

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# COLOMBIA

## CAUCA-VALLE



**Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Cauca-Valle. Learn more about the valuable way we work with children and communities.** Cauca-Valle is home to more than 5.9 million people with a predominantly indigenous, mestizo, and Afro-descendant population. The ongoing armed conflict in combination with the pandemic, internally displaced persons, the flow of refugees from Venezuela and extreme weather led many families into crisis. We provided affected families with water and clothing. We worked with parents on gender equality, child safety and positive parenting. We facilitated peacebuilding activities for children and promoted entrepreneurship for young women.



**294**

residents joined village savings and loan groups



**6845**

children received school supplies



**111**

girls and women participated in supportive Women's Circles

**“PLAN HAS HELPED ME FEEL POWERFUL. I AM CONFIDENT. I CAN MOVE FORWARD AND REACH MY DREAMS.”**

Lizeth, 17 years old, Sponsored Child





**NAME: DANIELA**

**AGE: 15**

**DREAMS TO BE: AN  
ENTREPRENEUR**

**“PLAN’S WORKSHOPS HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THAT, AS A WOMAN, I HAVE RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE ROLE THAT SOCIETY WANTS ME TO PLAY.”**

## Meet Daniela

**Like the child you sponsor, Daniela is making steps towards her goal and achieving lasting change.**

It’s estimated that in 2050, 75% of jobs will be related to technology. When Daniela got a laptop, she not only kept up with her studies: she began to imagine a bright future.

## Learning My Rights

In rural Colombia, girls and women are more likely to drop out of school than their male classmates. From teen pregnancies to unequal responsibilities for girl children at home, girls often face an uphill battle when it comes to completing their education. Down the road, this can also make it difficult for women to find financial stability and independence.

15 year old Daniela has been involved with Plan since she was little. Over the years, she’s participated in workshops about her rights and future, which have inspired her to dream about the possibilities ahead. She’s built confidence, and imagines herself someday becoming a business administrator.

## Breaking the Cycle

Today, 1 girl in every 10 boys in Colombia has access to technology. As the world becomes increasingly digital, girls can get excluded from opportunities, education and connection. In situations like pandemics or political instability, students might have to learn from home. Without access to internet, many students are at a high risk of dropping out of school altogether.

When Daniela received a laptop from Plan International, she was able to share the computer with her siblings. Today, she takes virtual courses in business administration from home.



*Daniela and her peers.*

# OUR PROJECTS IN CAUCA-VALLE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Girls and women took centre stage in literacy and financial skills workshops.

## YOU CAN COUNT ON ME



**More than 39% of people in Colombia live in poverty.**

In fact, poverty in Colombia is so high that a recent World Bank report named the country as one of the most unequal societies in the world.

Poverty is a vicious cycle: when a parent has limited resources for food and education, children – and especially girls – face bigger obstacles to reach their goals. To create better economic empowerment for young women, we started Village Savings and Loan Associations in 5 different municipalities in the Cauca-Valle region this year. 80% of the participants were women and girls. Here, we carried out training in budgeting, financial planning and planned for future goals, and sponsored families received loans to cover necessities like education.

## BECOMING BOOKWORMS



**In Colombia, the average person reads 1.9 books a year and the rate is increasing.**

One of our goals in Cauca-Valle is to boost literacy and reading comprehension among students. With a friendly methodology, we want to reach out to the students in a way that teaches them to enjoy reading, motivates them to write and strengthen reading comprehension skills.

We worked closely with 20 students, primarily girls, to build confidence through books and explore creativity. Greisy, a Sponsored Child in Cauca-Valle, described a positive experience of self-identification through reading. Reading a book with a main character who shared Greisy's skin colour made her feel proud and recognised.

"I felt that the author is from our roots. I like how she expresses herself."

**- Greisy (15) from Cauca-Valle**



# 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 Cauca-Valle.

- Many children miss the opportunity to continue to higher education. We will continue to increase our scholarships for at-risk children.
- To increase families' economic safety, we will continue to offer vocational training and increase the number of village savings and loan associations.
- Many girls in Cauca-Valle suffer from domestic and gender-based violence. We continue to work with children and youth to develop life skills and self-protection capacity to break the cycle of abuse.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thank you for your valuable support of children’s rights. With your help, we are able to reach every Sponsored Child.”

**Lina Tatiana Villa**  
Sponsorship Leader

## 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



### FEBRUARY

796

parents participate in child protection training



### AUGUST

144

children receive water supplies



### SEPTEMBER

267

children started Social and Artistic School



### OCTOBER

420

children participate in girls' rights activities

