

ANNUAL UPDATE

PERU

LORETO



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

Violence is one of the principal social problems in Peru, and profoundly affects children and adolescents. Addressing violence and advocating for child protection were key initiatives this year. For example, the Growing Up Without Violence programme empowered the community to create an environment of safety for children and youth.

In addition, young people participated in vocational training and entrepreneurship—looking to the future to create lives of security and economic independence.



8,235

pupils participated in a My School, My Safe Space-contest



159

young people earned financing to start their businesses



200

youth trained as peer educators in sexual health and 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 her 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 these 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 LORETO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



More than 8,000 students participated in a school contest to promote rights and advocate for an end to violence.

GROWING UP WITHOUT VIOLENCE



Violence has a severe impact on children and youth. The Growing Up Without Violence project advocates for child protection and the development of safe spaces.

Growing Up Without Violence promotes awareness-raising processes with children, parents and teachers, and with strategic allies like the Municipal Defense Office of Children and Teenagers. It places a special emphasis on challenging discriminatory gender norms and creating safe spaces.

This year, 630 children attended Protection Fun Fairs, where they learned about their rights and how to report dangerous situations. More than 200 children participated in information sessions on child protection. In addition, caregivers and community volunteers learned about responsible parenting, helping to create an environment of safety for children and young people.



LET'S START NOW!



Youth unemployment and underemployment are concerns in Loreto. The Let's Start Now!-programme helped young people, especially women, learn vocational and market skills. They were given training in entrepreneurship, which enabled them to be financially independent and connect with job opportunities.

More than 600 youth trained in skills for life and personal finance, and 260 young people received scholarships to learn English, or study cooking, handicrafts, pastry making, textile manufacturing, mechanics or engineering. In addition, 395 students participated in financial education and formed 20 Savings Groups. Through this programme, youth were empowered with skills and knowledge to create a future of economic independence.



“My grandmother enrolled me in the entrepreneurship programme and now I have a small business that I run from my house. This business helped me have income, and in the future I see myself studying nursing and working in a hospital.” – **Treysicita (16) from Loreto**

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 Loreto.

- Violence remains a concern in Loreto. Implementing protection mechanisms and advocacy actions will help address these issues.
- Youth unemployment is high. This year, young people will be able to gain entrepreneurial skills and the support to develop income-generating activities. Coordination with local governments, companies and institutions will be key.
- 18% of adolescents 15-19 years old have had a child or been pregnant. Encouraging youth participation in advocacy for sexual and reproductive health will help young people make healthy and informed decisions.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We thank you for your constant support and trust. The project beneficiaries are developing capacities towards the exercise of rights of children in Loreto.”

Elizabeth Menendez Santander
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



MARCH

90

young people trained in advocacy



MAY

630

children learned about violence protection



OCTOBER

395

youth built economic literacy through savings groups



OCTOBER

140

parents and caregivers learned positive parenting techniques

