

ANNUAL UPDATE

PHILIPPINES

MAGUINDANAO



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Maguindanao. 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 a recent tropical storm, providing resources for repair as well as keeping women and girls safe.

Young people in the Youth Economic Empowerment project gained marketable skills to forge a path of economic independence with quality jobs and entrepreneurship. As a result, youth—and their families—are working towards a more secure future.



12,345 Families assisted after tropical storm Nalgae



133 Families trained on Community Savings Groups



24 Youth participated in Youth Leadership Training

“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 MAGUINDANAO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Relief efforts addressed immediate needs for families and schools impacted by Tropical Storm Nalgae.

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY



Tropical Storm Nalgae caused massive flooding and displaced more than 100,000 people in Maguindanao.

Through response initiatives, families and schools impacted by the storm had access to essential supplies such as food, non-food items, and cash. Also addressed were safeguarding concerns and issues related to gender-based violence.

For immediate response, 2,004 families received multi-purpose cash assistance that helped them with household needs such as food and medicine. In addition, about 12,300 food-insecure households received 50 kilos of rice.

Teaching supplies and equipment were damaged, impacting thousands of pupils. The response team identified the most at-risk schools to prioritise equipment provision. Educators from damaged schools received Teachers' Kits with materials, and 3,293 children received school kits.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

It is vital that young people gain skills and resources to achieve economic independence. Through the Youth Economic Empowerment project, young people have access to learner-centred education and support for employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

This year, 24 educators studied Life Skills training, equipping them with resources to provide their students with career guidance. Topics covered communication, critical thinking, and financial literacy. Young people developed self-awareness and leadership skills through workshops, games, and dialogue. In addition, 122 out-of-school youth learnt how to craft a business proposal and earned seed capital to establish their own income-generating activities.

“My small profit helped me fund my daily transportation expenses since my school is quite far away. My parents had limited income and these savings of mine contributed to lessening our household expenses.”

– **Norhana (19) from Maguindanao**



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 Maguindanao.

- One in every six girls in the Philippines is married before age 18. Increased awareness of the consequences of early marriage will support girls for a healthy future.
- Limited access to sexual and reproductive health education and services is one reason why unintended pregnancies have increased by 67%. We will advocate for improved access to sexual health resources.
- The Philippines has committed to fostering youth participation in decision-making. Through youth groups and training, young people will have resources to help them build leadership skills and abilities.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thank you very much for your continuous support to our children and their families. They are thankful for the help... especially during those times of the typhoon Nalgae.”

Hanalyn Bucol
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



JANUARY

1,529

Young women and girls benefitted from protection kits



MARCH

9,791

Students returned to school after the typhoon



AUGUST

13

Public schools have improved facilities



DECEMBER

165

People trained on disaster preparedness

