

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM PERU

We wanted to share some exciting progress made possible in Peru thanks to support from you!

In recent years, the principal source of income for rural families in Peru shifts to farming. Nevertheless, the "El Niño" phenomenon results in tremendous loss of crops, especially in Piura. Apart from that, sexual violence is still a significant threat to girls and young women. In Lima, 90% of women have experienced some forms of sexual harassment. Moreover, adolescents are generally undereducated about gender-based violence.

Throughout the fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to promote active, critical, and equal empowerment. As a result, boys, girls, and young women can make informed decisions about their lives, bodies, and relationships. They also received special training regarding child protection, gender equality, as well as inclusion.

We are grateful to you for making these changes possible. We know you will enjoy reading on to see how your generosity is changing the lives of children, like your sponsored child, across this region.



OUR IMPACT

2,953 ADOLESCENTS WERE TRAINED ON HEALTHY SEXUALITY IN LIMA AND CUSCO

113 COMMUNITY LEADERS TRAINED ON GENDER EQUALITY IN PIURA AND LIMA

45 PEOPLE FORMED RADIO NETWORKS FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN PIURA

240 ADOLESCENTS LEARNT HOW TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL INTERACTION IN CUSCO

PLAN INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE



COVID-19 is having devastating impacts all over the world. It is not only a health emergency, it is an education and protection emergency. Since girls are often worse affected during a crisis, Plan International is putting them at the heart of our response and long-term outlook. We have scaled up healthcare systems, food security, access to clean water, handwashing and awareness campaigns, and keep education in children's lives via radio broadcasts.

PREVENTING TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Young people in Lima lack access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education. This has resulted in high levels of risky early sexual activity,

and many girls experienced early pregnancy. Early pregnancies can cause serious health complications, to both mother and baby, and often force girls to drop out of school, limiting their potential.



53 YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNED ABOUT POSITIVE MASCULINITIES AND HOW TO HAVE GENDER-EQUAL RELATIONSHIPS

To help empower both girls and boys to make informed choices about their lives, bodies and relationships, we have trained 2,509 young people on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and how to prevent teenage pregnancy.

In addition, 146 teachers attended workshops to improve their knowledge of integrating comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education into their lessons. Teachers are now equipped to talk about sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, and how gender inequality leads to gender-based violence in relationships.

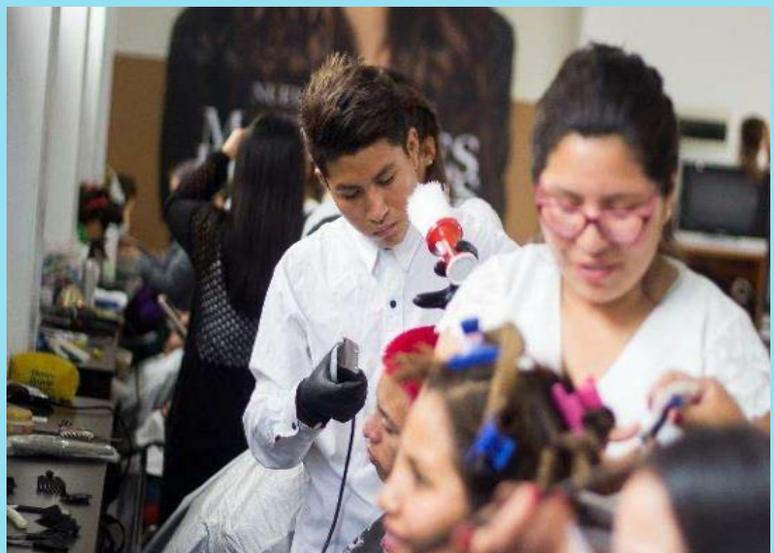
YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Young people, particularly young women, lack opportunities to gain the skills they need to get a good job or start their own business in Lima. Twice as many women between the ages of 15 and 29 are neither in work nor in school compared to men, as they are expected to stay at home to take care of household chores.

To help giving young people the skills and tools they need to thrive as they enter adulthood, we held vocational training sessions for 680 youth to raise awareness of different careers and training options. We also trained 36 young women and 19 young men on entrepreneurship and financial skills, so they can start their own businesses and support themselves and their families.

