

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This past year, young people learned about sexual and reproductive health and rights. They addressed discriminatory gender stereotypes, while gaining information and skills needed to make life decisions.

In addition, 60 health professionals strengthened their ability to work with adolescents, reducing pregnancy in girls and adolescents. Mothers and fathers practiced positive parenting, challenged harmful norms regarding fatherhood and masculinity, and nurtured healthy, gender-equal families.

**Your continued sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Chimborazo Bolívar.**



# 990

Parents applied positive parenting practices



# 107

Young women advocated for their leadership



# 690

Youth learned about sexual and reproductive health and rights



## 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, and she wasn't confident talking with her family about issues she was curious about.

## 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 3,900 CHILDREN IN CHIMBORAZO BOLIVAR**



# OUR PROJECTS IN CHIMBORAZO BOLIVAR ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Savings and credit groups help women gain financial skills for income-generating activities. In these 29 communities, participants learned to establish and promote productive, craft and commercial enterprises.

## SKILLS TO SUCCEED



**It is difficult for young people, especially women, to find quality employment in Chimborazo Bolívar.** Few feel confident in their financial or digital skills, and young workers lack access to employment opportunities. Many migrate outside their communities in search of work.

To empower people with skills and resources, 29 youth organisations participated in training events to develop business plans. Youth acquired skills, and learned to develop profitable enterprises with an ecological approach. In addition, 1,217 youth are part of entrepreneurs' clubs, and attended workshops to strengthen their financial, digital and leadership skills. Entrepreneurs challenged negative stereotypes and embraced gender-equal access to employment.

In addition, more than 900 people participated in community savings and credit groups, where the shareholders adopt a culture of savings and can access credit to implement and grow their business initiatives.

## SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



**Early pregnancy is an issue in Chimborazo Bolívar, which has an 18% rate of teenage pregnancy.**

Young people have limited access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, and often don't know where to go to seek help. In addition, many youth feel sexual pressure and have internalized harmful ideas about gender relations. Knowledge and resources are key to helping youth learn about their rights and reduce early pregnancy and gender-based violence.

To address this, 600 adolescents and young people participated in educational workshops to learn about their sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality. They also improved their self-esteem and developed life projects.



"It is good to learn about our sexual rights and to protect ourselves against various diseases and early pregnancy, we may not be able to continue with our studies and not fulfil our life project. Thanks to Plan which is always supporting us."

- Diana (17) from Chimborazo Bolívar

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



71%

Of youth do not feel confident applying their life skills



25%

Of women are illiterate



95%

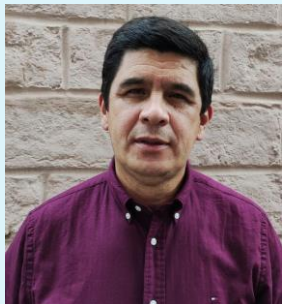
Of people live in poverty



**Your support helps children to stand up for their futures.**

- One third of local girls reported seeing violence or being in a violent environment. We will work to strengthen Community Protection Mechanisms, helping the families prevent violence and enforcing children's rights.
- Girls will gain leadership and advocacy skills as they learn about their rights, empowering them to actively participate in decision-making.
- We will help young people and youth gain economic and employment opportunities, with access to savings and loan organisations.
- Parents will engage in informational sessions to learn positive parenting practices, and nurturing healthy families.

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



"Thanks for your contribution, which has made it possible for girls and young women to learn, decide and prosper, but especially, to lead. With your support, we can continue to contribute to improving the lives of children and adolescents."

**David Alvarado Ochoa**  
Programme Area Manager

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