



**PLAN**  
INTERNATIONAL

# **The Impact of the Climate Crisis on Children in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Executive Summary**





## **Moving beyond resistance and adaptation: The need for transformative action.**

Climate change is a systemic threat redefining all aspects of life in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its disproportionate impacts are not equitably distributed: girls, boys, adolescents, and young people; especially young women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant, rural, and persons with disabilities, face compounded and intersecting vulnerabilities rooted in historical inequalities. However, these groups are also critical agents of change in the resilience and transformation of their territories.





### Early Childhood:

- The climate crisis amplifies risks related to early childhood malnutrition, premature educational drop-out, and early engagement in domestic or labor tasks.
- Evidence for this developmental stage is often limited, as existing policies tend to treat children homogeneously, hindering the capacity to tailor age, and gender, sensitive responses.



### Child protection:

- Shrinking resources, the disruption of essential services, and forced displacement exacerbate the exposure of girls and young women to physical, sexual, and psychological violence.
- The requirement to travel long distances for water or vital resources significantly increases their risk.
- Climate impacts undermine protection and justice systems, impeding access to integral care, safe shelters, legal aid, and safe access to reporting mechanisms, thereby perpetuating impunity.



### Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights:

- The risk of early and adolescent pregnancy and sexual violence intensifies particularly following climate emergencies.
- The disruption of essential services and safe spaces critically restricts access to medical care, protective services, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
- These barriers are amplified, disproportionately impacting girls and young women who are already grappling with intersectional forms of exclusion.



### Inclusive and Quality Education:

- The likelihood of school drop-out increases, particularly among girls, who are often burdened with intensified domestic duties, caregiving responsibilities, or resource procurement tasks, or face premature marriage and union.
- This educational disruption perpetuates inequalities and constrains future opportunities, thereby reducing access to decent work, critical information, and civic participation.

### Impact of Climate Change on Plan International's Strategic Intervention Areas.

This analysis examines the intersection of the climate change with Plan International's thematic areas across Latin America and the Caribbean, identifying critical gaps and the differentiated impacts that undermine the development and resilience of rights, primarily for children, adolescents and youths (CAY), in the region.



### Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship:

- Economic losses diminish opportunities for decent work and entrepreneurship among youth, particularly those in contexts of poverty.
- The capacity for adaptation and economic sustainability is severely constrained, risking a surge in extreme poverty across the region.
- Without intervention, the potential for economic empowerment and youth autonomy will be severely compromised.



### Children, Adolescents, and Youths as Agents of Change:

- Gender-based barriers and intensified care responsibilities constrain the meaningful participation of girls and young women in climate activism and decision-making forums.
- Structural discrimination and intersectional inequalities reduce their access to political and community processes.
- Their ability to influence climate policies and action remains limited, notwithstanding their critical role as agents of transformation.

# Centering Youth Voices: Impacts of Climate Change from the Perspective of Children and Young People.

This study captures the experiences and perspectives of adolescents and young people across Latin America and the Caribbean on how climate change is fundamentally reshaping their lives and territories. In June 2025, ten country-based<sup>1</sup> virtual focus groups were carried out, involving children and young people—predominantly from rural, Indigenous<sup>2</sup>, and Afro-descendant communities—thereby ensuring a generational and diverse lens on climate impacts within contexts of territorial and intersecting inequalities.

## Finding 1. It is felt in our bodies: Climate change is a lived reality.

*“The sun heats up, the smell rises... we can no longer breathe well inside the trains, nor can we walk because there is no shade in the streets”*

—Young person from a focus group in Brazil.

Adolescents experience climate change directly and daily, linking it to flooding, droughts, extreme heat, displacement, and the loss of livelihoods. In expressing their anguish and fear, they personify the climate, endowing it with emotions and gender. While this allows for the articulation of their feelings, it risks obscuring the structural causes and institutional accountability underpinning climate crisis.

## Finding 2. Climate Change vs. Climate.

*“Climate change makes us sick; sometimes there are also earthquakes that destroy homes... Sometimes there is a lot of water, flooding, there is a lot of wind; we fall ill, we experience headaches.”*

—Young person from the group.

The concepts of climate, weather, and geo-physical hazards are frequently undifferentiated, which constrains informed decision-making and the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions. This lack of distinction either contributes to climate anxiety—by framing the climate as a purely negative entity—or, conversely, undermines risk perception by treating these conditions as common natural occurrences.



