

ANNUAL UPDATE

COLOMBIA

REGION CARIBE



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

Plan has been working in Region Caribe since 1993. The ongoing armed conflict in Colombia in combination with the pandemic, internally displaced persons, the flow of refugees from Venezuela and extreme weather led many families into crisis. This year, 4,500 people received food donations after significant floods. We worked with children and youth on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and through steps to financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills, young women are now more economically independent.



425

students built financial skills



6,603

children received school supplies



34

computers donated to school children

“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: A
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 the internet, girls are at a high risk of dropping out of school altogether.

When Daniela received a laptop from Plan International, she was able to share it with her siblings. Today, she takes virtual courses in business administration from home, allowing her to feel more secure and confident about her future.



Daniela and her peers.

OUR PROJECTS IN REGION CARIBE ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Communities in Region Caribe came together to learn and lean on one another for new possibilities.

SUSTAINABLE SKILLS



Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality.

Often, poverty exists as part of a cycle: when a parent has very limited resources, their children can struggle to access education, stay safe and protect their rights. One of Plan International's main projects around the world is the Village Savings and Loans Associations. In Region Caribe, we worked with several schools to establish savings groups among students, with a focus on uplifting girl students and discussing gender inequality, rights and building financial independence. Here, students combined what they had learned in their maths and social studies courses with practical, real-world knowledge about budgeting, financial aid and entrepreneurship. Over the last 10 years, more than 10,000 people in Colombia have taken part in our Savings and Loan groups.

I LIKE READING



Less than half of young people in Colombia have more than basic reading comprehension.

This year, we had multiple activities with 252 girls, 128 boys, 149 adult women and 63 adult men to practise reading and writing. In collaboration with community libraries, we helped organise fun, accessible activity days for budding readers. Our teen participants practised leadership, communicating with younger children through 'story time' activities and creative writing workshops. Students also practised writing as journalists, using digital tools to share stories. The project culminated in the Hay Festival, a colourful day of activities with puppets, games and visiting writers and illustrators from around the world.

"The Hay Festival let my imagination fly. I learned that from any situation, a story is born."

- Gabriela (11) from Region Caribe



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 Region Caribe.

- In 2020, 4,268 girls under 14 years old gave birth in Region Caribe. With your help, we will strengthen support networks for at-risk girls and teens.
- More than four million women in Colombia live in poverty. We will continue to train youth, especially young women, in vocational skills and financial planning to support their economic empowerment and gender equality.
- Five girls and women disappear in Colombia every day. With your help, we will advocate for the improvement of laws to protect the most vulnerable people in Region Caribe.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thanks to your contribution, many people have the resources they need. With your help, we can continue promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.”

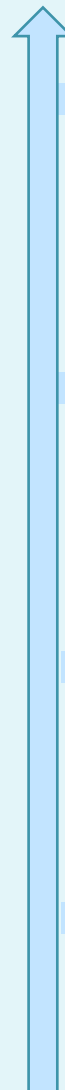
Patricia González
Sponsorship Leader

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



JANUARY



592

people participated in reading and writing festival

MARCH



507

children participated in peace-building activities

NOVEMBER



4,500

families received food after floods

DECEMBER



1,451

articles of clothing donated to sponsored families