

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# BRAZIL

## SÃO LUÍS



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

The island of São Luís is home to 1.4 million people in several communities. In this region, climate change has led to more flooding, droughts, and wildfires, which have displaced families and threatened family farming. This year, we collaborated with community members of all ages in fun activities, from Family Play Days to football games, in the aim of supporting the island’s next generation. We discussed critical topics like reproductive health, children’s rights non-violent discipline, and safety.



**1,520**

Young children learnt about safety



**30**

Girls participated in our Girls' Leadership Programme



**47**

Young women received funding to start their own small businesses

**“PLAN HAS CHANGED MY LIFE. TODAY, I CAN PLAY SPORTS AND TALK ABOUT MY RIGHTS.”**

- Kimberle, 15-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: ANGELA**

**AGE: 14**

**DREAMS TO BE: A FOOTBALLER**

**“PEOPLE USED TO TELL ME THAT FOOTBALL WASN'T FOR GIRLS, BUT THAT DIDN'T INTIMIDATE ME.”**

## Meet Angela

**Like the child you sponsor, Angela is taking steps towards achieving her goals.** Angela lives in a part of São Luís where most of her neighbours fall below the poverty line. Here, young girls have few safe spaces to talk about their ambitions.

## Empowerment Through Sports

Angela discovered a new talent in playing football – but not everyone in her community was supportive. Luckily, Angela is determined and fearless. As a participant in Plan's La League: Taking Teenage Pregnancy and Child Marriage Out of Play programme, Angela found a safe, supportive place to continue nurturing her ability on the field and beyond.

Our gender-inclusive approach brings together engaging, energetic sports activities and important lessons about adolescent health, girls' rights, assertive communication, and teenage pregnancy prevention. We also made sure that Angela and her teammates always have the equipment they need to continue defending their goals.

## My Future Is Bright

In the La League programme, we are also focused on encouraging young, passionate dreamers like Angela to build bright, successful futures. Confident Angela never needed our help to be a great football player, but today, she's continuing to play her favourite sport with the support of her community members, including those who used to discourage her and other young women from playing. Now, Angela plays football with her family and friends on the touchlines, cheering her on.



*Angela practices football in São Luís.*



# OUR PROJECTS IN SÃO LUÍS ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## I AM A LEADER



A recent report from the World Economic Forum estimates that global gender inequality will end in 132 years.

According to the assessment, the COVID-19 pandemic was a setback for girls and women around the world, many of whom took on more childcare and unpaid domestic work during the crisis.

Our Girls' Leadership School is a continuing programme in São Luís that works to prove the World Economic Forum wrong. In this year's mentorship programme, which consisted of 30 adolescent girls in the community, we discussed vital issues like menstrual dignity, race and ethnicity, political participation, and girls' rights. The Girls' Leadership School is designed to nurture confidence in at-risk girls in São Luís, building skills and ambitions for bright futures.

This year, our projects focused on supporting a safer, more equal São Luís.



## SAFER TOGETHER



**It takes a village to prevent violence against children.**

Our Somersaults project engages community members of all ages, from children as young as three years old to parents, educators, and child welfare professionals. This year, we met with 275 caregivers and guardians to discuss non-violent discipline, children's rights, and safer home environments for everyone. We also arranged Family Play Days in 24 communities, part of our effort to not only discourage violence but to encourage stronger, closer, and happier connections between children and adults.

We also worked with 1,520 children in São Luís, including 1,020 girls and boys under seven years old. In these activities, we engaged the next generation of São Luís in lessons about mindfulness, safety, and their rights.

"The Somersaults project made me less shy. I really enjoyed it. I like to speak up and express myself. I really want to continue doing activities like this."

**- Ana, 8-year-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 São Luís.

- Recent data suggests that local temperatures could increase by 3.1 °C in the next 25 years. We will work with community members of all ages to strengthen their disaster response strategies.
- More than three-quarters of incidents of sexual violence happen within the home in São Luís. We will continue to collaborate with educators to guard children's safety and rights.
- Interest rates for loans for women are 3.5% higher than they are for men. We will continue to support young women, and particularly young mothers, with seed funding and childcare.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thank you! With your support, we have made real changes in people's lives. This year, we strengthened the safety of children through education and play.”

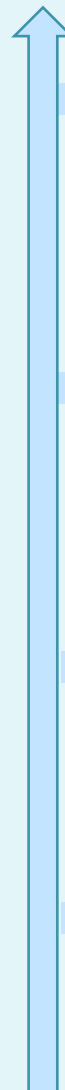
**Geysel Bezerra Costa**  
Programme Area Manager

## 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



APRIL

111

Teenagers learnt about gender equity through sports



MAY

73

Health providers attended workshops about teen health



JUNE

108

Educators trained to prevent violence against children



DECEMBER

240

Caregivers participated in meetings about child safety

