

ANNUAL UPDATE

DOMINICAN

BARAHONA



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Barahona. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

Over the last year, hundreds of children, parents, and community members took part in training sessions focused on child protection. Girls and boys can now grow up in safe and supportive environments.

And with new knowledge on their sexual health, young people can make informed decisions about their bodies. 300 youth also completed technical or entrepreneurship training. Now, young women and men are able to open the door to a brighter future.



30

Community members were trained on child protection



125

Young men became advocates for gender equality



120

Youth created community development plans

“I LIKE PLAN BECAUSE THEY TALK ABOUT RIGHTS. I LEARNT HOW FAMILIES CAN RAISE THEIR CHILDREN WITHOUT ABUSE.”

Abigal, 10-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: NAZARETH

AGE: 17

**DREAMS TO BE: A
COMMUNITY LEADER**

“BELONGING TO A YOUTH GROUP IS THE BEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME. HAVING MY VOICE BE HEARD IS WONDERFUL.”

Meet Nazareth

Like the child you sponsor, Nazareth is taking steps toward achieving her goals. Naza, as her friends and family call her, lives with her mother and two little brothers. Nazareth helps her mother around the house, but she dreams of becoming a leader in her community.

Overcoming Gender Inequality

In the Dominican Republic, girls are expected to help out at home and often experience early marriage. Street harassment is also prevalent, which often prevented Nazareth and her friends from taking part in community activities.

Nazareth loved to play volleyball, but most sports teams were only for boys. At school, Nazareth joined a youth group where she learnt about gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights. Along with 300 other young people, Nazareth has gained new skills in advocacy and leadership. Nazareth and her friends have now created a community development agenda that seeks to solve the challenges faced by young people.

Becoming a Leader – On and Off the Court!

To go along with Nazareth’s community advocacy, she has also coordinated a new girls’ volleyball team in her neighbourhood. She encourages other girls to join the team and to feel empowered to take charge of their lives.

Nazareth’s family and teachers beam with pride when sharing how she has grown into a confident young woman who strives for change in her community. Nazareth knows that there are many challenges to overcome, but she firmly believes that small actions will lead to giant steps in ending all inequalities.



Nazareth gaining leadership skills

OUR PROJECTS IN BARAHONA NAME ARE HELPING CHILDREN



Young women and men are able to make confident decisions about their bodies and their sexuality thanks to newfound knowledge on reproductive health

MY BODY, MY FUTURE



Almost 30% of girls in Barahona become pregnant before the age of 18. Access to sexual and reproductive health is limited, both at schools and at home.

To help girls make informed decisions about their bodies and their futures, 150 young women at risk of early marriage or pregnancy took part in training sessions on reproductive health and safe sexual practices.

A further 1,920 students also gained knowledge on their bodies and their rights, helping them understand how early marriage and early pregnancies can prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Youth also took part in sessions on building self-esteem and financial literacy, giving them the tools to confidently take charge of their lives.

SAFE CHILDHOOD



Many children in the Dominican Republic experience physical violence while growing up. Cultural practices have normalised mistreatment as a form of punishment. Responding to cases of child abuse is also not a priority among different authorities, leaving children unprotected.

To help support children live a life free from violence, 178 girls and 122 boys took part in training session on children's rights and gender equality. These young people can now stand up for their rights and know how to reach out for support from safe adults in their communities.

67 members from 12 community protection groups also improved their knowledge on how to respond to cases of violence against children in their communities.

"I learnt that my body is like a territory. All children should know that no one can touch our body. Now I have more confidence in myself, and I can speak out without fear."

- Marelin (12) from Barahona



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come – and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Barahona.

- Almost 30% of girls in Dominican Republic become pregnant before the age of 18 in Barahona. We will continue to promote girls' rights and spread awareness on the harms of early marriage so girls can reach their full potential.
- More than half of girls and boys experience physical violence growing up. We will advocate for children's rights and provide training to parents on positive child-rearing practices.
- The Dominican Republic is one of the top countries impacted by climate catastrophes. We will support communities to develop disaster risk management plans and build resilience for the future.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thanks to your donations, Plan can support children and youth so that they enjoy their right to a long, safe, and protected life.”

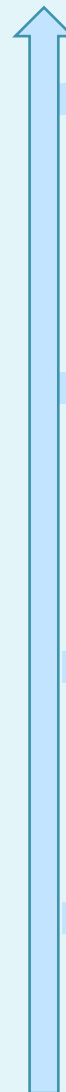
Xiomara Garcia
Programme Area Manager,
Barahona

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment becomes long-term change—providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan's Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



JANUARY

1,956

Children attended early childhood learning centres



MARCH

200

Youth took part in community volunteer events



APRIL

200

Young people completed entrepreneurship training



MAY

300

Children were trained on girls' rights and gender equality

