

ANNUAL UPDATE

PERU

CUSCO



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

Discriminatory gender norms discourage girls from participating in decision-making spaces. This year, engagement was a key focus. For example, the Wiñarisun group advocated for youth involvement in political decision-making and violence prevention. In addition, students in the Let's Work Together project established bio-orchards and greenhouses to provide healthy, nutritious food for the community.

Together, young people in Cusco are working together to create a healthier, more equitable future.



267

parents learned about positive parenting and gender equality



244

young people learned about violence prevention



920

youth organized advocating their rights

"I LOVED THE PLAN CUP ACTIVITY. WE CAN ALL ACCOMPLISH OUR DREAMS, GIRLS AND BOYS."

Charys, 11-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: LUHANA

AGE: 11 YEARS OLD

DREAMS TO BE: A DOCTOR

“NOW, GIRLS CAN USE THE SPORTS FIELDS TO PLAY SOCCER. IN THE SPORTS FIELD THERE ARE NO STEREOTYPES.”

Meet Luhana

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

Luhana is no stranger to gender-based discrimination. By challenging these harmful gender stereotypes in her school community, Luhana strengthened her leadership skills—and advocated for the rights of girls to participate.

Challenging discrimination

Luhana and a friend wanted to play soccer one day at school—but a male classmate told them they couldn't, because “girls don't play soccer”. Luhana remembered what she learned in Plan's Decide Without Violence workshop, and replied: “It is not true, what you are saying is a gender stereotype. Girls can do any activity that boys do.”

Luhana often experienced scenarios like this. She sees the need for more people in her community to learn about gender equality.

The Games for Gender for Equality project challenges stereotypes through sports, and Luhana is one of the more than 1,900 girls and boys who participated.

Using sports to promote equality

Before playing in the championship games, each participant attended workshops and received guidance on gender equality, violence prevention and leadership. “I feel happy being part of this sports championship, where boys and girls have the opportunity to play soccer,” says Luhana.

As part of the project's ongoing training, Luhana is now giving talks at school and creating posters to promote equal opportunities in all areas of life, not only in sports. With her leadership skills, Luhana is creating change in her school, on the field and in her community.



Luhana is a leader, on and off the field

OUR PROJECTS IN CUSCO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Members of Wiñarison will also participate in the Meeting of Youth Leaders, organised by Plan to celebrate International Day of the Girl.

YOUTH AGAINST VIOLENCE



A quarter of Peru's population is made up of young people between 15-29 years old. Although sizeable, this group of young people is characterised by a limited participation in the national policy-making process.

The Wiñarison organisation is engaging youth in critical issues—specifically, addressing violence. The group is made up of young people and teenagers, with the goal of reducing the physical, sexual, economic and psychological violence experienced by women.

Wiñarison coordinated cinema forums and informational fairs to address violence prevention and promote the political empowerment of women. The group is strengthened by the Municipality's official recognition as a youth organisation. This empowers them to participate in local decision-making spaces and contribute to real change in the community.

ADVOCATING FOR A HEALTHY LIFE



A healthy environment is key to the growth and development of children and young people. The Let's Work Together project engaged 499 students in rural primary and secondary schools to care for the environment and grow healthy and nourishing foods.

Seventeen groups were organised, and each one designed and implemented an action plan in school. The action plans were based on the installation of bio-orchards and greenhouses for the production of vegetables. A provincial meeting of "Exchange of Experiences" gave the groups the opportunity to present their plans. Students as well as teachers and representatives of the parents' associations participated, creating a supportive community to develop leadership skills and a healthy environment.

"Thanks to the project, I became aware of the importance of eating healthy food. Students, mothers, and fathers built greenhouses in order to harvest healthy food and thus reduce the high rate of anaemia."

—Carmen (16) from Cusco



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 Cusco.

- Gender-based violence is a key concern. The Project “Deciding Without Violence” will continue to advocate for youth health and rights, and address harmful practices and forms of gender-based violence.
- One in five young people in Cusco are unemployed. With the “Unstoppable Youth” Project, young people, especially women, will develop and build their employment skills.
- Rates of early pregnancy are high in Cusco. We will continue to empower parents and community leaders to support young people with resources to make healthy and informed decisions.

Thank you for your continued support.



“I want to thank you for your selfless support. This year, we were able to strengthen the leadership skills of a thousand teenagers who are organized in 25 youth organizations.”

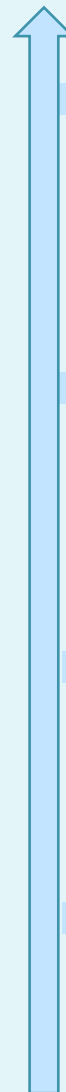
Boris Choqueneira
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment becomes 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



90

people participated in the Regional Congress of Youth

APRIL



2,800

people participated in positive parenting activities

MAY



198

women trained in entrepreneurship

OCTOBER



17

youth groups developed action plans to promote nutrition