

ANNUAL UPDATE PHILIPPINES EASTERN SAMAR



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

This past year, key projects focused on empowering communities with knowledge, resources, and opportunities. Most crucial was emergency response for families devastated by recent flooding, providing resources for repair as well as keeping women and girls safe. Women accessed valuable opportunities through the Community-Based Enterprise Development (CBED) programme, which offered vocational training and a path toward economic independence and a safer, more secure future.



1,033

Families supported after week-long flooding



30

Young leaders trained on child safeguarding



1,622

Students accessed career guidance resources

“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 IN EASTERN SAMAR HELP CHILDREN THRIVE



EMERGENCY RESPONSE



The Philippines is vulnerable to climate disasters such as earthquakes and tropical storms. Recent flooding affected thousands of families, submerging houses, devastating livelihoods, and impacting children's education. It was key to provide assistance to families with cash transfers, so they were able to purchase items for their immediate needs in the weeks after the flooding.

As a result, 5,179 people in 1,033 families received cash to purchase food, school supplies, and medicine and to pay for transportation, livelihood expenses, and house repairs.

Each household was oriented on family disaster preparedness. Because children and women are more at risk of abuse in emergency situations, community members learnt about safeguarding, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender rights as well as reporting and referral pathways.

Relief efforts ensured that pregnant women, older people, and those with disabilities were prioritised with a safe space.



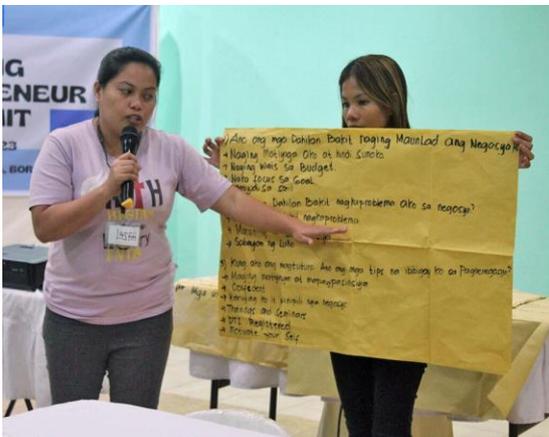
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

The Philippines has about 15 million single parents, 95% of which are women. It is vital that these women are empowered with skills and resources to achieve economic independence and care for their families.

The Community-Based Enterprise Development (CBED) programme provides training and business opportunities for women. Participants develop income-generating enterprises that fit their skills and fill a demand in the community. This year, 30 young people trained on CBED and earned seed capital to start their own businesses, while others studied financial literacy and bookkeeping. Participants from previous years gathered for the Youth Entrepreneurs' Summit to share their experiences and inspire a new generation of leaders.

"We should not only dream for others but dream for ourselves as well. If Plan believed in us by choosing us as project participants, then we should believe in ourselves that we can do it."

– Rexie (24) from Eastern 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 Eastern Samar.

- Young people are under-represented in councils and organisations. Through the Girls Challenge Grant and Champions of Change projects, youth have the opportunity to participate in decision-making in their communities.
- Child protection cases ranging from harassment to assault and abuse are on the rise. As the community lobbies to strengthen protection laws, we will provide support.
- Malnutrition continues to be a challenge. With integrated strategies for maternal, neonatal, and child health, we will continue to advocate for better health and nutrition.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thank you so much for your continued support. You share a part in making a difference in the lives of the children. It continues to help people achieve real change.”

Aida O. Loyola
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



APRIL

33

Young entrepreneurs inspired a new generation of leaders



MAY

82

Municipal officers trained on adolescent health



OCTOBER

51

Students learnt about online safety



DECEMBER

40

Children and youth trained on disaster risk reduction

