ENSURING RIGHTS AND CHOICES FOR ALL
UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. UNFPA works to ensure a world in which all individuals can exercise their basic human rights, including those that relate to their sexual and reproductive health.

Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. By 2030, UNFPA aims to achieve three transformative results:

1. **Ending unmet need for family planning**
2. **Ending preventable maternal deaths**
3. **Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices against girls, adolescents and women**

The UNFPA strategic plan 2018-2021 reaffirms the goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and seeks to ensure that no one will be left behind and that those furthest behind will be reached first. UNFPA works in more than 150 countries to ensure access to sexual and reproductive rights to the most vulnerable populations, including adolescents and youth, women, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees.


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UNFPA IN PERU

UNFPA started its activities in Peru in 1972 in cooperation with the Government of Peru. Every five years, UNFPA and the Government of Peru agree on a Country Programme that outlines the strategic priorities of the cooperation and UNFPA’s contribution to achieving national priorities, goals and results in improving the sexual and reproductive rights of all during the next five years.

Priority areas of the current UNFPA Country Programme in Peru (2017-2021)

As outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework signed by the United Nations System in Peru and the Government of Peru, UNFPA is committed to supporting the country in achieving its long-term goals for sustainable development as well as responding to emergencies and humanitarian crises. In Peru, UNFPA engages in advocacy and policy dialogue, provides specialized technical assistance, supports institutional capacity development and knowledge management. In humanitarian contexts, UNFPA provides sexual and reproductive health services as part of the overall humanitarian response.

In line with the principle of ownership of the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness, UNFPA in Peru cooperates with the national government to implement national development strategies and priorities.

STRATEGIC COOPERATION INSTITUTIONS: MINISTRY OF HEALTH • MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS • MINISTRY OF EDUCATION • MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS • MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION • NATIONAL YOUTH SECRETARIAT • NATIONAL STATISTICS INSTITUTE • NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CIVIL DEFENSE AND NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISASTER RISK PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION AND REDUCTION • PERUVIAN OMBUDSMAN OFFICE • REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVEL GOVERNMENTS • ROUND TABLE FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY • THE JUDICIAL BRANCH • THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH • CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES • ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS • ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS • ACADEMIA • MEDIA • PRIVATE SECTOR • OTHER UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMS • INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND OTHER BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL • REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS IN PERU.

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Preparedness and humanitarian response
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To achieve these goals UNFPA aims at:

- Increasing the availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services: Family planning, maternal health and HIV.
- Ensuring that SRH services are gender mainstreamed.
- Ensuring that basic human rights standards on quality of services and equal access are met.

Achieving these goals will lead to fewer maternal deaths, fewer abortions, lower child mortality rates and fewer unplanned pregnancies, contributing to the three transformative results.

To achieve these results, UNFPA is providing technical assistance to strengthen local policies and regulations, to build capacity of local policymakers; and to support the existing sexual and reproductive health service system.

Key milestones

- Expansion of the range of modern contraceptives provided by the family planning services of the Ministry of Health (MINSA).
- Strengthening the institutional and technical capacity of health service suppliers to improve provision of modern contraceptives, including no-scalpel vasectomy.

- Technical assistance for improved access to culturally sensitive maternal health and family planning services in the Regional Health Directorate of Ayacucho, through intercultural health dialogues.
- Technical assistance to MINSA in the formulation and implementation of guidelines for maternal health care and the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services during a pandemic.
- Support to MINSA in the design and testing of models for the continued provision of primary sexual and reproductive health services during the pandemic.

AYACUCHO HEALTH CENTER
ADOPTING AN INTERCULTURAL MANAGEMENT APPROACH

UNFPA has supported the design and testing of new health service provision models in Vinchos (Ayacucho) where, as a strategy for reducing maternal mortality and improving access to family planning services and contraceptives, intercultural health dialogues were conducted.

The Vinchos Health Care Centre is the first in the process of being certified and awarded the Intercultural Seal by the Ministry of Culture.
Peruvian woman dies from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Every day

1 Peruvian woman dies from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth

(Source: UNFPA)

Only 55% of Peruvian women of reproductive age have access to modern contraceptive methods.

The regional average in Latin America is 70%

(Source: INEI, ENDES, 2019)

Reasons to act
ADOLESCENCE AND YOUTH

Strengthening national policies, programmes and budgets to ensure access to sexual and reproductive rights for adolescents and youth, and that every young person’s potential is fulfilled, in order to achieve the demographic dividend in Peru.

To achieve these goals UNFPA aims at:

• Advocating for the prioritization and improved visibility of adolescents and youth, particularly the most vulnerable, in national policies and programmes to increase investments in young people.
• Improving availability of and access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services to support the reduction of the teenage pregnancy rate.

To achieve these results, UNFPA is supporting in removing legal barriers preventing adolescents and youth from enjoying their sexual and reproductive rights. In addition, UNFPA aims to strengthen the integration of comprehensive sexuality education in the National Curriculum for Basic Education and to increase access to counseling and contraceptives for adolescents requesting them.

UNFPA makes evidence-based contributions to political dialogues on teenage pregnancies, child marriage and gender-based violence. Furthermore, UNFPA aims at strengthening youth leadership and participation in other civil society organizations.

