

## La Libertad

## El Salvador

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

La Libertad, a coastal community in western El Salvador, is known for its relaxed lifestyle and fishing-based economy. However, it faces climate-related disasters such as flooding and rising temperatures, which affect water resources, agriculture, health, and contribute to high poverty and unemployment rates.

This year, Plan collaborated with the community to advocate for economic development and gender equality by training 206 youth (146 women, 60 men) in life skills and providing vocational courses for 75 participants. The community also learned about agricultural diversification and climate change adaptation, with a focus on addressing gender-related gaps and inequalities.



Youth participating in Plan's initiatives in La Libertad.

**"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



### Impact in Numbers

**2,241**

**Children and youth trained in violence prevention**

**1,455**

**Parents trained in positive parenting practices**

**690**

**Young people trained in sexual health**

# 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**

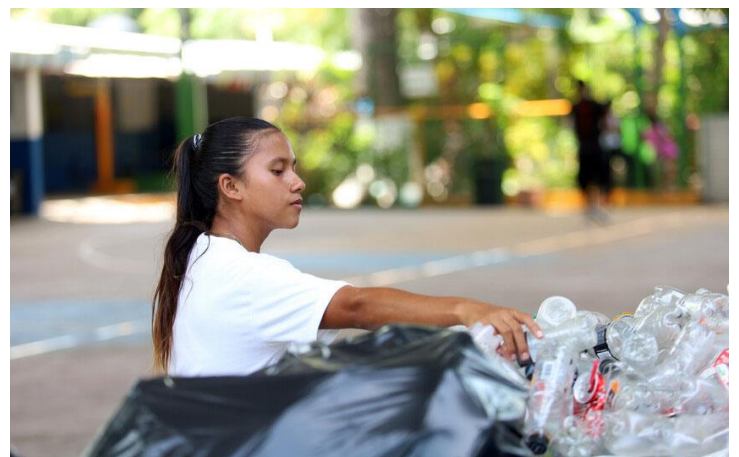
Zuleyma, like many in her community, faces the stress of frequent floods in El Salvador, which have intensified due to climate change and constantly threaten her coastal home and family.

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, is leading the recycling initiative in her community.

**We Work With 9,989 Sponsored Children in La Libertad**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Skills to Succeed

**In El Salvador, 27.4% of those aged between 16 and 24 struggle to find formal employment, with most neither working nor actively seeking work.** Many of these individuals are women engaged in domestic activities.

As part of our initiative, Plan organised a series of training workshops to help young men and women in La Libertad develop essential life and entrepreneurial skills for a competitive job market.

60 young men and women took part in this three-phase project. They learned innovative methods for managing and administering their businesses, developed their business models, and received guidance in business management, accounting, customer service, and marketing.



Young woman participating in an entrepreneur workshop in La Libertad.

# 55

**Participants received initial funding for startups**



Project participants being trained in sustainable agriculture in La Libertad.



Alexander, 36, participating in a sustainable agriculture workshop.

## Sustainable Agriculture

**El Salvador's severe drought from El Niño has slashed corn production by 60%.** This has caused a \$28 million loss and threatened food security for those reliant on small-scale agriculture and fishing, including children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with chronic illnesses.

To support agricultural communities, Plan provided training on climate adaptation, crop diversification, and fertilisation as well as seed kits and home garden supplies.

Cash aid was also distributed amongst 153 families, to help them buy essential food supplies.

The workshops also addressed gender norms and violence, fostering community reflection on gender inequalities.

**"The project's support was a great joy, as our harvests had dropped significantly. We were thrilled to learn climate adaptation techniques that helped us improve our agricultural work."**  
- Alexander, 36, parent

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Young girl participating in Plan's initiatives in La Libertad.

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

Youth unemployment is high in La Libertad. Next year, we will continue to strengthen young people with the skills needed for better employability.

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to violence. We will continue to advocate for their self-protection against violence and sexual abuse.

Early education amongst children remains low in La Libertad. Next year, we shall support inclusive early childhood care programmes for children aged three to seven.

## Message from Plan Staff

"Thank you for supporting us to make a real difference in children's lives and advancing gender equality in our communities. Your trust in Plan International drives meaningful progress and supports us to improve understanding and rights for all, especially young girls."



Celina Rosales,  
Programme Unit  
Manager, La  
Libertad.

## 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

**733**

**Educational kits  
for seventh to  
ninth graders**

**278**

**Scholarships for  
girls**

**190**

**Families  
supported with  
cash transfers**

**41**

**Healthcare  
workers trained  
in sexual health**