

The Rights from the Start project uses feminist and human rights-based approaches to promote and advance comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We work collaboratively with allies from civil society movements, community leaders, educators, researchers, decision-makers, health care workers, women, men, and young people in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Canada. We are working to ensure the delivery, promotion, and advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights for women, men, and young people—especially adolescent girls.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are at the heart of the most critical decisions that all people, especially adolescent girls, will make in their lives. We want all people everywhere to be empowered to make free and informed decisions that are right for them.

How this project contributes to improving the lives of women, girls, and young people

This project contributes to providing quality information to adolescents and youth on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and also to parents, legal guardians and teachers who benefit from getting specific and genuine information on how to address CSE in their different contexts.

We are members of the Metropolitan Youth Council and contribute to implementing the strategies *Empodérate Joven* (Youth, Empower Yourself) and *Protégete Joven* (Youth, Protect Yourself) in which we promote the educational and health services provided by the project through conversations, specialised counselling on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and free delivery of condoms.

Finally, we are always in touch with the youth population in spaces where we can sensitize girls, boys, teenagers and youth through podcasts, TikTok contests and sensitization sessions in the spaces where they socialize.

Main objectives of our organization under Rights from the Start

- To strengthen the knowledge of CSE in adolescents, youth and teachers in leadership positions and also to sensitize families and community members.
- To advocate for SRR for all persons, improving access to SRH services and increasing their demand among youth and teenagers.
- To implement a comprehensive and structured program with proper methodology to teach CSE focusing on issues that other organizations don't usually address, like Human Rights and their relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), a gender perspective, sexual health, reproductive health, among others.

Our organization is focused on advocating for SRHR and the project activities are complemented by the health and educational services we provide, now with a greater emphasis on our target population: women, adolescent and youth.

We work in collaboration with youth of all genders so they actively participate throughout the process, i.e. teaching and providing information to their peers or leading interviews on our social media.

Organizational change under Rights from the Start

The Rights from the Start (RFTS) project is staffed by a team that includes LGBTQ+ youth and others who are gender and sexually non-conforming, feminist activists from different groups and collectives, as well as CSE and SRHR advocates. One of them is a trans man who has always been welcomed and respected in the project and has built his skills to talk about CSE and SRH with other youth. Through him we have been able to access young people from that community and provide them with information on SRHR and gender. Also, we have been able to offer other young people who are consolidating their gender identity a safe space where they can talk to someone qualified and with personal experience on the topic, with whom they can identify.

Some of the remarkable experiences of the project include a TikTok contest and having a trans facilitator from the LGBTIQ+ community. We tell both stories below.

A story to tell: Strategy TikTok contest *crESlendo juntxs*—young participant Scott.

The TikTok contest whose goal was to share information on family planning and preventing teenage pregnancies, encouraged Scott to share his vision on the topic. He says,

“ I saw the INPPARES post on Facebook about this contest, and well, I dared. There were several other contests on TikTok that were not attractive to me but when I saw this one was on preventing teenage pregnancies it called my attention and I decided to participate.

He remembered hearing about the same topic in school.

“ At school we have this course on the Person, the Family and Human Relations and our final assignment was on teenage pregnancies. That helped us to learn about the implications of early pregnancy...

Scott was able to identify some barriers to access CSE in schools and suggested some solutions from his perspective as a young person.

“ I think there is not much educational information, no organized curriculum for students to learn about contraception and the implications of having unprotected sex...there should be workshops and campaigns not only in the schools but also [in] the Universities to provide this much needed information, some form of ongoing learning led by qualified people.

Additional information about the project

The RFTS project organizes activities outside the districts where the INPPARES youth volunteers' project (*Centro Juvenil Futuro*—Future Youth Centre) is implemented so those young volunteers can also be active in other locations. This is part of their training as peer facilitators. The RFTS project enhances their skills and training and contributes to attracting even more young persons to the events organized.

The project also works with young multi-tasking facilitators—this has allowed us to use more and more youth-friendly technological tools and apps and enriching the virtual and in-person workshops we are doing with youth.

Finally, we are investing more in training health providers on issues related to adolescent comprehensive care, a SRH care approach and the legal elements of these interventions. This has allowed us to train healthcare providers in the skills and knowledge required to serve youth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has maximized our digital channels where the number of youth followers has grown. Almost 20% of our Facebook and Instagram followers are below age 25. We make dedicated posts focused on that audience promoting specialized services and also educating and empowering them through learning about their SRHR.

<https://inppares.org/>

www.actioncanadashr.org/rfts/about-rights-start