Karen, 26 years old, harvests coffee beans from her family farm in Honduras. © Plan International.

## Finding 3. Violence holds us back: Everyday violence is not recognized as climate driven.

*“There are adult men who get involved with girls...they give them money to help the family.”*

—Young person from a focus group in Haiti

Armed violence, extortion, and child exploitation obstruct educational and life course trajectories, yet these forms of harm are seldom linked to the climate impacts that fuel their intensification. Girls in rural areas face compounded disadvantages related to gender, geography, and poverty, while the absence of integrated policy narratives obscures the intersection of climate crisis and violence.

<sup>1</sup> Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and Dominican Republic.

<sup>2</sup> Maya, Kichwa Puruwa, Montubia.

## **Finding 4. Partnering for survival: Early unions and transactional relationships as a response to climate shocks.**

**“** *Without work, my friend left school and moved in with a partner to help her siblings.”*

—Young person from a focus group in Peru-Paraguay.

In the face of climate-induced economic losses, some families rationalize premature marriage and transactional unions as a perceived “solution.” Young women have internalized these coping mechanisms as a means of “family support,” often perceiving the decision as consensual. This dynamic normalizes sexual violence, exacerbates the feminization of poverty, and severely truncates educational and civic participation trajectories.

## **Finding 5. Without water or sanitary pads: menstrual health and SRHR in emergencies.**

**“** *“When it rains and there’s no potable water, it affects us... we can get infections if we don’t wash up.”*

—Young person from Peru-Paraguay focus group.

Floods, droughts, and displacement severely disrupt access to safe water, menstrual hygiene products, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights counseling. The absence of adequate menstrual hygiene products impacts physical health and dignity. Documented increases in infections and adolescent pregnancies highlight a critical gap in gender-responsive humanitarian response.

## **Finding 6. We only talk about climate when the field floods: Schools as a scenario of climate injustice.**

**“** *Well, you see, in my community, when the rainy season comes, schools flood... and we must clean up... In the school hallways, we have found dead fish. Even in times of drought, we have lost the harvest”*

— Young person from a focus group in Colombia-Dominican Republic.

Water scarcity and flooding disrupt educational continuity and perpetuate the phenomenon of the ‘lost school day’ with a disproportionate impact on rural schools. The burden of caregiving on girls is intensified, and significant deficits in climate-resilient infrastructure and essential services are brought to light.

## **Finding 7. From soaked uniform to chronic cold: Absenteeism and health.**

**“** *Sometimes it rains so much that we spend three days without attending; now I am sick because the change in climate gave me a cold.”*

—Young person from a Peru-Paraguay focus group.

Exposure to rainfall and precarious living conditions drives repeated absenteeism and academic regression. There is an urgent requirement for secure transportation, preventive health measures, and safe shelters for long-distance travel. Furthermore, a clear association exists between climate impacts and academic failure, as rainfall often triggers anxiety linked to forced absence from school.

## Finding 8. When the heat explodes, chickens' hearts explode: Thermal stress and performance.

*“During the last hours [of school], they teach chemistry or mathematics, and obviously, one doesn't understand due to the heat.”*

—Young person from a Colombia-Dominican Republic focus group.

Extreme heat compromises concentration and diminishes academic performance, placing further strain on family incomes. Societal “decorum” norms disproportionately impact girls, compelling them to endure high temperatures, whereas boys may remove “upper garments;” classrooms often lack basic passive ventilation and clean energy sources, forcing households to choose between essential cooling and educational continuity.

## Finding 9. The road becomes a river: School access and connectivity.

*“I travel by motorcycle every day, and when it rains, the streets become slippery; it's very difficult to leave the house and return.”*

— Young person from a focus group in El Salvador

Torrential rainfall and poor road conditions obstruct access to school; the virtual alternative further widens the existing educational gap due to deficiencies in device access and connectivity. This reveals unequal investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and the absence of universal digital connectivity policies.

## Finding 10. They teach us about penguins, not about our neighborhoods: Curricula disconnected from local realities.

*“In my school, they talk to us about climate change (CC), but not how it affects Colombia or our local area.”*

—Young person from a focus group in Colombia

Climate-related content is often generic and lacks local relevance, which undermines youth agency and perpetuates systemic inequalities within the learning environment. Gender biases remain prevalent in technology access, leading to a strong demand for adult training.

