



Asociación
IDEI

TAN UX'IL



Sector de Mujeres



Vidas Paralelas

incidejoven



Situation of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Guatemala.

Problematic:

- In 2020, the Ministry of Health (MSPAS) reported a QTZ 9,587,229.04 cut for the activities of Adolescent and Young Pregnancy Prevention, and QTZ 1,497,135.60 for STI Prevention; both content in their youth17 program. In 2021, the problematic increased: there was a reduction of QTZ 11,572,631 for the first item and QTZ 25,650 in the second one. In 2022, they removed QTZ 71,336 for the first line of activities and 156,381 of the second one.
- There are reports that alert about the frequency that forced sterilization practices in women with disabilities. This violates their right of autonomy and puts them at risk to suffer continuous sexual violence. The current legislation doesn't recognize forced sterilization as a type of violence and those who participate in it are doing it with impunity.
- Forced pregnancies are a form of sexual violence and torture, normalize in the country and that violates girls and young women rights. From 2018 until May 2022, the Ministry of Health (MSPAS) registered 334,963 pregnancies in the ages between 15 and 18. On the other side, just from January to October 2022, the Sexual and Reproductive Health Observatory (OSAR) registered 57,163 pregnancies in women between the ages of 10 and 19. This evidence the underreporting of official data.
- The Ministry of Health reported that just 7.53% of the cases of maternal mortality in 2021 corresponded to abortions and threatened abortions.
- The Vida (life) program of the Ministry of Social Development, that provides assistance to pregnant girls and adolescent, under the age of 14, victims of sexual violence, with cases that had been prosecuted. Nevertheless, only 117 girls and adolescents were users of the program in 2019, 164 in 2020 and 179 in 2021.
- According to the Grupo de Apoyo Xela data, of 949 complaints registered that were interposed to Public Ministry for abuse and violence towards people from the LGBTIQ+ community, only 1.8% (17) of cases came to judgment, while 28% (270) of cases were still in investigation.
- In 2019, the Secretary Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and People Traffic (SVET), reported 4,019 cases of sexual violence against women between the ages of 15 and 29. For the same age range, 3,303 were registered in 2020 and 4,241 in 2021.
- According to the 2018 census, 179,081 people between the ages of 13 and 30 are recent migrants. Of them, 56.76% are women (101,643).
- During the last five years there have been a regressive tendency in sexual and reproductive rights tendency. The State of Guatemala has prioritized approval of politics and laws that restrict and violate these rights.
- The approval of decree 18-2022 "Law for the Protection of Life and Family" on March 8, 2022, which promotes and legalizes the exercise of violence and discrimination against the LGBTIQ+ community; increases the penalties for abortion; prohibits Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and creates a criminal figure for spontaneous abortion and for speaking publicly or privately about abortion.
- The approval of the Public Policy for the Protection of Life and Family Institution, which openly prohibits any type of education on sexuality that calls into question traditional values. This policy, which will be in force until 2032, represents a clear threat to the Human Rights and dignity of young women rights holders.
- In September 2021, initiative 5940 "Law to Guarantee the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents against Gender Identity Disorders" was promoted in Congress, which aims to sustain hate speech and pathologizes transgender people.

Questions for the State of Guatemala:

- What measures will the State of Guatemala take in order to avoid legislation and policies that are regressive and discriminatory to the sexual and reproductive rights of young LGBTIQ+ women and that oppose international Human Rights standards?
- What are the measures that the State of Guatemala will adopt to annul the National Policy for the Protection of Life and the Institutionality of Family that contravenes the commitments assumed in CEDAW?
- How will the State of Guatemala guarantee the production of disaggregated, reliable and updated information regarding the rights of young women with disabilities, migrants, living with HIV and who identify as LGBTIQ+?
- What measures will the State of Guatemala take in order to guarantee the sexual and reproductive rights of women, especially the eradication of the practice of forced sterilization of young people and adolescents, with disabilities and living with HIV?
- What concrete and effective measures will the State of Guatemala take to reduce the alarming rates of pregnancies among girls and adolescents as a result of sexual exploitation and abuse?
- What measures is the State adopting to decriminalize abortion?
- What concrete and effective measures is the State of Guatemala taking in order to ensure processes of justice and dignified reparation for girls, adolescents, and young people who are victims of sexual violence, including the results of the impact of the Vida (life) Program?
- What actions will the State of Guatemala take in order to comply with its commitment to guarantee Comprehensive Sexuality Education with scientific, secular, objective information focused on international human rights' standards, particularly for children and adolescents?

Recommendations:

1. Guatemala must recognize that statistical visibility is necessary for the effective recognition of the human rights of all people. In this sense, it must guarantee transparency in the registration and dissemination of data on violence against women. In addition, it is necessary to incorporate the different sociodemographic categories into the national surveys to allow us to reconstruct the scenario of differentiated violence according to sexual orientation, gender identity, migratory situation, among others, in order to design and implement relevant, appropriate and differentiated public policies. for specific problems and populations.
2. Decriminalize abortion in all its grounds, guaranteeing that women, girls and adolescents are not sentenced to forced maternity or unhealthy pregnancy termination processes that are carried out clandestinely. Public policies are required that place the dignity, life and development of girls and younger women at the center, guaranteeing their health, protection and well-being.
3. Abolish all legislation and public policy, current or archived, that violates human rights: issue an unfavorable opinion to Initiative 5940 "Law to Guarantee the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents against Gender Identity Disorders" and declare without force the "Public Policy for the Protection of Life and the Institutionality of Family 2022-2032" so that they are no longer used to intimidate women and the LGBTIQ+ population.
4. Develop and implement specific legislation that protects all young women against discriminatory treatment and other forms of violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, immigration status, or HIV status.
5. Guarantee the pertinent budgetary basis for programs and activities related to sexual and reproductive health services. The funds allocated to the National Reproductive Health Program must not be, under any circumstance, less than 15% of the alcoholic beverage tax. In addition, budget cuts and readjustments that put the supply of medication and equipment for family planning services at risk must be stopped.
6. Design and implement a regulatory framework that regulates that CSE contents are addressed with a scientific and human rights approach, as well as a sufficient institutional framework and specific budget that allows it to operate throughout the educational system at the national level.

Contact information:

Organization (s):	INCIDEJOVEN - WeLead / Nosotras Lideramos
Contact and telephone:	Kendra Avilés Tel. (502) 4750-1208
E-mail:	coordinacion@incidejoven.org