

ANNUAL UPDATE

ECUADOR

COTOPAXI



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

This past year, key projects empowered youth with information and resources to plan for their futures. For example, young people participating in Youth Innovation Labs gained entrepreneurial skills and accessed support for education through scholarships. In addition, youth learned about sexual and reproductive health and rights, and how to make informed choices.

As a result, young people have a brighter, more empowered future ahead.



349

Caregivers attended parenting workshops



7,900

Contraceptives delivered to health centres



99

Adolescents joined Leadership Schools

“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: 16 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 COTOPAXI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



118 scholarships helped children and young people access basic and high school education.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Many young people in Cotopaxi lack key skills to achieve economic independence and financial security.

To address these concerns, Youth Innovation Labs empower youth with resources to gain economic autonomy and develop financial and technical skills. Here, young people learn entrepreneurship and savings culture, implement social and financial initiatives, and access support for education through scholarships.

This year, 170 adolescents and young people participated in entrepreneurship and savings sessions. Six savings banks were established, made up of 186 members who joined with the purpose of fulfilling their dreams related to education, health, entrepreneurship, and other life projects.

As a result, young people gain economic empowerment in a culture of financial responsibility.

MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS



Early pregnancy and sexual violence have a profound impact on the health and future of young people, especially girls.

To address these issues, the Teenage Pregnancy-free Zone empowers young people with vital information and resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Both girls and boys are able to make informed and autonomous decisions about their futures and work to change harmful cultural patterns.

More than 260 adolescents from 10 clubs participated in training sessions. In addition, community protection mechanisms were formed to defend, promote, and guarantee the protection of children and adolescents.

“I am a member of the Teenage Pregnancy-free Zone club. These lessons have helped me to know and exercise my sexual and reproductive rights and above all to take care of myself and protect myself as part of my life project.” - **Sara (19) from Cotopaxi**



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 Cotopaxi.

- 65% of girls under 15 years old have suffered gender-based violence. By forming community mechanisms for the protection of children, we will help increase the number of community defenders.
- 64% of women over 15 years old have experienced gender-based violence. The Because I'm a Girl movement will strengthen girls' leadership and advocacy and promote gender equity.
- Seven out of 10 young people, mostly women, work in informal conditions. We will advocate for economic independence, promoting youth participation in savings banks.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thanks to the sponsors: On behalf of the communities of Cotopaxi we send them our affection and gratitude for their great support.”

Vinicio Cifuentes
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

19

Health officials trained on reducing early pregnancy



APRIL

265

Youth learned about sexual and reproductive health



MAY

7

Savings banks developed for Youth Innovation Labs



MAY

12

Risk Management Committees formed to support youth

