

ANNUAL UPDATE

ECUADOR

GUAYAS LOS RÍOS



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

This past year, access to education, resources, and information was a priority. Over 200 scholarships were awarded to children and adolescents in vulnerable situations, enabling them to access their right to an education. In addition, young people and their families learned about sexual and reproductive health and rights and challenged the high rates of early pregnancy and gender-based violence.

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



232

Youth trained on disaster risk reduction



751

People learned about sexual and reproductive rights



210

Students earned educational scholarships

“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 GUAYAS LOS RÍOS HELP CHILDREN THRIVE



12% of Ecuadorian girls between 10 and 19 years old have been pregnant at least once. Ecuador recognises that 80% of early pregnancies are the result of sexual abuse.

STAYING SAFE



Two of the most serious problems affecting girls, adolescents, and young women in Ecuador are closely linked: Early pregnancy and sexual violence.

To address these issues, the Teenage Pregnancy-free Zone project provides a place where adolescents and families can access vital resources and education on violence and early pregnancy. This year, over 200 women and men trained on sexual and reproductive rights and violence prevention. In addition, 28 volunteers strengthened their skills in Pedagogical Mediation and support the training process in the Pregnancy Free Zone clubs.

The project produces lasting changes in the lives of families and challenges discriminatory social norms. Through education and resources, the community gains a vital new perspective for the safety and health of children, young people, and families.

EDUCATION FOR ALL



For many students, especially those living in rural communities, financial costs are the biggest obstacle to attending school.

Education scholarships provide a path forward. This year, 195 scholarships were awarded to children and youth in vulnerable situations, with basic (first to tenth grade) and high school education. In addition, 15 university scholarships were awarded, of which two scholarship holders graduated in social communication sciences. These scholarships support students in their right to an education and increase opportunities in the future. The university scholarships help young women in vulnerable situations to access higher education so they can enter the labour market in better-paid conditions.

“I thank Plan for this scholarship I received. I am very happy, thanks to the amount I received, they have bought me my uniform, shoes, school supplies. I thank you very much from my heart.” - **Yaritza (15) from Guayas Los Ríos**



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 Guayas Los Ríos.

- 60% of girls in Ecuador have experienced online violence, and 80% know someone who received threats of sexual violence. We will help youth develop digital and advocacy skills to promote gender equality and prevent violence.
- Many people in Ecuador depend on the fishing industry, and changes in water temperature will have a profound impact. We will help communities address climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Only 14% of young people between 18-24 are adequately employed. We will strengthen the capacities of youth, especially women, for employability.

Thank you for your continued support.



“I want to express our gratitude for your support so that children and adolescents grow up in safe, stimulating, and egalitarian environments.”

Héctor Hurtado
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



13

Communities learned positive parenting

FEBRUARY



58

Youth learned leadership skills

APRIL



400

Flood-affected families received aid

NOVEMBER



412

Family gardens established for better nutrition