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CONSORCIO
LATINOAMERICANO
CONTRA EL
ABORTO
INSEGURO

LATIN
AMERICAN
CONSORTIUM
AGAINST
UNSAFE
ABORTION

REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH IS
VITAL

This is an initiative that is being driven by CLACAI to monitor the States' responses in the matter of access to reproductive health services in Latin America.

What is happening with reproductive health services in this context?

Healthcare systems around the world are facing a serious challenge because of the rapid rise in demand of healthcare services generated by the COVID-19 outbreak. But, there are some healthcare services that are essential.

States must guarantee the rights of women, teenager girls, and girls to have access to reproductive healthcare services. Suspending these services puts the lives and health of women at risk, and results in high costs —present and future— of different kinds for healthcare systems and society in general. Specific and cost-effective measures must be taken to ensure adequate and timely provision of these services, because denial infringes upon the right to access healthcare, human dignity, and life itself; affecting, in particular, those who are even more vulnerable in the context of the pandemic.

COMPONENTS

1. The “Reproductive health as an essential service” Document

“Reproductive health as an essential service” provides a set of arguments meant to contribute towards regional advocacy work aimed at guaranteeing reproductive rights during the crisis resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

This document:

- interprets the mandate to guarantee reproductive health in the light of Resolution 1/2020 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR);
- describes the risk of setbacks in equitable access to reproductive healthcare services during this crisis; and
- suggests specific measures for the States to guarantee rights related to reproductive health.

2. Collection and systematization of evidence

We have designed a study to perform systematic monitoring and standardization of quantitative and qualitative indicators. These indicators¹ have been specifically designed for this regional study, that monitors the provisions that were declared as essential by the World Health Organization on essential services in terms of reproductive health. The qualitative and quantitative data being analyzed is related to public policy and assistance actions in:

- prenatal, childbirth and postpartum care;
- counseling and supply of contraceptive methods;
- safe abortion services.

Monitoring will be rolled out by civil society organizations; defenders of sexual and reproductive rights; with experience on achieving local impact, using research, and transparency policies to access information. The regional monitoring will include nine countries: Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, and El Salvador; and will be undertaken between the months of March and December of 2020.

¹ To develop our indicators, we considered those developed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), that cover the main aspects of sexual and reproductive health. Furthermore, the SDG indicators associated with reproductive health, as well as those drafted in the framework of the report of the Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the right that every person has to enjoy the highest level possible of physical and mental health were considered. We also considered the 2019 WHO/PHO basic health indicators and the San Salvador protocol (2015) progress indicators from the OAS, as well as specific indicators for HIV/AIDS and contraceptives.

Once this compilation is systematized, there will be **regional status report that will include data**, lessons learned, best practices and any violations of rights that have been committed.

Organizations that will oversee monitoring:

ELA (Argentina), MYSU (Uruguay), Miles (Chile), Promsex (Peru), ANIS (Brazil), Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir (Bolivia), Surkuna (Ecuador), Centro de Derecho Reproductivos (Colombia) and Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto (El Salvador).

3. Regional impact

In light of the arguments in the **“Reproductive health as an essential service”** document, as of May of this year meetings with human rights organizations have been held, both at the regional and national levels, in order to promote adoption of specific measures to guarantee reproductive health.

Drawing from the outcomes of the regional monitoring, a report that can be used to demand accountability from the States will be issued and will be a contribution to governments so that they can clearly identify pending issues and undertake stronger efforts to fulfill their mandate.

4. National and regional communications campaign #SaludReproductivaVital

Throughout these months, messages will be disseminated, holding webinars and other communications pieces, all based on the monitoring.

About CLACAI

The Latin American Consortium Against Unsafe Abortion (www.clacai.org) is a regional structure, composed of organizations, researchers, Healthcare service providers and activists, who want to reduce the number unsafe abortions through access to information and modern and safe technologies, from a perspective of gender and fairness.