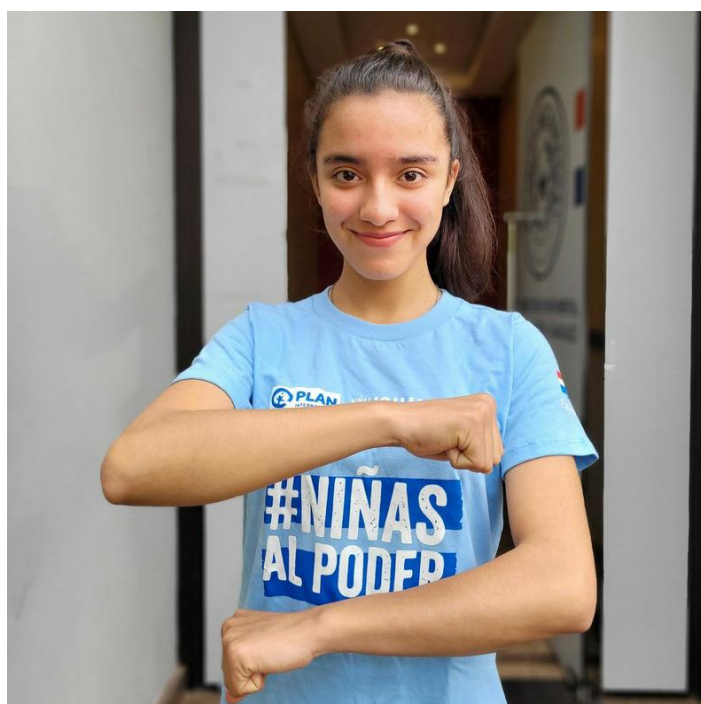


ANNUAL UPDATE

PARAGUAY

CAAGUAZÚ



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

In the last year, 430 parents in rural Caaguazú learnt more about supporting their teenaged children through adolescence. Now young people have a safe home environment to exercise their right to sexual and reproductive health.

More than 650 young women gained leadership and advocacy skills. They can now confidently raise their voices for gender quality in their communities.



488

Young people learnt about sexual and reproductive health



116

People attended workshops on community protection



1,222

Children and youth are members of School Councils

“THE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL HAD A HUGE IMPACT. I GAINED SELF-ESTEEM, SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE.”

Adriana, 16 years old Sponsored Child





NAME: LUZ NAYELI

AGE: 15 YEARS OLD

DREAMS TO BE: DOCTOR

“WE GIRLS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD IF WE PUT OUR MINDS TO IT. I SEE MYSELF AS A LEADER WHO MOTIVATES MY FRIENDS AND TOGETHER, WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE.”

Meet Luz Nayeli

Like the child you sponsor, Luz Nayeli is taking steps toward achieving her goals.

Luz Nayeli is like many high school students – she enjoys listening to music in her spare time, and helps around the house. She also dreams of going to university to study medicine.

Girls Can Achieve

Taking part in all the activities her school and community have to offer is how Luz Nayeli stays busy. She loves to be engaged and spend time with others.

But girls like Luz Nayeli often struggle against a patriarchal society that wants to keep girls in the house and out of decision-making spaces. Girls, especially those from marginalized groups, often feel discriminated against in their lives.

One of the groups Luz Nayeli has joined is the Leadership School, where girls and young women gain leadership and advocacy skills. Luz Nayeli has now built up her confidence and has learnt how to raise her voice for her rights.

Bright Futures

Along with other girls from her Leadership School, Luz Nayeli has taken part in take-over events to celebrate International Girl’s Day. By taking over the role of politicians, business leaders, and others for a day, girls show that they can achieve their goals.

Luz Nayeli is now recognised as a leader in her community. She encourages other girls to learn about their rights and gender equality, and to feel empowered to stand up and take charge of their futures.



Luz Nayeli at the Leadership School

OUR PROJECTS IN CAAGUAZÚ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Girls and young women are empowered to raise their voices, advocate for equality, and take charge of their futures thanks to new-found leadership skills

GIRLS LEADERSHIP



Paraguay has one of the lowest rates of women's participation in politics in the Americas. Gender discrimination persists, and girls and young women are often excluded from decision-making spaces.

In Caaguazú, 680 girls joined a Leadership School to learn about their rights, built their self-esteem, and gained the confidence they need to raise their voices. To celebrate International Girls' Day, 20 girls took over leadership positions in public institutions and private companies for a day, proving that girls belong in positions of power.

78 young people took part in youth councils to strengthen their leadership skills. Over the course of six training sessions, youth learnt about the values of democracy, and how to design and develop community projects focused on improving the lives of young people.



SAFE CHILDHOODS

More than half of the children in Paraguay experience physical violence while growing up. Approximately 6 children are victims of sexual abuse every day.

To help ensure all children can grow up in safe and supportive homes, 26 parents took part in training sessions on positive parenting practices. Topics included children's rights and gender equality, and how to prevent violence in the home.

1,128 parents from 94 communities have now formed child protection groups, so they can respond to cases of violence in their communities. A further 76 local authorities also improved their knowledge on how to keep girls and boys safe and care for those who have experienced abuse.

"In this workshop, I learned the importance of observing our children and the environment to see how the child is reacting and if something is happening to them."

- Felicia (41) from Caaguazú



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



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

Child marriage rates continue to be high in Paraguay. We advocate for girls' rights and raise awareness in communities on the harms of early marriage.

Young people lack access to sexual and reproductive health care and education. We work to ensure youth have the knowledge they need to take charge of their bodies and futures.

Girls and boys regularly experience physical violence growing up. We advocate for children's rights and provide training to parents on positive child-rearing practices.

Thank you for your continued support.



"Thanks to your support, we continue with the implementation of our activities and programs, responding to the problems of children in the most vulnerable communities."

Victor Edgar Garay
Programme Area Manager, Caaguazú

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.

IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



MAY

80

Teachers trained to support youth in life planning



APRIL

430

People completed workshops on creating school councils



MARCH

10,500

People now benefit from new medical equipment



SEPTEMBER

141

Schools celebrated International Children's Day

