

## Tarija Bolivia

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

Amid Bolivia's political, economic, and environmental challenges, the Tarija community is bolstering resources for young people and families. Community-led initiatives support early childhood development for children aged 0 to 8. We also collaborate on gender-sensitive policies and programmes.

Through the Decide and Demand Your Rights programme, women are gaining agency, making informed health decisions, and breaking gender barriers. We're empowering young people with business skills to achieve financial freedom, boosting their confidence and self-esteem to shape their futures.



39% of the local population is under 18 years of age.

"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



### Impact in Numbers

**5009**

youth received  
education kits for  
self-protection

**32**

adolescents learn  
about cyber violence

**303**

adolescents informed  
and trained in Sexual &  
Reproductive rights

# 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 challenge 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 6,770 Sponsored Children in Tarija**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Empowering Lives

**To empower the youth, we must build a strong network of information, services, and favourable environment!**

With this project, we strengthen youth through positive practices such as feminist leadership, collective agency, positive masculinities, mentoring, and intergenerational dialogues. By changing behaviors and attitudes, we promote sexual and reproductive rights in the Tarija community.

Additionally, with local institutional support, Plan International advances favorable policy proposals to safeguard the community. Local AIDA centers provide adolescent-friendly care with training and information materials.

Cyber violence is rising globally and locally. To address this, we organise “Diálogos del Sur” meetings to raise awareness on cyber security and create safe spaces online and offline.



Local AIDA centres provide comprehensive services for adolescents.

# 5,500

**Gender-violence prevention information kits delivered to adolescents**



A diversity of role models enable healthy growth in children.

## Sowing steps

**Up until a child reaches eight years of age, they need special care and attention for a holistic growth and development. In Tarija, this is a challenge.** Young children often lack support for healthy development.

Indicators for early childhood care are improving in Bolivia. Our project, Sowing Steps, works in seven municipalities to enhance childcare practices. Focused on learning, community support, mental stimulation, and influencing local policies, we promote comprehensive childhood development. Implementing protection networks, promoting active fatherhood, and adding play materials to curricula have improved child care in the community.

At the institutional level, we have educated municipal authorities to support child development through favourable public policies. We also help families establish gardens for fresh food and provide nutrition information. These efforts show that it truly takes a village to raise a child.



Natalia, 8-years-old, took part in the Sowing Steps Project.

**“I enjoy school because Plan brought games and activities. Our teacher makes learning fun with play, singing, and prayer. We play outside with classmates and learn a lot.” -Natalia (8)**

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Education empowers children, shaping a brighter future.

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

To better cater to the development needs of young children aged 0 to 8 years, we will work together with the community to create recreational centres in schools.

Addressing the sexual violence and teen pregnancy will be our utmost priority. We will empower the youth to influence public policies and exercise their sexual and reproductive rights through leadership workshops and education around agency and consent.

We will address the social inequality and poverty by empowering the youth with vocational training and market-oriented skills and improving their capacities for self-employment and entrepreneurship.

## Message from Plan Staff

"I meet families from different cultures and places during my work, and it is so satisfying to see them receive us with a smile because of the way our work has directly impacted the well-being of their children and the community!"



Carlos Guillermo  
Jalil Rojas,  
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

**154** teachers trained in sexual education and

**100** youth trained in entrepreneurship

**27** business ideas by workshop participants

**37** young entrepreneurs get seed capital