

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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


Eastern Samar is a tropical region in the Philippines, heavily reliant on its farming and fishing industries. Today, the region is regularly impacted by the effects of climate change, experiencing 4-5 typhoons annually.

This year, projects like our B READY Initiative and Climate Change Awareness campaign reached hundreds of people in Eastern Samar. 993 individuals received 2,000 pesos to prepare their homes for the impact of Typhoon Rai. Meanwhile, young people were inspired to suggest practical, fun solutions to littering in their communities through our Small Grant Initiative.

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



87



Families trained
in Climate
Change
Awareness



48

Women received
seed funding to
start small
businesses



1276

Children
benefitted from
improved local
health services



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN THE

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 6,885 CHILDREN IN EASTERN SAMAR

OUR PROJECTS IN EASTERN SAMAR ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Community members of all ages took action to combat climate change, violence, and sexism.

PROMOTING STRONG GIRLS



Girls took charge in their communities by identifying, then addressing, systemic problems. Women and girls in Eastern Samar are subject to higher rates of violence. Rigid gender constraints prevent access to safe spaces for girls to speak their minds.

Between July 2021 and June 2022, Plan International implemented four campaigns in Eastern Samar to empower young women: International Day of the Girl, Girls' Challenge Grant, Girls' Takeover and Girls Get Equal.

Two girls bravely spoke about the dangers of sexual exploitation for children online to a local radio station with a total audience of 19,040 listeners. Six girls received funding as part of the Girls' Challenge Grant, which they used to build better infrastructure for solid waste disposal in their communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



The Philippines is the most vulnerable country in the world to the effects of climate change. We set out to raise awareness among community members of all ages about the challenges and possibilities of their current situation.

Over the last year, 87 Eastern Samar residents of all ages participated in an orientation about the effects of climate change. They considered how their actions affect the local environment and were inspired to make lifestyle changes.

Meanwhile, 15 youth in the community, through the Small Grant Initiative, learned about climate change and examined its presence in their communities. The children proposed a fun new system of solid waste disposal and a creative means of recycling bottles to make bricks.



"When our organisation, CAMP, was given an opportunity to do something about waste disposal, we worked together to create something that will solve the issue. With the help of the trash bins, it widened the mindset of the people in our barangay."

- Angelie (14) from Eastern Samar

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



18%

Of women under 30 in Eastern Samar are unemployed



32%

Of children in Eastern Samar are stunted due to undernourishment



13,829

Young people have dropped out of school



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

- Physical abuse continues to threaten the safety of women and children in Eastern Samar. We will lobby multiple government agencies to pass a law protecting children.
- The pandemic and related school closures dramatically impacted the education of children in Eastern Samar. We will mobilise 30 volunteers to mentor students in reading.
- As a result of climate change, Eastern Samar is hit by 4-5 typhoons annually. Five small grants will be distributed to young people inventing creative community initiatives in responses to climate change.
- Child marriages remain a problem in the Philippines, despite a 2021 law banning them. Plan will work with local government agencies to enforce this law.

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



“I am extremely grateful to everyone for the unwavering support you have extended through Plan International. Through your generosity, we are able to reach more girls and communities through the programmes that we are doing here in Eastern Samar.”

Aida O. Loyola

Programme Area Manager, Eastern Samar

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