

No 67 / 2026

Spring Newsletter

**CHILDREN
CHANGE
COLOMBIA**

**CCC 35th
Anniversary**

www.childrenchange colombia .org

CCC 35th Anniversary

Dear friends,

Over the last three decades, CCC has helped more than **89,481 children, investing £20 million in 106 multi-annual projects all across Colombia.** This year, our 35th Anniversary, coincides with my 6-year anniversary as Director of Children Change Colombia. These last years have been a beautiful adventure, leading an organisation that has so much history and that has brought together efforts from thousands of people that care about Colombia's future generations has been an honour.

At Children Change Colombia, we have had a fantastic season and wanted to round it out by letting you know what we have achieved through our collective work over the past 6 years.

- Our partners in Colombia have grown from 5 to 10.
- Our projects increased from 5 to 20.
- Today, we are implementing directly 45% of our projects.
- The number of annual children we support has grown from 1,408 to 7,341.
- We grew 280.36% financially (from £354,411 in 2020 to £1,348,054 in 2025).

All the achievements we have been able to reach are thanks to your amazing support. In this newsletter, you can read more about our current projects.

Here's to many more years to come!



Ángela María Carreño Malaver
Executive Director



Emergency and Humanitarian Response

These emergency assistance projects are essential in aiding some of Colombia's most vulnerable and at-risk populations during a period in which incidences of conflict and extreme weather are on the rise.

Cordoba

In February 2026, flooding across the Caribbean coast affected more than 69,000 people, causing severe damage to homes, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure, and leaving vulnerable families without shelter, food, or access to basic services. We are running an urgent appeal for assistance targeting critical and immediate needs for displaced families facing acute shortages, and mental health and trauma support for children and their caregivers affected.

CCC has joined efforts with local organisations and authorities to provide support to the affected families in Córdoba.

Catatumbo

2025 was an extremely challenging year for Catatumbo, which saw over 56,000 people displaced by a surge in violence between armed groups, and resulted in more than 90,000 people affected overall. CCC developed 3 projects in the region to face these humanitarian emergencies:

CCC developed a food vouchers programme which provided essential food supplies to vulnerable families in the city of Ocaña in Catatumbo. This initiative ended up supporting 115 families directly affected by violence, displacement and limited access to basic services, and allowed beneficiaries to select the most essential products for their own needs, fostering a sense of active participation and responsible consumption.



Working alongside our regional partner Fundación Cinco Sentidos, CCC has also provided support to 45 families and 342 children sheltering in Ocaña. This initiative has taken two forms: children affected by violence have participated in 30 psychological support sessions and 30 art and creative workshops, with the aim of developing emotional resilience and improved communication. Concurrently, parents and carers have attended workshops, equipping them with the tools and know-how to support their families in challenging circumstances.



Tibú is a town at the epicentre of the conflict in Catatumbo, so CCC has formed a strategic partnership with the Catholic diocese there, one of the few organisations with access due to its role as a neutral and trusted actor. Working together, CCC and the diocese are supporting 20 families directly affected by the conflict for 12 months, through the supply of food and toiletries.



Rewriting Futures: a digital counter-recruitment campaign



A 15-year-old young woman posts a video on TikTok showing how to scrape coca leaves without ruining her fingernails. She poses among coca laboratories and receives thousands of followers and comments asking how to get into the business. She is one of several accounts glamourising the illegal economy and luring young people into a criminal life in Colombia.

Illegal armies and criminal organisations have adapted their recruitment tactics for the digital age. On TikTok and Instagram, they build accounts that make criminal life look aspirational: posting images of cash, motorcycles, and weapons set to reggaeton soundtracks, offering belonging, protection, and a way out of poverty to children as young as thirteen, sometimes sliding directly into their DMs. The content is indistinguishable from entertainment.

TikTok just invested \$20,000 in our campaign to protect children in Cauca. Here's why.

The team mapped hundreds of accounts, decoded the symbols, emojis, and visual language recruiters use, and built an ecosystem of accounts that used humour, parody, and cultural pride to make the recruiters' promises look hollow – while promoting local entrepreneurs, Indigenous leaders, athletes, and artists as symbols of a real future.

In direct partnership with TikTok's Trust and Safety team, 126 accounts linked to guerrilla groups and drug-trafficking networks were identified and removed. In recognition of the results, TikTok granted \$20,000 USD in ad credits to continue the work.

The results are visible. Hashtags that once returned feeds saturated with criminal content now surface the campaign's content first. The harmful material has not merely been reported, it has been displaced.

This project works on three levels: it removes harmful content, replaces it with something worth engaging, and equips young people to recognise recruitment tactics before they become victims.

We are now entering a second phase, expanding beyond Cauca to protect children across the entire country. This is possible only thanks to our donors and partners who share one conviction: that children in Colombia deserve a digital world that shows them what they can become, not what they can be turned into.



Preventing Sexual Exploitation in Cartagena

Cartagena is a beautiful and resilient city, and a key tourist destination with enormous cultural wealth; however for decades the city has had to face a serious challenge: the sexual abuse of children. Cartagena has been identified as a high risk location for commercial sexual exploitation of children (ECSNNA), due to social factors such as the presence of tourism, which in some cases can hide criminal behaviours difficult to identify and report.

Between January and August 2024, 274 cases of sexual abuse against minors were recorded, of which 213 directly affected young children. These figures only reflect reported cases, and actual figures may be higher due to families' fear of reporting the crime, insufficient institutional responses or ignorance about sexual abuse and its consequences for the mental health of victims.



