

«Love matters Family matter»

Fundacion Vencer, Paraguay
Presented by Juan Francisco Ramirez



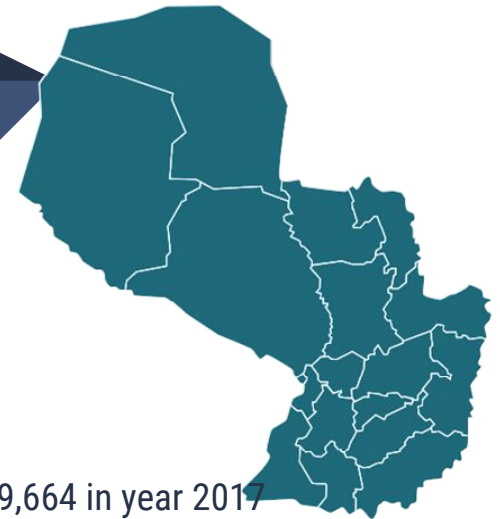
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Background Country



Situation:

- 20% of pregnancies in Paraguay correspond to adolescents between 15 and 19 years.
- 30,1 % of 14-18 year olds have had sexual relations at some time in their lives, of which 39% were male and 21.5% were female (1).
- 6% of new cases of HIV in Paraguay correspond to adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age (2)

Contextual challenges:

- Ministerial resolution No. 29,664 in year 2017 has declared the "prohibition of any debate in schools on the theory or perspective of gender"
- Myths, taboos and stigma are strongly associated with pregnancy at an early age, as well as the high incidence of HIV / AIDS in young people and adolescents.

1 Encuesta Global de Salud Escolar (MSPBS)" in 2017

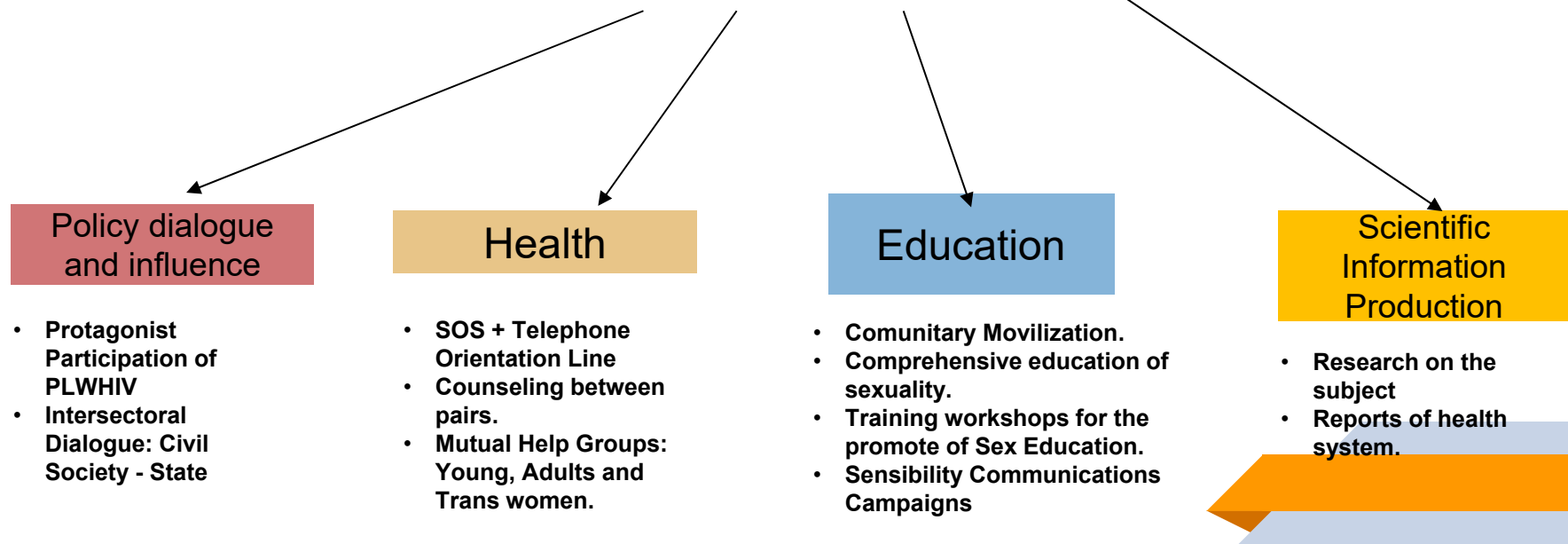
2 Epidemiological Report, 2017, PRONASIDA





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An organization that works to defend the Human Rights of people with HIV-AIDS and for the right to access to sexual and reproductive health





