

Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru



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Goal:
Improve the capacity of services to respond to the health needs of adolescents—especially girls—in a timely manner and prevent violence in schools in the regions of Huancavelica and Ucayali.

Specific objectives:

- Improve the response of the health sector in the provision of quality, comprehensive and differentiated adolescent care, with an emphasis on mental health care and violence prevention for girls.

- Improve the capacity of the protection and education sectors to promote health and prevent and address all types of violence in schools, especially gender-based violence, in a timely manner.

The **Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection** project will contribute to guaranteeing the rights of indigenous and rural adolescents, especially girls, and respond to their needs by preventing pregnancy, addressing mental health concerns and providing a protective environment from violence by providing quality, gender-sensitive, and culturally adapted health, education and protection services.

Defined by the Peruvian government as the ages of 12 to 17, adolescents constitute 11.2% of the population, or 3.5 million people. Until recently, UNICEF's program interventions for children focused on younger age groups, while services for adults are not designed to cater for the distinct needs of adolescents.

The project will benefit:

- 31,082 adolescents (approximately 15,230 girls)
- 100 health personnel from 10 health care establishments
- 72 principals and teachers in 24 schools
- 14,000 families of adolescent beneficiaries

Adolescents in Huancavelica and Ucayali*

- In Huancavelica, **64.1% of adolescents** used a health service. Of these, 54.2% accessed the adolescent comprehensive health care plan.
 - Only **36.3% of adolescents** who accessed that comprehensive health care plan were screened for nutritional status and only 53.8% were screened for violence.
 - **57.2% of adolescents** in Huancavelica complete secondary school, and 14.1% of adolescent girls there are either pregnant or already mothers.
 - In Ucayali, **40,935 adolescents** used an outpatient health service.
- Of these, only 12.7% initiated an adolescent comprehensive health care package, and just 4.4% completed it.
- **58.2% of adolescents** in Ucayali complete secondary school, and 20.2% of adolescent girls are either pregnant or already mothers.

*Data is from 2018.



Strategies

- Develop and/or update adolescent health care guidelines and/or protocols (e.g., the active identification of cases of violence against children) with the active participation of adolescents, especially girls.
- Implement an in-service training program for health care and other service providers in adolescent health. The five training modules are: adolescent sexual and reproductive health; adolescent mental health; nutrition; gender and adolescent health; and effective management of adolescent health services.
- Carry out a communication strategy to improve adolescents' access to information and services related to their health and integral development.
- Strengthen communication and referral mechanisms between health and protection services in project areas.
- Build the capacity of health personnel to provide adequate response to cases of sexual violence.
- Implement strategies that promote a healthy lifestyle and environment in secondary schools, including advocacy activities to ensure that health promotion is being prioritized within the school's annual plans, high-quality reproductive health education, technical assistance and support for the implementation of the Health Kiosk Guidelines, and the development of plans to improve school environments (e.g., clearing fields for recreational spaces, improving toilets, etc.).
- Design, evaluate and implement methodologies for violence prevention in schools, with an emphasis on violence experienced by girls in project regions.
- Develop a diagnostic and monitoring tool for school coexistence and violence prevention in project schools.
- Train school principals and teachers on response protocols to in-school violence, and disseminate in-school violence reporting mechanisms amongst the education community.
- Strengthen mechanisms to implement administrative sanctions at the national and sub-national levels for in-school violence committed by adults.

Expected Outcomes



10% increase in number of adolescents screened for mental health problems in project health facilities.



5% increase in number of adolescents with comprehensive health care in project health facilities.



100 health care professionals receive training on adolescent-friendly health care and how to provide adequate response to cases of sexual violence.

10 health facilities are trained to respond to cases of physical, psychological or sexual violence in coordination with other services.



Eight project schools provide students with health promotion activities related to mental or sexual health and nutrition.

24 schools provide health promotion activities that promote healthy lifestyles and environments and implement validated physical, sexual and gender-based violence prevention and school-based response strategies.



72 principals and teachers are trained to recognize violence and implement violence response protocols using reporting mechanisms.