

Region Caribe

Colombia

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

Colombia is still facing serious security problems. People are dealing with illegal armed groups, terrorism and social unrest. Together with persistent gender inequalities, the vulnerabilities that threaten the region's economic and social progress continue to deepen. Amidst these challenges, the local communities continue to strengthen their resources to ensure that every child is safe, and protected.

This year, we organised film screenings to educate and empower the youth about gender equality. We also provided educational kits to reduce barriers to school access. Additionally, young boys and girls from the communities participated in Colombia's Hay Festival as we carried out actions to promote reading and writing habits among children and share their stories with international writers.



Access to educational kits for every child.

"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)



Impact in Numbers

2 teens "takeover"
Women's Secretariat

200 teens in menstrual and self-care workshops

23 teachers trained on safe drinking water management

Yolis: From Colombia to the World



NAME:

Yolis

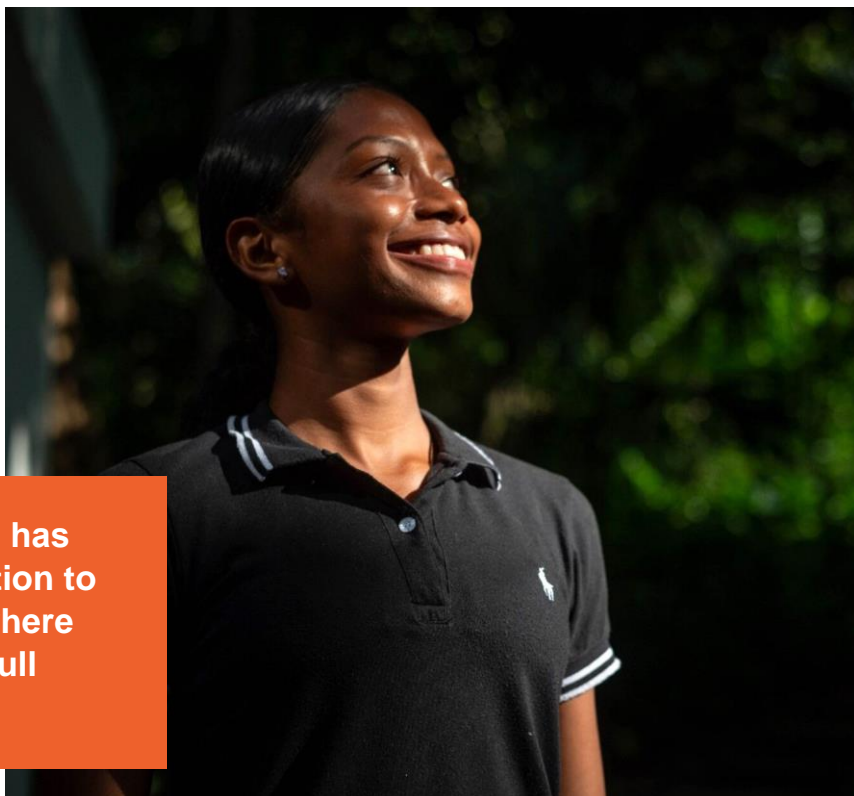
AGE:

18 Years Old

HOBBY:

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 factor 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 13,693 Sponsored Children in Region Caribe

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Right to Education

Lack of information and education around sexual education and reproductive rights perpetuates taboos and myths, which further mystifies the topic and isolates young girls and women.

The Girls with the Right to Education project contributes to generating safe and healthy environment for girls to promote basic hygiene practices. We enable spaces for peer-to-peer education to spread the information. In the course of last year alone, we have strengthened the skills of 32 children and adolescents as multipliers to talk with their peers about menstrual health, hand washing, hygiene habits and drinking water management.

Change must come from all strata of the community, so groups of men have also been sensitised on positive and transforming masculinities. We support the project across population groups being mindful and sensitive about their gender, age, disabilities and vulnerabilities, so everyone benefits from this project at their best capacity.



Peer-to-peer education is some of the most effective ways in which we build trust and outreach within local communities.

23

teachers in workshop on sanitation and hygiene



39 film screenings reached out to hundreds of participants.



Hundreds of girls like Natallis have recognised various forms of violence and how to tackle them.

Ofelia is not Alone

In Colombia, almost 80% of the victims of sexual crimes are children and adolescents. To address this, the project identifies the prejudices, beliefs, attitudes and practices that maintain and justify gender-based violence in local communities.

Through short film-workshops on Ofelia's story, the participants have generated positive reflections on gender stereotypes in their families and communities, addressing topics like care work, and its impact on economic and social level. This space arises as a strategy to combat gender based violence, it emphasises awareness and the importance of knowing the types of violence, care routes and actions to protect those who are at risk.

Additionally, not just in terms of recognising, the film supports the participants with tools to reflect, conceptualise and even provides information regarding reporting mechanisms and their rights, so they can address such violence.

"The film taught me to identify the warning signs and not to normalise certain actions. It taught me that as a person, we all have rights and we must exercise and respect them" - Natallis (15)

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.

Curbing gender-based violence will be our utmost priority. We will promote comprehensive sexual education and create spaces for family and community dialogues. Next year, we will also strengthen our resources, infrastructure, budget, support networks and influence policies to best serve the Colombian youth.

We will work with institutional and offices with power to improve response services for children, adolescents and youth who have been victims of different forms of violence or those who are at risk. 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

"We will continue with our commitment to close the gaps faced by children and young people in the territory. It is through participation in the processes that not only allows us to develop capacities and leadership skills, but also makes it possible for all people in all their diversity, especially girls, to be at the centre of our actions."



Patricia
González,
Sponsorship
Leader

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

6,327 pupils received educational kits

63 workshops in community reporting

471 girls joined financial education

7 murals on water, menstruation and gender