## Finding 11. Migration and school abandonment.

*“When there was a flood in the Polochic river here, in Alta Verapaz, all those living near the river were affected and they came over here; all schools closed, and girls and boys could no longer study.”*

— Young person from a focus group in Guatemala

Diminishing returns from fishing and agriculture accelerate migration and school drop-out, intensifying the domestic burden placed on girls. The absence of climate-sensitive compensation and social protection networks severely constrains educational continuity for impoverished households.

## Finding 12. Working in an uncertain climate: Work, gender, and climate justice.

*“As a doctor, I would have to face more infections, child malnutrition, and dengue due to extreme heat.”*

—Young person from a focus group in Ecuador-Guatemala.

The impacts of the climate crisis on the labor sector are evident across both short- and long-term timescales, resulting in productivity losses and strain on health and essential services. Gender stereotypes exclude young women from higher-paying technical vocations and emerging green economy jobs, thus perpetuating structural economic disparities.



### Finding 13. Prioritizing the immediate vicinity: Youth community organization.

*“ We work together to clean the school and the community...the rain leaves stagnant water and dengue”*

—Young person from a focus group in Peru-Paraguay.

Community organization initiatives focused on sanitation, health, and mutual support, mitigate immediate risks and strengthen local networks. However, the absence of funding and formal decision-making authority causes volunteerism to wane, meaning climate governance remains dominated by adult stakeholders.

### Finding 14. Youth demand rules and justice from corporations and authorities.

*“ I am very outraged about that, because they are destroying half of the roads; Thousands of trees are being felled to host COP 30, when in reality there are entire neighborhoods in Belem where environmental problems are considerably more severe.”*

—Young person from a focus group in Brazil

Youth-led proposals are emerging to regulate heavily polluting industries, sanction environmentally harmful practices, and demand adherence to climate commitments. The focus shifts from addressing individual behavior to prioritizing state and corporate accountability, driving a strong demand for environmental justice.

### Finding 15. If it's boring, nothing changes: Meaningful engagement.

*“ We must find and use the same motivation that drives us to the stadium to plant trees.”*

—Young person from a focus group in Ecuador-Guatemala

Climate action achieves sustained impact when it meaningfully engages with youth interests such as sports, culture, and digital engagement, and when safety barriers are addressed. The absence of accessibility and recognition of diversity leads to exclusion and withdrawal from programs.

### Finding 16. Mandate for Plan International.

*“ Plan should announce its arrival in the community and organize with us the planting of trees or flowers in burned areas.”*

—Young person from a focus group in Colombia

Young people demand a shift from consultation to genuine co-participation, supported by robust technical and financial assistance for localized, scalable actions that drive public advocacy. They call for permanent co-responsibility protocols, 'green' budgets, youth-led oversight mechanisms, and zero tolerance for discrimination and risks against activists and those speaking out.



## Expert and Allied Voices: Institutional Perspectives on Climate Change and the Rights of Children and Adolescents

This section presents expert analysis on how climate change impacts the rights of girls, boys, adolescents, and young people across the region. To gather this, 31 semi-structured interviews were conducted with technical specialists from Plan International and representatives of strategic partner organizations with experience in community-led development, children's rights, and climate action. These specialist perspectives provided crucial insights into the intersections between climate change and each thematic area, ultimately informing the strengthening of institutional responses and public policy frameworks.



### Early Childhood

*“Boys and Girls... experience allergies due to excessive heat and severe respiratory illnesses; the water they drink is not safe” —Guatemala.*

The interviews reveal how climate change undermines the rights to health, nutrition, protection, and early childhood development. Infants and young children face greater exposure to infectious diseases, food insecurity, and violence, particularly in the aftermath of climate-induced disasters and within rural, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant communities. The disruption of essential services, coupled with household stress, and the absence of specific data and early warning systems further compound vulnerability, while the loss of safe, nurturing environments impacts their emotional and social development.



