

ANNUAL UPDATE

PHILIPPINES

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO



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

This past year, key projects focused on empowering youth with knowledge, resources, and opportunities to create a safer, more equitable community. For example, students in the Y-Adapt project now act as agents of change in addressing climate-related challenges. In addition, young people overcame obstacles in order to gain marketable skills for economic independence. As a result of these initiatives, youth—and their families—have a happier, healthier future.



742

Youth benefitted from entrepreneurial support



621

People enhanced their financial skills through Community Savings Groups



745

People participated in disaster risk reduction exercises

“THE GIRLS GET EQUAL PROGRAMME ENCOURAGED AND INSPIRED ME TO BECOME AN ADVOCATE.”

Gracebelle, 17-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: NEZEL KATE

AGE: 15 YEARS OLD

DREAMS TO BE: A TRAVELLER

“THIS ORGANISATION HELPED ME GAIN EXPERIENCE AND FULLY TRUST MYSELF IN BEING A BRIDGE TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY.”

Meet Nezel Kate

Like the child you sponsor, Nezel Kate is making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself. As many young people, Nezel was unaware of the protection issues facing youth in the Philippines—until she became involved in Plan’s activities. Now, she contributes to policy influencing that creates real change.

The Courage to Speak Up

According to national statistics, 80% of Filipino children surveyed have experienced violence, abuse, or exploitation. Through Plan’s Protection From Violence project, young leaders like Nezel Kate are empowered to work toward a safer community.

Even though Nezel Kate is nervous speaking before crowds, she valued the opportunities to share her thoughts and contribute. As a representative during the Regional Children’s Congress, she provided insights on violence prevention. Her experience prompted her to lobby for child protection measures in her municipal legislative council, who was impressed by her courage to speak and agreed to implement projects to support young people.

Defending the Rights of Others

As she became more involved in Plan projects, Nezel Kate found a safe space to express herself. Her confidence is growing as she continues to advocate for the protection of children in the community. She believes that the training sessions she attended encouraged her to push herself to be more confident. To her, the nervousness she feels at public speaking is nothing compared to the impact she’s making as she advocates for the protection of children in her community.

In her courage and advocacy, Nezel Kate is helping to create lasting change in her community.



Nezel Kate is lobbying for child protection

OUR PROJECTS ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Thanks to the Wage Employment project, more youth are working in safe spaces that uphold inclusivity, gender equality, workers' well-being, and human rights.

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE



It is vital that young people—especially young women—are empowered with skills, resources, and opportunities to achieve economic independence. With the Support to Wage Employment programme, young people who are not employed and not in school can access financial training and employment opportunities.

A total of 45 applicants attended orientation sessions. Those who interviewed learnt about employment and labour laws, then were provided with training on financial literacy, money management, and budgeting skills.

The participants faced various challenges throughout the process but demonstrated perseverance and patience. These young people experienced significant life transitions, such as moving from rural to urban communities, leaving behind loved ones, and becoming independent.

REACTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE



The Philippines is vulnerable to climate disasters such as earthquakes and tropical storms. Empowering young people with the resources to respond to and adapt to climate crises was a key project this year.

Y-Adapt or 'Youth Adapt' is an interactive curriculum developed to educate youth in five hazard-prone communities. Through this initiative, students were equipped with the knowledge and skills to become environmental advocates, acting as agents of change in addressing climate-related challenges in their schools and communities.

As a result of the training, awareness-raising, and advocacy initiatives, more than 2,300 students have a safer future ahead.



“My experience with the Y-Adapt project has been truly transformative. I believe that empowering young people to take action is crucial in addressing climate change, and it has shown me the power of youth voices and initiatives.” - **Wilyn (15) from Occidental Mindoro**

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 Occidental Mindoro.

- 14% of children under five years old are stunted. With information on breastfeeding, infant and child feeding and nutrition classes, we will help parents and caregivers build their knowledge of children's health.
- Early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections are a concern. We will support health service providers and teachers to provide comprehensive sexuality education in the community.
- Schools are in need of disaster risk reduction and contingency planning. We will conduct awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions with children, youth, and community leaders.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Together, we've implemented vital projects to aid children and families during challenging times. Our commitment remains strong to sustain the progress we've achieved.”

Edgar M. Martin
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



MARCH

101

Youth reached through Girls Challenge activities



APRIL

634

Families participated in disaster preparedness training



OCTOBER

1,699

Parents and caregivers trained on child protection



DECEMBER

441

Families participated in home gardening projects

