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THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS IN PERU
A GENDER APPROACH
TACKLING A PARTICULAR URGENCY

THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS IN PERU

THE GENDER APPROACH

Confronting an Urgent Problem

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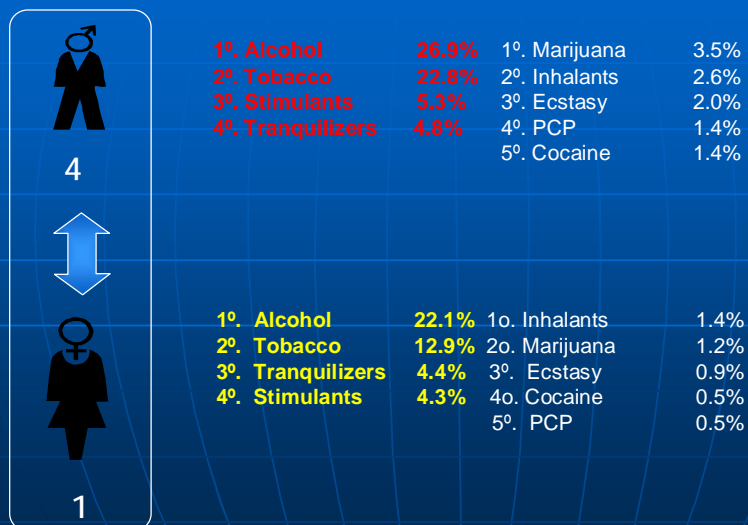
- n The Ministry of Women and Social Development (MIMDES), just published the National Plan for Gender Equality, which will receive input from different groups and sectors working from a gender perspective.
- n Objective 4 calls to “improving the health of women and the free exercise of sexual and reproductive rights of women and men”.

THE GENDER APPROACH

Confronting an Urgent Problem

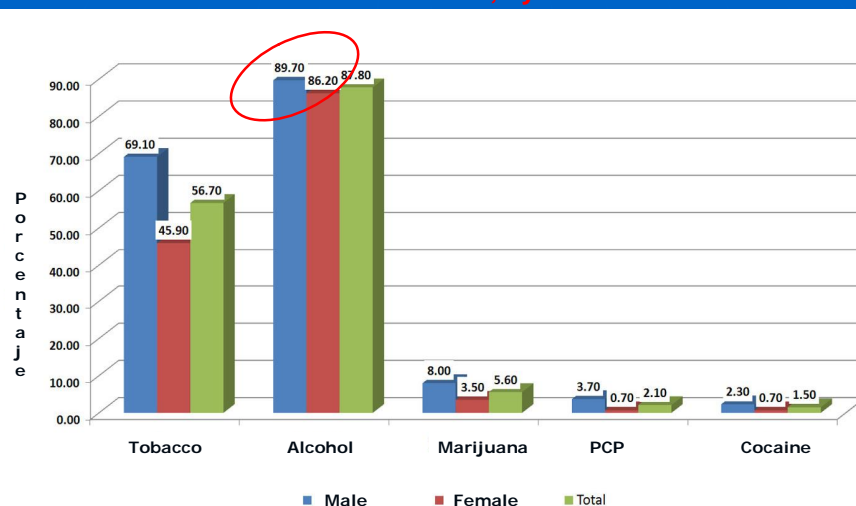
- n One of the goals of the aforementioned National Plan, proposes increased attention to women’s mental health. DEVIDA emphasizes that explicit attention/care needs should be provided by the state for legal drugs (alcohol and tobacco) as is done for illicit drugs.
- n In Peru, there is not yet any state program that addresses the gender perspective in drug treatment. There are only 700 beds for patients. None of them are for women. This urgent problem must be confronted to determine why there is an absence of gender policy with respect to mental health and drug dependency, specifically for women.

