

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# GUATEMALA

## JALAPA



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

Jalapa is home to nearly 414,000 people. Unemployment, food insecurity and climate change have compelled families to migrate, which can threaten the education of children. This year, we worked with caregivers in early childhood development focusing on health, nutrition, learning and safety. We discussed positive masculinities with young men, and 431 young people received vocational training. We coordinated with elementary schools to improve the students' reading skills, and we worked with families to establish small businesses to supplement their income.



**225**

children trained in child protection



**1,541**

youth were enrolled in accelerating education courses



**150**

mothers trained in early childhood development

**“THROUGH PLAN’S CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE PROJECT, I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.”**

Anahi, 12 years old, Sponsored Child





**NAME: MARÍA**

**AGE: 18**

**DREAMS TO BE: MATHS  
TEACHER**

**“BEFORE, I THOUGHT I ONLY HAD TWO OPTIONS: MARRY VERY YOUNG, OR MIGRATE. TODAY, I AM STUDYING AND HAVE MY OWN BUSINESS.”**

## Meet María

**Like the child you sponsor, María is determined to build a bright future for herself.**

Maria is a clever, ambitious student from rural Guatemala. The oldest of nine siblings, no obstacles have been strong enough to get in the way of María's determination.

## Knowledge Is Power

In María's community, many young women either are married off at a young age or move to the United States in the hopes of better work. Making matters still more complicated, María's immediate community is home to only a primary school, and the closest secondary school is far away.

Still, María has always been determined to stay in school and support her family. As a Sponsored Child of Plan International, María enrolled in Plan's "Connections for Success" programme, where she learned about empowerment, entrepreneurship and business management. At the end of the workshop, María won seed funding to start her own small business, a grocery store.

## Nothing Can Stop Me

From the outside, María is a force to be reckoned with. A strong maths student and an aspiring maths teacher, modest María attributes her success to Plan's Leadership School, where she learned about her rights and the importance of determination. Today, María is a vocal advocate of girls' rights and the importance of education. "My advice to girls and adolescents is: keep studying and learn about your rights and self-esteem," María tells us.



*María is a confident student and leader.*



# OUR PROJECTS IN JALAPA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



This year, our projects in Jalapa focused on accessible education, health, vocational skills and child safety.

## I CAN DO ANYTHING



**980,000 young people in Guatemala are neither in school nor employed. Investing in girls' economic empowerment is essential to achieving gender equality.**

We work to raise awareness in families and local communities about the importance of girls' education and young women's participation in working life. Since July 2022, our Employment programme has worked to connect young people in Jalapa to official work opportunities. In the last year, 431 young people have participated in our different Skills for Work- projects. Through the programme they work on their interview skills, but also life skills. We cooperated with different companies to offer 84 of the participants internships, and 241 were certified in business administration and as sales executives.



## READING OPENS UP WORLDS

**Nine out of ten schools in Jalapa do not have books.**

This year, we introduced our lectoclick teaching programme to fifth and sixth grade students, which provides fun, accessible lessons in literacy both through books and digital learning. 207 girls and 230 boys took part in classroom lessons on reading, practicing parts of speech and improving their grammar. In collaboration with local teachers, who received lectoclick kits, we planned 45-minute lessons in literacy. To date, 100 such lessons have been carried out, with students filling out worksheets, collaborating in groups, playing, acting and communicating. 133 students and 20 teachers have installed the lectoclick mobile application on their phones, allowing them to bring the learning home.

"I'm very happy to go to school, because my teacher has been training with Plan International. We have lots of interesting activities. I've learned a lot."

**- Eslin (12) from Jalapa**



# 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 Jalapa.**

- 54% of young children in Jalapa are malnourished. We will continue to support the nutrition and well-being of families and young children through our Early Childhood Project.
- In Guatemala, 6 babies are born each day to girls under 14 years old due to rape. We will continue to work with youth on their sexual rights and collaborate with Jalapa's justice system to strengthen the protection of children.
- More than 68% of employed people in Guatemala do not have legitimate work contracts. We will continue to connect young people to internship and employment opportunities.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“Thank you for your contribution to the welfare of children in Jalapa. We are strengthening early childhood development, nutrition, communication and education.”

**Analy De Díaz**  
Programme Area Manager

## 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



### FEBRUARY



**424**

children received preschool materials

### APRIL



**506**

youth were awarded scholarships

### MAY



**100**

families received food vouchers due to food insecurity

### AUGUST



**431**

youth participated in vocational training