### Child Protection

*“...they had to take another route ... they ended up exposed to extortion, kidnappings, and other forms of violence...”*

Climate change increases the risks of violence for girls, boys, and adolescents by triggering shelter overcrowding, forced displacement, economic strain, and the systemic collapse of essential services. During emergencies, girls and

women face significantly increased exposure to sexual violence, exploitation, and early marriage, particularly in rural, Indigenous, and displacement contexts. The loss of livelihoods and the migration of caregivers weaken child protection networks and intensify domestic violence. The disruption of justice services reinforces impunity, while adolescent girls defending the environment face explicit threats in extractive zones. Both rural isolation and urban overcrowding amplify differentiated risks, and the agricultural crisis pushes adolescents into child labor and hazardous work, deepening cycles of vulnerability and exclusion.



### Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

*“Menstruation separates us because there is an emergency... and in shelters, the specific needs of girls are not considered” —Dominican Republic.*

Climate crisis deepens barriers to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, exposing girls, adolescents, and young women to greater risks of violence, forced pregnancy, and the loss of bodily autonomy. During climate emergencies, menstrual hygiene management is often rendered invisible, while essential contraception and prenatal care services collapse; sexual violence is intensified in unsafe environments such as temporary shelters and flooded areas. Early unions re-emerge as a survival strategy in the face of economic losses, thereby normalizing transactions that violate fundamental rights and perpetuate structural inequalities. Menstrual poverty, geographical distance to access services and the absence of climate-sensitive



protocols in maternal health substantially magnify vulnerabilities and impacts and the absence of climate-sensitive protocols for maternal health further exacerbate these impacts, particularly within rural and isolated areas. A just climate response must guarantee continuous access to SRHR, hygiene supplies, safe water, holistic care pathways, and robust protective legal frameworks before, during, and after emergencies.



## Quality Inclusive Education

*“Classes are suspended for long periods, sometimes months or even up to a year.”*

The right to education is disrupted, magnifying structural inequalities, particularly for girls, rural students, Indigenous People, and Afro-descendants: heatwaves, water scarcity, and precarious infrastructure drive schools to close or suspend classes, driving absenteeism, academic regression, and school drop-out. Teacher deficits, the utilization of educational facilities as temporary shelters, impassable routes, and the digital gap erode educational continuity. Curricular content often lacks territorial relevance and climate preparedness, thereby constraining community resilience. The burden of caregiving on girls is amplified when schools are shut down, accelerating school drop-out rates and associated risks such as early marriage. When education is compromised, opportunities for decent work, health, and protection are critically constrained, deepening exclusion and intergenerational poverty.



## Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

*“There are two worlds... in the workplace, urban women are hired first; being indigenous and rural implies lower wages or unemployment.”*  
—Guatemala

Climate change amplifies economic disparities, driving young people (particularly those in rural settings, Indigenous People, and Afro-descendants) toward migration and precarious employment due to inadequate training pathways, limited financing, and insufficient social protection for sustainable ventures. Although community-led green initiatives are emerging, they remain fragmented and are often institutionally overlooked. Gender and ethnic barriers constrain access to land, credit, and decent work, while environmental degradation and reliance on imported food severely restrict local productive opportunities. Climate transition can only be equitable if it integrates local and Indigenous knowledge, guarantees dedicated resources and technical support, and empowers young women leaders who are already pioneering collaborative and sustainable solutions within their communities.



## Children, Adolescents, and Youth as Agents of Change

*“In Providencia, women and girls were recognized as active agents... not just victims.”* —Colombia

Young people across Latin America and the Caribbean champion valuable climate initiatives, lead community-based processes, and actively demand the realization of their rights, yet they encounter security, linguistic, resource, and gender barriers that constrain their participation and sustainability. Many mobilizations are reliant on external funding and wane without sustained support, while environmental defenders confront severe threats and risks. Youth leadership is amplified when dedicated scholarships, holistic protection, linguistic inclusion, and formal recognition are guaranteed, especially for young women, Afro-descendant, Indigenous, and rural communities. Guaranteeing these enabling conditions is imperative for the climate transition to simultaneously be a transition marked by inclusive youth leadership and gender justice.



