



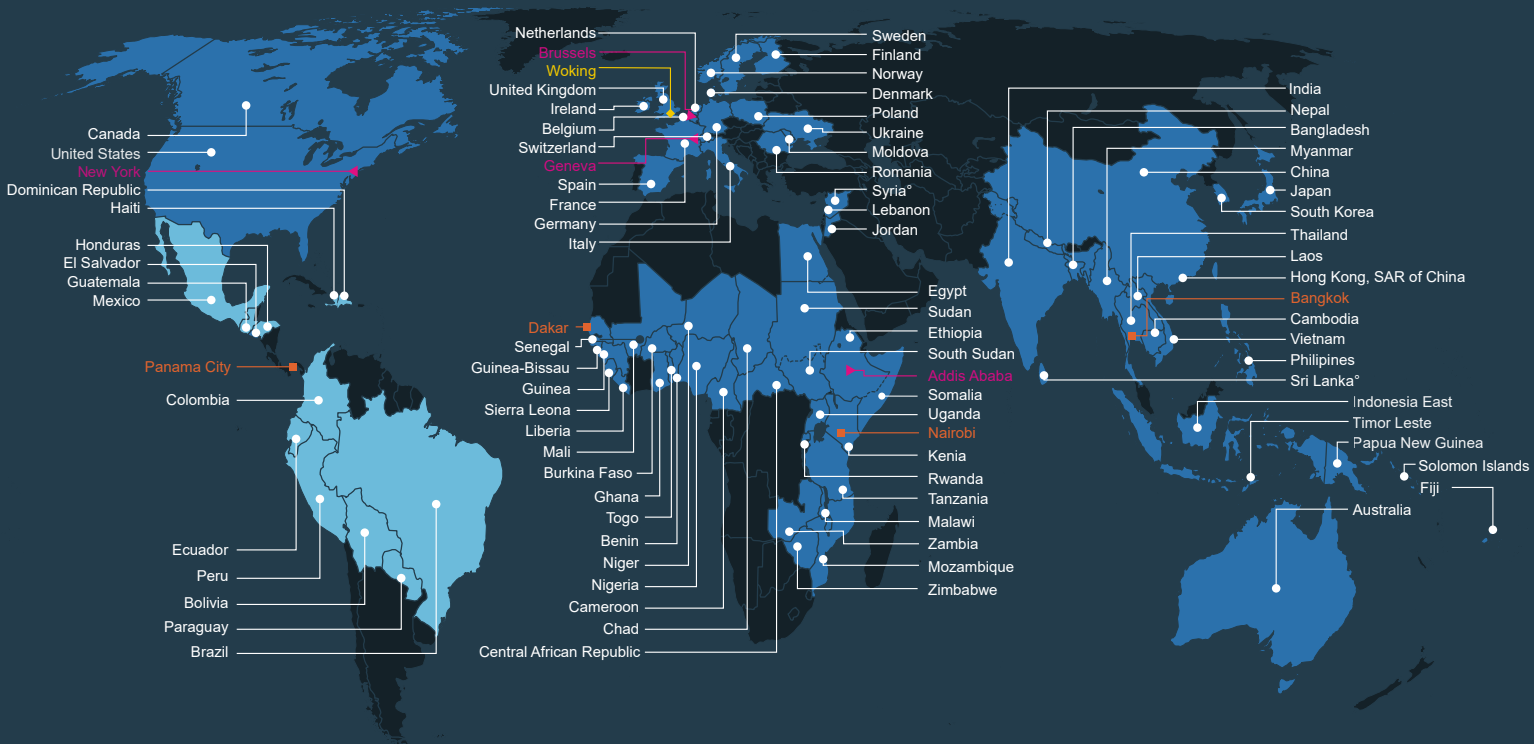
Until we are all equal



Plan International Latin America and the Caribbean 2023 Annual Report

We are present in more than **80 countries*** around the world

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, we work with children, young people and families in **13 countries****.



- Countries where we work
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- ◆ Global Hub
- ▲ Incident Office
- Regional Hub

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

* From June 2023

** November 2023 was the end of our operations in Nicaragua.

° Working with a partnership approach.

Amplifying the message

Message from a young leader

I am a true believer that to get ahead you have to take advantage of opportunities and that is why every challenge we girls overcome is very relevant no matter how small it may seem.

