

Peru

Empowering girls and adolescents and strengthening digital and programming skills (CHICASTEC)

Objective:

Develop programming and web development skills for female adolescents through access to training opportunities. Promote the change of gender norms and stereotypes to empower girls so that they choose to participate in science and technology professions.

Duration:

2020 to 2022

Donor:

Shiseido

Target audience:

Adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 in vulnerable situations, who have expressed their interest in professional careers related to science and technology.

Collaborators:

Laboratoria, Ministry of Education (MINEDU), Regional Education Directorate, CONCYTEC, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, National Adolescents Network, CUMULIA, NGO Manuela Ramos, NGO Flora Tristán, Grupo COMERCIO, Crack the Code

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Some challenges for adolescent girls in Peru

- ▶ In 2021, 8.9% of adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 were pregnant. In some Amazon regions, this percentage goes up to 25%.
- ▶ In 2014, less than 1 in 10 adolescent mothers attended school, limiting their education and, consequently, diminishing their opportunities for social and labour inclusion, contributing to underemployment, labour informality and other precarious forms of employability, intergenerational reproduction of poverty and gender inequalities.
- ▶ Evidence shows that there is also a greater gap for girls to learn and succeed in mathematics and science, especially those from rural and indigenous areas and for pregnant and parenting adolescents.





UNICEF provide solutions

The S4G Peru programme has a core commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of adolescent girls, with an emphasis on expanding their participation, agency and non-dropout, timely completion and improvement in high-school learning achievement.

Since 2020, this programme's interventions have targeted adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 who have experienced early motherhood, as well as adolescent women in vulnerable situations who are interested in STEM-related careers.

The activities carried out within the S4G programme contribute to the empowerment of adolescents so they can choose new careers linked to new technologies and innovation allowing them to access the labour market in the future. The programme combines technological learning through the teaching method of learning by doing, and the development of life skills that allow them to finish high school on time and experience a better transition to the labour market, focusing in three strategies:

1. Developing adolescents' digital, web programming, as well as life and employability skills through innovative initiatives:

- ▶ A training programme in "Programming and Web Development" was designed in a participatory manner with the Education sector, Technical-Productive Education Centres and the Laboratoria organization, seeking to develop digital and programming skills among adolescents in programmes such as JavaScript, CSS for styling web pages, use of HTML language, developing responsive web designs, using the Design Thinking methodology, among others. This training is carried out at six Technical-Productive Education Centres (CETPRO) and is based on the "learning by doing" model. It includes five practical projects that allow implementation of this teaching model.
- ▶ The Hackathon: A seven-day design and creation process in which the adolescents graduated from the training programme work to provide innovative solutions to problems / challenges posed by companies that are their clients. Through Hackathon, the adolescents put into practice the skills developed and strengthened in the training programme and demonstrate - vis-a-vis the business, educational community and their entourage - their talent and potential in programming, doing away with gender stereotypes.

2. Advocacy activities to do away with stereotypes and provide visibility to the successful experiences of girls and adolescents in this field:

- ▶ Communication campaign carried out by UNICEF in collaboration with the most prominent national media (Radio Programas de Perú-RPP), to promote the STEM vocation among adolescents and provide visibility to new women leaders in the TECH area, as well as question gender stereotypes in occupational vocations to motivate and inspire girls and adolescents.
- ▶ The initiative "The Alliance of + Girls and Women in Science" made up of State institutions, civil society and the private sector developed communication campaigns in the media to raise

- ▶ awareness and work to reduce the gender gap that hinders the insertion of girls, adolescents and women in the field of science.
- ▶ The largest multimedia company in the country, Grupo COMERCIO, developed an 8-week multi-platform communications campaign to highlight the challenges facing adolescent girls in STEM and showcase the success stories of the girls' skills programme.

3. Evidence generation:

- ▶ A study was carried out on the "Gender-based digital divide among adolescents". The outcomes were disseminated in the media and a summary video was produced.
- ▶ The findings and recommendations of the Study on the Gender-based Digital Divide were disseminated through a Study Promotion Committee with the participation of key stakeholders (civil society, private sector and adolescent activists) to position the issue on the public agenda and generate commitments for action with state entities.
- ▶ A diagnostic study was carried out on opportunities for transitioning to secondary school and productive technical education at the national level. It was then disseminated and published online.



Future Opportunities

- ▶ Thanks to the collaboration with MINEDU and CETPROS and the inclusion of STEM and digital skills in its catalog of national educational offerings, educational programmes in STEM and digital skills for girls and adolescents can be further developed.
- ▶ Partnerships with Government, the private sector, NGOs and Peruvian Universities will enable the programme to move forward, facilitating resources and its scalability.
- ▶ These partnerships also help to position girls' STEM and digital skills development on the public agenda to advocate for public policies and programmes that will have an even greater impact.

Adolescent girls' voices



SABRINA



15 years old

"When we think of a person who develops websites, the image of a man comes to mind, in movies you also see men doing this and if you see a woman, she has dark circles under her eyes, she is disconnected from society and tries to be self-taught, I want to prove that this is not so".

LWANNA



17 years old

"I think most people associate technology and computers with men and believe that women don't like these things or can't make it. But actually, some girls like technology! And this is a great opportunity to make our dreams come true"oportunidad para lograr nuestros sueños".

