

# PERU

## Training local leaders to prevent and reduce gender-based violence in their communities: impact evaluation of leaders in action

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### BACKGROUND

Emerging evidence suggests that theory-driven interventions that tackle multiple factors associated with GBV can reduce and prevent GBV (Arango et al., 2014; Klugman et al., 2014). However, these studies are subject to important methodological concerns including potential overestimation of effect sizes and lack of statistical significance (Bourey et al., 2015; Ellsberg et al., 2014). In addition to these methodological limitations, most evidence available is from projects geographically located in Africa (Heise, 2011). Evidence from Latin American is extremely limited (Arango et al., 2014). Further, existing literature focuses on non-state-run programs. Finally, little work has been done to discuss the cost-effectiveness of the interventions (Ellsberg et al., 2014). Recognizing both the limitations and important lessons of recent studies, this study will conduct a rigorous experimental evaluation of Leaders in Action (LIA) – a government gender based violence (GBV) prevention intervention – while addressing the most pressing limitations of previous studies and ensuring findings have direct implications for policy making.

### LEADERS IN ACTION (LIA)

LIA is a recently redesigned flagship program of the Peruvian Ministry of Women (MOW). It is a structural intervention that aims to reduce the acceptance and prevent the incidence of GBV in Peru by tackling several risk factors for GBV. LIA trains local leaders to become community health volunteers (CHV) and to work with the Centers for Women, a network of 255 hubs run by the MOW throughout the country that offer wide-ranging professional services to victims of GBV, including legal advice and psychological and social assistance. Trained CHVs will work in close coordination with the Centers for Women to train additional members of their communities, perform local awareness and mobilization campaigns to monitor the incidence of GBV, encourage take-up of existing support services, and change social norms around GBV.

### THE STUDY

The main goals of this project are to bring new and rigorous evidence by experimentally evaluating the impacts of LIA measure its cost-effectiveness, and guide the public sector's programming in an evidence-based manner.

- 1. Experimentally evaluate the impact of LIA.** This project will address the main shortcomings of the GBV literature by conducting a large randomized control trial in Peru at village level and using validating measures to explicitly address reporting bias. The research design allows the measurement of the impacts of LIA on the incidence of GBV and mental and physical health, as well as on important factors which may influence it, such as attitudes towards violence, women's empowerment, and the use of government services

for GBV victims. Finally, a careful data collection strategy will allow the measurement of how the effects of the program differ across individuals in the community by numerous factors including level of education and underlying risk of violence, which will elucidate the mechanisms at play.

- 2. Conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis of the intervention.** The study will track all costs related to the implementation through the MOW decentralized cost system to assess LIA's cost-effectiveness.
- 3. Research for policy-making.** Lessons of the study will be shared with the MOW in the form of ongoing dialogue, two written reports, and presentations covering baseline and end line results.

The project will start in June 2018, and will run for 24 months.

### WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

This project will serve to:

- Build the global evidence base:
  - Evidence on impact of structural, government-run intervention on GBV in LAC strengthened.
  - Cost effectiveness of LIA revealed.
  - Methods to undertake such evaluations improved.
- Promote research uptake and using research to strengthen policy making:
  - The MOW will use research findings to inform their policies and strengthen the LIA programme prior to LIA's scale-up.
- Strengthen researcher – policy-maker partnerships:
  - Through on-going communication, capacity development and undertaking research in partnership with government, this project will strengthen the institutional relationship between researchers and government and promote use of research for policy-making.
  - This project is co-funded by government, J-PAL GPI and CVI Initiatives and SVRI WBG DM award.

### OUTPUTS:

- Paper submitted to a peer-reviewed academic journal.
- Policy brief on the results of the impact evaluation jointly developed by the MOWs policy team and the research team.
- The research team will host workshops with government on how to use research to inform policy.

### THEORY OF CHANGE



### References

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