<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words from the Director</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan around the world</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose &amp; Values</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who works in Plan International Paraguay?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in children in Paraguay</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our impact areas</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme: Lead</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme: Decide</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme: Thrive</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme: Learn</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Projects</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Day of the Girl</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response: COVID-19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign We are all Responsible</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 years of Plan International in Paraguay</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Partnerships</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This year Plan International celebrates its 26th anniversary of work in Paraguay in favour of the rights of children, adolescents and young people for them to develop their full potential in a society that is more inclusive and free from all forms of violence. Although there are risks and obstacles for both girls and boys, gender-based discrimination puts girls at greater risk of vulnerability, especially in issues such as criadazgo [indentured child servants exploited for domestic labour], teenage pregnancy, early marriage and union. According to statistics, two births a day occur in girls aged 10 to 14, which is very worrying. They are girls who care children and see an uncertain and hopeless future. Based on these indicators, Plan International’s efforts are particularly focused on improving the quality of life of girls, female adolescents and young women so they can learn, lead, decide and thrive on equal opportunities.

This year we have managed to drive positive changes directly in the lives of 117,885 people, and indirectly in 471,540 people across the country, through a number of programs being implemented jointly with communities, partners, donors, and government and civil society institutions.

The effect of this unprecedented pandemic, COVID-19, has been to increase the inequality gap. This year we have been challenged to reprogram actions and funds to provide a humanitarian response to sponsored families in the 370 communities where we work, prioritizing actions related to child protection, food security and sanitation and hygiene, with emphasis on girls and female adolescents through the provision of menstrual hygiene kits. Our actions included communications to families about measures to prevent contagion, as well as actions to achieve a greater balance in the workload at home. We appreciate and value the partnerships we have made, both at a central and local level, as they were key to responding to the emergency in an efficient and timely manner.

The next year will be a year of many challenges for us to continue implementing projects in communities based on the new normality. We also hope to have many opportunities for partnerships and for innovation in projects that respond to what families require in this context full of uncertainties. I am sure that with strategic partnerships and with the commitment of our staff, we will be able to improve the quality of life of vulnerable children and adolescents in Paraguay.

Lorena de García
Country Director Plan International Paraguay
Plan International was founded in 1937 and operates in more than 70 countries around the world. We support the rights of children while responding to crises and emergencies.

### Plan Around the World

We have been working in Paraguay for 26 years, starting our activities in 1994, through the implementation of projects and programs in Asunción and the departments of San Pedro, Guairá, Paraguari, Caaguazú and Central.
PURPOSE
- We strive for a just world that advances children’s rights and equality for girls.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- We work for lasting impact
- We are open and accountable
- We work well together
- We are inclusive and empowering
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Total number of direct beneficiaries: 117,885

Total number of indirect beneficiaries: 471,885 people

Sponsorship: 23,512 sponsored children (55% are girls)

30,927 girls under 18 years old

27,189 boys under 18 years old

32,841 women

26,928 men

(55% are girls)
WHO WORKS IN PLAN INTERNATIONAL PARAGUAY?

A total of 86 employees work in the areas of Programs, Operations, Resource Mobilization and Communications, Program Units and Human Resources.

At Plan International, we promote gender equality and believe in people and their abilities regardless of gender, race, age or place of origin.

INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN IN PARAGUAY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program expenditures by funding</th>
<th>Total in Euros*</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>446,467</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn</td>
<td>459,411</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decide</td>
<td>452,015</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrive</td>
<td>711,044</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response</td>
<td>654,494</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>461,524</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**TOTAL</td>
<td><strong>3,184,956</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PY₲ 6915.85= 1EUR. exchange rate at the end of the 2020 fiscal year**
LEARN ABOUT OUR IMPACT AREAS

Early childhood development

Children and youth as active drivers of change

Skills and opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship

Humanitarian response

Inclusive, quality education

Access to health care rights

Child protection
Our model of child sponsorship has a community-based approach. We build meaningful relationships with sponsored children and their families, and we are committed to making long-term interventions in their communities. Sponsored children are involved in a variety of activities where they can learn, play and discuss community issues, receive visits from Plan International staff to monitor general well-being, and receive small gifts as a token of appreciation, among others. In addition, they exchange written communications with their sponsors.