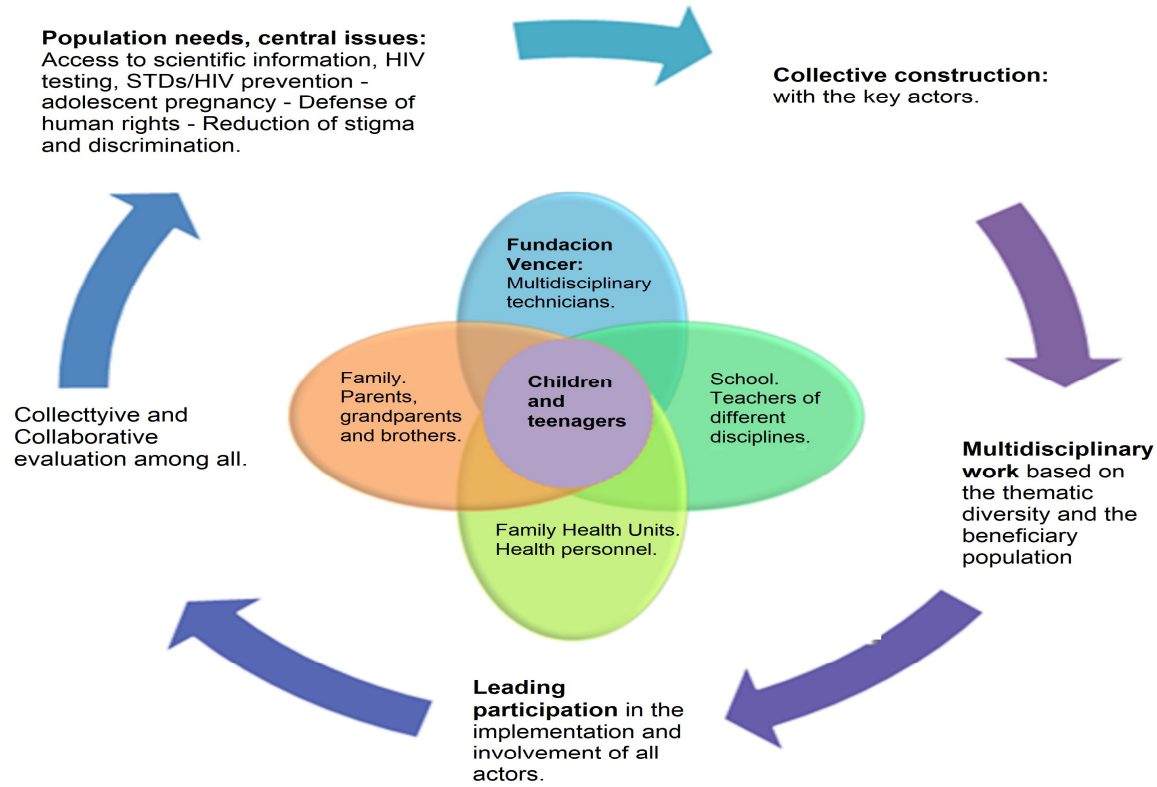
Sexual education and reduction of taboo

Working area and beneficiaries:

- 1.500 adolescents and teenagers from the area of Bañado Norte, Zeballos Cue from the Municipality of Asunción and Las Colinas from the Municipality of Mariano Roque Alonso.
- 20 professionals from 8 Family Health Unit in the areas.
- 25 parents.
- 100 teachers from schools those areas.



INTEGRAL APPROACH





Advantages of the approach

- The appropriation of the Integral Education of the Sexuality like a task of all the actors of the community, not only of the School or the Teachers.
- The Family Health Units have started to provide friendly services for adolescents and young people without stigma and discrimination by adopting a comprehensive view of sexuality.
- The adolescents and young people continue to educate each other and learn among themselves in dynamics that facilitate conversations about their realities and experiences.
- The chain of transmission of prejudices within generations is addressed by providing spaces for reflection for adults (parents, teachers) about sexuality.
- Starting a Continue and replicate the model of community mobilization approach for the Integral Education of Sexuality in other communities.



Impact of work

- 1'505 of the adolescents and young participants have increased their knowledge about HIV and know legal rights.
- There was a 15% increase in access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services by those adolescents and young people in the year 2016 after participation in the educational training.
- 92% of students who have participated in this project know how to avoid teenage pregnancies.
- Parents feel more confident to talk to their children about sexual health.







Lessons learnt

- Understanding the «language of youth» for sexual expressions and teaching them to parents has helped to freely discuss sexual health and rights at home and to grow confidence among youth and parents and drew them nearer with more understanding for each other.
- Integrating parents has helped teachers to feel less shy and destigmatise the subject and taboos around sexual health.
- The approach of the Integral Education of Sexuality from the Initial Level (5 years) to medium high school (15 years) involving teachers, parents and mothers has allowed to naturalize the sexuality in an integral way in the “Escuelita Bernardino Caballero”.



Challenges

- Continue and replicate the model of community mobilization approach for the Integral Education of Sexuality in other communities, particularly starting at young age, requires a good understanding and time to get a buy-in from the school and parents.
- The conservative political environment does not allow a high visibility and promotion of the approach, despite the fact that Government is aware about the increase of adolescent pregnancies.
- Mobilize networks between organizations that work on the theme of Sexual and Reproductive Health to support each other in the present conservative context.



Way forward

- To enhance community self-management creating links between community actors to maintain the approach to Integral Sexuality Education beyond our presence in the community.
- To multiply the groups of fathers and mothers who talk about sexuality among themselves and with their sons and daughters.
- To promote peer education through the analysis of their realities and decision making.
- To continue with subtle lobbying to influence the incorporation of sexuality education and youth promotion into the plans and programs of the State in the formal and non-formal educational system.



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THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsHZbdWEuCU>

