

## PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

### Title

*Adolescent and Youth Motherhood. Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies: What do they Look Like?*

### Purpose Statement

The **Adolescent and Youth Motherhood Project (AYMP)** will increase the capacity of adolescent and young mothers living in marginalized urban areas to advocate for better sexual and reproductive health (SRH) policies. It will also strengthen the capacity of local organizations to work with these populations, and will leverage political commitment towards improving the sexual and reproductive health of adolescent and young mothers.

### Executive Summary

According to the State of World Population 2013<sup>1</sup>, 7.3 million births occur among girls under 18 every year in developing countries. In Mexico, one in six women of childbearing age belong to the age group of 15 to 19 years of age; and just over 30% are between the ages of 20 to 29, reaching a fertility peak between the ages of 20 to 24. Yet, there are no specific public policies that address the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescent and young mothers.

Given this context, the **Adolescent and Youth Motherhood Project** seeks to empower these women by increasing their skills to advocate for their sexual and reproductive rights (SRR). It also pursues the strengthening of the capacities of local non-profit organizations to foster the economic, political, and physical autonomy of adolescent and young mothers. Finally, the project will contribute to increase political commitment from local governments and authorities towards developing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policies that address the needs of adolescent and young mothers.

This 7-month project is divided into three stages during which the different activities will be carried out. The first stage consists in the collection of baseline information, the development of advocacy materials for peer education, and advocacy training directed to adolescent and young mothers living in marginalized urban areas. The second stage focuses on: 1) developing capacity building methodologies for local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with adolescent and young mothers, 2) raising awareness of these issues through an online campaign, and 3) developing a policy recommendation document that will serve to leverage political commitment during the third stage of the project. Finally, the project results and outputs will be presented in a one-day forum with key stakeholders (e.g. other NGOs, providers of health services, local authorities, etc.), including the beneficiaries of the **AYMP**. The total cost of this project is 13,800 USD, from which 5,000 USD will be requested to the C-Exchange Youth Initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Population Fund. *The State of World Population 2013*. Available at <http://www.unfpa.org/swp>

## Target Area & Beneficiaries

The project will be carried out in Mexico City where, according to the Population and Housing Census of 2010, a quarter of the population (24.9%) is between 15 to 29 years of age. Of those in that age group, people between 15 and 19 years old represent 32.8% of all youth living in the city, those from 20 to 24 years old represent 34.2% of the youth population, and those from 25 to 29 years old represent 33% of it. It will specifically address adolescent and young mothers living in the four municipalities with the highest marginalization rates within the City: Milpa Alta, Iztapalapa, Tlahuac, and Xochimilco.

The **Adolescent and Youth Motherhood Project** seeks to benefit at least 50 adolescent and young mothers (ages 15-24) living in the aforementioned areas, as well as 25 representatives of local non-profit organizations working in the promotion of young people's sexual and reproductive rights. Indirect beneficiaries of the project include de families and children of these mothers.

## Goal

To increase the capacity of adolescent and young mothers living in marginalized urban areas to advocate for sexual and reproductive health policies that: meet their family planning needs; enhance their ability to access and use modern contraceptives; and provide access to timely information and services to prevent, diagnose and treat sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS.

## Outcomes

**OUTCOME 1:** Increased skills of adolescent and young mothers (ages 15 to 24) living in marginalized areas of Mexico City to effectively advocate for their sexual and reproductive rights.

**OUTCOME 2:** Strengthened capacities of local non-governmental organizations or groups to empower adolescent and young mothers, and foster their economic, political, and physical autonomy.

**OUTCOME 3:** Increased political commitment from local governments and authorities towards developing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policies that address the needs of adolescent and young mothers.

## Duration

The project will run from March 17<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Budget

The total cost of the **Adolescent and Youth Motherhood Project** is 13,800 USD, from which 5,000 USD will be requested to the C-Exchange Youth Initiative.