My name is Yosselyn and I live in El Salvador, in a community near the coastal area of the country and where there are still many girls who face different barriers to achieve their goals. Despite that, there are those of us who have had the opportunity to be part of an organization that I would describe as inspiring, because it has always pushed me to move forward.

I got to know Plan International when I was 4 years old, starting as a sponsored child, and throughout my growth I participated in other initiatives such as the Leadership Schools and projects focused on promoting STEAM careers. Also, I was supported for my educational continuity, and in each of these spaces I learned to recognize my talents and to put them at the service of my community. That is how I discovered that I am a leader and that is why I do not lose the strength to move forward.

When I think about everything I have experienced in the last year, it is very difficult to express it in a few words, but I can sum it up in the following: I learned to be aware of what I want to be and what I want to

transmit to others, especially girls and adolescents like me.

Together with my friends in the community, we have committed that we will continue to dedicate ourselves to cleaning the river near our homes, removing garbage to prevent diseases and promote care for the environment; because even that situation has an impact on the exercise of our rights. Things like that are what I learned from being part of projects.

I am proud to make change and inspire others to do the same, and as we have training opportunities we realize the importance of not giving up. Thanks to the people who believe in girls and in Plan International, because they push us to pursue our dreams. There are many obstacles, but we must be optimistic and support each other. Leadership is passed from generation to generation and that is how we can make one generation better than the previous one and transform our reality.

I am happy to be part of this great family.

Joselyn, 18 years old
Project participant in El Salvador

Message from our Regional Director in 2023*



Débora Cobar
Regional Director of Plan
International for the Americas
until December 2023.

It is with great enthusiasm that we share with you the remarkable achievements of the Latin America and Caribbean region this year. Each team has dedicated its utmost effort to provide a safe and protective environment, enabling the development of girls and young women. Throughout a 2023 full of significant changes and difficult decisions, our focus has been clear: to ensure that girls' voices are heard and contribute to the structural changes needed to guarantee their rights.

During 2023 we have witnessed that despite the great challenges facing girls and young women in our region, with their capacity and leadership they are transforming their lives and influencing their communities.

In 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, girls and young women participate in leadership schools where their rights and leadership skills are strengthened and their participation in spaces of national influence is promoted.

They have also participated in events such as the Women Deliver conference held in Rwanda or in the IV Inter-American Forum of Integral Systems for the Promotion and Protection of Children and Adolescents (SIPPINNA) in Mexico, among many other relevant events where girls and young women have carried the message of equality with their own voices.

We also celebrate an important milestone Peru's ban on child marriage, joining the other 13 countries in the region where the law protects girls and adolescents. This sends a strong message about the importance of addressing this critical issue. For our part as an organization we have led the development of different research on issues affecting girls and young women such as migration crisis, education, climate change, activism, among others, and that help to make visible the barriers they face, but also guide us towards solutions that take into account their needs in different areas.

We continue our efforts to raise awareness and provide a humanitarian response to major emergencies in the region, such as the migration crisis in Venezuela, Central America and Mexico, the hunger crisis in Haiti, and early preparation for the El Niño phenomenon.

The Region of the Americas is currently facing an unprecedented increase in mixed migration flows in border areas. In this context, families, young women, girls and unaccompanied children are forced to flee violence, seeking refuge in other countries, and on many occasions, their rights are violated on the way.

This phenomenon is exacerbated by additional challenges, such as teenage pregnancy, forced child pregnancy, gender-based violence and sexual violence against girls. The scenario is further complicated by climate hazards, resource scarcity, as well as physical and psychological trauma resulting from natural disasters and prolonged environmental events.

In the face of these challenges, Plan International remains steadfast in its mission to drive sustainable change in Latin America and the Caribbean, focused on the well-being and rights of girls. Together, we will build a world where every girl can reach her full potential, freeing her from the chains of child marriage, sexual violence, gender-based violence and the adversities that threaten her development.

In this new year, we face new challenges, but inspired by girls and young women, we reaffirm our commitment to equality.

*Débora Cobar completed her term as Executive Director for the Americas in December 2023. Carmen Elena Alemán has been appointed as Interim Director.

Results

During 2023* we worked in **13 countries** in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru.

