



BEST PRACTICES THAT INCORPORATE A GENDER EQUALITY PERSPECTIVE IN HEALTH OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

WINNERS 2010

The Best Practices in Gender and Health Contest aims to recognize best practices in the Region that incorporate a gender equality perspective. Since 2008, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has awarded experiences that better address the differential needs and opportunities of men and women in health.

EL SALVADOR—"Reducing maternal and neonatal mortality among youth and adolescents," Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and PAHO.

This experience was implemented in the Nahuizalco Municipality to address the great inequalities in maternal and neonatal health among adolescent women. The experience aims to promote health as a sexual and reproductive right, through participatory planning that includes capacity building for health service users; improving the quality of health services, and involving different stakeholders from civil society organizations, municipalities, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Thanks to this experience, prenatal visits and institutional births have increased and maternal and infant mortality rates have decreased.

ARGENTINA—"Reducing risks and dangers in reproductive and sexual health in the context of comprehensive adolescent care," Agudos Cosme Argerich General Hospital and Foundation for Adolescent Health 2000 (FUSA 2000).

This experience benefits 10- to 20-year-old male and female youths (15% of them migrants) in Buenos Aires. It was developed to respond to high rates of teen pregnancy, high numbers of induced abortions (estimated 500,000 annually), high mortality due to abortions (the leading cause of pregnancy-related death), and an increase in hospitalizations (15% of them adolescents) from complications of abortion.. The comprehensive program transformed waiting rooms into workshops that advise teens on sexuality, gender and rights, and that address daily life situations of adolescents. Results include 5,700 adolescents (5,340 females and 1,260 males) reached through 514 workshops since 2002, an increase in pre-abortion consultations, and a decrease in hospitalizations and complications due to abortion.

BRAZIL—"Programs H and M: Engaging young men and empowering young women to promote gender equity and health," Promundo.

The experience benefits low-income youths in Rio de Janeiro and aims to engage them in critical reflection on gender norms and their relation to sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and other health issues. The experience uses group education and a radio soap opera for youth to address unplanned pregnancy, condom use, and adolescent parenthood. Evaluation impact studies show that after participating in the experience, young men show greater acceptance of domestic work, higher rates of condom use, and lower rates of harassment of and violence against women. Young women show increased knowledge and communication with partners about sexual health and increased self-efficacy in interpersonal relationships.

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