

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, thousands of people received financial support to meet their basic needs and provide healthy foods to their children. Clean drinking water is also helping more than 2,000 families stay healthy.

In the face of ongoing insecurity in the region, hundreds of young people are learning about their rights and gaining the confidence they need to take on leadership roles in their communities. Girls and boys are now able to advocate for peace and protect themselves against violence and abuse.

We know the best is yet to come and your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Cauca Valle.



90

Young people trained on peace building



6,288

Families received cash assistance for nutritious foods



327

People gained financial literacy skills

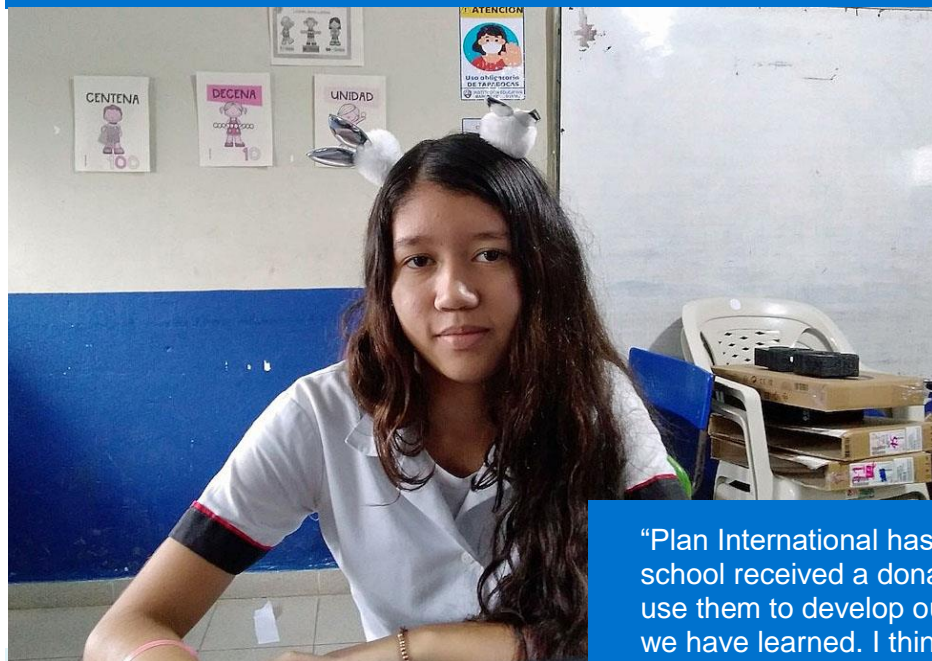


COVID-19'S IMPACT IN COLOMBIA

Hear from Jhopse about how COVID-19 has impacted their community.

"COVID-19 has affected my life and daily activities like studying and soccer training. I have not been able to see my friends and it has been difficult financially for my family. Plan International helped us a lot. Now, I have been able to go back to school, socialise with my friends, and return to my soccer training."

CASE STORY: MY CONNECTED SCHOOL



NAME: SORIANA
AGE: 13 YEARS OLD
HOBBY: DANCING

"Plan International has supported me a lot. Recently my school received a donation of computers for our class. We use them to develop our activities and put into practice what we have learned. I think it is important that we learn about technology and know how to use a computer."

Meet Soriana

Like your sponsored child, Soriana has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Soriana's favourite activity is dancing – but her new hobby is using the internet! She's currently in grade 8 and is excited about staying in school now that there is so much information at her fingertips.

Rural Connections

For children in rural areas like Soriana, access to technology is often limited. During the pandemic, schools were closed, and many students couldn't access online learning options. Some children fell behind on their lessons and ended up dropping out of school.

Computer skills are crucial in an increasingly digital world. Additionally, online programs help students stay engaged and learn more about the world around them.

Plan International donated new computers to Soriana's school, and others in her community. Different programs are now helping Soriana and her peers collaborate on projects and research new topics. They are able to complete school tasks more quickly, instead of spending long periods of time in a poorly equipped library.

Inspiring Education

Soriana is now thriving at school. Learning how to use a computer has opened a door to boundless information. It will also help Soriana finish her education and dream big for her future.

Along with gaining computer skills, students also learned about online safety. They can now protect their privacy and find reliable information while using the internet.

With computers, girls and boys are gaining digital and information technology skills which will help them thrive as they enter adulthood.



Soriana and her friends use the new school computers

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,888 CHILDREN IN CAUCA VALLE

OUR PROJECTS IN CAUCA VALLE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



CLEAN WATER



More than 2,000 families in Cauca Valle do not have access to safe water. Extreme weather events over the winter caused damage to water systems, leaving communities without drinking water.

Unsafe water can cause serious health issues, and travelling long distances to collect water is often a chore forced upon children, preventing them from attending school.

Thousands of families now have access to clean drinking water and learned about hygiene practices.

Plan International provided bags of drinking water to 2,180 girls and boys. Children and parents also attended workshops to learn how to reuse the water bag to ensure continued access to safe water.

Workshops also covered thorough hygiene practices, including the importance of hand washing with soap. Families can now prevent the spread of diseases and keep their children safe and healthy.

ART FOR PEACE



Armed groups continue to carry out violent acts in the Cauca Valle region. Violence and insecurity often result in increased cases of domestic abuse. Children and girls are most at risk of violence during times of crisis.

Through the power of art, young people are learning about their rights and gaining leadership skills. 115 girls and 75 boys took part in this programme and are now able to use their knowledge to advocate for gender equality and peace in their communities.

A further 51 young people also completed training sessions on gender norms and how to identify unsafe situations. These youths are now working to keep other children safe from violence and abuse.



"In Art For Peace, I learned about my rights and responsibilities, and about the importance of my participation in different spaces. It also helped me realise that you can dream because dreams come true, and one day I will be the mayor of my community."
- Yeidkol (16) from Cauca Valle

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



57%

Of people in rural areas do not have access to safe water



15%

Of students do not graduate secondary school



42%

Of people in Colombia live in poverty



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

- Thousands of children in Colombia experience abuse. We will continue to promote children's rights and strengthen child protection mechanisms to keep girls and boys safe.
- We will also raise awareness of girls' rights and gender equality to reduce incidents of gender-based violence.
- Ongoing armed conflict is limiting opportunities for young people. We will support the creation of youth platforms so young people can take on leadership roles in their communities and advocate for peace.
- Early pregnancy remains common in Cauca Valle. We will ensure girls and boys have access to sexual and reproductive health education so they can make informed decisions about their bodies.

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



"I express gratitude to our sponsors for their support to our work for children's rights. Thanks to you, we were able to contribute to the wellbeing of families, with a focus on gender and inclusion. We remain committed to transforming the lives of children with your support."

Lina Tatiana Villa Rojas
Sponsorship Leader, Cauca Valle

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