

ANNUAL UPDATE

GUATEMALA

CARCHÁ



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

92% of residents in Carchá live in rural areas. Here, residents rely on artisan industries like pottery, carpentry, shoemaking and silverware, as well as farming and cattle, for income. Secondary education is largely inaccessible: these schools are few and far between. This year, more than 500 children received scholarships to continue their education. 432 young people participated in open discussions about menstruation, breaking a taboo that often keeps girls home from school. Through our Economic empowerment programme young women can make their own income.



778

young people were enrolled in accelerated education courses



386

teen boys discussed positive masculinities



397

young women were empowered through entrepreneurship

“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.

María 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 girl's 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 CARCHÁ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



This year, our projects in Carchá focused on making education accessible, from flexible learning environments to adolescent health workshops.

I CAN DO ANYTHING



Less than 24% of young people in Carchá are enrolled in high school.

Our two-year-long Flexible Education programme sets out to make learning more accessible to young people whose studies have been interrupted. Since January 2022, 778 young people have enrolled in the Flexible Education project. In addition to receiving traditional lessons in secondary and high school subjects, students discussed important issues like gender equality and the value of education. 15 offices have been established as a support network for young people to continue their studies. 207 students received additional vocational training in business development, providing opportunities for young people to generate income. 452 parents learned about the importance of education, especially for girls.

SAFER TOGETHER

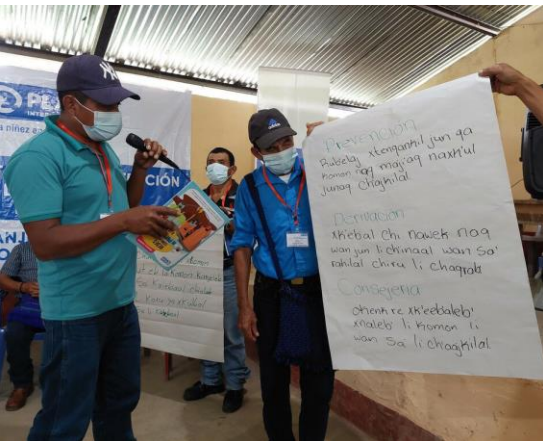


Every child and young person has the right to live a life free from any form of violence.

We work with children, caregivers and local communities to promote positive parenting and establish protection networks in the communities. Since June 2022, we have worked to create Protection Committees, which aim to create a violence-free Carchá. This year, 160 young people and 253 caregivers participated, and the committees are now legally recognised and in collaboration with local government. 107 community leaders – primarily women – received specialised training in protection against sexual and gender-based violence. Today, these women are responsible for the detection, reporting and prevention of violence in their neighbourhoods.

“The Community Protection Committee taught us that we have rights. They will take care of us, and we can do our part to protect ourselves from violence.”

- Brigida Marina (11) from Carchá



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 Carchá.

- Each year, almost thousand teen pregnancies are reported in Carchá. With your support, our Decision and Leadership programme will provide empowering sexual health education for young people.
- Just 79% of eligible students in Carchá are enrolled in school. We will support young learners and local schools by making education more accessible to all students.
- Domestic violence remains an issue in this part of Guatemala. Our Violence-Free Generation project aims to reach local parents about child development, communication, positive parenting and safety.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thank you for being part of the development of young people in Carchá. With your support, we are changing lives.”

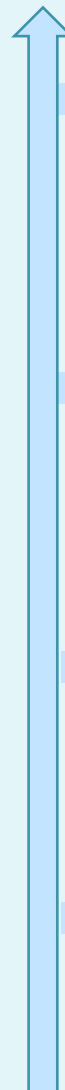
Rogel Rolando Leal
Programme Area Manager

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



29.030

people reached through our girls' rights campaign

MARCH



517

young people receive scholarships

MAY



60

midwives receive midwife kits to perform safe births

NOVEMBER



4.772

menstrual hygiene management kits distributed