

Strengthening a National Health System with Communities



FutureGenerations Peru

2011 FACT SHEET

WHAT WE DO

We strengthen collaborative management between communities and government for equitable and sustainable solutions in health and development

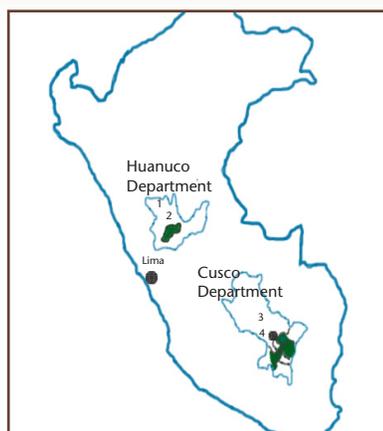
HOW WE WORK

We build community and government capacity to provide more effective health and social services and sustain impacts over time with local skills and resources

IMPACT AREAS

- Maternal and child health
- Child Nutrition
- Local governance
- Collaborative management of primary health care systems
- Participatory budgeting

WHERE WE WORK



1. 2010-2014, Health in the Hands of Women: Building the capacity of 22 primary health centers serving more than 42,000 women and children in four districts
2. Two self-sustaining model health and training centers
3. The "Sharing Pregnancy Histories" approach to training more than 70 women from 28 communities as Women Leaders (community health workers)
4. Three self-sustaining model health and training centers



Future Generations Peru has helped to reduce chronic child malnutrition in Las Moras (Huánuco) by 28% and across more than 250 communities in Cusco by 9%.

Laura Altobelli

BACKGROUND

Peru's economy is growing, but among the poor, death of newborns and women in childbirth remains high, and chronic malnutrition stunts young minds and bodies.

More than 6,700 primary health care centers exist, but many have suboptimal quality and are underutilized. To improve quality, the Ministry of Health (MOH) gives communities a direct role in planning and managing local health services.

Local Health Administration Committees (CLAS) co-manage 2,158 primary health care centers. This program is among the first in the world to transfer public funds into commercial bank accounts that are co-managed by the community and government. CLAS Committees operate as legal non-profits and co-manage these funds. Local oversight improves transparency and efficiency, which reduces corruption, improves quality, and increases utilization of services.

With advocacy and technical advice from Future Generations Peru, this program received landmark political support through a new national law and regulations that provide legal stability for CLAS. Future Generations continues to support MOH efforts to evaluate and promote the strengths of this national health system.

STRATEGY

Future Generations Peru identifies the most successful CLAS-managed health centers in a region and builds their capacity for community-oriented primary health care that focuses on poor mothers and children. These model centers are then developed as training sites to share lessons with the staff of other primary health care centers, municipalities, and communities throughout a region.

2011 MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Research: Pilot and test the effectiveness of the “sharing pregnancy histories” approach to training village women as Women Leaders (community health workers) in Cusco. Participants include more than 70 women from 28 rural Andean communities.

Demonstrate: Build capacity among 22 primary health care centers, 4 municipalities, and 230 communities in 4 districts of Huánuco.

Teach: Five Model Health Centers in Cusco and Huánuco have become self-sustaining regional training sites to extend best practices in primary health.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP



Country Director, Dr. Laura Altobelli, is a public health specialist with expertise in the field of maternal and child health and nutrition. She has lived and worked in Peru for more than 20 years, leading Future Generations Peru since 2002. Prior to that she worked as a consultant for the World Bank and the Inter American Development Bank and conducted research, program design, evaluation and teaching in conjunction with UNICEF, USAID, DFID, other NGOs, and universities. She was trained at The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health where she was a student of Carl Taylor.

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The Umari Primary Health Center is one of five model health centers in Huánuco and Cusco that function as self-sustaining regional training centers to improve health practice and outcomes.

Alex Vargas

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH & NUTRITION

Huánuco: With training from Future Generations from 2002-2008, the Las Moras and Umari Health Centers have become self-sustaining regional training centers. Las Moras and Umari demonstrate innovative strategies for linking health centers with communities. Improved health outcomes in Las Moras include a 28% reduction in chronic child malnutrition and a significant increase in the full coverage of immunizations in children. With the continued support of the Huánuco Regional Directorate of the MOH, local health workers and community health agents maintain these two facilities as regional training centers.

Health in the Hands of Women: From 2010 to 2014 with a four-year Child Survival and Health Grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Future Generations Peru strengthens partnerships and capacity among 22 health centers, four municipalities, and 230 communities. This project pilots and tests a community-based health education strategy to improve health services and sustain health outcomes.

Cusco: From 2005 to 2009, Future Generations Peru strengthened the capacity of 28 rural health centers and 17 municipalities to improve the quality and extension of primary health services to 258 rural Andean villages where Quechua is the dominant language. With support from USAID, the project increased community participation and health knowledge through the training of more than 700 villagers as community health agents (CHAs). Data shows that:

- Chronic malnutrition in children (6-23 months) declined from 38.0% to 29.8%
- Underweight children 0 – 23 months of age declined from 17.6% to 12.0%
- Diarrhea rates dropped from 27.6% to 17.4%
- Exclusive breast feeding increased by 9%
- Maternal deaths declined by 75%

In 2011, with a sub-grant from the Engender Health Maternal Health Task Force, with funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Future Generations Peru pilots an approach to training village women as Women Leaders (community health workers). This training methodology empowers 70 women from 28 remote communities with new health skills. Training occurs in women’s only workshops where women begin sharing stories of their own pregnancy histories. A trained health nurse/facilitator uses these testimonials as the “textbook” for improving knowledge and skills for healthier pregnancies and behaviors.