

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, communities across Western Samar received necessary resources, like seed funding for 19 women's small businesses and the sponsorship of 3 surgeries for children. 24 villages in Western Samar received training in disaster preparedness in the event of climate change-related calamities.

Throughout the region, Plan worked on projects intended to nurture safer, stronger communities. By participating in workshops, young people in Western Samar developed new feelings of empowerment and protection.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Western Samar.



792

Youth learned about sexual health and rights



6924

Students received school supplies



100382

People have access to clean drinking water



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. After participating in several Plan International workshops, Mary

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 6,946 CHILDREN IN WESTERN SAMAR

OUR PROJECTS IN WESTERN SAMAR ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



SKILLS TO SUCCEED



From multi-generational education to the distribution of resources, communities in Western Samar grew safer and stronger.

Unemployment in Western Samar is high. We set out to empower young people in the province to become financially independent through workshops, resource distribution and loans.

Between July 2019 and June 2022, 13 educators received training in online modules directed toward teaching young people the basics of finance, life skills training and career guidance. 656 students at 3 schools received necessary materials to pursue vocational training in agriculture, housekeeping and baking.

Young entrepreneurs were also given loans up to 10,000 pesos to pursue financially stable futures. 19 young women started their own small businesses. Meanwhile, hundreds of people received financial support to repair their homes and purchase medical supplies after two recent typhoons.

RAISING THEM WITH CARE



Violence against women and children has been on the rise since 2020. Between summer 2019 and summer 2022, Plan implemented a multidisciplinary approach to building safer communities, both in person and online.

In response to a dramatic uptick in reports of online sexual misconduct, 834 teens and 737 caregivers received training in our Digital Tayo (Online Safety) orientation.

We also worked on protecting children's physical safety by funding surgeries for 3 children. After providing school supplies to 6,924 sponsored children, attendance increased by 3.3% in primary schools and 4.4% in secondary schools.

Our Girls Challenge Grants were used by two youth groups to combat teen pregnancy and advocate for youth safety.



"Having fleshy skin that grows in my lips, I was shy, my self-esteem was low, and I was not planning to continue my studies. But Plan gave me back my confidence and my beautiful smile. Now I am more determined to finish my studies."

- Ariane (15) from Western Samar

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



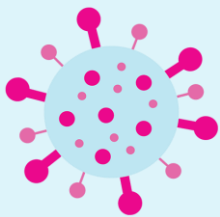
29%

Of children in Western Samar have stunted growth due to undernourishment



195%

Increase of online sexual abuse incidents of children in the Philippines in 2020



67%

Of people in Western Samar are vaccinated against COVID-19



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

- Teen pregnancy rates in Western Samar are increasing. We will train 25 educators in Comprehensive Sexuality Education and distribute resources for better learning.
- Western Samar is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We will offer training on disaster relief and preparedness.
- Young people in Western Samar have a hard time finding jobs. We will continue to offer seed funding to young entrepreneurs, with a focus on empowering young women.
- Women continue to be at a high risk of violence and discrimination. We will expand resources for our Girls Challenge Grants, which fund numerous activities.

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



“Your precious support and assistance are making a difference in the lives of sponsored children. They are more motivated to pursue their dreams and be of help to their families and others in the future.”

Welson L. Ramos

Programme Area Manager, Western Samar

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