Prevalence of Alcohol and Other Drug Consumption by High School Students: 2009



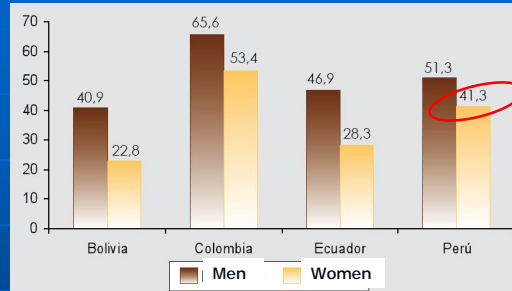
III National Study: Prevention and consumption of drugs by high school students: 2009. Peru National Results, DEVIDA

Prevalence of social and illegal drugs in the GENERAL URBAN POPULATION, by sex



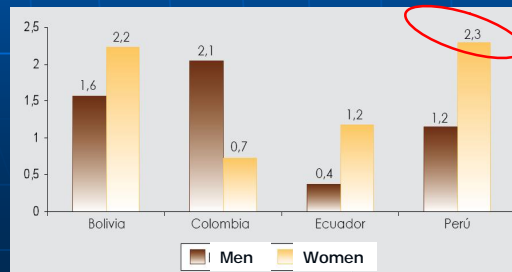
Epidemiology of drugs in the Peruvian urban population 2012. CEDRO

Epidemiologic Study on the Andean consumption of synthetic drugs in university populations of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, 2009



Current use (within the last month) of alcohol

It confirms that patterns of alcohol consumption tends to be standardized between women and men



Prevalence of the use of inhalants over the past year .

Peruvian universities have the highest prevalence (2.3) of inhalant use, with respect to students of the other countries that were surveyed

Health problems associated with feminine substance addiction

Co morbid Disorders:

- Primary effects

Organ damage

- Increased risk of brain damage
- Heart rhythm disturbances
- Problems with the nervous system
- Damage to the liver and kidneys
- Delayed onset of puberty



Psychiatric Disorders

- Transient
- Permanent

Risk of Infections:

- Hepatitis
- HIV AIDS

Risks during pregnancy

- Problems with fetus development:

- Premature birth
- Low weight
- Deficits in lung functions
- Increased risk of respiratory problems
- Somatic deficits
- Small deficits in intelligence and behavior
- Sudden death syndrome of a newborn
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome

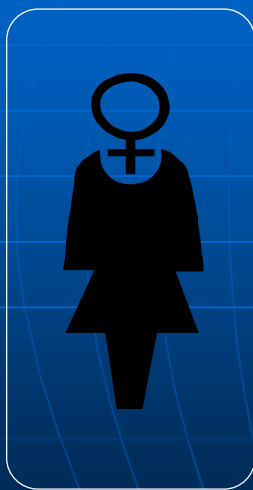
Psychological problems associated with feminine substance addiction



Changes in behavior and psychological problems

- Risk of accidents
- Social degradation.
- Risk of criminal acts.
- Family, school, and work problems.
- Impacts parenting.
- Stigmatization and social isolation.
- Family violence.

Health Problems: Abuse of prescription and Non-prescription medications



The consumption of self-prescribed medications:

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| 1. Tranquilizers | 3.4% |
| 2. Stimulants | 0.2% |

Broken down into age groups:

1. Women from 36 to 45 years old (3.7%): Consume tranquilizers, sedatives, amphetamines, and other stimulants.
2. Women from 26 to 35 years old (3.6%): Consume tranquilizers, amphetamines, and other stimulants.

*Note: These facts correspond to the total percentage of medical drug consumers.

PREVENTION PROGRAM

Universal Prevention

- **Information Level:**

Provide an overview with the gender approach on the risks associated with addiction, and violence as a trigger of addiction; in order to promote and strengthen protective factors of women and men.

- **Orientation Level:**

Group reflection can generate cognitive changes and alternative solutions to help to prevent drug use and non-violent resolution of conflicts.

- **Training Level:**

Promote the participation of persons and institutional groups to boost the formation of these multiplying preventative actions.

PREVENTION PROGRAM

Selective Prevention

- n Develop prevention actions with the different groups considered vulnerable to addiction, from a gender approach perspective and in accordance with the levels of orientation and training.

- n **Orientation:**

Vulnerable population: adolescents in treatment for depression, anxiety, attention deficit disorder, etc. Women prisoners, abused women, indigenous women, street children, etc.

- n **Training:**

Fathers, teachers, and staff working with vulnerable groups.

WOMEN ADICTS DO NOT RECEIVE SPECIALIZED TREATMENT AND HOSPITALIZATION IN PERU

- **STATE**, In the Public Health System there is no coverage for specialized treatment and hospitalization of women with drug dependency problems. Women addicts are referred to mixed wards, men and women, which also serve major psychiatric disorders. The Ministry of Health has 3 mental health hospital and one rehabilitation center with beds only for men..
- **HEALTH**, Admission for women addicts who are insured is brief and aimed at detoxification. The current program is mixed, and has not yet incorporated the gender approach.

