

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# PHILIPPINES

## WESTERN SAMAR



**Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Western Samar. 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, pupils became leaders in addressing climate-related challenges in schools. In addition, young people learnt marketable skills, empowering them to achieve economic independence with their own small businesses. As a result of their advocacy, youth—and their families—are working towards a brighter future.



**34**

Elementary schools supported with hygiene supplies



**25**

Youth trained on community-based entrepreneurship



**76**

Young people became advocates for gender equality

**“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



Young people were empowered with training and opportunities to become economically independent.

## ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE



It is vital that young people—especially young women—are empowered with skills, resources, and opportunities to achieve economic independence.

Supporting entrepreneurial enterprises for out-of-school youths, especially young mothers and disadvantaged persons, is key. This year, 25 young people started small businesses in sectors like retail and baking. Participants reported a positive outlook on life and are now providing additional support to their families.

Hands-on training helped high school graduates and out-of-school youth use technology to look for quality work. Topics included apps to aid with career guidance, life skills, and employment support. In addition, 36 partners from different government agencies committed to increasing enrolment and providing opportunities to young people.



## CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION

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

14 schools updated their School Contingency Plan with a disaster-preparedness workshop. More than 350 students, teachers, parents, and community leaders participated. In addition, Disaster Risk Reduction coordinators developed initiatives for environmental rehabilitation and technologies to address the needs of students in times of emergencies. Young people learnt Disaster Risk Reduction concepts and lifesaving techniques. All 41 participants then became members of the emergency response team in their communities.

“As one of the student leaders during the School Disaster Preparedness Planning, I helped our teachers and fellow pupils to identify and address a long-term problem. Now we have a clean road going to our classroom.” - **Angela (age 7) from Western Samar**



# 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 Western Samar.**

- Violence against women and children is a concern in Western Samar. We will continue to provide support to abuse survivors and to the Municipal Council for child protection education.
- Many girls leave school due to pregnancy. We will advocate for policies to support sexual and reproductive health and rights and address early pregnancy.
- The Philippines experiences 20-25 typhoons each year, causing damage and disruption. We will support initiatives to address hazards in schools, conduct emergency training, and support action on climate crises.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“My sincere thanks to all the sponsors. Through your support we were able to aid children and families affected by flooding and help them with the challenges they face.”

**Welson L. Ramos**  
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



**417**

Families supported after regional flooding

### MARCH



**43**

Youth learnt about sexual and reproductive health

### SEPTEMBER



**23**

Local government partners create Safe Spaces

### DECEMBER



**31**

Child Development Workers gained additional training