Key milestones

• Promoting accessible evidence-based good practices to improve access to modern contraceptives and good quality services for adolescents and youth.
• Data-based contributions to national political dialogues and policies on teenage pregnancies, child marriage and gender-based violence.
• Strengthening diverse youth leadership in promoting access to sexual and reproductive rights for adolescents and youth, as well as supporting adolescent and youth participation in national and regional networks, such as Juventudes Ya! (Youth Now).

DECRIMINALIZATION OF CONSENSUAL ADOLESCENT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Adolescents have the right to explore their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

UNFPA supported the decriminalization of consensual adolescent sexual relationships. Youth leaders and civil society organizations participated in the legal process and ruling in favor of decriminalization at the Constitutional Court for young leaders and civil society organizations.
For the last 30 years, the teenage pregnancy rate has been stable at 13% (Source: ENDES, 2019). However, in rural areas the teenage pregnancy rate is 22.7% and in the rainforest area the rate is 32% (Source: ENDES, 2018). There is great variation between different regions demonstrating high inequalities within the country.
To achieve these goals UNFPA aims at:

- Ensuring that public policies on sexual and reproductive health and ending violence against women, are gender mainstreamed.
- Capacity building of civil servants and key stakeholders on gender equality and human rights.
- Strengthening sexual and reproductive health services, including the prevention of violence against women.

UNFPA supports government, civil society actors, academia and other key stakeholders in achieving a society where all women can exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and live a life free of violence and abuse.

**Key milestones**

- Evidence-based advocacy and technical assistance to at least five legislative instruments establishing a multisectoral approach to promoting gender equality and ending violence against women.
- National Gender Policy.
- Developing a protocol for Emergency Health Care Centers for women.

**INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO WOMEN EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE IN PIURA**

UNFPA provided technical and financial assistance to the Regional Health Directorate of Piura and the “Santa Julia” Health Center to establish the first Emergency Health Care Centre for Women (CEM) in a health care center.

This was the first pilot of integrated and multidisciplinary services for victims/survivors of violence. The aim was to integrate health services with the socio-legal services provided by the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations.

- Developing a Joint Performance Protocol for Emergency Health Care Centers for Women (CEM) and the Police.
- Technical guidelines on mental health care services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Technical Health Standard for integrated healthcare services for women and other family members experiencing sexual violence.

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29.5% of women decide to seek help.

57.7% of women report having experienced intimate partner violence *once in their lifetimes.*

(Source ENDES: 2019)

Seeking support in any institution remains low: only 29.5% of women decide to seek help.

(Source ENDES: 2019)
To achieve these goals UNFPA aims at:

- Generating, making visible and promoting population data collection and analysis.
- Disseminating and promoting the utilization of population data to make it accessible to legislators, decision-makers, research centers and civil society organizations for improved public policies.
- Strengthening basic data collection and improving availability of baseline data to support sustainable development.

To ensure effective public policies and promote the achievement of sustainable development, UNFPA supports evidence-based policymaking that is based on reliable, timely and quality data.

**Key milestones**

- Technical assistance to the 2017 Population and Housing Census which for the very first time included a variable on ethnic self-identification. As a result of the 2017 census and its analysis, the population projection was updated.
- Technical and financial assistance to the Ministry of Health to update the maternal mortality estimates by departments (regions) (2002-2016).
- Supporting the National Statistics Institution in the analysis/identification of characteristics of vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Research on the Venezuelan migrant population in Peru.

**UP-TO-DATE DATA FOR IMPROVED GOVERNANCE**

UNFPA has supported institutional strengthening in improving data availability on vulnerable populations.

For instance, the National Statistics Institution (INEI) and the National Statistics System were supported in order to periodically systematize and update the maternity registry of children under the age of 15.

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When UNFPA began its activities in Peru, the life expectancy at birth, was estimated to be below 56 years of age. Today, it is about 77 years.  
(Source: INEI)
PREPAREDNESS AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

UNFPA supports preparedness and humanitarian response efforts to ensure the continued provision of sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian contexts. In addition, supporting efforts to prevent gender-based violence is particularly important in humanitarian contexts, where the risk of violence is often multiplied.

To achieve these goals UNFPA aims at:

• Providing Minimum Initial Service Packages (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health.
• Ensuring safe environments and minimum standards for gender-based violence case management.
• Including and involving youth in risk management processes.
• Producing needed data and conducting population analysis to reach the furthest behind.

UNFPA’s humanitarian response contributes to ensuring access to sexual and reproductive rights for adolescents and women of reproductive age, including the prevention of gender-based violence. Preparedness and response is strengthened through prevention and building local resilience and capacity.

Key milestones

• Technical assistance for the development of the “Guidelines on the operational continuity of the provision of sexual and reproductive health services in emergencies”.
• Sensitization and capacity building in a cross-cutting human rights-based approach to humanitarian response.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS

Peru is hosting the second largest Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in the world. The Peruvian health system lacks sufficient resources for a timely response in humanitarian contexts. However, free health care services are provided to pregnant migrant and refugee women (for antenatal, neonatal and postnatal care) as well as family planning services, including free access to contraceptives to women of reproductive age.

Many migrant and refugee women require protection services against gender-based violence. UNFPA in Peru is supporting the Government in addressing this need by supporting prevention and response services, as well as by ensuring continuity of sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning services and the delivery of Dignity Kits containing 10 key essential hygiene supplies for women.

(Source: Regional Plan in Response to Refugees and Migrants, 2019)
Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Approximately, of them are young. Peru currently hosts over 600,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Approximately, 150,000 of them are young. (Source: Regional Plan in Response to Refugees and Migrants, 2020)