In this context, prevention becomes essential. CCC and Fundación Julie have established a solid alliance, which has allowed for the development of psychoeducation and training of 80 boys and girls, aged 5-11, who live in vulnerable neighbourhoods. Through structured play, children are encouraged to recognise their rights, take care of their bodies, and identify potential high-risk situations.

These workshops are becoming an essential resource not only in the mitigation of risks, but also in the strengthening of emotional bonds, since many children find a space of security and a recognition of their value as individuals. In another part of the city, work is being developed with the University of Sinú, where psychology and humanities professionals are participating in this initiative and working with primary and secondary school students.

Welcoming our New Scholars

When Dreams Find an Opportunity



Diana - Cartagena



Jeremy - Barranquilla

When Jessica, our staff member in Cartagena, learned Diana's story, she quickly understood that she is not only a young woman with dreams; she is a young woman who, despite the difficulties, has decided to move toward them with hope and a smile on her face. Similarly, Kevin, our staff member in Barranquilla, reflects on first meeting Jeremy singing and dancing, while quietly supporting others in moments of vulnerability and taking part in directing and performing in the two theatre productions created in our Musica Para la Paz project.

Diana and Jeremy represent the type of students we seek to support: young people committed to their education, with the desire to transform their reality and that of others. Thanks to Children Change Colombia, our allies, and The Education Angels, Diana is studying System Engineering and Jeremy is pursuing a degree in Software Engineering. They embody resilience, perseverance, and growth; and their journey reflects exactly why scholarships matter.

STEAM Lab in La Sierra Nevada

The STEAM Lab is a rural education initiative bringing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) learning to children in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, based in Minca and surrounding communities. It aims to reduce the educational and digital divide by giving rural students access to robotics, coding and data skills. We are delivering a 6-month pilot programme reaching 280 children and adolescents, prioritising primary school students, where early intervention has the greatest long-term impact.



EVENTS

CELEBRATING 'NOVENAS' IN BOGOTA - DEC 2025



We celebrated Novenas in Bogota with ACJ and Price Forbes to bring gifts and the Christmas spirit to children affected by sexual and gender-based violence.

VISIT TO CARTAGENA - DEC 2025



We celebrated the start of the Christmas time with our partners in Cartagena as part of our prevention of sexual and gender based violence project in the region.

SCHOOL NUEVA PAIDEIA - DEC 2025



The School Nueva Paideia in Antioquia is being expanded. With our partners, we have begun construction of dormitories and accommodation for students of the school.

VELITAS IN LONDON - DEC 2025

In London, alongside our Patron Fernando and the incredible Soprano singer, Julieth, we celebrated Velitas with traditional Colombian food, dance, and carols, as part of our Colombia Colores project.



ANGELA IN GENEVA - FEB 2026



Our Executive Director was invited to the 100th Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, where Colombia's record on children's rights was reviewed.

PRICE FORBES CONFERENCE - FEB 2026

Slira, our Projects Coordinator, represented us at the Aviation Forum in Bogota, hosted by our supporter Price Forbes.



GALAPAGOS TRAINING PROGRAMME - FEB 2026

Our Executive Director and Programmes Manager joined other organisations in the Galapagos for a 4-day training on power shifting with international NGO workers.



EXPLORE OUR "35 YEARS BOOK"



Children Change Colombia is excited to be hitting a major milestone, 35 years of work and impact. We invite you to take a look at memory lane with us and check out our "35 Years Book" to see our achievements throughout the years.



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Executive Director: Ángela Carreño
Communications Manager: Victoria Cornelio
Articles: Jessica Alfaro, Juan Pablo Hernandez, Arthur Mawer, Kevin Staaden
Design: Victoria Cornelio
Printing House: Vyneprint London

Thames Walk 2026

Save the Date

Join us for a 10-mile walk along the Thames, ending with a Colombian picnic in Richmond Park, all to raise funds for children in Colombia. Your support will help provide education, peace, and opportunities for children affected by violence and exclusion.

Become a Champion - Fundraise for the Thames Walk!

Set up a Just Giving Page with us and fundraise to help us reach our goal! You can run, jog, bike, or walk with us - every step counts! Get in touch with us or visit childrenchange colombia.org/fundraise/



Scan to get your tickets!



WHEN: Saturday 16th of May 2026 | 10:00am - 4:00pm (the walk will take at least 4 hours). You can also join us for a shorter route (4.5 miles).

WHERE: Richmond Station is the meeting point for the walk. Picnic in Richmond Park

PRICE £15 minimum per person which includes a CCC t-shirt (children under 12 go free)



Title Name
Address
 Postcode
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Make a single donation

Here is my gift of: £10 £25 £80 £100 Other

Please make cheques payable to Children Change Colombia

OR make a BACS transfer to Children Change Colombia: Sort code 60-07-02, Account no. 31623212

We accept the following cards: Visa, Mastercard, CAF Charitycard.

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Bank/Building Society acc.no. Sort Code

Signature Date

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society: Please pay Charities Aid Foundation Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Charities Aid Foundation and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.



Gift Aid Declaration *giftaid it*

I am a UK Tax Payer and I would like Children Change Colombia to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made to them in the past 4 years as well as any future donations. I will notify them if I am no longer eligible or if I change address. To qualify for gift aid I understand that if I pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature

Date

I require an acknowledgement (please tick or we will assume you do not; this will help us save on administration costs).

I would also like to receive email updates about your work protecting children's rights in Colombia, your fundraising events and campaigns, and how I can get involved.

You can change the ways you hear from us at any time using the contact details below.

You can also donate online at www.childrenchange colombia.org/donate

Thank you so much for your support!

T (+44) 208 050 4992

E info@childrenchange colombia.org

Please return this form to Children Change Colombia, 5 Richbell Place, Holborn, London, WC1N 3LA



Charity number 1075037