

# Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru



Approximately **1 in 3** adolescent girls and women in Huancavelica have been victims of violence by a male partner



Approximately **1 in 4** adolescent girls and women in Ucayali have been victims of violence by a male partner

The Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection project in Ucayali and Huancavelica aims to improve the capacity of services to respond to the health needs of adolescents, especially girls, in a timely manner and prevent all kinds of violence in schools. Through the committed partnership with Zonta International, adolescents, especially girls, are accessing the critical health care services that support healthy growth and development.

Following Peru's first case of COVID-19 on 6 March 2020, a national quarantine was imposed on 15 March. As of 6 September 2021, Peru has the highest number of deaths per capita (610) and the second highest fatality rate in the world (9.2%).

COVID-19 mitigation measures such as self-isolation, social distancing and community lockdowns have limited access to education and preventive health and protection services. In April 2020, the Ministry of Education rolled out an online, television and radio learning strategy for all school-aged children in Peru. Students did not attend school throughout 2020; and, as of September 2021, many schools remain closed. However, rural schools that met certain safety criteria began opening in April 2021, including in Ucayali and Huancavelica.

Although vaccination efforts started slowly, they have gained momentum with more than

228,000 doses provided in Ucayali and more than 201,000 doses in Huancavelica. Adults older than 29 years of age, pregnant women and girls, and adolescents over 12 who have cancer, mental health issues or Down syndrome are eligible to receive the vaccine.

With the extended state of emergency in Peru, reformulated strategies and interventions are needed to address challenges related to continued remote education, emerging forms of violence, intensive use of Information Communication Technologies and the loss of family members.

Given COVID-19's enduring effects, UNICEF, in collaboration with subnational education and health authorities, has adjusted the project work plan and implementation modalities to meet the needs of Peru's most vulnerable adolescents and their families.

## COVID-19 in Peru

**2,155,508**

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 nationwide.

**198,523**

Deaths due to COVID-19 nationwide.

**47,895**

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ucayali, including 2,263 adolescent cases.

**33,088**

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Huancavelica, including 1,320 adolescent cases.

As of 6 September 2021



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for every child

## Results

(January-July 2021)

- Strengthened critical adolescent health care services impacted by COVID-19, reaching **8,319 adolescents (5,814 girls)**.
- Launched the virtual phase of the in-service training program. Participants include health personnel from Ucayali and Huancavelica.
- Trained **270 health personnel** from Huancavelica on the technical guidelines for comprehensive adolescent healthcare in the context of COVID-19.
- Finalized the technical document for the dissemination of rules and procedures to recognize cases of violence that can occur in a health facility.
- Built the knowledge and skills of **19 principals and teachers** on health promotion in secondary schools.
- **86 school principals and teachers** enhanced their knowledge on and awareness of violence prevention strategies and response protocols for in-school violence.
- The “Brigada SISEVE” campaign, which focuses on preventing school violence by promoting violence reporting channels among girls, boys and adolescents, reached **200,000 people** nationwide.
- A health promotion toolkit was integrated within the comprehensive adolescent development model based on secondary schools.
- A school violence prevention model was strengthened with the design of an instrument that schools can use to monitor progress on improvements in school coexistence and the reduction of violence.
- A participatory diagnosis has begun in order to help identify the baseline knowledge of the varying participants of the diploma course.

## The Way Forward

In collaboration with partners, UNICEF is working to ensure that adolescents, especially girls, in Ucayali and Huancavelica have access to the comprehensive health care and protection services required for healthy growth and development. Utilizing new modalities of communication, UNICEF and partners are continuing to reach and train education and health personnel to better equip each with the tools required to respond to the evolving needs of adolescent girls.

## Planned Activities



Conclude the virtual phase of the in-service training program and implement another in-service phase.



Monitor the approval process within the Ministry of Health for the technical guidelines for the prevention and response to violence cases in health care establishments.



Provide technical assistance for the integrated model of adolescent development, including the toolkit for health promotion in secondary schools in Ucayali and Huancavelica.

Continue the teacher training process for the implementation of the “Positive Discipline Model to prevent violence in schools with a gender-based approach.”



Continue the “Brigada SISEVE” campaign, which has the potential to reach 30% of all students and their families in Ucayali and Huancavelica.

Contextualize and validate the guide for the prevention of violence in schools.



Conclude participative diagnosis of training needs in Huancavelica and commence diploma course in December, which is expected to reach 80 participants.

Strengthen the violence prevention model in schools with the design of an instrument that schools can use to monitor progress on improvements in the reduction of violence.