

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# BOLIVIA

## CHIQUITANIA



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

This past year, key projects focused on empowering youth and families to create change in their lives and community. Young people who participated in the Enfocate programme advocated for sexual rights, gender equality and violence prevention. Community members also learned the importance of early childhood development, and advocated for a new law to protect children.

As a result of these initiatives, youth and their families have a happier, healthier future.



**3,140**

Children learned about protection & gender through puppet shows



**22**

Educational units were equipped with educational material



**840**

Children are benefitting from seven school vegetable gardens

**“WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A DOCTOR. I WANT TO CURE PATIENTS, TO HELP PEOPLE AS PLAN HELPED ME.”**

Camila, 10-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: VERÓNICA**

**AGE: 18 YEARS OLD**

**DREAMS TO BE: AN AID WORKER**

**“MY PARTICIPATION IN DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS WITH PLAN HAS HELPED ME OVERCOME MY FEARS AND EXPRESS MYSELF.”**

## Meet Verónica

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

She is a charismatic young woman interested in a variety of activities, from dance to cooking to academics. Now, as a leader in her community, Verónica has become a role model for other girls and young women.

## A Cycle of Inspiring Young Leaders

Verónica's mother died when she was small, leaving her and her siblings in the care of her hard-working father. Her family's livelihood comes from agriculture in a rural area, and Verónica has worked since she was young to pay for her studies and activities.

At age eleven, Verónica was inspired by the energetic and creative teenagers she met through a Plan International school visit. These young leaders motivated her, and she became an enthusiastic participant in Plan leadership programmes. In the following six years, her engagement has been life-changing: She's now studying psychology at a top university, with support from a scholarship she earned through a Girls Take Over event.

## On the Path to Success

At the Take Over event, Verónica impressed the audience with a powerful speech where she shared the challenges that young women in rural areas face in order to access a university education. Winning the scholarship as a result opened an opportunity that she describes as “once in a lifetime.”

Now at school in the city, Verónica is focusing on her studies and achieving her dreams – and she is still engaged with Plan, acting as a leader to inspire the next generation of girls. She says: “For me it is a fundamental part of my life.”



*Verónica took over as Vice-Rector of the university*

# OUR PROJECTS IN CHIQUITANIA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Through the programme, youth learn and develop life skills to empower them to advocate for change in their community.

## LEARNING TO ADVOCATE



**It is vital that young people are empowered to advocate for their rights.** The Enfocate project supports youth in Chiquitania with information and resources to advocate for gender equality and to end gender-based violence.

This year, the programme helped educate youth and parents on gender rights, and how to report sexual violence. Over 1,966 adolescents participated in workshops on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Educational materials on contraception and gender-based violence were distributed to healthcare facilities as well as public radio spots.

With knowledge, youth are able to advocate for their rights. Dialogues with municipal leaders addressed issues such as the care economy, traditional gender roles, and political participation of women. As a result, an agreement with the municipal government is helping to create a brighter future in Chiquitania.



## CHILDHOOD FIRST



**Early childhood is an important stage for health and development.** The Childhood First Project helps children under eight years old develop their potential in a protective environment, free from violence.

This year, educational fairs, contests and puppet shows taught more than 3,000 children about issues such as inclusion and bullying prevention. More than 200 parents learned positive parenting techniques, and 105 teachers strengthened their educational capacities.

As a result of these initiatives, the community promoted a law to improve the conditions of early childhood, helping make Chiquitania a safer, healthier place for children to grow.

“I really liked the puppet show. I learned the three golden rules when someone bothers you, you must tell them NO! YOU HURT MY HEART, then you run off and tell a trusted adult.”

**- Didimo (5) from Chiquitania**



# 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 Chiquitania.**

- Rates of youth unemployment in Bolivia are high. To help, we will improve the development of marketable skills and leadership with young people in the community.
- To address high rates of violence against children, we will continue promoting children's rights to parents, educators, duty bearers and young people.
- Early pregnancy and gender-based violence are still a concern. We will continue educating young people on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“With your support, we expand opportunities for more girls and boys. Together we can achieve a fairer, friendlier society and a life with dignity by exercising their rights.”

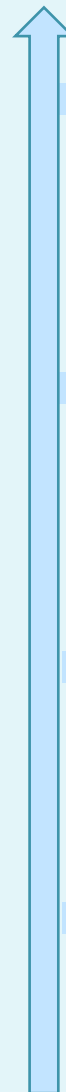
**Ángel Balderas Padilla**  
Programme Area Manager

## 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**

**3,445**

High school students benefited from revised curriculums



**MARCH**

**85**

Students with disabilities accessed education centres



**MAY**

**4**

Municipal children's committees were formed



**JUNE**

**1,972**

Youth learned about sexual and reproductive health