We impacted the lives of **+9 million people**

Of which

+2.9 million are girls

under the age of 18

+2.4 million are boys

under the age of 18

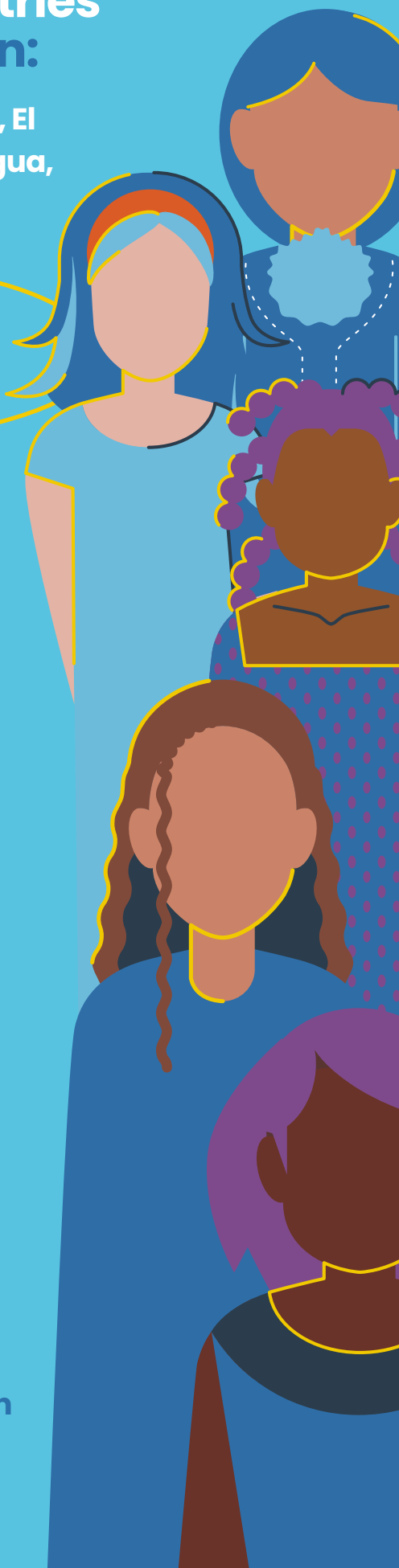
We worked in more than **6 thousand communities**

+ 7,000 partnerships with local, governmental, non-governmental, community and corporate organizations

288 projects in 13 countries

Annual investment in Latin America and the Caribbean
€98 millions

*Plan International's administrative fiscal year, from July 2022 to June 2023.



Impact of our Programs

in our main areas of development work

Early Childhood Development

All young children grow up well cared for and equally valued.



Regional impact:

589,541

girls under 18 years of age

of a total of **+1.7 million**
people reached

"I never held my children, not even when they cried...I just told my wife to do it...but thanks to Plan I realized that I was wrong and **how much I had hurt myself by not showing affection to my children.**"

Jaime, 36 years old father, Ecuador

Inclusive, quality education

Children, particularly girls, have the education they need to succeed in life.

"At the beginning they judged me, they told me: 'Why is she doing this, if she is a woman?', 'Boys are for that', 'Why is she going to study mechanics?', 'Why robotics?', 'She's not good for it', that's what people told me.

The gap to get involved in these spaces is narrowing little by little and step by step women are being taken into account."

Stefany, 15 years old, Bolivia

Regional Impact:

250,810

girls under 18 years of age

of a total of **747,136**
people reached



Young people 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.




Regional impact:
198,245
girls under 18 years of age
out of a total of **635,853**
people reached

"I thought in the past that it was not possible to be part of spaces where decisions are made or to speak with high-level authorities. But before the pandemic, the girls' movement gave me the space to speak in the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala. Last year, in my department we were visited by the Vice President of the Republic, and we were able to present the problems faced by girls **along with our proposal on how to address these issues.**"

Lesly, 19 years old, Guatemala

Protection from violence

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



Regional impact:
984,722
girls under 18 years of age
out of a total of **+2.8 million**
people reached

"When I grow up **I want to help children in my community** by talking to them about the issue of sexual abuse. Just as I received training about sexual abuse, I also want to talk to them about any violence they may encounter in the community."

Genesis, 12 years old, Honduras

Skills and decent work

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



Regional impact:

123,654

girls under 18 years of age
out of a total of **632,686**
people reached

"This thing that I did, since I was a little girl and I loved doing, **I gained skills and I was empowered** to be able to move forward and fulfill my dreams."

