



Plan International Latin America and the Caribbean

Annual Report 2025



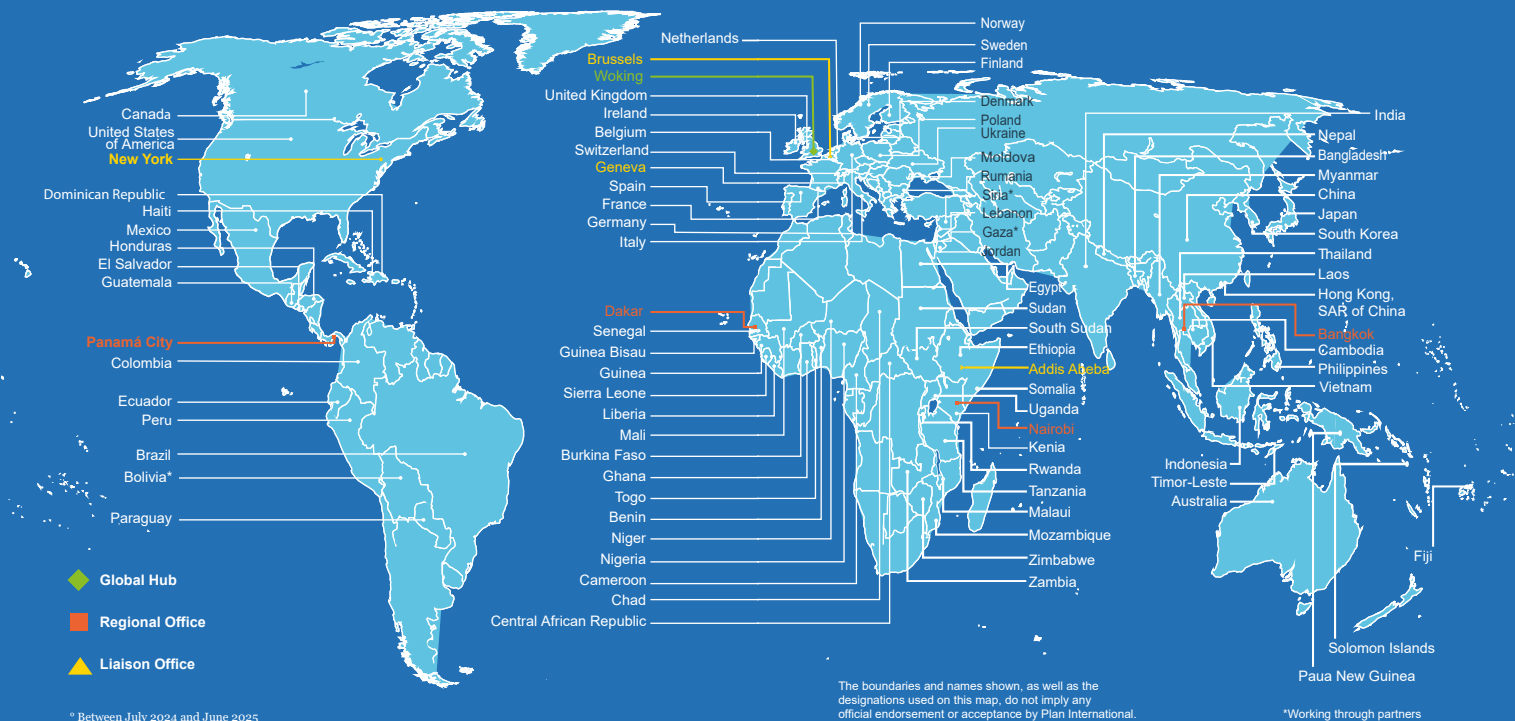
Until we are all equal

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Plan in the world

Present in more than 80 countries.



Our goal is to improve the lives of
200 million girls
worldwide by 2027.

Equality for girls drives progress for everyone.

Our presence in the region



In **Latin America and the Caribbean** we work with children, youth and families in

12 countries.

Foreword

My name is Damaris, I am 23 years old and I am from El Salvador.

I am the youngest in a very large family, and when I was born, I faced poverty and limited access to education, with no spaces where I could participate simply because I am a girl. My journey with Plan International began when I was 11 years old. Gradually, I became more involved, until I participated in the country's first Leadership School and became part of the founding of the National Movement of Girls and Adolescents.

During that process, a dream was born that seemed impossible: becoming a doctor. Now, after much effort, perseverance and dedication, I am beginning my fifth year of Medical School.