WOMEN ADICTS DO NOT RECEIVE SPECIALIZED TREATMENT AND HOSPITALIZATION IN PERU

- **PRIVATE SECTOR**
216 addiction treatment centers were reported according to the results of the "Situational Assessment of the Attention Centers for Dependents of Psychoactive Substances", conducted by the Program DEVIDA – CTB Phase II, 2009 and 2010. Of these, only eight (8) provide treatment for drug dependent women. La majority are found in Lima (6) and the other two in Junin (1) and Tacna (1).
- n **'Dead Letter'. Regulations exist but they are not upheld ...**
Since 1984, the Ministry of Health has had regulations that 5% of the beds in general hospitals are for patients with mental health problems, however they are NOT upheld because no training is provided for human resources working in short detox, the sigma of patients who are addicts and the priority of other mental illnesses.

URGENT MATTERS TO RESOLVE IN THE FIELD OF ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS IN WOMEN

•PUBLIC SECTOR

- Encourage and promote the opening of treatment programs specifically for female addicts, with modalities for professional outpatient clinics, hospitalization, and therapeutic communities.
- Training and technical assistance to staff providing mental health treatment from the gender approach and women's ailments perspective.
- Treatment from the gender approach seeks women's strengths, their empowerment, self esteem and self sufficiency.
- It is also gravitating to address violence against women as a public health problem.
- Encourage non-subordination, to be an independent human being with rights.

Prevention:

•EDUCATIONAL SECTOR

- Selectively promote prevention in children and adolescents more prone to the risk of drug abuse. These actions of early detection, pre-training are conducted by tutors or teachers within the school.
- Considering that the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, prescription and non-prescription drugs, marijuana, inhalants, and ecstasy have the highest indicators among Peruvian women, universal prevention actions should have differentiated approaches as the reasons girls become consumers is different from the reasons of males.

THE GENDER FOCUS OF THE ENLCD IN PERU

EMPOWERING WOMEN FARMERS

In order to stop illegal cultivation and
poverty

The Rural Peruvian Woman and Her Contribution to the Fight Against Drugs

- n Rural women constitute 43% of the laborers in the fields, reaching almost 70% in some places.
- n The Rural Peruvian Woman decisively contributes to the sustained application of the National Strategy for the Fight Against Drugs, because of their growing participation in the productive economy in areas that are influenced by drug trafficking.
- n There are women that promote community organization, contribute to the progress on agricultural quality, receive training for better crop cultivation and ensure their family has food.

• Difficulties for Rural Peruvian Women

- n Inequality between genders and limited access to credit (in addition to the physical lack of credit institutions, public and private in those areas) the lack of land titles, little to no health care or education, are the principle difficulties that rural women face.
- n Climate change has altered cultivation seasons and crops, weakening the their production, and therefore affecting the their economy.
- n The constant threat of nacro-terrorist alliance, insecurity and violence all impede development.

The Difficulties Become Opportunities

- n However this challenge did not discourage them. It is the challenge they face and overcome every day.
- n They are actively involved in the stages of growing, harvesting, post harvest, and alternative products that replace the coca leave derivative to narco-trafficking.
- n Products such as cocoa, coffee, sesame, flowers for exportation, palm oil, among others are products of Peru and have gained national and international awards.
- n Women know that the organizations and partnerships that better the markets, make goods more competitive with better prices, should be consolidated.

Women's Organizations in Areas Influenced by Drug Trafficking

n **San Martín:**

- Juanjuí, Acopagro Cooperative, with 168 women cocoa growers.
- Agro-Industrial Cooperative of Tocache, with 96 women.
- Agrarian Cooperative "Green Gold" in Lamas, with 90 women.
- Allima Cacao, Central Association of Agrarian Farmers in Chazuta, with 70 women.
- Entrepreneur Women of Leoncio Prado, with 150 women.
- Association of "Agro Flora del Huallaga", with 45 women.

Women's Organizations

n **Ucayali:**

- Central Committee of Palm Growers – Olamsa, with 198 women.
- Association of "Women Entrepreneurs of Flor of Boquerón – Valley of Shambillo," with 30 women members.
- Committee of "Rural Women Entrepreneurs", Irazola, with 30 women.
- Association of Palm Growers in Valley Shambillo (ASPASH), with 95 women.

