

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, Plan set out to address issues from climate disaster preparedness to financial insecurity, healthcare, and safety. Our multipurpose cash assistance program provided vital nutrition and vocational training for 10,230 individuals of all ages.

138 families – including 65 young girls and 35 boys – participated in a 5-day Community-Based Enterprise Development course as part of our effort to combat unemployment and empower young girls. 23 motivated young girls used our Girls Challenge Grants to build a two-door latrine at their Madrasah.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Maguindanao.



# 2,520

Households received critical financial aid



# 34,807

Residents have new handwashing stations



# 3,112

People have access to clean drinking water



## 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 6,984 CHILDREN IN MAGUINDANAO**



# OUR PROJECTS IN MAGUINDANAO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## PLANNING AHEAD SAVES LIVES



**17,452 people are better prepared for climate disasters.** Dotted with earthquake fault lines, Maguindanao is vulnerable to a wide range of natural disasters. These incidents have been exacerbated due to climate change.

This year, Plan International partnered with 100 Emergency Rescue Team members, 91 teachers and 53 community members to review and update the region's Family Preparedness and School Disaster Preparedness Plans.

One municipality upgraded its disaster readiness equipment, including 5 life vests and first aid kits. 36 educators received training in Psychological First Aid for victims of natural disasters.

The Community Savings Group programme also addressed financial readiness in times of disaster. 37% of families in Maguindanao live below the poverty line. Since 2017, Plan has educated Maguindanao residents about savings.

Thousands of Maguindanao residents came together to build safer, more resilient communities.

## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



**6,984 sponsored children benefitted from lessons in gender equality, self-advocacy, and safety.** Our Child Protection project addresses systemic sexism and the exclusion of children from participating constructively in their communities.

47 adults throughout Maguindanao were trained in working with their children and students to promote confidence and activism.

23 young girls participated in our Girls Challenge Grants, offering the opportunity to make constructive change based on local problems they identify. Together, they constructed a two-door latrine that will be used hygienically by 4,835 people.



"With my engagement with Girls Challenge Grants, I was able to balance my studies and be a youth leader at the same time. Plan International was instrumental in the realisation of our two-door latrine project. Thank you so much!"

**- Princess Alyssa (23) from Maguindanao**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



# 7 MILLION

People in the Philippines  
are unemployed due to  
Covid-19



# 8%

of girls in the Philippines  
miss school due to  
menstruation



# 25%

of Filipina women aged  
15 - 49 have experienced  
violence



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

- A culture of silence surrounds violence against children. We will open up conversations with 413 young students in workshops at 9 schools in Maguindanao.
- Misinformation about menstruation perpetuates gender inequity. We aim to introduce an app which offers lessons about sexual health and menstruation, to girls and young women.
- Unemployment in Maguindanao has worsened markedly since 2020. We will train 300 young people, particularly women, economic and entrepreneurial skills.
- Maguindanao is vulnerable to natural disasters. We will train educators at 33 schools about disaster preparedness.

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



"The sponsored children are very grateful for your generosity and kind hearts. We are able to reach more children and to help their families overcome challenges. We hope that you continue to support Plan!"

**Hanalyn M. Bucol**  
Programme Area Manager, Maguindanao

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