

ANNUAL UPDATE

BOLIVIA

SANTA CRUZ



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Santa Cruz. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

This past year, key projects focused on challenging violence and discrimination. One of the projects empowers youth with resources to advocate for gender equality and to end gender-based violence. In addition, the Childhood First project aims to help children develop their potential in a safe, protective environment – free of violence.

As a result of these initiatives, children and their families have a happier, safer future ahead.



5,853

Children increased their knowledge about protection and gender



1,450

Adolescents learned about sexual and reproductive health



1,314

People attended health and hygiene sessions

“WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A DOCTOR. I WANT TO CURE PATIENTS, TO HELP PEOPLE AS PLAN HELPED ME.”

Camila, 10-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: VERÓNICA

AGE: 18 YEARS OLD

DREAMS TO BE: AN AID WORKER

“MY PARTICIPATION IN DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS WITH PLAN HAS HELPED ME OVERCOME MY FEARS AND EXPRESS MYSELF.”

Meet Verónica

Like the child you sponsor, Verónica is taking steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself.

She is a charismatic young woman interested in a variety of activities, from dance to cooking to academics. Now, as a leader in her community, Verónica has become a role model for other girls and young women.

A Cycle of Inspiring Young Leaders

Verónica's mother died when she was small, leaving her and her siblings in the care of her hard-working father. Her family's livelihood comes from agriculture in a rural area, and Verónica has worked since she was young to pay for her studies and activities.

At age eleven, Verónica was inspired by the energetic and creative teenagers she met through a Plan International school visit. These young leaders motivated her, and she became an enthusiastic participant in Plan leadership programmes. In the following six years, her engagement has been life-changing: She's now studying psychology at a top university, with support from a scholarship she earned through a Girls Take Over event.

On the Path to Success

At the Take Over event, Verónica impressed the audience with a powerful speech where she shared the challenges that young women in rural areas face in order to access a university education. Winning the scholarship as a result opened an opportunity that she describes as “once in a lifetime.”

Now at school in the city, Verónica is focusing on her studies and achieving her dreams – and she is still engaged with Plan, acting as a leader to inspire the next generation of girls. She says: “For me it is a fundamental part of my life.”



Verónica took over as Vice-Rector of the university

OUR PROJECTS IN SANTA CRUZ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST



Children deserve a safe, secure environment – yet often, violence and unequal gender roles are a challenge.

The Childhood First project aims to help at-risk children under eight years old develop their potential in safe, protective environments free from violence. The project encourages parents – especially fathers – to participate in the growth and development of their children.

Training sessions empowered 596 parents with information on positive parenting, and taught more than 5,853 children about gender-based violence and protection. Educational fairs promoted children’s rights, and teachers learned about safeguarding, early stimulation and literacy, helping 3,150 students. More than 2,600 children benefited from the provision of 11 playgrounds, and school gardens promoted healthy eating.

With the use of playful and dynamic workshops with puppets, 5,853 children learned how to recognise different types of violence.

EMPOWERING YOUTH



It is vital that young people, especially young women, are aware of their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The Enfocate project empowers youth in Santa Cruz with information and resources to advocate for gender equality and to end gender-based violence. This year, 120 young people worked on activities related to the prevention of violence and early pregnancy, and challenging harmful cultural norms. In addition, dialogues between women aged 18-25 and their older female relatives helped spark conversations questioning gender roles in community and family experiences. The women worked together to build powerful stories with their collective narratives.

“We know what happens in the neighbourhood, we just didn’t know how to talk about it. Now with the workshops, it has opened our minds more and we want this to be done in the same way at school.”

- Lydia (16) from Santa Cruz



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come – and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Santa Cruz.

- Youth unemployment is 7.5%. We will continue to strengthen the employment skills and opportunities of young people – especially women.
- Between January and July 2022, more than 20,000 women aged 10-19 became pregnant in Bolivia. Santa Cruz is the region that registers the most pregnancies in this age range. We will continue to engage the community on sexual and reproductive health and rights and advocate for an end to early pregnancy.
- Violence against children remains a concern. We will continue to promote children's rights and educate youth and adults on protection measures.

Thank you for your continued support.



“From Santa Cruz we thank you for all your collaboration. With your support, we expand opportunities and together we can achieve a fairer, friendlier society.”

Ángel Balderas Padilla
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment is turned into effective long-term change – providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan's Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



MARCH

55,616

People benefited from improved water systems



JUNE

5

Municipal Children's Committees were formed



JUNE

1,976

People received candle filters, used to filter and clean water



JUNE

3,066

Children benefited from new and enhanced schools