I am also currently part of Plan International's Global Youth Advisory Panel, representing Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, I serve as a youth delegate to the Plan International Members' Assembly and as a mentor for other girls in my country.

One of the most significant decision-making spaces in which I have had the opportunity to participate was the World Summit for Social Development in Doha, Qatar, in November 2025. Being there represented a profound responsibility, as I was speaking on behalf of girls and adolescents from Latin America.

At the Summit, my commitment was to place on the global agenda the urgency of investing in education, social protection and poverty eradication, and to position these indispensable priorities for girls, whose realities demand concrete responses.

With the right support, girls strengthen our leadership, expand our educational opportunities and become active participants in decision-making. When a girl participates, her voice reshapes priorities, influences policies and humanises decisions. By participating fully and leading, girls are not only claiming their place, they are building a different world: fairer, more humane and more possible.

Damaris, mentor and youth leader in El Salvador

Damaris' story reflects the reason for our daily work at Plan International. Behind every programme, every intervention and every participation space, there is a girl who finds her voice, discovers her potential and transforms her reality.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, millions of girls face barriers that limit their opportunities: poverty, gender-based violence, lack of access to quality education and exclusion from decision-making spaces. However, when we provide them with the right tools and support, they not only overcome these barriers, but also become agents of change for their communities and countries.

Thanks to the support of our donors, partners, allied organisations, communities, girls and our staff, stories like Damaris' are possible. This year has been particularly challenging, but stories like this one drive us to continue working until we achieve equality.

I invite you to explore this Annual Report and to share it as a starting point for continuing to move forward together. In these pages, you will find results, learnings and voices that reflect Plan International's commitment to the rights, protection and opportunities of girls and young people across the region.

Carmen Elena Alemán

Regional Director Plan International Latin America and the Caribbean

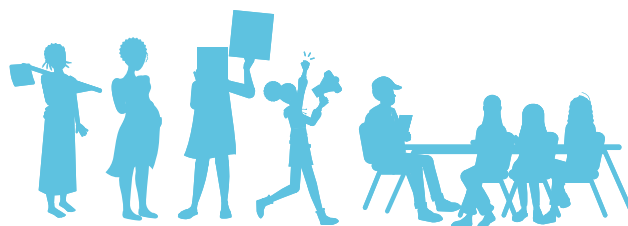


Our regional reach

We have reached the lives of

+5.9 million

people



Including

2.3 million

girls

1.8 million

boys



We work in more than

+3,200

communities

We implemented

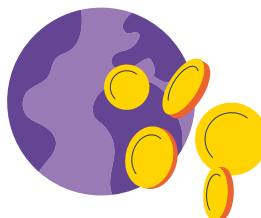
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projects

We work with

+ 5,200

Alliances with international, local, governmental, non-governmental, community-based organisations, academia and companies.



Annual investment
in Latin America and
the Caribbean

€ 83.4
million

*Results correspond to Plan International's administrative fiscal year from July 2024 to June 2025.

Reach of our programmes

Early Childhood Development

Girls and boys grow up well cared for and equally valued.

More than 2 million people reached, including more than 1 million girls under 18 years of age.



These are moments that will never be repeated, and between us a bond is being created that will continue to grow. A caring father values and enjoys spending time with his daughter”.

Marco, 26 years old, Ecuador, participant in the Dads Who Care project.



Inclusive Quality Education

Young people, especially girls, receive the education they need to thrive in life.

More than 1.1 million people reached, including 390,000 girls under 18 years of age.



I received a scholarship and used it for school supplies, which helped me a lot and improved my grades”.

Marbella, 14 years old, Honduras, participant in the Generation with Decision project.



Children and youth driving change

Girls, boys and young people shape decisions that affect their lives by leading change within their own communities and influencing decisions at higher levels.

More than 447,000 people reached, including more than 157,000 girls under 18.



I want our voice to reach further, so that we can propose ideas, share what we feel and show that young people can also participate”.

Jaqueline, 20 years old, Guatemala, participant in the Champions of Change project.



Protection Against Violence

Children and young people, particularly girls, grow up free from violence, fear or discrimination.

More than 1.3 million people reached, including 450,000 girls under 18 years of age.



Girls should study, play, dance and dream, not become wives and mothers at such a young age”.

Rebecca, 16 years old, member of the youth advisory group in Paraguay.



Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Girls and young women have control over their lives and bodies.

