

# PERU

## Masculinities and Prevention of Sexual Violence

Research Team: Nancy Palomino, Miguel Angel Ramos Padilla, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia

### BACKGROUND

In Peru, the high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) is accompanied by social tolerance for GBV. This tolerance is an expression of practices, opinions, attitudes and perceptions. This perceived justification of GBV makes it difficult to effectively prevent violence and combat impunity. Sexual- and gender-based violence can be seen as a physical manifestation of men's power over the bodies and freedom of women.

In Peru, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) has pioneered a new GBV-prevention approach by creating and implementing the program *Men Renounce Violence* (MRV). MRV has become a leader in involving men in the prevention of GBV. MRV's success led the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations to involve men in GBV programming. MRV has also informed trainings and a policy to create Women's Emergency Centers

(CEMS), which engage male community activists to advance gender equality and nonviolence. The CEMs, in addition to providing services for survivors of intimate partner violence, conduct GBV prevention work in the community. The trainings conducted by these male community activists is done with participatory and experiential techniques and challenge men's experiences of power and authority over women. Those that are trained are asked to use those same techniques to work with local leaders to create groups of men against GBV. The men who participate in these groups are called to advance change in their institutions and communities. In 2015 CEMs began to also train women to reinforce these new concepts throughout communities. Currently 70 percent of the community activists in the CEMs are women. Both processes were initiated with pilot projects supported by UNFPA.

### PROJECT AIM

The aim of the current project is to undertake formative research on male sexuality and the use of sexual violence among men in three cities in Peru

and to inform the development and piloting of a training curriculum for male community activists.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

#### Research objectives:

1. Explore the meanings that two generations of men give to their sexuality and the use of sexual violence.
2. Identify risk and protective factors in the use of sexual violence at different times during the life-cycle.
3. Identify changes and continuities regarding social tolerance of sexual violence by men of two generations.

#### Intervention objectives:

1. Develop a participatory and experiential training that challenges male sexuality and leads to unequal power of men over women, including sexual violence.
2. Before drafting the training module, validate the concepts and outline of a proposed training with male and female community activists linked to CEMs in three locations.
3. Create a training module for activists regarding perceptions of sexuality and the use and acceptability of sexual violence that will challenge harmful norms and attitudes.

### PROJECT METHODS

The research team will use a qualitative methodology including interviews and focus group discussions to understand and interpret the norms and attitudes of men. The research will be carried out in three distinct locations with different cultural characteristics: Villa Maria del Triunfo (a popular and densely populated area of Lima); the city of Areq-

uipa (Peru's second-largest city, in a mountainous region); and Iquitos (a city with Peru's most important rainforest). The qualitative study will be carried out among men who live in popular areas of the three cities. Twenty- to 29-year-old men and 35- to 50-year-old adults will be interviewed. Men who are GBV activists will be excluded from the sample.

### WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE

This work will result in:

- An exploration of the norms and attitudes of two generations of men with regard to their perceptions of sexuality and the use and acceptability of sexual violence.
- Identification of risk and protective factors and social tolerance of sexual violence at different times in the lifecycle.
- A dissemination plan for the results of the study to inform awareness-raising campaigns at a national, regional and local level in Peru.
- A college-accredited curriculum for training of trainers in positive masculinity and the prevention of intimate partner violence, to be used to train community activists in CEMs.

