

COLOMBIA

Evaluating the Impact of the Teenage Mothers Program of Juanfe Foundation on Gender Based Violence, Colombia

Evaluación de Impacto del Programa de Madres Adolescentes de la Fundación Juanfe para la prevención de Violencia Basada en Genero, Colombia

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BACKGROUND

Gender-based violence (GBV) affects women in many ways—physically, emotionally, economically—and leaves behind a trail of harmful effects such as teen pregnancies, infant mortalities, and poverty traps. Though prevalent globally, women in the poorest regions of the world are affected the most. In Cartagena, Colombia, GBV affects nearly 64 percent of women. This project takes a holistic approach to tackling GBV in that it not only address violence against teen girls who often fall pregnant, but also involves their families, communities, as well as their children to help improve their quality of life through vocational training, education and psychosocial support.

INNOVATION

The intervention, called 360 Degree Model looks at direct and indirect impacts of violence against women. The model focuses on empowering adolescent mothers who frequently are themselves victims of violence, and who are rearing children that are at risk of being in violent situations. The holistic approach of this complex intervention is innovative because it addresses not just violence against teen girls, but also tries to help lower teen mothers' violence against their children (linkages between VAW and VAC) by looking after their emotional and psychological health and engaging other family members into important care activities. This model is comprehensive in that it considers five dimensions—psychosocial, empowerment, formal education, health promotion and family environment—to help young girls climb out of the traps created by teenage pregnancy and exposure to violence.

Phase I of the model focuses on the physical and emotional stabilization of teen mothers, many of whom are survivors of violence. Throughout this six-month period, there is an important work on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) knowledge appropriation. After that, the model's focus shifts toward job-training programs available, to help young women earn a living. In particular, during Phase II program beneficiaries that graduated from Phase I receive technical and academic, while being providing health services to maintain a sound psycho-emotional balance and physical health. Finally, once the young women have graduated from Phase II, which lasts a year, they enter Phase III which involves linking the young women to the formal labor market and giving technical assistance to their micro-business ventures, through an Employment and Entrepreneurship Office (OEE). During the whole intervention, all young women enrolled in the program receive medical attention and training in health promotion and prevention activities, and their partners and members of their families are invited to workshops on topics such as rights and conflict management. In addition, the

program provides daycare for the most vulnerable families, in order to promote babies' physical and psychomotor development, strengthen the mother-child bond and teach the young mothers how to care for their children.

PROJECT AIMS

The objectives are to identify the medium- and long-term impacts of the 360 Degree Model in the prevention of GBV. This will be done by:

1. Constructing a data-base of information using the 2018 and 2019 follow-up surveys on women who have already participated in the first-phase of data collection conducted by IADB and the Universidad de Los Andes during 2016 and 2017. This requires a series of activities for the adjustment and design of the follow-up surveys, guidance of those surveys, data collection, data processing, and finally generation of the products associated with the targets.
2. Reporting on the partial and final results of the research. The first target is to produce a medium-term impact report, which will involve analysis of the data through the follow-up in 2016 and 2017. The second target is to generate the long-term impact risk report, i.e., using the follow-up data from 2018 and 2019. Finally, the third target is to prepare a final report that summarizes the medium- and long-term results on all of the topics covered 360 Model (e.g. prevention of violence, the resulting subsequent pregnancies and physical and mental health).

POLICY AND ADVOCACY IMPLICATIONS

GBV is strongly linked to poverty, lack of education and socio-emotional skill development, and usually is accompanied by a lack of knowledge of rights, especially reproductive and sexual rights. In spite of various laws and regulations, Colombia still witnesses an increased number of violence against women. The 360 Degree Model, with its multi-dimensional development focus, will be useful to policy makers, practitioners of GBV prevention and non-governmental organizations if it is proven to effectively break cycles of violence (by moderating some of its usual causes and consequences). Thus, it is important this program to generate new data to analyze and improve the impact of this comprehensive intervention on variables such as the prevention of violence, teenage pregnancy and income generating capacities. Since no impact evaluation data of this type exists in Colombia, this research project can be particularly useful in preventing GBV by gathering rigorous evidence on how to mitigate the usual negative consequences of pregnancy among poor and vulnerable adolescents.

