

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# ECUADOR

## CHIMBORAZO BOLIVAR



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

This past year, key projects focused on healthy, gender-equal relationships. For example, parents participated in activities encouraging men to take active roles in child-rearing. In addition, young people learned about sexual and reproductive health and rights and how to make informed choices. Changing harmful cultural patterns and embracing positive parenting were priorities this year.

As a result, girls—and their families—have a brighter, more empowered future ahead.



**330**

Parents learned Positive Parenting



**900**

People supported the Because I'm a Girl movement



**121**

Young people learned entrepreneurial skills

**“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 CHIMBORAZO BOLIVAR HELP CHILDREN THRIVE



## GROWING HEALTHY FAMILIES



**Healthy development begins in early childhood—yet in Chimborazo Bolivar, poor nutrition and unequal gender roles present a challenge.**

This year, 330 parents of children under eight years old improved their knowledge of affectionate and loving care, promoting active fatherhood and positive masculinity.

More than 900 people participated in community outreach activities such as fairs, sports events, and live cooking demonstrations for healthy eating. These activities encouraged men to take active roles in raising their children. As a result, fathers reported that they are more involved in childcare, which enables women to participate in other social, political, and economic spaces. In addition, advocacy campaigns reached 220 fathers with messages about raising children, especially girls, in an environment with respect and equality.



As part of the programme, 480 families implemented vegetable gardens and raised 720 birds for egg production. This ensures quality food for young children, helping reduce chronic malnutrition.

## MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS

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

It is vital to empower young people with accurate information and resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights. This year, training sessions helped both girls and boys learn to make informed decisions about their futures—and work to change harmful cultural patterns.

Participants strengthened their self-esteem by planning life projects and discussing gender equality and sexual rights. Boys and young men adopted positive masculinity habits and practices of co-responsibility that value the opinions and decisions of women in the family and public spaces.

“In the workshops we always learn new things. In the future, I hope to be a good leader and serve society in the field of education. The workshops have opened doors for me and helped me make new friends.”

**- Myrium (16) from Chimborazo Bolivar**



# 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 Chimborazo Bolivar.**

- Helping families develop positive parenting practices is a priority. We will implement workshops and campaigns that promote the involvement of fathers.
- Given the high levels of unemployment and migration of young people, we will coordinate with local governments and community leaders to promote the Education for Credit, Savings and Entrepreneurship (EDUCAS) project in more communities.
- Because of natural disasters, we will identify risk communities to expand coverage of Safe Zones in more communities.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



“Thank you for your support, which has contributed to changing the lives of girls and boys, thus ensuring that girls, in particular, learn, lead, decide and prosper.”

**David Alvarado Ochoa**  
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**

**11**

Community risk management committees equipped



**APRIL**

**480**

Families have food security for their children



**OCTOBER**

**130**

Members of Because I’m a Girl promoted their rights



**NOVEMBER**

**26**

Small community savings banks established

