

Altiplano

Bolivia

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

Amid political instability, economic challenges and environmental issues, your help has ensured that children, young adults and families in Altiplano have more resources to build bright futures.

For example, community-led initiatives are strengthened to support early childhood development. This year, 3,218 parents facilitated sensitive, urgent discussions about breaking the cycle of gender-based violence.

In a region where youth unemployment reaches as high as 29%, 62 young entrepreneurs now have seed funding to start their own small businesses. Another 309 young people have new vocational skills in areas like gastronomy and agriculture, gaining confidence and self-esteem through additional skills in financial literacy.

"When I was younger, I suffered from bullying at my school. With Plan's training, I learnt the value of speaking up. Now, I want to support my peers."
- Darleyn, 17



A sponsored child participating in one of Plan's programmes.

Impact in Numbers

1,522

**caregivers trained
in early childhood
development**

308

**midwives trained in
maternal and
prenatal healthcare**

23

**delivery rooms are
better equipped**

Maria Belen, a Story of New Horizons



NAME:

Belen

AGE:

15

DREAMS TO BE:

An Entrepreneur

“Being part of the youth network helped me understand gender equality, the capacity of women entrepreneurship to generate resources.”



Meet Belen.

Like many young girls in Bolivia, Belen faced challenges in her pursuit of education.

Belen lives in Quivinchá - Betanzos with her mother, stepfather, grandparents and three younger brothers. After completing primary school, children in Belen's community must migrate to nearby cities to access secondary education. However, this pursuit is expensive, and inaccessible for many. Moreover, due to lack of local employment opportunities, many children begin working as early as age 13, taking on jobs in mining, masonry, or agriculture. Some others remain home to assist with family farming and livestock rearing.

The Impact of Entrepreneurial Resources

Under these precarious circumstances, Plan's project that supports feminist leadership in the Bolivian highlands aimed to empower Belen and her peers by providing access to the local market, income and resources. The initiative organised honey production skill training in their community, coupled with workshops on leadership skills, sales strategies, and digital marketing. These resources enabled young girls like Belen to participate in city fairs, sell their products, and pave the way for their futures as budding entrepreneurs.

The Power of Education

The local authorities took note of this success story, and collaborated with Plan to develop curriculum centered around entrepreneurial ventures as formal modules for secondary education. This has enabled many children like Belen to access secondary education without leaving their communities and families.

With new aspirations for the future, Belen proudly states, women can take the same jobs as men.



Belen and her peers sell honey at a local fair

We Work With 9,636 Sponsored Children in Altiplano

Projects That Support Lasting Change

My Body, My Rules

Due to limited knowledge of sexual and reproductive health, 22% of adolescent girls are pregnant before their 20th birthday. This figure is even higher in rural areas of the country.

An early, unplanned pregnancy can change the course of a young woman's life, threatening her ability to complete her education, get a job and develop financial independence. For this reason, empowering communities – especially young boys and girls – with information and resources is crucial.

Over the last year, the “ARRIBA” project has focused on improving community health, supporting happy families and advocating for the rights of women and children, and particularly girls. As part of this effort, 788 men participated in critical discussions about fatherhood, gender equality and positive masculinities. 1,464 pregnant women received vital information about neonatal and infant health, and 8,061 community members were visited at home by



Camila, promoting reproductive health rights in her community.

12,375

adolescents learnt about sexual education



Community members are empowered through intergenerational feminist stories.



Community wisdom for the next generation.

Feminist Leadership

Through economic and social empowerment, coupled with information about sexual and reproductive health and rights, we are adapting a holistic approach to empower the young women in the Altiplano.

The lack of market-oriented skill development has led to largely increasing unemployment and poverty in the region. With your help, we are supporting young people in Altiplano as they pursue enterprises and employment. By incorporating the experiences of Aymara and Quechua women, informed by their community's narratives of feminism, we address the issues using an intersectional lens. We build on anti-patriarchal and anti-colonial feminism by centring the voices of local indigenous women and exploring the roles and contributions of women in five major aspects of life: Memory, Body, Territory, Time and Movement. This year, 26 young women also helped create a feminist radio programme for other women in the community to learn more about the professional possibilities available to them.

**“As a leader, I support my community's growth and work to challenge stereotypes and outdated practices.”
- Stefany (18)**

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Local community gardens help with nutritious, sustainable and environment-conscious food consumption.

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

Addressing rampant sexual violence and teen pregnancy will be our utmost priority. We will empower young people to influence public policies through leadership workshops and education around agency and consent.

Through the Empower-T programme, we will address social inequality and poverty by connecting youth with vocational training, improving their capacities for self-employment and entrepreneurship.

As climate change-related natural disasters continue in Bolivia, we will provide seed capital to promote socially and environmentally sustainable ventures and encourage entrepreneurship among young women.

Message from Plan Staff

"Your contributions commit us to continue our efforts to achieve the integral development of the local communities. We will continue strengthening our networks for better social change."



Luis Iturry
Urquiza,
Programme Unit
Manager

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

3,218

**parents discussed
sexual health and
rights**

1,753

**adolescents
trained in violence
prevention**

21

**centres equipped
for vocational
training courses**

447

**healthcare
workers trained
to treat teens**