## Strengthening Resilience: A Strategic Priority for Latin America and the Caribbean Agenda.

Strengthening resilience across Latin America and the Caribbean requires a comprehensive strategic vision that transcends purely technical dimensions, integrating political, social, and intergenerational imperatives. This requires a deliberate shift toward sustained, rights-based responses, anchored in gender justice and genuine youth leadership, thereby mobilizing robust institutional capacities and funding to transform climate action into lasting, equitable, and sustainable solutions, with the understanding that:

- **Resilience is inherently political, social, and structural; it is not merely a technical challenge.** It necessitates integrated essential services, social protection, strong community cohesion, and youth leadership, all underpinned by robust, accountable institutions.
- **Climate change should not be treated solely as a humanitarian emergency.** It requires sustained, multi-sectoral, and rights-based responses to mitigate the reliance on reactive and short-term relief interventions.
- **Young people are key actors of change.** Their proposals in agroecology, restoration initiatives, climate education, circular economy, and strategic litigation must be formally integrated and mainstreamed into public policies.
- **Institutional coherence is indispensable.** Plan International must strengthen internal capacities, reduce its environmental footprint, prioritize community-based economies, and expand alliances with specialized actors.
- **Though its full effects are long-term, climate action remains an urgent, transformative imperative.** To ensure effectiveness, resources must be invested in culturally and territorially sound interventions, led and owned by young people.
- **Climate financing for children remains insufficient.** It is a priority to mobilize resources, design multisectoral projects, and demand accountability within a rights-based framework centered on gender equity.



## Alternatives for financing.

Dedicated climate finance for children and gender in Latin America and the Caribbean remains extremely limited: **less than 4% targets children, and barely 0.5% is allocated to girls.** It is an absolute imperative to mobilize resources that fully integrate climate action, gender equity, and child rights, prioritizing grant-based funding and innovative models that fortify adaptation, community resilience, and protection. To this end, it is recommended to design projects with clear benefits for girls, boys, and women; forge robust partnerships with local stakeholders; and strengthen youth capacities for green jobs and sustainable entrepreneurship with labor certification, ensuring they are safe and provide access to seed capital.

Opportunities for climate resilience and inclusive economic transition exist in initiatives such as *IDB Lab*, *World Bank Group Youth Employment and Green Jobs Trust Fund*, *GIZ Green Jobs*, *European Union*, *Horizon Europe*, *Global Gateway*, and the *Climate and Care Initiative Fund*.

## Proposals for action.

Plan International has a robust foundation and strategic partnerships; the institutional challenge now is to translate capacity into decisive action. To achieve this, it is necessary to fortify internal competencies, adapt processes, deepen specialized alliances, and mainstream resilience as a core institutional pillar. Scaling feasible solutions and sustaining high-impact value, guided by clarity, urgency, and justice, will ensure an ethical response to the climate crisis and safeguard the present and future of young people who are demanding and leading transformation.



### Early Childhood

#### Strategic Recommendations:

Integrate early childhood as a non-negotiable priority within climate policies and finance, mandating its inclusion in national and local adaptation plans. Strengthen the evidence based on impacts on nutrition and early development, scaling up community-based care models, and guaranteeing climate-resilient infrastructure with protective, natural learning spaces.

#### CAY recommend:

Guarantee safe environments for growth and play, implementing community-based care and support systems that holistically protect young children from climate impact



Juana, 18 years old, plans to start her own poultry business in Guatemala. © Plan International



## Child Protection

### Strategic Recommendations:

Integrate the climate-violence nexus approach into child protection systems, strengthen the early identification of risks in both stable communities and forced displacement contexts. Train professionals on the links between climatic events and violence, and advocate for adaptation policies to include gender- and age-sensitive Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services.

### CAY recommend:

CAY's request to have safe and confidential spaces for medical and emotional support, access to information, peer-to-peer sexual health methods, and sustainable community-based mechanisms for menstrual hygiene products, thereby reinforcing bodily autonomy as a core element of climate resilience.

**LEAD Principle in Action:** The voices of children and young people expose structural and everyday violence within climate contexts. Integrating their expert knowledge and narratives is crucial for developing robust pathways to restorative justice, particularly in militarized or extractive territories.



## Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

### Strategic Recommendations:

Guarantee the continuity and quality of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights services in climate-affected contexts, mainstreaming them into response and adaptation plans. Strengthen mobile and community-based care models, promote climate-resilient health infrastructure with autonomous supply chains and secure access, and develop prevention and sexual education campaigns with a climate focus and territorial relevance.

### CAY recommend:

Improve school infrastructure to address extreme heat and emergencies. Guarantee the distribution of relevant educational materials to ensure continuity during crises. Establish student-led risk management teams and lead community climate literacy activities through creative methodologies such as theater, school gardens, and climate data analysis projects.

