

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Región Caribe. 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 nutritious foods to their children. Through training on children's rights and positive parenting, mothers and fathers are ensuring their children can grow up in safe and healthy homes.

432 young people learned about their sexual and reproductive health so they can take charge of their bodies. Also, girls are taking on leadership roles in their communities to advocate for gender equality.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Región Caribe.



2,444

Families received cash assistance for nutritious foods



378

Girls improved knowledge on menstrual hygiene



139

People gained financial literacy skills



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN COLOMBIA

Hear from Jhapse 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 13,264 CHILDREN IN REGIÓN CARIBE

OUR PROJECTS IN REGIÓN CARIBE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



Many children in Región Caribe experience violence at home. Physical punishment remains common, and many children experience abuse. We believe that all children have the right to live in safety.

To help strengthen family bonds and ensure home is a safe space for girls and boys, 890 families participated in workshops on children's rights. Parents learned how important sharing stories and playing games are for both childhood development and creating a positive home environment.

Children are learning about their rights and can grow up in a safe and healthy home.

Home visits and other meetings also shared information on child protection and how to keep children safe from violence and abuse. Topics like hygiene and sanitation are also ensuring girls and boys can grow up with healthy habits in a clean space.

GIRLS OUT LOUD



More than two thirds of girls in Colombia have experienced online harassment. Negative gender norms regularly exclude girls from taking on active roles in their communities. As access to digital spaces increase, girls are also at risk of being pushed out of online groups.

Girls Out Loud is a safe virtual space for girls and young women to learn about their rights and build their confidence. In the last year, 220 girls joined a network of more than 1,400 others to discuss issues that impact them.

Girls shared knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, including menstrual hygiene. They also talked about the importance of staying in school and how to stand up for gender equality. Girls have built strong bonds with others across the country and are taking charge of their futures.



"I am part of an online community of girls that support each other. We have fun and we learn about different topics, like our bodies. We are often too embarrassed to talk about this with our families. In our group, you can express yourself and talk about your future."

- Yubelis (16) from Región Caribe



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



10%

Of students do not graduate school



65%

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



42%

Of people in Colombia live in poverty



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

- One in ten students does not graduate. We will raise awareness of the importance of education, especially for girls, and provide children with school supplies.
- We will also ensure young people have access to technical and vocational training so they can support themselves with a job or by starting their own business.
- Early pregnancy remains common in Región Caribe. We will ensure girls and boys have access to sexual and reproductive health education so they can make informed decisions about their bodies.
- 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 know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter, happier future for the children in Región Caribe.



“Thanks to sponsors, we were able to make a difference for communities when COVID’s conditions were most challenging. Workshops were developed with a gender focus, seeking to have a greater impact on girls and young women.”

Maria Helena Castillo Storino
National Sponsorship Manager, Región Caribe

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