More than 1.5 million people reached, including 524,000 adolescents under 18 years of age.

“ Learning about healthy menstruation and having access to accurate information allowed me to make informed decisions and share that knowledge with my classmates”.

Gabriela, 11 years old, Venezuelan living in Peru, participant in the ELLA project.



Skills and Decent Work

Young people, especially young women, gain knowledge and skills, access opportunities and engage actively in decent work of their choosing.

More than 285,000 people reached, including more than 98,000 girls under 18.

“ We learned a lot about the importance of entrepreneurship. We developed business plans and created a concept that the product needed to reach people”.

Clary, 33 years old, El Salvador, participant in the Generation with Opportunities programme.



Humanitarian Response

More than 614,000 people received humanitarian assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We respond to emergency situations and humanitarian crises across the region, marked by migration flows, forced displacement, conflict settings, widespread violence and the impacts of climate change. We ensure timely and effective humanitarian assistance for populations in the most vulnerable situations, safeguarding the lives and wellbeing of children, with a particular focus on girls and adolescents.



Crisis in Haiti

We responded to the severe humanitarian crisis in Haiti, which critically compromises access to food, healthcare, education, as well as protection and security. We place particular attention on girls, boys, adolescents and women, recognising their heightened exposure to risks.

Migration and mobility crisis

We work to protect and guarantee the rights of migrants, refugees, returnees and people in transit across the region. We develop joint and comprehensive actions with a gender equality approach across South America (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru), Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras) and Mexico, addressing the specific needs and risks faced by girls, boys, adolescents and young people to achieve lasting change.



Climate change crisis

We act to reduce the impact of climate change and related extreme weather events, such as prolonged droughts, flooding, intense rainfall and the spread of vector-borne diseases. We responded to forest fires, river flooding and tropical storms affecting various countries in the region.

"The rain didn't stop for seven days. I was very worried — our house flooded and we had to go to a shelter. We received hygiene kits and a card to buy basic food for our household. At this moment, it is a great help because we have no sources of income".

Roxana, 41 years old, El Salvador.

Highlights of our impact

During this year, Plan International drove concrete changes in the lives of girls, boys, adolescents, young people and their communities across Latin America and the Caribbean. Below are some highlights that illustrate the impact of our projects in the region.

Ecuador



Ecuador approved the Organic Law on Early Childhood in March 2025, guaranteeing rights and services from birth to six years of age for more than **4.5 million girls and boys**. Plan International contributed to this achievement through its work and coordination with other organisations to promote priority attention to early childhood.

Colombia



In Colombia, 1,200 girls and boys gained access to education thanks to new educational infrastructure built in Quibdó through the project "A Plan to Transform Dreams into Reality".

Bolivia



Bolivia enacted a law in September 2025 that definitively prohibits child marriage and early unions without exceptions. This achievement is the result of joint efforts between Plan International and civil society organisations, which provided evidence and technical recommendations to strengthen child protection.

Brazil



72% of mothers, fathers and primary caregivers participating in the “Empodera Elas” project in Brazil, report using positive parenting practices, including non-violent disciplinary methods.

Mexico



24,698 people in situations of human mobility received humanitarian assistance at Mexico’s northern and southern borders. Of these, 21,036 accessed protection services, including psychosocial support, multipurpose cash cards to meet basic needs, and priority assistance for women and girls who are survivors of gender-based violence.

El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru



In El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru, 2,932 young people (70% women) participating in the “Emplea-T” project achieved concrete economic improvements: their incomes increased by an average of 43% through formal employment or entrepreneurship. In addition, sales of youth-led businesses increased by up to 113%.

“Before, I used to spend money without thinking; now I keep track of everything. I know how much I earn, how much I invest and whether I’m growing. With the money, I was able to buy an overlock sewing machine, which has really helped me speed up production.”

Rossi, 29, participant in the Emplea-T project in Peru.

Advocacy and participation achievements in international spaces

Regional meeting “Inspiring voices”

In September 2025, 36 young women leaders from Guatemala, Ecuador and El Salvador, members of organisations with a track record in youth leadership, met in San Salvador to address a shared reality: the economic, social and family pressures that drive adolescent pregnancy and early unions in the region. Connected to Plan International’s training processes, the meeting generated proposals to promote change in their communities.



