

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, people of all ages in Northern Samar received necessary practical resources to protect against preventable illness and climate change. 27 local partners were trained as part of our B READY programme, which offers disaster preparedness to vulnerable communities.

Meanwhile, students, young adults and caregivers received valuable professional and medical support. 45 students received vocational training. 275 young girls took our course in Menstrual Hygiene Management and brought home MHM kits for future use.

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



507

Children took action against climate change



44

Families supported to start small businesses



7343

Students will have access to handwashing facilities



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. 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 6,924 CHILDREN IN NORTHERN SAMAR

OUR PROJECTS IN NORTHERN SAMAR HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



212 children were trained in emergency preparedness. 13% of young boys in Northern Samar have to support their families through farm work and construction, high-risk jobs where abuse is common. 20% of young girls in the region are at risk of physical and sexual violence.

This year, Plan International set out to support hundreds of young people in the area through offering skill-building workshops in safety. 14 children – 7 girls and 7 boys – were selected as ambassadors for their communities in the Girls Change Grants programme. During this time, the youths were empowered to identify problems in their community, propose solutions, and – with the help of financial support from Plan – make steps toward change.

These workshops proved critical for empowering young girls in Northern Samar to advocate for themselves. Participating children developed stronger senses of agency.

Building safer communities took many forms this year, from spreading education about vaccination to empowering children through local activism.

HEALTH CARE FOR BETTER LIVES



Communities throughout Northern Samar took critical steps toward better health. In the rural province of Northern Samar, just 71% of families have access to sanitary toilets, while only 45% of children are fully immunised against preventable disease.

Over the last year, Plan International has worked with villages throughout the province to implement vital steps toward communal wellness. Households in 11 villages constructed sufficient toilets to eliminate open defecation. 49 communities participated in programmes spreading life-saving information about vaccines, and 275 young girls received menstrual kits and education about hygiene during menstruation.



“I am nervous at first but with the guidance and encouragement of the Plan Staff and the support of my friends, I did it. I am happy to share information regarding emerging infectious diseases with my village.”
- Anavil (16) from Northern Samar

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



26%

of people in Northern Samar are underemployed



45%

of young children are fully vaccinated against preventable illnesses



74%

of school-age youths are enrolled in secondary education



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

- Girls and women tend to be systematically excluded in their communities. We will continue to empower young girls through initiatives like Girls Get Equal and International Day of the Girl.
- Undernutrition is a serious problem in Northern Samar, affecting an estimated 9,423 children. We will work on the national and local level in the Philippines to provide caregivers with nutrition programmes for their child's first 1,000 days of life.
- During the pandemic, many teens dropped out of school. We will encourage their return through mobile classrooms.
- Northern Samar is at risk for natural disasters due to climate change. We will offer disaster preparedness training in schools.

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



“On behalf of Northern Samar, I would like to extend my appreciation for another year of support. The sponsored children's families and communities are happy for your contribution, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Ronald T. Talaogon

Programme Area Manager, Northern Samar

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