"Being part of this project helped me get ahead by providing me with the skills to start my own business. By making my own money I will be able to help my family."

**Gabriela, 24 years old,
project beneficiary**



NUTRITION FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

In Cusco, 70% of the families are unaware of hygiene practices. The majority of them do not wash their hands with soap and do not know about the consequences of bad hygiene.



438 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5 PARTICIPATED IN POSITIVE PARENTING COURSES TO TAKE GOOD AND LOVING CARE OF THEIR DAUGHTERS AND SONS

430 families have learned to keep their houses clean and safe for their children. They have also learned how to wash their hands properly and to use boiled water. Now they have incorporated these practices into their daily routine.

In addition, 630 families were trained to prepare healthy food for their children. They practiced in small groups and learned in a playful way how to prepare iron-rich food to prevent anaemia.

460 young mothers acquired skills in vegetable growing such as carrots, spinach, or cabbage. They also learned how to keep smaller animals, such as guinea pigs. Now they have vegetable gardens and sheds for their guinea pigs in order to provide for their families and generate a small additional income. 180 girls from educational institutions were trained to promote healthy eating and to keep the environment clean.

PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

In Piura, 8 out of 10 victims of sexual violence are under 18 years old. Many children and young people do not recognize situations of danger and risks of violence. They fear reporting cases of violence and many acts of violence are justified as macho behaviour within families. 56 boys were sensitized on positive masculinities to strengthen equal relationships between girls and boys.

We trained 41 local authorities to make them aware of protection mechanisms for children within their communities. They learned about positive masculinities, social skills, roles and functions of institutions and routes to report cases or violence. 3 rooms were equipped to talk to victims of abuse in a safe space. These rooms can also be used for the training of officials, such as judges, prosecutors or police, to encourage them to be more sensitive towards victims of abuse.

"I was shy and did not express myself. Thanks to Plan, I learned how to speak up against violence in my community and to help others speak out. I acknowledge my rights and power within me and I am ready to face new challenges that come my way."

Emily, 16 years old, former sponsored child



YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

With your support, we will continue to protect children's rights so they are able to thrive.

In the coming year, we will continue to work with the children, families and partners across Peru:



- Promoting sexual and reproductive health education of adolescents to encourage girls and boys to make informed choices about their bodies and to reduce teenage pregnancy.



- Implementing virtual learning methods via radio, television, and the internet in remote communities. Besides, entrepreneurial and financial education will be promoted in schools, so young people feel economically empowered as they enter adulthood.



- Creating a partnership with the state and private enterprises to promote youth entrepreneurship. Furthermore, we will provide technical training programs that promote employment and entrepreneurship, chiefly focusing on young women.



- Continuing to educate families and strengthening protection mechanisms to raise awareness of children's rights and reduce violence in communities. We strive to create a violence-free environment for children to make sure that they can grow up in protected surroundings.

These are just some of the many ways your kindness will continue to touch the life of your sponsored child and other children. We would not be able to do this without supporters like you!



MESSAGE FROM VÍCTOR FELIPE GARCÍA HERNÁNDEZ
Programme Area Manager, Lima

"The Plan team has succeeded in promoting positive changes in the health, education and protection of children in Lima. With the support of sponsors, it has been possible to reduce social gaps and create a strategy to continue further development during COVID-19."



MESSAGE FROM LILIAN CABRERA VILLAR
Programme Area Manager, Piura

"Thank you for sponsoring a child in Piura! Your contribution leaves a permanent mark in the life of 14,000 girls, boys and their families so they can grow up with opportunities and violence-free. Likewise, it enables us to support and innovate our response to the COVID-19 crisis."



MESSAGE FROM BORIS CHOQUENEIRA
Programme Area Manager, Cusco

"Thanks to your contributions, our children, adolescents and young people have been able to participate in leadership training programmes to exercise their rights and to improve their quality of life for them and their families and community. Thank you!"



Plan International Hong Kong sincerely thank volunteer Mr. Chong Hip Kuen, William for consolidating this report.