**Transformative perspective:** Bodily and reproductive autonomy as resilience. Recognizing adolescent girls as political subjects within the health system is fundamental to a climate response anchored in intersectional justice.





## Inclusive Quality Education

### Strategic Recommendations:

Guarantee the continuity of the right to education amidst climate events by climate-resilient school infrastructure and securing access to safe water and clean energy. Integrate climate justice, Indigenous and local knowledge, and student participation into curricula; strengthen educational alert and contingency systems; and coordinate sustained support to ensure school retention, prioritizing learners who face the greatest barriers in adverse climate contexts.

### CAY recommend:

Implement vocational guidance with a climate focus, establish laboratory schools with community gardens and monitoring, promote intercultural mentorships, and provide scholarships for the green economy. Enforce actions to redistribute care responsibilities, underscoring that climate resilience fundamentally requires economic autonomy and free time to learn and participate meaningfully.

**Pedagogical approach:** CAY champion innovative and relevant educational methodologies for other young people, including forum theatre, climate data labs, and school agroecology gardens.



## Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

### Strategic Recommendations:

Drive climate action by linking it directly to youth capacity strengthening and green employment, providing training in renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, circular economy models, and environmental monitoring. Promote the incubation of sustainable ventures, guarantee access to labor certification, insurance, and seed capital, and coordinate incentives for youth employment in green sectors with local governments and international financial partners.

### CAY recommend:

To design vocational guidance with a climate focus, establish laboratory schools with community gardens and monitoring, promote intercultural mentorships, dedicated scholarships and internships in the green economy with a gender-equitable approach, campaigns to redistribute care responsibilities, underscoring that climate resilience fundamentally requires economic autonomy and free time for learning and meaningful participation.

**Youth Economic Justice:** Adolescents link climate resilience with economic autonomy and the allocation of free time. Care work must not remain invisible; it must be redistributed.



## Children, Adolescents, and Youths as Agents of Change

### Strategic Recommendations:

Recognize youth climate leadership as a fundamental right, establishing permanent and safe spaces for meaningful participation in climate governance. Promote inclusive methodologies with a focus on gender, culture, disability, and territory; guarantee holistic protection for environmental defenders; and support youth community initiatives on reforestation, water management, and environmental education; and ensure their formal inclusion in normative frameworks and budgets.

### CAY recommend:

To establish youth committees with autonomous budgets, provide training in digital tools, scale up reforestation programs with scholarships, and participate with voting rights in relevant decision-making bodies. Launch mentorship and advocacy programs, demanding a shift from symbolic consultation to genuine co-participation, where young people can decide, oversee, and lead climate action in their territories.

**Political transformation:** Young people do not seek permission to participate; they actively demand a seat at the table to decide, propose, and exercise oversight. Plan International can facilitate their access, safeguard their spaces, and amplify their voices.

## Strategic Conclusions.

Building resilience remains the most robust and sustainable pathway for addressing the climate crisis across Latin America and the Caribbean. For Plan International, this mandate requires guaranteeing essential services, safe environments, strong community cohesion, meaningful youth participation, and accountable institutional frameworks, while actively avoiding the shifting of responsibility onto the most affected communities. Accumulated expertise and partnerships enable advancement toward transformative climate initiatives that integrate community organization action, political advocacy, and the generation of inclusive green opportunities for young people, particularly girls and young women. For this vision to materialize, it is imperative to mobilize dedicated climate finance, strengthen internal capacities, and collaborate closely with local stakeholders, prioritizing nature- and territory-based solutions. Decisive action taken now, guided by coherence and justice, safeguards the present and future of the region's children.



Laurita, 19 years old, lives in the mountains of Ecuador with her family. © Plan International.





Until we are all equal

## About Plan International

We strive to advance children's rights and equality for girls all over the world. We recognise the power and potential of every single child. But this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it's girls who are most affected. As an independent development and humanitarian organisation, we work alongside children, young people, our supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood, and enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge. For over 85 years we have been building powerful partnerships for children, and we are active in over 80 countries.

**We won't stop until we are all equal.**

**Cover photo:** Norma, 16 years old, from a small Indigenous community in Guatemala. © Plan International.

The photographs included in this document do not depict participants from the study conducted.

### Plan International

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