Luz Aurora, 21 year old Entrepreneur from Paraguay

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

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

Regional impact:

1,183,337

girls under 18 years of age

out of a total of
+4.1 million
people reached



"I would like menstruation to stop being seen as a disease. I would like schools to talk about menstruation more naturally and adapt spaces, especially bathrooms, so that girls can manage their periods properly. **Also that confidence continues to be built in the classroom so that girls can talk about these issues and it stops being a taboo in society.**"

Dulce, 15 years old, Peru

Humanitarian Response

+ 2.1 million people received humanitarian assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean

We respond to emergencies and humanitarian crises throughout the region, marked by the dynamics of migration, displacement, conflict, widespread violence and climate change. We ensure effective and rapid humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable communities, protecting the lives and integrity of children, especially girls and adolescents.

Key humanitarian responses in 2023:

Haiti crisis



The situation in Haiti particularly affects girls.

We are responding to the complex crisis (both economic and socio-political) that is affecting the food security, health, education, protection and physical integrity of the entire civilian population, especially children, women and adolescents.

Migration crisis and human mobility

We seek to protect and defend the rights of migrants, refugees, returnees and/or people in transit throughout the region. This implies a coordinated, comprehensive and gender-focused response among South American countries (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru), Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras) and Mexico, which addresses the particular needs and risks faced by children, adolescents and young people, seeking to generate long-term transformations.

Climate change crisis



Zuleyma, 18 years old from El Salvador, helps prevent flooding in her community.

We work to mitigate the effects of climate change and associated adverse weather phenomena, such as the long periods of drought, floods, rains and transmission of vector-borne diseases suffered by several countries in the region.



People on the move at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Activating participation



Youth in Action Network in Guatemala

Girls and young women from Quiché and Baja Verapaz, managed funds from Plan International in order to implement a project designed by themselves, for the prevention of teenage pregnancy.

The young women conducted interviews with pregnant or former teenagers to find out what information would have helped them to prevent pregnancy. They also gave open and respectful talks on Sexual and Reproductive Rights with 84 parents aiming to raise awareness and build local tools to respond to teenage pregnancy.



Participation in the Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Nicol, a 17-year-old Colombian teenager who serves as a community leader and part of the Empoderate por la Paz Program and vice-president of the Municipal Youth Council. She traveled to the United Nations office in Geneva, Switzerland, to speak at the pre-session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Nicol was selected as the representative of children and adolescents who participated in the CivilSociety Alternative Report consultations.



Regional Conference on Population and Development in Santiago, Chile

Young people from different countries and participants of Plan International's Regional Youth Program attended the Regional Conference on Population and Development in November 2023. Through working groups they discussed the follow-ups of the Sustainable Development Goals.



IV SIPPINNA Forum in Monterrey, Mexico

Adolescents participating in Plan International projects in Mexico attended the IV Inter-American Forum SIPPINNA (National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents) which took place in September 2023.

2023 International Day of the Girl



NIÑAS CON IGUALDAD



+ 175 girls and young women

took over the position of high authorities in 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During October we celebrated the 11th year of the International Day of the Girl, under the **"Girls Get Equal"** campaign, where we joined our voices with girls and young women from our region and around the world, who demand to be heard and participate in the decisions that affect them in decision-making spaces.

Every year, October 11th becomes a platform for girls from different countries to take up positions of leadership and ask governors, leaders, decision makers and entrepreneurs to take action that is in favor of solutions to the problems that hinder equality for girls.

In addition, we launched the State of the World's Girls Global Report entitled **"Turning the World Around, Girls and Young Woman Activists Lead the Fight for Equality"** in which Plan International presents the results of more than 800 surveys of young activists around the world who talk about the challenges they face every day in their pursuit of change, as well as what partners can do to support them.

[Read the report here](#)



World Bank Representative



CEO Scotiabank Peru



President of the Republic of Paraguay



United Nations Representative in Honduras

...with more to come in 2024!

**Until we are
all equal**





Until we are all equal

About Plan International

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that promotes children's rights and equality for girls. We believe in the power and potential of every girl and boy, but we know that they are often limited by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it is girls who are most affected.






In collaboration with children, youth, supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, addressing the root causes of the problems faced by the most vulnerable children. We support children from birth to adulthood and empower them to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive practice and policy change at local, national and global levels through our reach, experience and expertise.

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

We will not stop until we are all equal!

Plan International

Regional Office for the Americas

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