

ANNUAL UPDATE

EL SALVADOR

LA LIBERTAD



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

Just a few years ago, La Libertad was devastated by a massive storm, which impacted 21,100 residents and left another 2,500 without homes. The COVID-19 pandemic strained the resources of local families and threatened the education of children. This year, we concentrated our efforts on building better resilience to cope with the impact of climate change. We offered vocational training for youth and focused on positive parenting. We provided young people with information on their sexual and reproductive health and rights.



413

children received scholarships



780

young people learned about their rights



124

women developed vocational skills

“THANKS TO A SCHOLARSHIP FROM PLAN, I AM PURSUING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.”

Rosa, 16 years old, Sponsored Child





NAME: NARDA

AGE: 17

**DREAMS TO BE: A
DENTIST**

“I WANT TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN DO ANYTHING.”

Meet Narda

Like the child you sponsor, Narda is making steps towards her goal and achieving lasting change.

Though hardships have threatened to prevent Narda from completing her education, this resilient student is not giving up on her dreams.

Supporting the Next Generation

Narda enjoys drawing and reading history books, and dreams of speaking fluent English and becoming a dentist. When local schools closed during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Narda struggled to get internet access from home, threatening her ability to keep up with her classmates. Once in-person learning resumed, challenges remained: this determined student had to travel 3 hours by bus to attend her English classes.

But despite these hardships, Narda has never wavered on her goals. Plan International has tried to make her journey to university a little easier. As a Plan Sponsored Child, Narda received a scholarship that helped her complete her high school education.

From Learners to Leaders

Narda also participated in Plan International's Gender Transformative Political Leadership School, which focuses on nurturing the ambitions of young women, building confidence to become leaders and advocating for equality.

As the numbers of teen pregnancies continue to rise, our Leadership students have safe, supportive spaces for young women to talk about their lives, learn about their health and rights and make plans for the future.



Narda is a diligent student.

OUR PROJECTS IN LA LIBERTAD ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



YOU CAN COUNT ON ME



62% of children in El Salvador under the age of 5 have experienced violence.

This year, we collaborated with the local government of La Libertad to host a series of four workshops for fathers. Many children in El Salvador experience limited involvement by their fathers. Led by trained Plan volunteers and our staff, these sessions fostered honest conversation between men about gender equity, healthy masculinities, non-violent discipline and positive parenting. Since participating in the workshops, Ramon, who is the parent of a Sponsored Child, describes being more actively involved in taking his children to school and changing diapers.

“I would like to share what I have learned in my community and motivate more men to become actively involved in their homes and families,” Ramon says.

By creating open spaces for everyone to participate in important discussions, we're helping women and girls break down barriers.

MY FUTURE IS BRIGHT



25% of pregnant women in El Salvador are teenagers, and many of them never return to school.

Research has shown that this number is so high because of very low use of modern contraception, and limited sexual health education among adolescents. Young people have the right to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health and rights. As part of our efforts to promote gender equality and keep the girls in school, we opened three specialised summer schools in the communities in La Libertad. Here youth were trained in sexual and reproductive health and rights to try and protect them from abuse, and connecting them with education and health services.

“In my community, topics like sexuality and gender are considered taboo. My friends and I really enjoyed participating in this project.”

- Belen, 13 years old, Sponsored Child



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 La Libertad.

- Teen pregnancy continues to threaten the educations of girls in La Libertad. We will continue to speak about health, gender, rights and ambitions with children and youth in the community.
- Gender inequality persists in the home and parenting sphere in El Salvador. We will continue to work with men to discuss positive, involved parenting and healthy masculinities.
- 27.4% of people between 16 and 24 in La Libertad are neither studying nor employed. We will continue our youth employment programme, where students can learn vocational skills and be economically empowered.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thank you for continuing to make a difference in La Libertad. Your generosity and support encourages us to continue our commitment to children’s rights.”

Mary Gonzalez
Program Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment is turned into effective 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



MARCH 2023



1,295

parents participated in positive parenting workshops

APRIL 2023



85

girls participate in the Girls Leadership School

MAY 2023



108

leaders trained in child protection

JUNE 2023



1,398

community members learn flood resilience