A sponsor establishes a relationship exclusively with his or her sponsored child and his or her family. The sponsor and his or her sponsored child can exchange messages, letters, pictures, drawings and, thus, establishes a strong and lasting relationship. Plan provides the sponsor with an annual update on the work and changes made in the community and region where the sponsored child lives.

The sponsorship activities were suspended from the moment the Covid-19 quarantine started in Paraguay, in March. Up to that date, 15,533 direct communications were recorded between the child and his sponsor and vice versa.

“Plan International gave me a lot, and now I have the chance to give my time, knowledge and effort to my community. I was a sponsored child, and was involved in the “Because I am a Girl” movement for many years. Now I am a member of the Youth Advisory Council and volunteer in Sponsorship communications.”

MARÍA, 20 YEARS OLD
Former sponsored child
Program Unit: Caaguazú
“I remember that Plan started working in my community when I was a little girl. Since then, I have learned a lot about my rights and how to value myself as a woman. I really enjoyed being involved in every project. I did a lot of things that I never thought I would do, such as taking over the position of Minister for one day. Now I am studying to be a police officer; it is a profession usually for men, but I would like to show that it is not like that. Thank you, sponsors, for supporting us in fulfilling our dreams!”

ADAMARIS, 16 YEARS OLD
Current sponsored child
Program Unit: San Pedro

“Since I started to participate in the Integral Care Education Project, my life has changed. I have learned to value and understand myself. Through the information I have received, now I can make my own decisions and exercise my sexuality in a responsible manner, no pressure and free from violence. Now I know who I am. I know what I want. I am more affective, and I respect and support people in their diversity. I have life projects, goals, and in this path I have the support of my family – my family members also raised their awareness thanks to this project. I want to thank Plan International and my sponsor for helping me grow as a person”.

MÓNICA, 18 YEARS OLD
Former sponsored child.
Program Unit: Paraguarí/Guairá
Our activities and projects are framed in four strategic objectives of the 2019/2023 Country Strategy:

**LEAD:**
Promote the leading role and leadership of girls, female adolescents and young women.

**DECIDE:**
Change the situation of girls, female adolescents and young women who lack access to information, education and comprehensive services for their health.

**THRIVE:**
Address the high percentage of girls, female adolescents and youth women who are victims of sexual abuse, mistreatment and criadazgo [indentured child servants exploited for domestic labour].

**LEARN:**
Improve access and opportunities for training and decent employment for female adolescents and young women (aged 17 to 29), particularly indigenous women and people with disabilities.
**GIRLS GET EQUAL MOVEMENT**

In Plan International, we aim to make visible the situation of girls in Paraguay and around the world by establishing opportunities for them to actively participate in the creation of a lasting change towards equality, through the involvement of different sectors and duty bearers.

Through processes of training in leadership and national workshops addressing the situation of girls at the community level, self-esteem, gender, participation and violence prevention, girls have developed a critical awareness on the reality and importance of equity.

**177 GIRLS ARE PART OF THE GIRLS GET EQUAL MOVEMENT**

**400 GIRLS, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG WOMEN PARTICIPATE INDIRECTLY IN ACTIVITIES**

**40 GIRLS WERE TRAINED ON ONLINE FREEDOM**

Safe access to digital platforms and digital citizenship, as part of the KuñaTIC project in partnership with the Paraguay Educa organization.

**BREAKING STEREOTYPES THROUGH SOCCER**

As a way to promote innovative forms of participation with equity, the Guairá-Paraguari Program Unit has implemented the modality of mixed soccer teams, made up of girls and boys.

**217 GIRLS, 260 BOYS AND 20 COMMUNITIES BENEFITED**

**400 GIRLS AND BOYS UNDERWENT MEDICAL CHECK-UPS**

Thanks to a coordinated work with the Family Health Units.

**COMMITTEES WERE SET UP IN THE COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE MIXED SOCCER SCHOOLS**

**THE FIGURE OF A FEMALE COACH IS HIGHLIGHTED**

And it is key for families to let girls and female adolescents participate in soccer practices.
The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is the most visionary program for the empowerment of women and girls worldwide. It was adopted by 189 governments that agreed to take bold and strategic action in 12 areas of special concern: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, the media, the environment, and the girl child.

As part of a regional project, consultations on the Beijing 25+ agenda were held with girls and female adolescents from urban and rural areas in order to raise their voices and seek to influence as much as possible in different international spaces.

30 GIRLS, 15 FROM URBAN AREAS AND 15 FROM RURAL AREAS, HAVE PARTICIPATED.

2 GIRLS FROM PARAGUAY ATTENDED A HEARING ON EQUALITY WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTION.
Adolescent-friendly health services are spaces to provide care and guidance and promote disease prevention. It aims to set out a place of comfort and confidence for the adolescent to present his or her concerns, and receives support and timely response for the integral care of his or her health.

7 ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SAN PEDRO, CAAGUAZÚ AND GUIAIRÀ WERE STRENGTHENED

1,992 BENEFITED FEMALE ADOLESCENTS
660 BENEFITED MALE ADOLESCENTS

421 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TRAINED FOR FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES
TRAINING INTO THE GUIDE OF EDUCATION ABOUT HEALTH RIGHTS

The Guide of Education about Health Rights for Adolescents aims to empower female and male adolescents through art in a dynamic and creative way for them to develop skills to replicate their peers.

110 FEMALE AND MALE ADOLESCENTS ACQUIRED SKILLS ON TRAINING OF TRAINEES.
THE METHODOLOGY USED IS CALLED TERÉ JERE.

TRAINING IN COMPREHENSIVE ADOLESCENT HEALTH

125 WOMEN AND 35 MEN PROFESSIONALS TRAINED TO ASSESS THE HEALTH STATUS OF ADOLESCENTS FROM A GLOBAL AND COMPREHENSIVE PERSPECTIVE WITH A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH AND TO RECOGNIZE WARNING SIGNS.

IN THE GUAIRÁ-PARAGUARÍ PROGRAM UNIT
9 TEACHERS WERE TRAINED IN ADOLESCENT HEALTH.

“ADOLESCENT BOOK” APP

The “Adolescent Book” application, available on Playstore, provides a wide range of health information, such as vaccines, life planning, personal hygiene and mental health. It was launched on August 1, 2019, jointly with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.

MORE THAN 1,000 DOWNLOADS
129 ADOLESCENTS TRAINED AS PEER FACILITATORS IN THE DISSEMINATION OF THE BOOK.
THRIVE

POSITIVE PARENTING

Through workshops with mothers, fathers and guardians, we seek to generate positive changes in family relationships. Firstly, it seeks to influence couple relationships, building relationships based on respect, dialogue, and co-responsibility in terms of parenting and domestic tasks. Secondly, to contribute to the work of female and male caretakers, providing tools for the implementation of positive child care, without violence, as a method of preventing situations of child abuse.

68 MEN AND 241 WOMEN WERE TRAINED

COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE MECHANISMS

Training of community leaders to build capacity to address violence against children and adolescents.

25 BOYS, 97 GIRLS, 621 WOMEN AND 247 MEN WERE TRAINED IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PROTECTION

128 JOURNALISTS WERE TRAINED TO REPORT ON THEIR WORK FROM A RIGHTS AND PROTECTION PERSPECTIVE.

PARTNERSHIPS: MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, UNICEF, AGENCIA GLOBAL DE NOTICIAS, SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGES AND CHILDREN BELIEVE.

417 WOMEN AND 70 MEN WERE TRAINED
SAPE’A

Funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and Plan International

The aim of this program was to promote access to the labour market through employment or self-employment of more than 8,000 adolescents and young people aged 15 to 29 in the departments of San Pedro, Caaguazu, Guairá and Paraguarí. It was implemented from 2014 to 2019 under Agreement 14-CO1-511, and the main local partner was the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

Achievements

8,200 YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVED TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING (61% WOMEN)

6,400 ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED IN LIFE SKILLS (61% WOMEN)

533 YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVED SEED CAPITAL TO START THEIR BUSINESSES

SAPE’A 2.0

Funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and Plan International

The Sape’a Programme still aims to improve access to vocational training and decent employment, and currently with an inclusive and differential approach that addresses inclusion, innovation and equality as strategic lines of action. The program started to be implemented in November 2019 and it extends until 2023, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, and the Fundación Saraki [Saraki Foundation].

Goal:

5,000 young women and men aged 17 to 29 in the Departments of Caaguazu, San Pedro, Guairá, Central and Asunción city.

Total budget: EUR 2,940,000
EMPRENDE YA

Funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

This project aims to strengthen and improve the capacities of entrepreneurs who have received support from 2014 to 2019 in the Department of Caaguazú. The project was initiated in 2018 and it extends to December 2020.

251 BUSINESS PLANS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED
WITH TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY. 66.5% OF THESE PLANS CORRESPOND TO WOMEN.

64 YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS HAVE RECEIVED SEED CAPITAL FOR A TOTAL OF 900 USD EACH.

173 ENTREPRENEURS AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAVE RECEIVED MONEY TRANSFERS TO REACTIVATE THEIR BUSINESS PLANS.

Total budget: EUR 150,000
**SAN FRANCISCO, SAFE NEIGHBOURHOOD FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

**Funded by Itaipú Binacional**

It aims to “contribute to make San Francisco neighbourhood, in Asunción, a model of safe town, with safe and inclusive spaces, equipped institutions, trained officials, and accountable to all children and female adolescents in their diversity”.

Implemented from 2017 to 2020.

6 Child Development Spaces (CDS) of the Abrazo Programme of the Ministry for Children and Adolescents were equipped to provide care and protection to children in early childhood, with early stimulation and feeding services. Technical staff were hired for the implementation.

965 homes and the San Francisco School have the basic equipment necessary for the normal development of 870 girls, boys, adolescents, and women.

Staff trained to provide quality care in safe and inclusive environments.

**Total Budget: PYG 4,304,687,200 / EUR 813,308**

**OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS PROJECT**

- **“STOP THE HARASSMENT”**
  - Campaign with transport companies operating in the neighbourhood

- **28 Teachers trained in risk and disaster management**

- **957 Equipments for family homes**

- **731 Children were trained in workshops on risk management**

- **168 Children trained in leadership topics**
Funded by Fundación Itaú

Equipment of spaces in schools for teachers, parents and caretakers, where they can learn skills and competencies to promote early childhood development, such as adequate practices of food, nutrition, affective parenting, education and gender to improve and support child care in their communities, development of numerical, mechanical and spatial notions.

5 SCHOOLS BENEFITED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GUAIRÁ

MORE THAN 100 CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 5 YEARS BENEFITED

Investment: PYG 45,000,000
Scholarships

Funded by Mr. Terry Nelidov

Two young people, María Leticia and Rodrigo from the Department of San Pedro, are receiving financial aid for their university studies. Close support is provided by Plan International field technical staff.

Investment: USD 18,000

MARÍA LETICIA,
Teacher of Secondary Education and third cycle of the Basic School Education, area of basic sciences. Graduated 2020

“I would have dropped out of school if it were not for Plan and Mr. Terry. My family was honest with me – they told me that they could no longer afford my expenses and that I had to drop out of university and look for a job as a domestic worker. Today I have already concluded the university (...) And as a way to thank for everything they gave me and for everything they did for me, now that I am a teacher and have the skills to work with children, I commit myself to continue to teach children who has either learning problems or low schooling in my community for free.”

RODRIGO.
University student in Agricultural Engineering

“I have no way of repaying Mr. Terry and Plan for what they are doing for me and for my education. As a way to thank them for their support, I have assumed the role of volunteer in the community. I provide free technical advice in the farms and gardens of families in my community, making use of what I have learned thanks to this scholarship.”

María Leticia, Teacher of Secondary Education and third cycle of the Basic School Education, area of basic sciences. Graduated 2020

“I would have dropped out of school if it were not for Plan and Mr. Terry. My family was honest with me – they told me that they could no longer afford my expenses and that I had to drop out of university and look for a job as a domestic worker. Today I have already concluded the university (...) And as a way to thank for everything they gave me and for everything they did for me, now that I am a teacher and have the skills to work with children, I commit myself to continue to teach children who has either learning problems or low schooling in my community for free.”

