

Northern Samar Philippines

Positive changes are happening in Northern Samar. Learn more about how we are supporting children's and girls' rights through our collaborative, equality-driven work.

Plan International has been a proud partner of communities in Northern Samar since 2004. Our partner communities in Northern Samar primarily rely on agriculture for a living, though the area is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. On average, the people of Northern Samar experience eight to nine typhoons per year. 16 of the region's municipalities are at a consistent risk of flooding due to their proximity to major river networks, while others frequently experience landslides and storm surges.

With your help, 12 schools now have disaster response kits. After floods damaged a number of houses, 1,335 community members were reached with cash assistance to get back on their feet. Nationwide, 18,152 people – including 3,045 children – now have early warning devices to access support during flooding.

"I've learnt so much about broadcasting, scriptwriting, public speaking and local issues."

– Angel (17)



45% of the population here is under 18.

Impact in Numbers

1,299

**teens imagined
their future careers**

4,916

**people have
sanitation and
hygiene kits**

22

**tutoring centres
have new resources**

Finding My Voice



NAME:

Aisle

AGE:

16 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

A nurse

“The Youth Peer Educators programme helped me discover another side of myself. I never imagined I could do something like this.”



Meet Aisle

Like many girls in Northern Samar, Aisle is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.

Aisle always thought of herself as shy and introverted. Though she struggled at times with feeling lonely, she assumed isolation was just her nature – until she joined Plan’s Youth Peer Educators programme.

Building Confidence

When Aisle’s parents left her community to work overseas, she moved in with her aunt. Though the two developed a powerful and close relationship, the home was intensely quiet, and Aisle often found herself feeling isolated. At times, unfamiliar faces or encounters with strangers would overwhelm Aisle, making her cry.

In 2023, Aisle became involved with Plan International’s Youth Peer Educator (YPE) programme, which helps young people – and particularly young women like Aisle – build confidence through practicing leadership skills and public speaking. That year’s YPE focused on an initiative called ‘Learn and Stay Protected.’

I Can Do Anything

Through YPE, Aisle and her fellow volunteers became peer educators about topics like gender-based violence, reproductive rights and child marriage. Becoming a peer educator was transformative for Aisle. ‘I’m good at things I never thought I could do, like public speaking,’ she tells us.

Realising this new skill set helped Aisle feel empowered to branch out. She imagines a future as a nurse, and currently works with young people who have dropped out of school.



Aisle (third from the right) leads a workshop.

We Work With 6,291 Sponsored Children In Northern Samar

Projects That Support Lasting Change

My Future Is Bright

Social norms and systemic inequalities mean that women are more likely than men to be unemployed in Northern Samar. We're working to change that.

Some of these job-seekers have dropped out of school. With limited resources, these young people find themselves at a competitive disadvantage in the job market.

22 young people now have certifications in Agricultural Crop Production, which includes climate-resilient hard skills in farming alongside information about life skills, career planning and jump-starting small businesses. Upon graduation, participants received start-up kits, and have been connected to local Community Savings Groups, where residents collectively share skills and build financial stability. 377 young people took part in the 'Life Skills Training' module on our new YES Digital Ecosystem platform, part of our work to make vital information more accessible using up-to-date technologies.



Members of a vocational training workshop focused on green skills.

344

girls took part in vocational training courses at school



Students fill out scorecards to assess their community's strengths and growing points.



Cielo, age 15, took over the province's Vice Governor position for a day.

Breaking the Cycle

Rape is one of the most common reported crimes in Northern Samar.

It takes a village to break cycles of abuse. With your support, we are working with community members of all ages to share critical information about local laws safeguarding the rights of women and children; educate and empower a generation of youth leaders and advocate for change.

6,291 sponsored children took part in awareness-raising workshops about their rights. To cap off the workshop, participants received new school supplies. 290 adult community volunteers took part in training workshops about how to report, prevent and address instances of violence against children. We are also working with young people, and particularly girls, to build leadership skills: 8 girls took over the roles of local government leaders for a day, using the platform to advocate for gender equality in education.

"I successfully passed an ordinance that protects the safety and security of local kids."

— John (24) from Northern Samar

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Janine, age 17, used to see herself as shy, but is now in her school's Student Government.

Together, we're working to create a more just world.

Teen pregnancies are common in Northern Samar. We will continue our 'Building Bridges' programme, which facilitates critical intergenerational conversations about sexual health and reproductive rights.

As part of our work to help our partner communities build resilience to natural disasters, we will help sponsored children access insurance coverage.

We will also conduct emergency preparedness training workshops for local teachers.

Message from the Community

"I used to be a sponsored child, but now I've become a leader myself. Being a Community Volunteer has brought me so much self-awareness and confidence; I have no problem joining in decision-making conversations for village projects. My whole family volunteers with Plan now!"



Estilita,
Community
Volunteer,
Northern Samar

The Plan Effect

Sponsored children are at the centre of everything we do, and they help plan our programmes based on what's important to them. Sponsors' donations are a gateway into a community. This helps build trust and credibility to attract even more funds from new sources. This makes more sustainable programmes possible in sponsorship communities. This powerful synergy is something we call The Plan Effect.

Progress in Numbers

53

teachers learnt
first aid skills

290

adults took
parenting
workshops

39

educators have
new sexual health
curricula

71

young people
discussed online
safety