Young woman represents Latin America and the Caribbean at a global summit

Damaris, 23 years old and from El Salvador, travelled to Doha, Qatar, to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025. She is currently the only Latin American member of Plan International’s Global Youth Advisory Panel and a founder of the National Movement of Girls and Adolescents in her country.

During the Summit, she spoke on the panel “Resources for adolescents: sustainable solutions to finance girls’ rights”, stating: “If we want real development, we must start with girls.”



Adolescent brings the voice of children to the OAS

For the first time, a girl participated in the Plenary Session of the Organization of American States (OAS), General Assembly in June 2025, marking a milestone in the meaningful participation of children and adolescents in regional decision-making spaces.

Yoselin, a Salvadoran adolescent participating in Plan International projects, became the first girl to address the OAS General Assembly Plenary (June 2025, Antigua and Barbuda). As the official spokesperson of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS), she represented children from Latin America at the 55th Assembly, a milestone in child participation at the regional level.



Representation of Latin America and the Caribbean at UN CSW69

Jhussahara, a 20-year-old young woman from Peru, participated in the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York in March 2025. In this global advocacy space, she raised her voice in defence of girls' rights and engaged in dialogue with the Duchess of Edinburgh on forced displacement, child marriage and the impact of climate change on the lives of girls and adolescents.



Promoting girls' rights at COP30 in Brazil

Plan International participated in the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) in Brazil in November 2025, through a combined strategy of policy advocacy, field presence and digital mobilisation. Prior to the summit, the organisation facilitated more than 30 mini-COPs across Brazil. During the event, a delegation of four people focused on monitoring and influencing negotiations, as well as organising and co-leading side events on gender, youth leadership and adaptation.



Side event at the Regional Conference on Women

In partnership with the regional ALIADAS network, we organised a side panel at the Regional Conference on Women (August 2025), bringing together more than 150 young people, public officials and activists to analyse the impacts of child labour, especially unpaid care work carried out by girls and boys. The initiative incorporated a generational and gender perspective, establishing that care must be a right and a responsibility of adults.



Regional recognition of Community Protection Mechanisms

Plan International presented its experience with Community Protection Mechanisms at the 5th Inter-American Forum on Child Protection Systems in Bogotá in September 2025. The initiative, recognised by the Global Movement for Children in Latin America as a scalable good practice, was highlighted as a promising model for global replication. Participating States endorsed the Bogotá Declaration with commitments built on the demands of children present.



2025 International Day of the Girl

641 girls participated in **130 takeovers**, assuming leadership roles in **9 countries** across Latin America and the Caribbean.



On October 11th 2025, Plan International commemorated the International Day of the Girl, a key date to advance girls' rights and gender equality globally. **This year, the organisation focused on forced child unions through the campaign #GirlsFreeFromForcedUnions.** Although child marriage is legally prohibited in 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, informal and forced unions of girls continue to occur, limiting their opportunities and robbing them of their right to fully experience childhood.



As part of the commemoration, **girls from different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in Takeovers**, a Plan International initiative that gives girls the opportunity to **occupy positions of authority and leadership for one day**. By assuming roles as governors, business leaders and decision-makers, girls raise concrete issues and propose solutions to the challenges they face in their communities.

Plan International also launched the Global State of the World's Girls 2025 report, titled "Let me be a child, not a wife", based on interviews with girls in 15 countries worldwide, including Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Ecuador. The report analyses the impact of forced child unions on girls' lives, education and development. Additionally, the organisation collaborated with CNN on an exclusive article, expanding the conversation around a reality that remains invisible in many Latin American communities.

Research

Through studies and research, we generate evidence on the realities of girls, boys and adolescents to drive action and policy change alongside decision-makers, civil society and communities.



Unaccompanied children

Risks and violence along the migration route through Mexico

Plan International and Save the Children collected testimonies from migrant girls, boys and adolescents in Mexico, in the cities of Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez and Reynosa. This study analyses the causes of migration, risks along the journey and the violence they face, with the aim of making their voices visible and strengthening their protection.



Let me be a child, not a wife

Experiences of girls living in child marriage and forced unions

A global study gathering testimonies from more than 250 girls and young women in 15 countries, including Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Ecuador, who married or entered a union before the age of 18. It highlights the impacts on their lives and the urgency of addressing the social norms that sustain these practices so that all girls can choose their own future.