Women's Organizations

n **Puno:**

- Women's Committee on the Central Cooperatives in Sandia Valleys– CODEMU – CECOVASA, more than 150 women.

Junín, San Martín de Pangoa (Satipo):

- Case in point, the producer Nelva López has “revolutionized” the cultivation of sesame to cover a large part of the national and international market.

Impact

- n In 2012, we are pleased to see the United Nations – UN emphasize the importance and impact women farmers in the progress of communities, marking the International Day of Women on March 8, with the theme of “empowering women farmers – To end hunger and poverty.”
- n UN – Women, lead by a Latin American, Michelle Bachelet, promotes the visibility of strength, work, and wisdom of women that continue to feel like a little valued human resource.
- n *«One must empower women farmers, for this one must invest in them, eliminating discrimination that is the object of legislation and practice; assuring that policies respond to their needs; providing equal access to resources and giving them a role in decision making.» said Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki-moon*

Impact

- n This emphasis, to share and promote **DEVIDA** as well as the new **National Strategy to Fight Against Drugs 2012 – 2016**, establishes a clear **FOCUS ON GENDER**.
- n Each axis of drug management like Alternative Development, Interdiction and Sanctions, Prevention and Rehabilitation, has to focus on the visibility of the Woman and empowering her, advancing her skills, and promoting Equal Opportunities.
- n The ENLCD is concerned with all Women, rural, urban, those who have fallen into crime by trafficking illicit drugs, called mules or drug transporters; those that need rehabilitation for drug consumption, young women and adolescents on the issue of prevention by training parents and school teachers.

Impact

- It necessary to be aware of all of the spaces for promoting the fight against scourge that is drugs, with the intention of strengthening the focus on gender in the ENLCD 2012-2016, we need to integrate and support the USAID-PERU initiative and the Congress of the Republic to train the Lead Team on Gender Issues.
- This selected group more or less is working on the construction of an instrument of dialogue and virtual, interactive communication (www.madigual.org) so every one can post their concerns and proposals; consult and comment to which we should respond, and this shortens the distances between our public and civil society functions.

“Mules”

- n An issues that particularly worries Peru is the crime of trafficking illicit drugs
- n There are transporters of drugs that run the high risk of being abandoned to their fate by the mafias when they are discovered.
- n 350 people were detained in 2011 for trying to transport drugs in a camouflaged manner through the Jorge Chávez airport.
- n Of this number, 80% were men, and 20% were women. 50% were foreigners.
- n In the Peruvian penitentiary system is holding approximately 1,086 foreigners, 90% of which were detained for drug trafficking. **More than 200 were women** and are in the Women's Penitentiary of Santa Monica.

NATIONALITY OF “MULES” CAUGHT IN THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OF JORGE CHÁVEZ : 2012



What Should We Do?

- n It has been almost 4 years, the Congress of Peru has approved of modifications to articles 542 and 544 of the new Penal Procedure Code, allowing foreigners in prison, the completion of sentences in one's respective country or country of origin.
- n The law seeks to decrease overcrowding, as a result of the enormous influx of prisoners for drug trafficking. Its application should slow the explosive growth, while providing for humane treatment of foreign inmates by allowing them to finish their sentence in their country and close to their family.
- n To do this, it is urgent to speed up the judiciary process and have firm sentences
- n It would be beneficiary for the Ambassadors in Peru to take an interest in their compatriots that are on trial for drugs.
- n Each prisoner costs the Peruvian State approximately 27 Soles per day.

Shared Responsibilities

- n The nature of the drug problem is global, some produce it, others consume it. What is certain is that the world has a grave problem that must be stopped.
- n The participation of cooperative organizations fulfill a strategic role for ensuring the success of these efforts in Peru.
- n To do this, we need to share the fight in an effective and sustained manner, as follows:
 - Institutional strengthening and the presence of the State in depressed and poor areas and on the borders.
 - Supporting the legal system and the established laws for the fight against drugs.
 - Equal Opportunities/ Empowering Rural Women
 - Strategic and adequate distribution of resources in the areas established by the ENLCD: Alternative development, prevention and interdiction.

Burriers en “Santa Mónica”



Organized Women in a Communal Meeting



Woman Cocoa Grower in Tocache



Women of Peru, Planting the Seeds of the Future ...

