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INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

**Recognizing excellence in initiatives addressing
teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence
and women's participation in decision-making.**

**Regional Contest
Awards Ceremony & Knowledge Fair**

Gender equality matters intrinsically as a basic human right, and is instrumental for human development. It enables equal access to goods, services, and resources for both men and women, and their equal enjoyment of the opportunities and rewards of economic development. Gender equality is “smart economics,” and can contribute to key development goals, including the reduction of extreme poverty and inequality.¹

Within the Latin America and Caribbean region, significant advances have been made in access to health, education and economic opportunities, but persistent challenges remain in the realm of individual agency and voice within society. Gender norms engrained in social, political, economic and cultural life perpetuate inequalities on the household, community, national and regional levels. Of particular concern are the manifestations of women’s lack of agency in the region, which include: persistent rates of adolescent pregnancy, sexual and gender-based violence, and continued exclusion from decision-making spaces.

1. World Bank (2012) attributes 26 percent of observed reduction in extreme poverty and 28 percent of observed reduction in inequality between 2000 and 2010 to increased female labor market incomes.



PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

WINNER

“Colchas de Amor” - **Fundación Aceso**, Colombia.

To promote the participation and empowerment of marginalized women through the creation of women’s productive groups.

HONORABLE MENTION

“Presupuesto Participativo para la Igualdad de Oportunidades” - **Municipalidad de Lima**, Peru.

To ensure female participation in decision-making through dedicated municipal funding for women, and to promote local projects that seek to eliminate gender gaps.

FINALISTS

“Programa de Formación de Mujeres Emprendedoras” - **CRIAR Comunidad de Mujeres Emprendedoras**, Argentina.

“Mujeres creando escenarios de paz y convivencia” - **Corporación Internacional Derecho y Sociedad**, Colombia.

“CAMINAS” - **Plan International**, Bolivia.



WINNERS & FINALISTS

153 organizations from 16 countries in LAC participated in the contest. Public entities, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, private companies, international organizations and community-based and civil society organizations submitted applications for consideration.

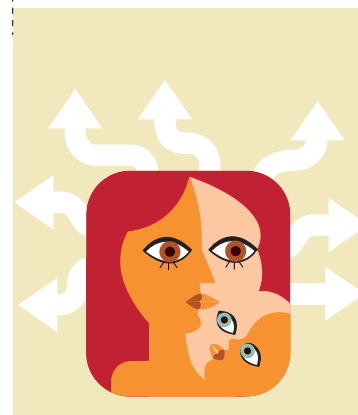
Each application was evaluated by at least two World Bank experts in the different focus areas, based on the following criteria:

Impact: Generate progress or change within target populations with strategies and activities to alleviate or solve the identified problem.

Innovation: Implement a systematic and innovative approach, with a unique model of change different from existing initiatives.

Partnerships: Utilize partnerships and support networks to address ongoing needs and to expand programs.

Replicability: Articulate both positive and negative lessons learned in the design and implementation of the initiative, and identify key factors that produced desired outcomes and enabled the initiative to overcome challenges.



TEENAGE PREGNANCY

WINNER

"Yo decido" - **Asociación Paz Joven**, Guatemala.

To prevent teenage pregnancy through the promotion of multisectoral action and information campaigns at the local and national level.

HONORABLE MENTION

"Pregúntale al experto" - **Think Action Development**, Mexico.

To enable adolescents to make informed decisions about their sexuality through the provision of easily accessible online information and tools.

FINALISTS

"Reduciendo el riesgo en la salud sexual y reproductiva de mujeres" - **Fundación Oriéntame**, Colombia.

"Empoderamiento madres adolescentes" - **Fundación Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar**, Colombia.

"Jóvenes Empoderados" - **Asociación ALAS**, Guatemala.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WINNER

“Bem-me-Quer” - **Asesoría Especial para Asuntos Internacionales**, Casa Civil, Gobierno del Estado de Sao Paulo, Brazil.

To assisting victims of sexual violence through innovative, integrated and specialized services.

HONORABLE MENTION

“Equidad: el respeto es la ruta” - **Cauce Ciudadano A.C.**, Mexico.

To combat gender violence among young people through education and the promotion of healthy relationships.

FINALISTS

“Puntadas para el Futuro” - **CASA HAUG**, Peru.

“Lucha contra la explotación sexual de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes” - **Fundación Tierra de Hombres**, Colombia.

“Programa Las Víctimas Contra Las Violencias” - **Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos**, Argentina.



In June 2014, the World Bank, through the Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality (UFGE), launched a Regional Contest: Initiatives to Promote Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

OBJECTIVE

Through the Contest, the World Bank seeks to discover, document and share innovative, effective and sustainable initiatives that address one of the following thematic areas:

- Teenage Pregnancy
- Gender-Based Violence
- Women’s Participation in Decision-Making

Furthermore, the World Bank hopes to foster cooperation, sharing of information, and learning among individuals, groups and organizations working to improve gender equality in the region.

