

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# PHILIPPINES

## NORTHERN SAMAR



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

This past year, key projects focused on empowering communities. Most crucial was emergency response for families devastated by recent flooding, providing resources for repair as well as keeping women and girls safe.

In addition, girls and young women made changes in government policy and development plans. With their participation in the International Day of the Girl activities, girls are challenging barriers and influencing the laws that shape their lives.



**60**

Children celebrated International Day of the Girl



**7,155**

Students in 30 schools supported with equipment



**6,036**

Pupils in 19 schools benefitted from small grant initiatives

**“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 NORTHERN SAMAR HELP CHILDREN THRIVE



Girls gained self-confidence as they increased their participation and influence on both a local and national level.

## CELEBRATING GIRLS



**The International Day of the Girl highlights girls' voices and empowers them to advocate for a more equitable future.** This year, Plan Philippines conducted a province-wide celebration where 60 children attended from different youth organisations in Northern Samar. The advocates participated in a day-long workshop to learn about issues in their region. They consolidated the issues and prepared recommendations for a call to action. The celebration was spearheaded by 15 girls advocating for the Girls Get Equal campaign.

The girls confidently presented their concepts to municipal decision-makers. These young leaders were also able to present issues such as early marriage and online sexual exploitation of children. As a result, local government committed to supporting the International Day of the Girl activities in the region's gender and development plan.

## RESPONDING TO DISASTER



**The Philippines is vulnerable to climate disasters.** Recently, heavy rains caused flooding and landslides, affecting thousands of people in Northern Samar. Bridges and roads were damaged, and agriculture was badly impacted.

In collaboration with the Municipal Disaster Risk office, Plan conducted an assessment of the area. As a result, 1,647 families were supported with aid to purchase food, hygiene supplies, and medicine.



Because children and women are more at risk of abuse in emergency situations, community members learnt safeguarding practices, and disaster risk reduction. Hotline numbers helped communities facilitate response.

"I thank Plan for the help during the flooding in January 2023. Our family was one of the affected households during flooding brought about by continued rains. During that time, I was sad because I could not go outside our house." – **Michaela (10) from Northern**

# 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 Northern Samar.**

- Increasing literacy will continue to be a focus next year. We will assist in establishing and equipping a community learning hub, and support teachers and learning volunteers with additional training.
- We will help address high unemployment by supporting career guidance activities for secondary school students and out-of-school youth and by providing training on financial literacy as well as entrepreneurship.
- High rates of early pregnancy are a concern. Integrating information on the effects of early pregnancy in menstrual health management will be a focus.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your support. The children, families, and communities are very grateful for your contribution.”

**Ronald T. Talaogon**  
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

**1,647**

Families received aid for emergency flood response



### MARCH

**216**

Professionals trained on early childhood healthcare



### MARCH

**24**

Caregivers learnt positive parenting methods



### NOVEMBER

**36**

Young people got financial support starting a business

