

Chalatenango

El Salvador

Positive changes are happening in Chalatenango. Learn more about how we're supporting children and girls' rights through our collaborative, equality-driven work.

Chalatenango faces severe climate-related challenges, including droughts, floods, and landslides, leading to agricultural damage, water shortages, and a high youth unemployment rate. These issues, along with a lack of sexual and reproductive health awareness, have increased gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, and early marriages.

This year, we partnered with families and community organisations to promote positive childcare practices, protect children and adolescents from violence, and raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health rights, empowering young people to make informed decisions.

"I like to help people and by achieving my goals, I can be an inspiration for them, to show that anything is possible."

- Katherine, 17, Sponsored Child



Children participating in early childcare initiatives.

Impact in Numbers

1,037

children trained in protection against violence

995

parents trained in positive parenting practices

52

young people working after vocational training

Leading the Way to a Greener Tomorrow



NAME:

Zuleyma

AGE:

18 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

**A community leader
for girls**



“I learned to identify inorganic waste and about gender equality, understanding that everyone has equal rights. I see myself as a leader, helping my community.”

Meet Zuleyma

Like many girls in El Salvador, Zuleyma is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a stronger future.

Zuleyma, 18, is a young El Salvadoran girl who loves to read and as a young student and leader aspires to work for her community and inspire more girls to follow their dreams.

Climate Change Risks

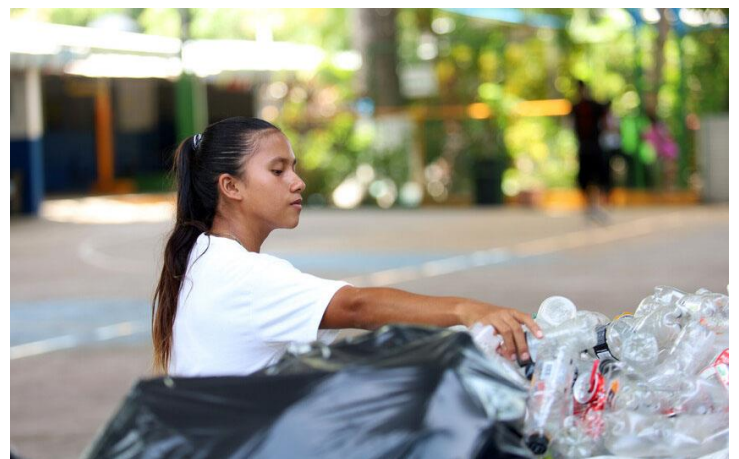
Zuleyma, like many in her community, faces the stress of frequent floods in El Salvador, which have intensified due to climate change and constantly threaten her coastal home and family.

To better address climate risks for her community, Zuleyma has actively participated in Plan International's Increasing Resilience to Floods in Central America programme, where she learned about waste management and recycling. She learned to identify various types of inorganic waste and gained insights into gender equality, understanding that everyone has an equal say in decision-making.

Inspiring a Brighter and Sustainable Community

After training with Plan, Zuleyma formed a youth group to strengthen her community's resilience to climate change and promote climate friendly practices.

Leading by example, she initiated a recycling project that has collected and sold three tons of waste to recycling companies, helping to reduce pollution and ocean debris. “We should feel proud to be part of this group,” she says.



Zuleyma, 18, leading the recycling initiative in her community.

We Work With 9,760 Sponsored Children in Chalatenango

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Learning to Lead

In Chalatenango, the pregnancy rate among girls aged 10 to 19 was 17.3%, while in rural areas, 14.9% of young people were in marital unions.

To protect children and young girls from violence, Plan launched a Leadership School programme in Chalatenango. This programme taught girls and adolescents aged 14 to 18 how to drive personal and community change regarding gender equality by providing leadership and protection skills.

43 girls and adolescents developed leadership skills to protect themselves from gender-based violence. Participants led the training activities, using thought-provoking questions and their knowledge to create new learning opportunities and deepen their understanding of gender issues.



Girls participating in the Leadership School in Chalatenango.

43

girls and youth trained to lead social change



Girls and women working together on an activity in the summer programme.



Mayra, 16, participating in the summer programme in Chalatenango.

Building Safer Communities

In Chalatenango, it's difficult to provide comprehensive education on sexuality, gender, and sexual diversity due to limited resources for sexual and reproductive health care. This lack of support increases risks like teenage pregnancies, early marriages, and sexual violence.

To address this, Plan has collaborated with communities, families, and health providers to create safe and supportive spaces. In the "I Know Myself, I Take Care of Myself" summer programme, 232 young people learned about sexual and reproductive health and their rights.

They gained skills to communicate their needs, respect their bodies, and take care of their mental health, helping them make better decisions for their overall well-being.

"I'm happy I joined these workshops. I made new friends and spent time with my mom. We learned about self-care and hygiene, which has improved our confidence." - Mayra, 16, Sponsored Child

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Children participating in Plan's initiatives in Chalatenango.

Together, we're working to create a more just world.

The economic crisis has led to more El Salvadorians migrating in the past five years. Next year, we will partner with government institutions to provide a comprehensive response to migration challenges.

Youth unemployment in Chalatenango is high. We will support young people, especially women, in becoming more economically independent to strengthen the local economy.

Violence against children and adolescents is a challenge in El Salvador. We will collaborate with families, caregivers, and government organizations to promote positive child-care practices.

Message from Plan Staff

"Thank you for being part of our purpose to positively change the lives of thousands of children, adolescents, young people, and their families through the creation of opportunities, gender equality, and the fight for justice."



Meybel Avelar,
Programme Unit
Manager,
Chalatenango

The Plan Effect

Sponsored children are at the centre of everything we do, and they help plan our programmes based on what's important to them. Sponsors' donations are a gateway into a community. This helps build trust and credibility to attract even more funds from new sources. This makes more sustainable programmes possible in sponsorship communities. This powerful synergy is something we call The Plan Effect.

Progress in Numbers

147

young women
trained in sexual
education

100

young people
trained in crisis
management

78

people trained in
sexual health

190

families received
cash aid for
Storm Pilar