National Technological Institute. With the help of seed capital, these young people now have the skills and support they need to start their own business.

Children are also learning critical financial literacy skills in school, which will help them budget and save their money as they grow older.

80 primary school teachers were trained on financial social education in order to teach about savings and rational use of resources

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



More than 20% of girls in Costa Caribe Norte have experienced sexual violence. For some, 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.

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

132 girls and 108 boys also improved their knowledge on children's rights and how to identify risks and protect themselves. More than 300 parents took part in training sessions, and now feel confident to protect their daughters and sons from violence.



"In workshops, I have learned about gender equality and forms of violence. We also identified risk areas in my community and learned how to protect each other. Plan's workshops have games and real-life examples that teach us our rights."

- Yetka, 12, from Costa Caribe Norte

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



17%

Of people cannot read or write



31%

Of pregnancies are of girls aged 15 to 19 years



9%

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.
- Many young people drop out of school. We will provide scholarships to cover the cost of transportation and fees.
- We will also support youth to gain technical and vocational skills so they can get a good job and open the door to a brighter future.
- Domestic violence and sexual abuse against girls are still common. We will work with communities to raise awareness of children's rights and strengthen child protection mechanisms.

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



"I am honoured to express our heartfelt thanks for your contributions to the work that Plan International is doing in support of children, youth and indigenous families in Costa Caribe Norte."

Jairo Rubén Saya Pérez
Programme Area Manager, Costa Caribe Norte

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