

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Santa Cruz. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted them.

This year, Plan's sponsored children and families in Santa Cruz participated in programmes related to safety, positive parenting, sexual health and reproductive rights, and gender equity. 170 parents learned about gender roles in the home, while 221 teenagers learned about contraception and making life plans.

40 young adults learned to create business plans to pursue greater financial stability, and 184 young people learned about climate adaptive agriculture and gastronomy.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Santa Cruz.



1500

Families now have access to clean water



614

Children learned to challenge gender roles & stereotypes



3502

Caregivers attended positive parenting workshops



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN BOLIVIA

Hear from Marisol about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

"Plan has done a lot in my community. My mum told me that they supported us so that we have water, and during the pandemic, Plan brought biosafety supplies for the school like facemasks and sanitiser. Here, people say that Plan did not abandon us."

CASE STORY: SAFER CITIES FOR GIRLS



NAME: BELÉN

AGE: 14 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: VOLLEYBALL

“The best thing about being a community leader is helping and supporting more girls. I dream of an inclusive society without violence.”

Meet Belén

Like your sponsored child, Belén has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Belén lives in San Pablo de Guarayos, a community six hours outside of Santa Cruz. Growing up in a family of musicians, Belén fostered a love of volleyball, and dreams of studying medicine.

Improving Measures for Safety

Belén's mother is a strong force in their community, and a role model to her teen daughter. Watching her mother speak to groups, Belén learned valuable lessons about confidence and leadership.

This year, Plan International selected Belén to be in charge of their Way Home programme, which focuses on protecting communities from crimes against women, particularly human trafficking. Belén now meets with other women leaders from her community to discuss the dangers they face and to brainstorm prevention.

In Bolivia, human trafficking is a significant issue. From January 2019 to June 2021, the country had 3,541 reported cases of human trafficking and smuggling.

Girls Become Leaders

Through Belén's work with Plan's Way Home project, she has become more passionate than ever about using the tools of education and prevention to protect girls and women in San Pablo de Guarayos.

Belén's role in the Way Home project allows her to build agency, confidence and self-esteem through a position of leadership that fosters deeper conversations about safety for girls and women between community members of all ages. The women leaders of the Way Home project strive toward creating a city in which “no woman is a victim.”



Belén is becoming a confident leader.

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 6,655 CHILDREN IN SANTA CRUZ

OUR PROJECTS IN SANTA CRUZ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



SAFETY IN THE CITY



Human trafficking is a significant issue for people in Bolivia, particularly girls between 11 and 20 years old. In 2021, there were 410 registered cases of human trafficking. 75% of these victims were women.

This year, Plan International used face-to-face workshops and play-acting scenarios to educate 531 children under 13 about how to stay safe in Bolivia's largest city.

Hundreds of young people are working toward safer, more sustainable futures, from entrepreneurship projects to self-defence against human trafficking.

3,052 local parents learned about using positive parenting to protect their children from human trafficking.

We also got involved on the institutional level, training 120 local leaders in proper management and care to prevent human trafficking and smuggling.

LIFE SKILLS TO SUCCEED



Whether in rural or urban areas, women in Bolivia are more likely to live in poverty than men. In a country where 39.5% of women have dire financial circumstances, we set out to make a difference.

This year, Plan International collaborated with 447 young people (355 women, 92 men) between ages 14 and 24 on building vital entrepreneurship skills. In addition to practical training, we provided equipment and supplies for these young dreamers to pursue fields including gastronomy, baking and the production of dairy and honey.

We also collaborated with local education centres and government institutions, providing them with resources including a desktop computer and agricultural equipment that will help the people of Santa Cruz.



"I thought Plan's dairy preparation course was very nice. I liked working in a group and learning new things. I plan to practise making cheese and yogurt to sell and help my mom with the household expenses. I thank Plan International for this great opportunity."

- Yesenia, 18, from Santa Cruz

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



20%

Of people living in Santa Cruz do not have access to safe drinking water



8%

Of working-age people in Bolivia are unemployed



16%

Of children in Bolivia have stunted growth due to undernourishment



Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.

- There is a high rate of teen pregnancy in Santa Cruz. We will continue our work to educate young people and teachers about sexual health and reproductive rights.
- Santa Cruz is vulnerable to floods and droughts. We will work with municipal governments to strengthen their Risk Management Units to increase community resilience.
- Children, and especially girls, are vulnerable to verbal and physical abuse at home. We will continue to create safe, playful learning environments to nurture a generation of strong women.
- As the pandemic continues, we will continue to support local health centres with biomedical supplies.

We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter, happier future for the children in Santa Cruz.



“From the Santa Cruz area, we express our gratitude to you for your great collaboration. Your support gives us more opportunities for more girls and boys to participate in our projects. Together, we can achieve a more just society.”

Ángel Balderas Padilla
Programme Area Manager, Santa Cruz

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS