



Hasta lograr la igualdad

Plan International Paraguay Annual Review 2023

From July 2022 to June 2023



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Words from Bianca



My name is Bianca, and I live in Caaguazú.

In 2019, I encountered Plan International through their work on girls' rights and activism. I joined a movement called "Niñas con Igualdad," one of the best decisions in my life. Our main goal was to achieve equality in rights and opportunities. In our meetings, we were trained, educated, and, above all, we had the opportunity to speak, express ourselves, participate, make decisions, represent our peers, and be the voice of many girls and women.

I am very proud of what I have achieved during my training, and I am very grateful for it, grateful to each person who was part of this journey.

To every Paraguayan girl, teenager, and woman, I want to convey this message:

You are important every day, regardless of your age, skin color, or background. You are wonderful simply for being a woman. Be proud of it. Your capacity knows no limits; you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Always trust in yourselves, be happy, love yourselves, and give yourselves the value you deserve.

Don't suffer in silence. Don't let anyone silence your voices or make you feel inferior. If any of us comes across such a case, we must help each other. Together, we must support, empower, and show the world the value we possess.

As a Paraguayan woman, I want to express my respect and admiration to every woman in Paraguay.

Tapehasa porãite! (Kind regards)

Bianca

Young leader.

Words from the Country Director

It is with great excitement that we share the significant achievements of Plan International Paraguay in the past year, in our dedicated mission to protect the rights of children and promote equality for girls.

Through our programs, we aim to have a positive impact on the lives of girls, boys, adolescents, and young people, considering and celebrating their diversity from early childhood to the transition to adulthood.

During this period, we have worked diligently to strengthen positive parenting styles, provide empowerment tools to girls and boys as agents of change, and prevent situations of violence towards children and adolescents. Additionally, we have been involved in projects that promote skills for employment and dignified work, advocate for the right to autonomy in decision-making for girls and women, and effectively respond to emergencies.

We have impacted the lives of 773,704 people, thanks to the continuous support of collaborators, partners, allies, and families. Their dedication has been essential to building a fairer present and future for our children.

We are embarking on a new stage, a new country strategy, driving two key projects: “Girls Leaders of Change” and “Girls Free from Violence.” These initiatives, supported by you, our collaborators, and allies, will continue to make a difference, empowering girls, boys, and their families, and building a country with more opportunities.

We will not stop until we achieve equality.



Thiago Machado

Country Director Plan International Paraguay

Our Country Strategy

Plan International has been working in Paraguay since 1994 to promote an inclusive, egalitarian society free from all forms of violence, especially against girls, female adolescents and women, through development programs and projects and by responding to humanitarian crises.

There are high levels of gender-based violence in the country, resulting in high rates of adolescent pregnancy, sexual abuse, marriages and forced and early unions, school dropouts and criadazgo [indentured child servants exploited for domestic labour]. These issues affect girls, female adolescents and young women in particular, and affect their ability to make decisions and influence their lives.

In light of these situations, Plan International Paraguay is committed to strengthening a society that ensures children's rights. We will work to ensure that children, adolescents and youth have knowledge and skills on protection against violence, live in safe environments free from harmful practices, make their own decisions about their lives and express their needs in emergency and humanitarian response scenarios.

Our Ambition from now to 2028 is to see All Girls Standing Strong Creating Global Change.



Results

We reached
773,704
people.

Girls: **214,998**

Boys: **204,377**

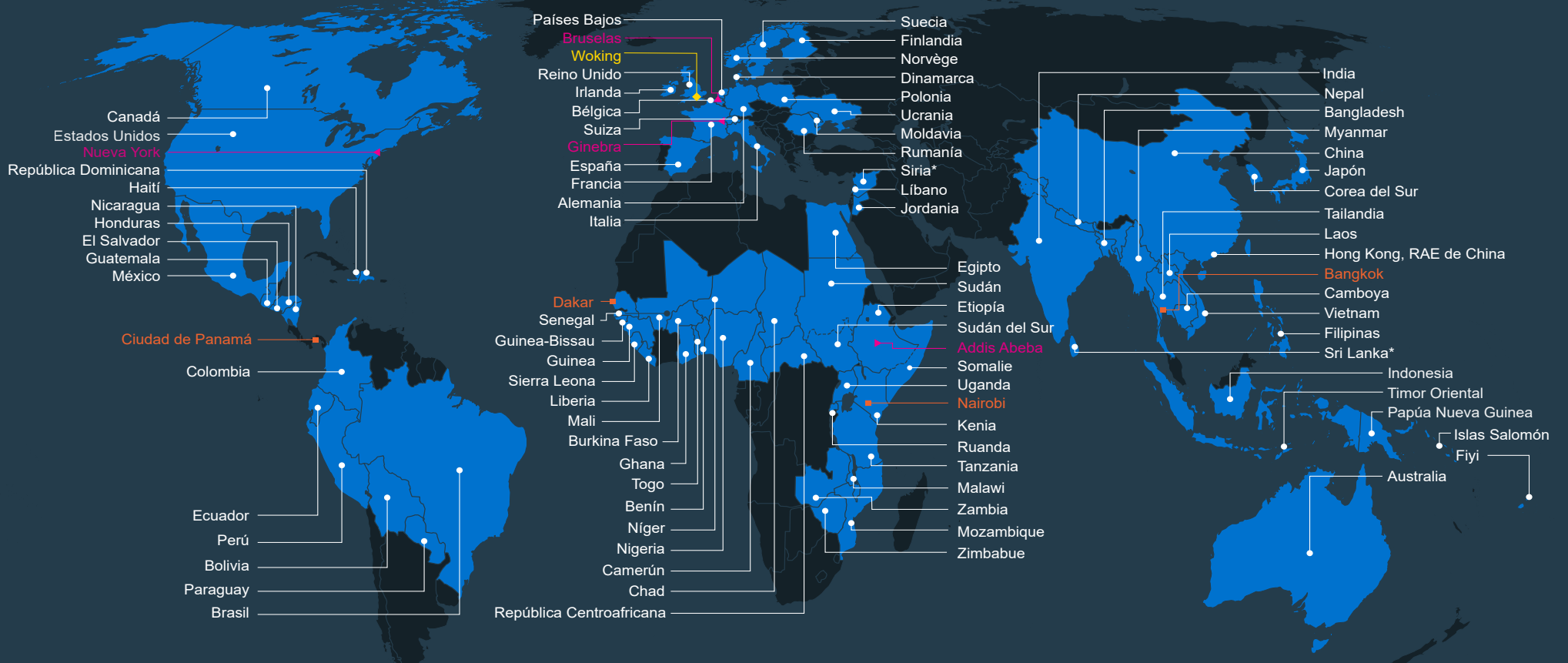
Men: **173,013**

Women: **181,316**

We worked with
572 organisations
in **377 communities.**

25,000 sponsored
children.

We work in over 80 countries^o



- Countries where we work
- ◆ Global hub
- ▲ Advocacy office
- Regional office

The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Plan International.

^o From June 2023

* Work with the partner approach

Plan International Paraguay

- Country Office
- Departments where we work

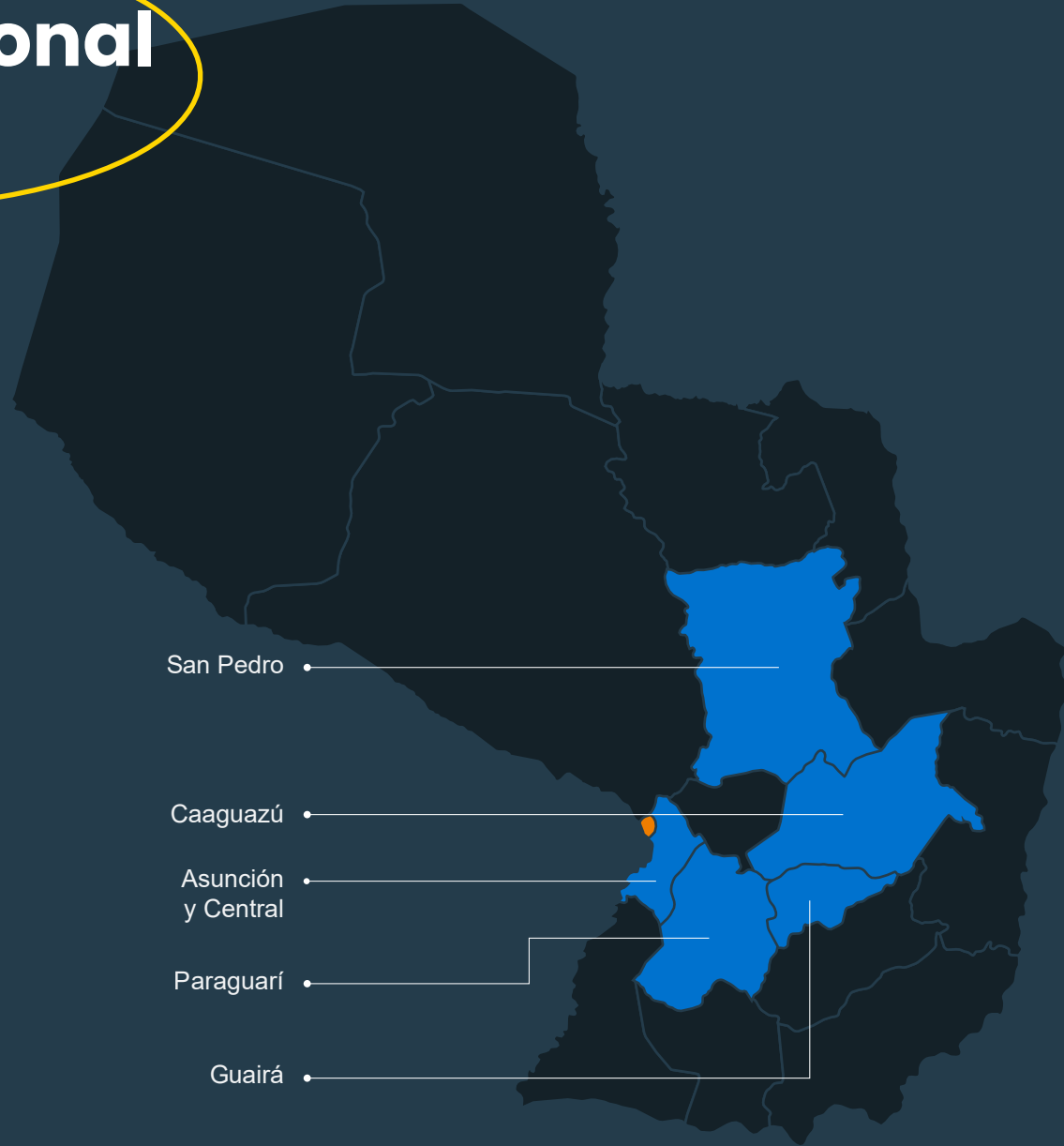
San Pedro

Caaguazú

Asunción
y Central

Paraguarí

Guairá



Impact



Thiago playing outdoors, Caaguazú
© Plan International Paraguay

Early childhood development

We aim for caregivers, mothers and fathers to incorporate positive and non-violent parenting styles, establish sensitive care for young children, as well as prevent, identify, and report instances of violations to ensure protective and violence-free environments. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of shared responsibility between men and women.



"In the training sessions, all our doubts are clarified. I am very grateful because my parents never talked to me about that; they never sat us down to discuss it."

Rosana, San Pedro. © Tesla Movie

Impact

- A total of **1,887** mothers, fathers, caregivers, and teachers were trained in Positive Parenting and Parenthood.
- Furthermore, **8,972** men and women were indirectly impacted.

Girls, boys, and young people as agents of change

Training and participation processes in leadership.

Girls from the departments of Caaguazú, Guairá, Paraguari, and San Pedro symbolically took over 104 public and private institutions in person on the International Day of the Girl. Additionally, they received training workshops on political participation and communication techniques.

Teachers from educational institutions were trained as facilitators to implement the Girls' Leadership School "Flores de Acero" and replication workshops were conducted in 45 educational institutions in the department of Caaguazú, with the experience being positively evaluated, reaching over 600 girls.



40 technicians from the Departmental Education Offices of Caaguazú, Guairá, Paraguari, and San Pedro received training on the protagonistic participation of children and adolescents. With Plan's assistance, the formation of School Councils in educational communities was facilitated.

In the Kuñatics project, girls and adolescents from rural communities received training on the correct use of digital resources for empowerment and participation.

Within the Regional Youth Program, local coordination was carried out with organizations such as the Committee of Young Citizens of Caraguatay, UNEPY, and Kuña Poty, who were strengthened with financial, administrative, and programmatic tools for better performance of their functions.

Impact

- **79,404** girls and boys were directly and indirectly benefited.
- **59,887** men and women were directly and indirectly benefited.

"My leadership began as the spokesperson for all the girls in my community. In the spaces created by Plan with the authorities, I conveyed the issues of my community along with their potential solutions."

Isabel, Guairá © Tesla Movie

Protection from violence

Through Community Protection Mechanisms, we aim to strengthen and train communities for the prevention of violence towards children and adolescents through community gatherings.

In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), over 100 key figures in the protection system, especially Public Defenders from the Ministry of Public Defense (MDP), were trained on the consequences of Early and Forced Marriages and Unions.

We supported the national campaign “Todos Somos Responsables” (We Are All Responsible) promoted by the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence, focusing on the prevention of all types of violence against children and adolescents.

Impact

- **180,315** boys and girls were directly and indirectly benefited.
- **151,940** men and women were directly and indirectly benefited.



“Many times, due to fear, children do not speak or for lack of confidence in their parents. We, as teachers, need to be involved in these issues.”

Liz, Docente, Caaguazú. © Tesla Movie

Skills and decent work



Sape'a 2.0 is a model programme for youth employment and entrepreneurship aimed at improving the social and economic situation of adolescents and young people in rural and urban areas of Paraguay. The initiative helps young people, especially women, overcome barriers and stereotypes that prevent them from accessing decent employment.

Participants developed business plans with greater potential for sustainability and growth. The best business and innovation plans were rewarded with seed capital.

Technical support was provided to entrepreneurs to enhance their production processes, assistance in obtaining external seed capital, creation of connections between entrepreneurs and other organisations for the sale of their products, training in marketing and finance, and workshops on association and cooperative work with indigenous youth engaged in honey production, among other initiatives.



In collaboration with the government of Taiwan, the Juventics initiative enabled the training of 70 women entrepreneurs in digital skills.

The opening of the Entrepreneurship Support Center (Centro de Atención a Emprendedores – CAE) in San Pedro, where entrepreneurs, especially women, can access workshops and training on innovation, digital marketing strategies, design thinking, digital education, among others.

Regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities, sensitization workshops were conducted to promote labor inclusion with the business sector. Additionally, support was provided to family members, work references, and young people to ensure their retention in employment positions.

Community-led enterprises led by indigenous individuals were also promoted. The intergenerational exchange activity with indigenous women, involving participants from different departments, resulted in the establishment of the indigenous coordination platform.

Likewise, processes of digital literacy were supported, and community actors were strengthened, implementing the caregiver curriculum and providing special support to women to enable them to receive training and start their own ventures.

Impact

- A total of **10,392** women and men were directly and indirectly benefited.

“The last thing you want is to see your child under the sun (working as a waste collector)... that’s why the effort we are making now, so that they don’t go through everything we are going through.”

Maura, recycler and decorator from Bañado Sur. © Lantern

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

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

We provided equipment and capacity-building support to 24 Friendly Clinics of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare in Caaguazú, San Pedro, Guairá, and Paraguari, where over 10,000 adolescents, mostly females, sought consultations.

Teachers from the Ministry of Education and Science were trained using the Zone Free of Pregnancy methodology and the guide "Mi cuerpo, mi cuerpito" (My Body, My Little Body).



Adolescent Clubs in rural communities were strengthened through the health system methodology via the Family Health Unit Network.

Work experience with adolescent boys aged 13 to 16, trained as Ambassadors of Comprehensive Sexuality Education, who replicated their knowledge to their peers, promoting and encouraging positive and non-violent masculinities.

The "Sanamente Adolescente" initiative addressed mental health, responding to the high demand for spaces to discuss the topic and the need to address mental health crises reported by young people in many communities.

Over 900 parents received information about changes in puberty, sexuality, adolescence, and the risks of teenage pregnancy, among other topics.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sciences in the development of a series of guides on the prevention of all types of violence against children and adolescents, aligned with the curriculum of each educational cycle and level.

Promotion through radio and television spots with messages regarding the prevention of child abuse, forced child marriage, and teenage pregnancy, aiming to raise community awareness about these issues.

Impact

- A total of **150,450** children and adolescents were directly and indirectly benefited.
- **130,143** men and women were directly and indirectly benefited.

"Our parents were not informed about this. Now that I have knowledge about these issues, I can replicate, I tell my mom what I learned, I can help my classmates and friends."

María, Guairá. © Tesla Movie

Emergency Response

We provide a humanitarian response in emergency or conflict situations, aiming for children and adolescents to grow in resilient communities where their rights and dignity are respected before, during, and after any emergency.

Support was provided to families affected by severe storms in the departments of Guairá and San Pedro, in collaboration with municipalities and local institutions, offering personal hygiene and food kits, as well as menstrual hygiene kits for girls and adolescents.



“When the storm arrived, we were scared. It destroyed part of our house and crops; we lost all our production. Plan provided us with everything we needed. No one does what they do for communities.”

Marcelina, San Pedro. © Tesla Movie

Impact

- **1,727** children and adolescents were directly benefited.
- **7,491** men and women were directly and indirectly benefited.

International Day of the Girl

In the context of the International Day of the Girl, celebrated on October 11 under the theme **"Girls Free from Violence,"** girls and adolescents from rural communities assumed roles of utmost authority for a day.

This initiative, supported by various sectors of the society, received active support from the media, influencers, and members of civil society. It achieved a significant impact, reaching nearly 3.5 million people through social media, traditional media, and public spaces.

As part of this campaign, 22 girls simultaneously assumed power during the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Presidency of the Republic at the Palacio de López (Governance Palace). Several state institutions, civil society organizations, and businesses joined this symbolic gesture, temporarily yielding power to ensure that the voices and perspectives of girls were recognized and considered. In addition to the takeover in Asunción, similar events took place throughout the country, involving different sectors and raising awareness about the importance of listening to girls and adolescents in decision-making.



"It's a way for us to realize that girls are also important in society. We can also influence many decisions to improve our country."

Adriana, San Pedro.

President of Paraguay for a day



**Until we are
all equal**





Hasta lograr la igualdad

About Plan International

We are a development, humanitarian and non-profit organization. We have no political or religious affiliation. We have been present in Paraguay since 1994, working to achieve an egalitarian, inclusive society free of all forms of violence, especially towards girls, adolescents and young women, through programs and projects from a development approach and responding to crises. humanitarian.

We will not stop until we achieve equality.

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