

Cauca-Valle Colombia

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

The Cauca-Valle region is still facing serious security problems. People are dealing with illegal armed groups, terrorism and social unrest. Many have been forced to leave their homes or stay in areas where their movement is limited. Gender-based violence and recruitment of children into armed groups is a big threat. Despite the challenges, local communities keep strengthening resources to ensure every child is safe and protected.

This year, we organized film screenings to educate and empower youth about their rights. Communities now advocate for policy changes, ensuring girls are recognized and treated equally, with the same opportunities and protections as boys. These steps are vital for building a just and equitable society for all.

"I want to be a policewoman. We are powerful girls who can go very far and even though the police is mostly led by men I have the support of my family and Plan." - Vaiioleth (11)



Access to educational kits for every child.

Impact in Numbers

6 social organisations were strengthened

270 participants know their sexual and reproductive rights

286 students with limited finances received school kits

Yolis: From Colombia to the World



NAME:

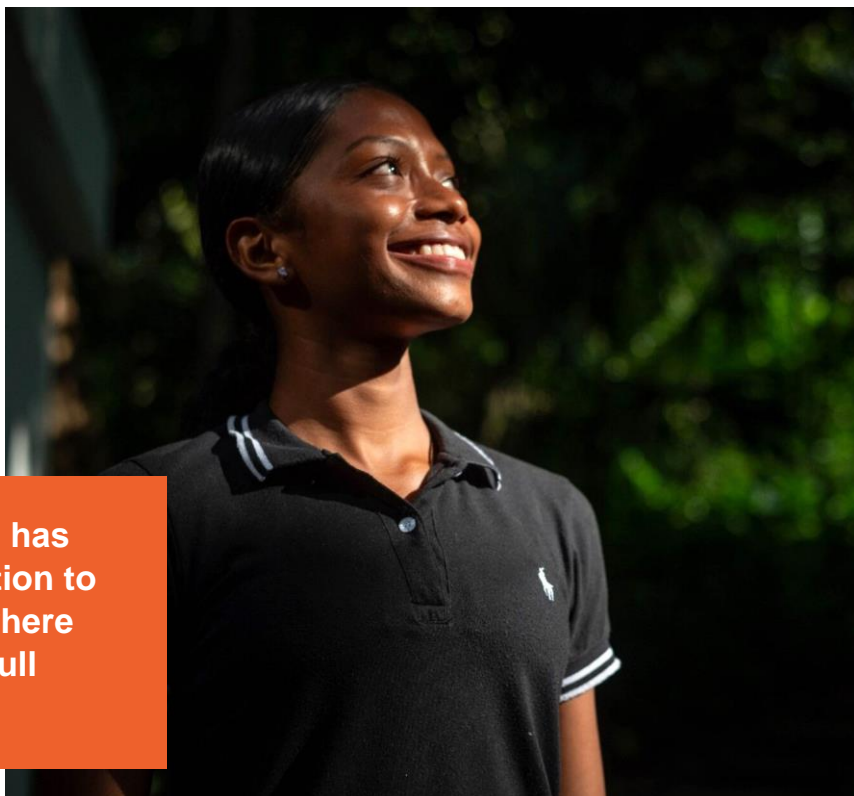
Yolis

AGE:

18 Years Old

HOBBIES:

Dancing



“Every experience with Plan has strengthened my determination to work tirelessly for a world where all children can reach their full potential.”

Meet Yolis

Like many girls in Colombia, Yolis is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.

Yolis lives with her family in a close-knit community. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. Her reputation precedes her, as Yolis' leadership skills and outreach have brought great joy, confidence, and systemic changes in her community.

Half a decade ago

We continually work with communities to eradicate gender-based violence - including sexual violence, femicides, and disappearances which are high-risk factors in crimes. In 2019, Yolis participated in one such initiative, Champions of Change. Through football, she developed teamwork, confidence, and self-esteem, and broke down gender stereotypes to build a better world around her!

In 2022, Yolis promoted children's rights and gender equality among her community members. In 2023, she participated in a Rights-to-Education project, where she learnt various soft skills, including writing, video making, editing, and public speaking.

A True Champion

As her involvement with Plan International deepens, participating in such events has supported her personal and professional growth, particularly in developing communication and empathy. For her unwavering commitment to community-building and impactful social changes in literary and artistic work, Yolis was selected this year as a presenter for the Hay Community Festival. She is also Colombia's representative in Plan's global group of young influencers, which connects her with young people around the world to drive meaningful changes through leadership in their countries.



Through our sponsorship projects, thousands of girls like Yolis are leading voices in their community.

We work with 8,242 Sponsored Children in Cauca-Valle

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Leading with Voice

To address children's exposure to violence, illegal armed groups, and low institutional response, this project strengthens social organisations in the region.

It improves the capacity for social mobilisation and advocacy on issues related to environmental protection, human rights and peace building.

12 civil society organisations are a part of this project. We support these groups to build their advocacy agendas with children and young people in mind. Moreover, events were held with people in position of power to influence their governmental plans.

Through this project focused on civil action, Plan International empowers the organisations by creating enabling environment and create a space where advocacy can be carried out. Out of four citizen advocacy agenda, one was also created for young people and their needs. We focus on identifying negative gender norms in the society and seek their transformation through actions.



Consultations for local youth empowers them to raise their voices and demand change.

413

**people participated in
creating advocacy agenda**



Group of participants after the film screening.

Ofelia is not alone

To address the multiple forms of violence in families, and promote gender equality, we have collaborated with Foundation WWB Colombia to conduct film workshops on the story "Ofelia is not alone".

This project addresses the naturalisation of gender-based violence in local communities. To approach this topic with great sensitivity, we organised 18 cine-workshops with 344 participants, from all spheres of the community.

The participants have generated positive reflections on gender stereotypes in their families and communities. We have supported young family members to identify the types of violence that are part of these stereotypes like sexual violence. The mixed-participation of community members enabled an easy transition and practical approach to everyday issues related to gender norms, and gender-based violence. A sense of safety and belonging is crucial for the healthy growth of every child.



Empowering girls, empowering societies.

"In the film workshop, I learnt that most jobs are gender-neutral, so both men and women can do the same job too. Also, we should not overlook any physical and psychological abuse." - Sara (16)

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Community-led actions for accessible, protective and safe school environment.

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

Protecting young girls from violence remains our utmost priority, we will train and support them to develop life skills and improve capacity for self-protection. Additionally, we will strengthen the knowledge, attitudes and skills of the youth on their sexual and reproductive health and rights by recognising various forms of violence.

This year, we will collaborate with education institutions to strengthen our agreement to guarantee student scholarships and support the youth between the ages of 16-18 in accessing education. We will also support the youth in developing skills for income generation and disseminate financial inclusion like savings and financial education.

Message from Plan Staff

"Many children drop out of school due to a lack of supplies. Thanks to your support, we have been able to provide sponsored girls and boys with educational kits, helping to prevent them from leaving school."



Maria Helena
Castillo Storino,
National
Sponsorship
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

90

children got
priority food
deliveries

481

hygiene and self-
care kits were
handed out

52

youth joined
workshops for
gender equality

32

women joined
Safe space
projects