

ANNUAL UPDATE

ECUADOR

MANABÍ



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

This year, girls, adolescents, and young women in Manabí acted as leaders and agents of change in their communities. In response to Manabí's ecological vulnerability, girls and young women developed systems to address the effects of environmental disasters. Girls also learned about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and advocated for change to reduce the high rates of early pregnancy and gender-based violence. As a result, girls – and their families – have a brighter, more empowered future ahead.



240

Parents gained skills in child protection and gender equality



339

People learned about financial education



320

People supported activities to prevent early pregnancy

“I LEARNED NOT TO BE AFRAID TO TALK ABOUT MY FEELINGS, AND I EXPRESS MY OPINIONS FREELY.”

Jennifer, 16-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: GRISLY

AGE: 19 YEARS OLD

DREAMS TO BE: A DOCTOR

“I LEARNED TO EXPRESS MYSELF, DEVELOP AND INTERACT WITH MORE PEOPLE FROM A POSITION OF TRUST, RIGHTS AND RESPECT.”

Meet Grisly

Like the child you sponsor, Grisly is making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself. Despite growing up in a community that doesn't prioritise girls' education, Grisly has completed her first semester of medical school and has grown into an active community leader.

A Legacy of Advocacy

Plan International has been in Grisly's life since she was a child – her mother Clara is a community volunteer and took her to every activity. In her early years, Grisly participated in the “Magic Project”. As a teenager, she was part of a leadership school.

Grisly is the first person in her family to study at university. In her community, harmful gender norms discourage women from pursuing education. Throughout her life, Grisly's decisions have always required extra courage, as she must consistently fight against gender discrimination and advocate for girls' rights. However, Grisly's outstanding academic performance has given her the tools to pursue higher education and to become an empowered and independent woman.

A Bright Future for a Natural Leader

Grisly is about to enter her second semester of medicine. Her caring spirit and deeply held values will make her an exceptional doctor. And with support from Plan, she's developed the confidence and skills to address any obstacles in her path.

Grisly's early experiences with leadership and advocacy – along with her mother's influence – have inspired her. Now, her mission is to help people in rural and peri-urban areas, where families often lack medical resources. As a leader, Grisly will help create the change in her community needed so that other young women can pursue their educational dreams.



Grisly is a positive role model for others

OUR PROJECTS IN MANABI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Girls from nine clubs presented their action plans for addressing climate emergencies and environmental disasters to community leaders.

SAFE ZONES



Manabí lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it vulnerable to catastrophes such as earthquakes and floods. The Safe Zones programme helps girls, adolescents, and young women to lead concrete actions for risk reduction and climate change adaptation in their communities.

This year, 180 children and adolescents learned about the threats that affect their communities – and how to address them. With the support of adults, they utilised awareness campaigns in order to implement their action plan to prevent disasters and environmental pollution. To further empower the community, 135 members of nine community risk management committees were trained in climate change, fire prevention, and first aid. Committees also received first aid supplies. Through games and activities, over 2,500 children and adolescents learned about risk management and gained tools to be resilient.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY-FREE ZONE



Two of the most serious problems suffered by girls, adolescents, and young women in Ecuador are closely linked: early pregnancy and sexual violence.

To address these issues, the Teenage Pregnancy-free Zone project empowers girls and young women with vital information and resources on violence and early pregnancy. It also provides leadership development so girls can become the protagonists of changing cultural patterns.

More than 300 young and adolescent girls participated in training sessions, where they learned about their sexual and reproductive rights. Also, 84 parents and community leaders developed the understanding and skills to change harmful cultural norms and to prevent adolescent pregnancy.

“I participate in processes of the Teenage Pregnancy-free Zone project. I have learned about sexuality, self-care, to be more sociable and not to be ashamed to say something or talk about something.”

- Zuleika (13) from Manabi



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



Together with your support, girls and boys will stand up for their futures.

- 89% of youth under 15 had their first sexual encounter with someone older than themselves. We will continue providing information so they can make autonomous decisions about their sexuality.
- School closures during COVID-19 affected 4.6 million youth in Ecuador. This is related to the increase of child labour in the country. We will implement a scholarship project to help youth at risk of dropping out of school due to their family's economic situation.
- 27 out of every 100 babies under two suffer from chronic malnutrition. We will continue to raise awareness among parents and caregivers of young children.

Together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Manabí. Thank you!



"We thank you for your contribution, which allows the development of sustainable processes and the empowerment of children, adolescents, and youth."

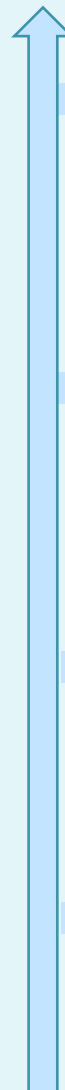
Consuelo Delgado
Programme Area Manager

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



DECEMBER



370

Youth learned about reproductive rights

JANUARY



569

People participated in savings and credit groups

FEBRUARY



240

Families benefitted from family gardens

MARCH



125

Youth learned about flood prevention