

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, communities focused on growing healthy families, free from violence. Children, youth and adults confronted harmful cultural patterns, and made changes for a better, more equal future.

Communities developed strong family bonds through family orchards, which helped address malnutrition and food scarcity issues. In addition, young people learned vital social, economic and financial skills, empowering them to invest in their futures with savings and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Your continued sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Manabí.



60

Families grew fresh, nutritious food in family gardens



120

Scholarships awarded to impoverished children



11

Community Defense Offices formed



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN ECUADOR

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

“The pandemic affected many families, they faced economic problems, separation and pain from the loss of loved ones. In my family, we went through a very hard stage, my mom lost her job due to the pandemic. Plan helped us a lot and despite the economic downturn, my family is together and blessed.”

CASE STORY: FULFILLING HER LIFE DREAMS



NAME: DAYANA

AGE: 17 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: READING



"Let's not be overcome by our problems, let's face it because we are strong, and with our heads held high, let's fulfil our goals and dreams. Thanks to Plan's support, girls can see their present and future in a different way. I want to study medicine and become a doctor, and I'm sure I will."

Meet Dayana

Like your sponsored child, Dayana has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Before her participation in the leadership school, Dayana was shy and reserved. She was afraid to express herself in public.

Facing Gender Challenges

Now Dayana is attending her last year of secondary education, after which she will go to university and study for the future she always wanted—to be a doctor. Dayana is the fourth of five siblings growing up in the Ecuadorian highlands, surrounded by high mountains and a river where her family caught fish.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted her family, who found themselves lacking money and food. In her family, there are more men than women, which meant Dayana was responsible for domestic responsibilities, such as caring for her younger brother as well as the animals. Unlike her brothers, Dayana wasn't able to participate in social, cultural and sporting events, and had little time to play.

Encouraged to Participate

With Plan's support, Dayana learned about her rights—and discovered her dream of becoming a doctor. Along with 43 friends, she took workshops on gender equality, self-esteem, communication, sexuality and leadership. Today, Dayana is confident and secure. She has her family's support and her priorities for her future are clear. Even better, she's encouraging other girls to pursue their dreams. Recently, Dayana participated in a TV interview to promote girls' rights and commemorate International Women's Day. With her newfound leadership abilities and confidence, Dayana—and girls like her—are changing the world and their places in it.



Dayana's TV interview for International Women's Day

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,400 CHILDREN IN MANABI

OUR PROJECTS IN MANABÍ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



ENGAGING PARENTS

Discrimination perpetuates unequal gender roles and power relations in the family. In fact, 95% of fathers in Manabí are influenced by harmful cultural norms.

To help foster healthy, gender-equal families, we provided Positive Parenting training for 700 community leaders, as well as parents and caregivers. The trainings address the fundamental causes of gender inequality in the home, and enable fathers to challenge cultural stereotypes and participate equally in the care and development of their children. Family gardens helped 60 families improve their knowledge of healthy eating habits, and learn how to incorporate nutrition onto the family diet. In addition, games and recreational activities encouraged fathers to participate in active, positive parenting.

Participants reported positive changes at home, with improved relationships and more equal distribution of domestic tasks and childcare.

25% of malnourished children live in the coastal area of the country. Family gardens empowered parents to grow healthy and nutritious food, enabling them to generate income while addressing malnutrition.

SKILLS TO SUCCEED



Youth in Manabí, especially young women, lack the skills to achieve economic independence and financial security. Seven out of 10 young people work in unstable, informal jobs.

Empowering youth with financial skills is key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Through our economic empowerment programme, 518 young people developed important financial, social and technical knowledge. Participants learned how to build economic and social capital that allows them to access credit and invest in their futures.

Young women are now able to direct the savings and credit banks and grow their entrepreneurial projects. This changes their financial and social situations, and inspires future generations of youth.



“Thanks to this project, women have access to credit, and we can implement our enterprises that have been a great help for the improvement of our families. I learned to trust myself and recognise what I am capable of.”

- Odalis (25) from Manabí

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



11%

Of people in Manabí are illiterate



83%

Of girls say they're concerned about sexual violence



63%

Of children leave school due to lack of money



Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.

- Girls are affected by different types of abuse. We will help strengthen community knowledge, information, and resources on child protection, so children stay safe from abuse and neglect.
- We will help young women access entrepreneurial and employment opportunities, so they can develop economic independence and leave abusive relationships.
- We will help empower girls and women with leadership skills, empowering them to challenge harmful cultural patterns.
- Girls are concerned about the inequalities that limit their chances for success. Digital solutions will help promote the Because I'm A Girl movement, allowing us to reach more people with messages of gender equality.

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



"Thanks to you, we can support resilient communities, who raise their voices, generating an impact on their families and on public policies. Your commitment allows them to fight for their goals, be more protected and dream of a fairer world."

Consuelo Delgado
Programme Area Manager, Manabí

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