

## Manabí

### Ecuador

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

This past year, key projects fostered skills and strengthened resources so families can plan for a brighter future.

For example, community members trained on Disaster Risk Management and implemented plans to improve climate change adaptation. Manabí is vulnerable to yearly flooding – the past winter has been one of the strongest in the last five years. By developing action plans, the community is promoting a culture of care.

Also this year, the Youth Innovation Laboratory inspired young women with programmes on finance and entrepreneurship. As women develop leadership skills and seize opportunities, they not only increase their economic independence – they create an equitable future for all.

**"Teen pregnancy-free zone workshops made me aware of what can happen if we are not informed."**  
—Aurora (11)



Communities are working toward a brighter future.

### Impact in Numbers

**3,104**

**Girls benefit from menstrual health training**

**150**

**Youth participate in financial education training**

**135**

**People strengthen Risk Management committees**

# A scholarship transforms Damaris' life



**NAME:**

**Damaris**

**AGE:**

**12 years old**

**DREAMS TO BE:**

**A doctor**

**“This scholarship not only gives me the opportunity to get an education, but it also relieves my grandparents of their worries.”**



## **Meet Damaris**

**Like many children in Manabí, Damaris is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.**

Damaris lives in an indigenous rural community in Cotopaxi, Ecuador, with her grandparents. She is an outstanding student who is passionate about natural sciences and wants to become a doctor.

## **The Impact of Economic Resources**

Damaris dreams of a future helping the sick in her community – but without an education, she has little chance. Her main obstacle is an economic one, as her family has few financial resources.

According to official reports, in Ecuador, lack of access to education is a persistent problem. This is especially true in rural areas like the one where Damaris lives. This situation negatively impacts children's development and places unfair limits on their hopes and dreams.

Damaris' education was at risk without the financial means to cover her school expenses, threatening her goals for the future.

## **The Power of Education**

Damaris excels in her studies – and with her hard work and dedication, she earned a comprehensive school scholarship from Plan. This scholarship covers school expenses, including supplies, uniforms, and shoes. As she gets older, her education will help her access even more opportunities for her future.

Damaris' dedication stands out in the community. With her grandparents in mind, she says she is grateful for the help “to build a better future for me and my family.”



Damaris is a dedicated student with big dreams for her future.

**We Currently Work With 7,760 Sponsored Children in Manabí**



# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Financial Empowerment

**Economic empowerment is vital, especially for girls and young women.**

Empowered women are better able to lead, make their own decisions, and act with economic autonomy. In the Youth Innovation Laboratory, young women focus on financial education and develop skills for employment, leadership and financial literacy – and prepare for their futures.

Through this project, members of the 22 saving and credit groups grew and developed their businesses. Scholarships were distributed in the community, fostering a cycle of empowerment. The scholarship holders can achieve a professional degree and, through the Ministry of Labour, can access quality youth employment opportunities.

Project members formed supportive groups, committed to their community – especially to the children and future generations.



Female entrepreneurs used the programme to improve their businesses.

# 650

**people participate in the savings and credit groups**



Workshops help children understand the importance of disaster preparedness.



Students like Alondra find the projects strengthen leadership skills and self-esteem.

## Strengthening Resilience

**Being a coastal province, Manabí is prone to winter floods.**

These floods have a tremendous impact on the region's health, safety and livelihood. It is key to strengthen community resilience help improve Disaster Risk Management in community members – especially children and adolescents.

Training processes, awareness-raising actions and improved public policy are making an impact in Manabí. Campaigns were executed through social networks, carrying messages on risk reduction and disaster prevention. In addition, 26 community cleaning and fumigation works were developed, and 13 Community Disaster Risk Management Committees and emergency brigades were established. And with the "My First Steps in Risk Management" programme, students are building risk reduction plans, and learning about best practices for emergencies.

**At the Leadership School of Disaster Risk Management, Alondra, age 13, gained determination and courage to face the dangers of floods.**

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Youth help develop resilience to climate disaster.

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

Parental neglect is the main form of abuse suffered by boys and girls in Manabí. We will raise awareness of positive and active parenting, helping communities grow healthy, violence-free environments.

In the coming year, we will strengthen youth empowerment in sexual and reproductive rights, so young people can make informed and autonomous decisions about their sexuality and their relationships.

We will support girls, adolescents and young people at risk of abandoning the educational system due to precarious economic family situations. Through scholarship opportunities, they can continue their studies.

## Message from Plan Staff

"Through you we can execute projects in the most vulnerable communities of Manabí and promote that children, adolescents and youth can exercise their rights, fulfil their dreams and develop in safer and more resilient communities and families."



Consuelo Delgado  
Programme Area  
Manager, Manabí

## 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

21

**Scholarships  
provided by local  
savings groups**

13

**Leadership  
Schools were  
implemented**

180

**Children  
participated in  
Safe Zone Clubs**

360

**Women learned  
reproductive  
rights**