Childhoods and climate crises in Latin America and the Caribbean

Impacts of the climate crisis on the health, education, protection and wellbeing of girls, boys and adolescents in 10 countries in the region

Based on evidence collected in 10 countries, this study analyses how the climate crisis disproportionately affects children and adolescents. Through interviews and focus groups, it highlights impacts on education, health, protection and wellbeing, as well as the specific barriers faced by girls due to gender norms and exclusion from climate decision-making spaces.



Stay or drop out?

Educational experiences of adolescents experiencing pregnancy, motherhood and fatherhood in Paraguay

Conducted with FLACSO and based on 97 interviews, this research shows how stigma and discrimination in school environments reinforce educational and social exclusion, particularly affecting girls' school retention.



Violence, unsafe journeys and natural hazards affecting education in Honduras and Guatemala

Impact of violence, unsafe journeys, and natural threats on educational continuity and the well-being of children and adolescents.

This research identifies how social violence, gender-based violence and natural hazards combine to affect educational continuity and wellbeing, increasing fear along school routes and exposing gaps in infrastructure and institutional coordination.

Voices that make an impact

Data shows the reach; voices show the meaning. Below are two brief testimonies from young people in the region that help put a face to the changes achieved this year, in different contexts but with a common thread: rights, protection and opportunities.

Growing up despite the crisis

Bárbara, 15 years old from Haiti, was displaced with her family when armed groups attacked her neighbourhood. That night, four of her cousins were killed. Since March 2024, she has lived in a displacement camp where she faces water shortages, food insecurity, health problems and interrupted education due to ongoing violence. Despite this, Bárbara passed her national exam by studying on her own.

"In recent days, I can say that I learned that I am a very strong young woman. Because even with how the country's system is unfolding, I managed to stay alive. By the grace of God as well."

As part of the response to the crisis in Haiti, Plan International provided her with cash assistance, dignity kits and access to child-friendly spaces, where she finds moments of normality amid chaos.

"What gives me hope is the possibility of a different Haiti. I will have the opportunity to make my dreams come true."



Breaking barriers towards equality

Suelyng, 19 years old from Brazil, grew up in a community where talking about the female body was taboo. Asking for a sanitary pad at school meant exposing oneself to ridicule and shame. She was shy, did not speak up in groups and could not imagine a different future.

Through Plan International's Girls' Leadership School project, she participated in workshops and dialogue spaces where she discovered that women can be and do anything they want. She overcame her fear of speaking, became a group leader and now helps other girls in her community.

"I learned that a woman can be and do whatever she wants, whatever she dreams and desires. That's how I began to feel more pride in myself as a woman."

Suelyng now dreams of becoming a justice advocate:

"I want all girls to have the same vision I had, that no one can make you lower your head, and that only you can make your dreams come true."



Transforming realities is the work of many hands, many voices and many committed hearts.

At Plan International, we are part of an extraordinary network of alliances that, from different places and with different strengths, share the same dream: a world where every girl, boy and young person can develop their full potential, free from violence, discrimination and inequality.

This year, that network has grown stronger and expanded. We have worked with governments promoting transformative public policies; with community organisations that understand the needs of their people; with companies that recognise their role in building fairer societies; with academia and researchers who help us better understand problems to design better solutions; with international and cooperation organisations that provide resources and knowledge; and with foundations and entities committed to long-term change.

Above all, we have worked alongside communities themselves, women's organisations, youth organisations and child-led groups that are at the heart of everything we do. They are not merely beneficiaries of our work: they are protagonists, leaders and agents of change.

Every partnership reminds us that the deepest impact is born from genuine collaboration. That the most sustainable solutions emerge when we listen, learn and act together. That change is possible when we move beyond institutional boundaries and focus on what truly matters: the rights and wellbeing of children.

To all our partners and allies: thank you for being part of this movement. Thank you for your trust, commitment and dedication. The future of Latin America and the Caribbean is built together and with you by our side, we know that future will be fairer, more equal and full of opportunities for girls and young people across our region.

**Together, we will not stop
until we are all equal.**





Until we are all equal

About Plan International

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We believe in the power and potential of every child, but this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination and that girls are the most affected.

Working together with children, young people, supporters and partners, we strive for a just world by tackling the root causes of the challenges facing the most vulnerable children. We support children from birth to adulthood and empower them to prepare and respond to crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels through our reach, experience and knowledge.

For more than 85 years, we have brought together determined optimists to transform the lives of all girls and boys in more than 80 countries.

**¡Together, we will not stop
until we are all equal!**

Plan International

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Cover photos

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From left to right: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Peru, Honduras, Paraguay, Haiti and Mexico.