

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, Plan worked with young people in Occidental Mindoro to educate a generation of leaders. People of all ages in 30 different communities were given resources to prepare their homes in the event of natural disaster, and 761 individuals received training in climate disaster contingency planning.

Young people, and particularly young girls, participated in activities and workshops devoted to fostering gender equity, safety and economic stability. 516 young people – 350 of whom were women – received funding and business training.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Occidental Mindoro.



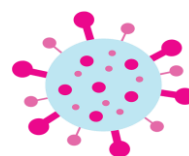
596

Youth received financial support to start their own businesses



125,746

Families trained in Climate Change Adaptation



1400

Families impacted by COVID received financial aid



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

“The pandemic impacted many lives. For me, it opened up a number of opportunities. It trained me to be more resilient in all situations. The skills and knowledge that I gained, which really helped me to become a better and more resilient person, all came from my participation with Plan International.”

CASE STORY: EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS



NAME: MARY ANNE

AGE: 17 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: TIKTOK

"As a youth advocate of Plan International, I benefited from many lessons and insights. I have learned that every human being regardless of his or her sex, gender, colour and social status has equal rights and needs to be heard and respected by society."

Meet Mary Anne

Like your sponsored child, Mary Anne has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Mary Anne lives in Northern Samar province, a rural area of the Philippines. Raised by a single mother, Mary Anne works hard in school and winds down by spending her free time on social media.

Over time, Mary Anne grew increasingly involved with Plan International, becoming a Youth Peer Educator and working with both the Champions of Change and Girls Get Equal initiatives.

Improving Menstrual Hygiene

As Mary Anne grew more confident in her ability to make a change, she started to think about how her high school did not have separate toilets for girls. As such, her peers did not have access to adequate menstrual hygiene.

Mary Anne decided to work with Plan to build a safe, private toilet for girls at her school. Plan helped Mary Anne and a mobilised group of students to write a funding proposal.

Staying Safe and Healthy

With Plan's guidance, Mary Anne and her team of student activists successfully raised PHP 10,000 through Plan International's Small Grants Initiatives Project. Though Mary Anne sometimes came up against insecurity in the face of rigid social norms, the activists convinced adults in their community to donate the remaining funds necessary to complete the project.

Using this money, their school built separate toilets for boys and girls. Today, not only do students have access to safe menstrual hygiene, but Mary Anne enjoys a new sense of empowerment and determination.



Mary Anne tries out washing her hands in her school's brand-new toilet.

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 6,622 CHILDREN IN OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

OUR PROJECTS IN OCCIDENTAL MINDORO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



GIRLS STAND UP FOR RIGHTS



Young girls used activism to become leaders. Teen pregnancy, early marriage and child labour put young people, particularly young girls, in Occidental Mindoro at risk.

This year, four groups of young girls in the province took part in six courses to learn about issues facing their community. By isolating the problems, the young leaders then brainstormed solutions and drafted proposals for actionable campaigns. With the support of older mentors in their community, the activists took the reins, leading year-long campaigns in topics from combating disinformation online to sexual health and responsible parenting.

Through this experience, young girls in Occidental Mindoro learned about a greater sense of agency. They experienced meaningful support from their community and educated 126 young boys about sexual health and reproductive rights.

By imagining their futures and taking action in the present, hundreds of young people committed to gender equity, reproductive rights and sexual health.

ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH RIGHTS



In the Philippines, teenage pregnancy is considered a “National Social Emergency.” From July 2021 to June 2022, 484 young people in Occidental Mindoro participated in Plan International workshops and discussions about sexual health, gender-based violence and HIV prevention. In this setting, students across eight Plan partner communities felt comfortable sharing their dreams and life goals, which included communicating actionable steps to prevent teenage pregnancy.

Plan also partnered with multiple regional and provincial government agencies to train educators in teaching Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). In total, 30 educators took part. They will bring our CSE curriculum to 22 local secondary schools, where they will teach 16,415 students about sexual health and reproductive rights.



“We need to recognise that teenage pregnancy is a problem and not just an issue. The Adolescents’ Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights campaign is very helpful to increase their understanding about sexual education.”

- Jheena Faye (14) from Occidental Mindoro

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES

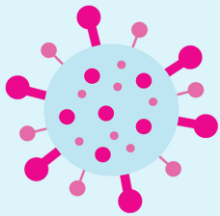


FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



24%

Of people in the Philippines live below the poverty line



60,518

People in the Philippines have died of COVID-19



23%

Of children in the Philippines are food insecure



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

· Thousands of children in Occidental Mindoro are undernourished. We will offer medical access and education to families throughout the region to lower the risk of undernourishment in early childhood.

· Many people in Occidental Mindoro have lost their jobs during the pandemic. We will continue our work to provide them with professional training and opportunities.

· Violence towards children and crimes, particularly against young girls, are a significant problem. We will train children, particularly girls, on safety and reporting.

· The teenage pregnancy rate in Occidental Mindoro is on the rise. We will continue our Adolescents' Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights initiative.

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



"I would like to express my gratitude for your continuous support. Together, we delivered the necessary programmes to help children and their families overcome the impact of these challenges and make them more prepared and protected."

Edgar M. Martin

Programme Area Manager, Occidental Mindoro

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