



YFS: Youth-Friendly Services

Civil Society perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

FÒS FEMINISTA

Best Practice



Context

Bolivia grapples with significant challenges in delivering comprehensive **SRHS** to adolescents and young individuals. Pressing concerns encompass issues like elevated rates of adolescent pregnancy, inadequate training for healthcare professionals, prevailing taboos around sexuality, and restricted budget allocations. Notably, **YFS** are predominantly concentrated in urban areas, emphasizing the urgent need for widespread expansion to ensure inclusivity across all regions.



Challenge

The primary challenge revolves around overcoming barriers obstructing the realization of sexual and reproductive rights for adolescents and young people in **Bolivia**. Persistent challenges include limited awareness, intricate cultural nuances, and substantial gaps in healthcare services, collectively posing impediments to the effective delivery of youth-friendly care.

The Initiatives

Strategy of Comprehensive Student Care Offices (GAIE): clxxii

• The **GAIE** aims to provide extensive psychosocial support and guidance in **CSE** for adolescent women and men, involving mothers, fathers, the community, and teachers through informative initiatives on sexuality. Generally led by psychology professionals specializing in diverse adolescent needs and emphasizing Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Human Rights, Gender, and Interculturality approaches, **GAIE** serves as an accessible resource for **CSE** awareness, addressing issues like pregnancy, sexual violence, and **STIs**. It actively promotes collaboration among institutions and social organizations to collectively respond to challenges faced by adolescents. Beyond its role as a supportive space, **GAIE** serves as a platform for knowledge exchange with municipal authorities, enhancing its impact on holistic adolescent development.

Guide on Differentiated Comprehensive Care: clxxiii

• The Guide on Differentiated Comprehensive Care from 2013, aims to enhance health services for adolescents by presenting four basic modalities. These modalities include the Differentiated Care Center for Adolescents, providing adapted spaces and cultural events, and the Differentiated Service for Adolescent Care, offering exclusive spaces with proper signage. Emphasizing privacy and comfort, the guide underscores reception and waiting areas, as well as consultation rooms equipped for confidentiality and family participation. It advocates for multidisciplinary teams in shared spaces and specialized consulting rooms for comprehensive adolescent health care.

Studies and Information Generation:

• The "Barriers to Access Public Services" conducted research in eight municipalities of **Bolivia**, carried out by the Alliance for Solidarity in 2021.^{cxxi} Through a comprehensive analysis, the study focuses on barriers that impact the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights for adolescents and young people. The anticipated outcomes include an informed understanding of the challenges, facilitating targeted interventions.

Key Takeaways

Comprehensive Support for Adolescent Health:

Emphasize the critical role of comprehensive and accessible psychosocial support, coupled with education, in effectively addressing the complex challenges faced by adolescents in terms of their health.

Tailored Healthcare Services:

Customized healthcare services within both the education and health sectors, illustrating how tailored approaches contribute to increased accessibility and responsiveness to the specific needs of adolescents.

Importance of Research and Data:

Underscores the vital role of research and data generation in gaining insights into the obstacles hindering the provision of YFS.

This multi-faceted approach, involving education, healthcare, and research, exemplifies best practices in **Bolivia** for fostering YFS and promoting the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people. legal frameworks, public programs, and collaboration with pharmacies, sets a positive example for countries seeking to enhance reproductive healthcare accessibility.

Fòs Feminista is an intersectional feminist organization centered on the rights and needs of women, girls, and gender-diverse people in the Global South. We recognize that the ability to make free and informed decisions about sexual and reproductive health, including the ability to access safe and legal abortion, is central to gender equity and to the fulfillment of the human rights of women, girls, and all people who can become pregnant.

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