

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, more than 1,100 mothers and fathers gained new parenting skills to help them raise their children in safe and loving homes. New child protection groups are promoting the rights of children to live a life free from violence and abuse.

Young people also learned technical and leadership skills so they can take charge of their futures. As a result of training on sexual and reproductive health, girls and boys are now able to make informed decisions about their bodies as they get older.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in San Pedro.



121

Girls gained leadership skills



475

Youth completed technical training



107

Parents trained on adolescent sexual health



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN PARAGUAY

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

“There was a lot of stress because of the lockdown. We found it difficult to adapt to the virtual world, especially in education. The situation for many children and adolescents was very difficult. It was exciting for us to meet again and to join activities which gave us a chance to renew advocacy spaces and raise our voices.”

CASE STORY: BECOMING A LEADER



NAME: MILAGROS
AGE: 18 YEARS OLD
HOBBY: LEARNING

"I am a girl with a strong desire for self-improvement. I had the opportunity to participate in Plan International's Leadership School. I learned many things, such as the importance of dialogue, fellowship, and self-esteem. I will show other girls that everything is possible."

Meet Milagros

Like your sponsored child, Milagros has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Milagros is in her second year of high school and is now a leader at her school and in her community. With the right support, Milagros's disability is no longer a barrier to reaching her full potential.

Overcoming Roadblocks

Milagros uses a wheelchair to get around her community, and she has to deal with regular epilepsy attacks. Her father passed away many years ago, leaving her mother to earn an income and support Milagros.

Children with physical disabilities often experience discrimination and abuse from their families, teachers, and peers. Although her mother always encouraged her, Milagros felt excluded at school, and she struggled with depression.

But two years ago, she joined Plan International's Leadership School where she met other youth, shared her experiences, and built relationships. The young leaders learned how to be more inclusive and supportive of those with different abilities.

Striving for Inclusion

Milagros is now a role model for her peers. With her newfound confidence, she is speaking up for equality and inclusion in her community.

She also switched schools, where she now feels more supported by her teachers and classmates. Milagros is looking forward to completing her education and she has big dreams for her future.

With the skills she has gained, Milagros is now forging a path for all children to be given the same opportunities to succeed.



Milagros taking part at the Leadership School

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 6,940 CHILDREN IN SAN PEDRO

OUR PROJECTS IN SAN PEDRO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



POSITIVE PARENTING



Parents are learning how to prevent violence within their families and raise children in supportive homes.

More than half of children in Paraguay have experienced physical or emotional violence. Children's rights are not well understood by parents, and cultural traditions have normalised these practices during discipline.

Through training sessions, 400 parents gained new positive parenting skills. They learned about the importance of playtime for childhood development, and how to care for their children without the use of violence. By including fathers and highlighting gender equality, girls and boys now have safe and loving homes to grow up in.

603 mothers and 98 fathers also set up child protection groups so they can prevent and respond to cases of violence against children in their communities. Training sessions in 49 communities helped parents learn more about children's rights, and they are now promoting positive parenting to other caregivers.

EMPOWERING YOUTH



Rates of early pregnancy remain high in San Pedro. Girls can suffer serious health complications, including death, from early pregnancy. Many girls also experience sexual abuse and domestic violence from their partners.

81 girls and 114 boys took part in training sessions on their sexual health. Topics included gender equality and how to form positive relationships. Two new youth-friendly clinics are helping more than 760 young people access safe and supportive reproductive health care.

At schools, 80 teachers gained strategies for teaching sexuality education to youth. Through workshops at schools, students are also learning about their mental health, how to make goals for their future, and the importance of violence-free dating.



"I am very grateful to Plan International. Thanks to this training, which my mom and dad were invited to attend, my relationship with them has changed completely. Today I am not afraid to talk about the changes I am going through as an adolescent."

- Ilse (14) from San Pedro

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



5%

Of children are not enrolled in school



67%

Of people do not have access to sanitary toilets



51%

Of children in Paraguay experience physical or emotional abuse



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

- Many young people do not finish their education. We will support schools to provide safe and inspiring learning spaces for all children.
- Early pregnancy rates remain high. We will ensure all young people have access to sexual and reproductive health education, so they can make informed decisions about their bodies.
- We will also continue to advocate for girls' rights and provide leadership training, so girls can play active roles in their lives and communities.
- Children regularly experience physical or emotional abuse growing up. We will continue to provide parents with training on positive parentings techniques.

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



"I am excited to see that young people, especially young women, are exercising their rights and feeling motivated to improve their living conditions, and that girls and boys are more protected in their communities. Thank you for your support."

Marcelino Prieto

Programme Area Manager, San Pedro

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