Plan International Report 2019/2020
Girls Get Equal is a worldwide campaign that celebrates the International Day of the Girl every October 11. That day, thousands of girls take over high positions of authorities in public and private institutions in a symbolic way, an activity that we call “Takeover of power”.

The campaign aims to ensure that every girl and young woman can make their own decisions and define the world around her, through their active participation in different economic, social, political and cultural spaces.

It aims to promote as many actions, investments and commitments as necessary to ensure that girls and young women have equal opportunities and can lead societies into the future.

2019: IF YOU CAN SEE IT, YOU CAN BE IT

We seek to challenge the stereotypes that limit the way girls and young women see themselves and are seen. We are going to inspire them to go beyond what they can imagine. We will do this by increasing the representation of girls and women in spaces where they are hardly seen or heard.

Public institutions: Presidency of the Republic, Chamber of Senators of the Congress, Ministries, National Secretariats, Attorney General’s Office.

Embassies, National and International Organizations: British Embassy, Italian Embassy, Organization of Ibero-American States, South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL), Inter-American Development Bank, UN Women, UN Global Compact.

Companies: Farmacenter, Financiera El Comercio, El Mejor, Fundación Itaú, Club Cerro Porteño, Paseo La Galería.
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Health Emergency Response Plan due to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global health emergency, where the lives of children and adolescents were the most affected. We have designed an emergency response plan, attending the needs of child protection, food security, hygiene, sanitation, and income generation in the departments of Central, San Pedro, Paraguari, Guairá and Caaguazú.

The response to emergency due to COVID-19 was an addition to every project initially planned for fiscal year FY20.

Partnerships: Ministry of Children and Adolescents, Fundación Itaú, British Embassy, Inter-American Development Bank, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Mr. Terry Nelidov.

RESULTS

With support of government and international cooperation institutions, we managed to deliver the following, in 370 rural communities:

- **19,104** food kits
- **17,293** hygiene and disinfection kits
- **11,673** learning and recreational kits for children
- **6,145** menstrual hygiene kits for girls and female adolescents
- **2,100kg** of food, **361** menstrual hygiene kits and sanitation products for **9** shelters of children and adolescents in need of alternative care from the Ministry of Children and Adolescents
- A **24-hour service space** for prompt care to children and adolescents, in support of the Ministry of Children and Adolescents, in the area of the Bus Terminal in Asunción.

Investment: PYG 4,776,982,800 / EUR 654,494
#WEAREALLRESPONSIBLE CAMPAIGN

The prevention campaign against sexual abuse #WeAreAllResponsible is promoted by the Ministry of Children and Adolescents with the support of Plan International Paraguay, Children Believe, SOS Children’s Villages and UNICEF.

The campaign is the result of an inter-institutional work to promote citizen action in cases of violation of the rights of children and adolescents. It was launched in May 2020. As a result, the nationwide campaign aims to reduce cases of violence and increase interventions of relevant institutions.
In 2019, Plan International celebrated its 25th anniversary of work in Paraguay. Over the years, we have rewritten the history of thousands of children, adolescents and young people as a result of the joint work with communities, partners, donors, and governmental and civil society organizations.

We will continue our commitment to promote the rights of children, especially girls in Paraguay, so that they are able to write and live their own stories, as key players and leaders of social change, of the present and the future of a better country.

**OVER 25 YEARS WE HAVE**

**WORKED FOR** 101,103 **sponsored children**

**BENEFITED**

**DIRECTLY**
219,100 children, adolescents and youths

**INDIRECTLY**
847,420 people

**SUPPORTED**
626 communities

**SENT**
314,263 sponsorship letters
OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Plan International is a member of the Global Compact

Plan International Report 2019/2020
WE SAY YES! TO KEEPING
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SAFE AND PROTECTED

>> Learn about our safeguarding policy:
https://plan-international.org/es/paraguay/proteccion

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