



**Media report**



The activities will be hold in health care centers and hospitals.  
Photo: El Quetzalteco Newspaper

**Reproductive Health Month**

The local Newspaper *El Quetzalteco*, in its August 5, 2014 edition, published that health care providers from the Ministry of Health are conducting local communication campaigns and health care activities aimed to improve women’s health, as part of the Reproductive Health Month initiative. The representatives of the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR) said this activity aims to reduce the incidence of maternal-child mortality as well as prevent teenage pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).

Read more: [Planean actividades](#)



The Guatemalan laws consider sexual relations with teenage girls, as statutory rape.  
Photo: El Quetzalteco Newspaper

**Teenage pregnancy cases increase in Quetzaltenango**

The local Newspaper *El Quetzalteco*, in its August 9, 2014 edition, published that 3,122 teenagers from the department of Quetzaltenango, between 10-19 years old, became pregnant during 2014. The news said that according to the Reproductive Health Watchdog 1,700 of these cases must be investigated as they might be considered as rape.

Read more: [Preocupante incremento](#)

Related news: [Osar da a conocer cantidad de procesos legales por embarazos en adolescentes.](#)



Breastfeeding is fundamental to prevent malnourishment and diseases.  
Photo: Jaroslava Lemus, HEPP Guatemala

**Breastfeeding is fundamental to prevent malnourishment and diseases**

The local newspaper *El Quetzalteco*, in its August 11, 2014 edition, published that breastfeeding is the best food for newborns, but unfortunately there are babies with no opportunity to be breastfed. According to the newspaper, the Psychologist Josefina Aguirre said there are girls and teenagers who become mothers and they are not physically nor emotionally ready to breastfeed their babies. The newspaper also said that according to the representatives from the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR) all newborns must be breastfed, but in Quetzaltenango there is not available information about breastfeeding.

Read more: [Lactancia es fundamental](#)



Early pregnancy is a risk for teenager's health, as they are not physically, nor emotionally ready.  
Photo: Prensa Libre Newspaper.

### Ministry of Health reports almost 80 thousand cases of teenage pregnancy in Guatemala

The Newspaper Prensa Libre, in its August 6, 2014 edition, published that the Ministry of Health have reported 79,254 cases of pregnant girls between 14-19 years old, from January to May 2014. The report includes 520 cases of girls under 14 years. According to the Newspaper, the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR) estimates that 70% of pregnant girls are indigenous. Mirna Montenegro, Representative of OSAR, said there must be "effective responses that involve all sectors, in order to prevent pregnancy". Montenegro also remembered the case of a 13 year old girl who got pregnant, as well as her 15 year old sister.

Read more: [Guatemala contabiliza casi 80 mil embarazos en adolescentes](#)

Related news: [Telediario: Guatemala registra casi 80 mil embarazos en adolescentes](#)



Representatives of REDHOSEN and REDMISAR work jointly with the Health Area Direction to improve the quality of education in the communities.

Photo: Screenshot of the news video, by "22 Television" channel.

### Healthy lifestyles for the schools of San Marcos

The local cable News Channel "22 Television" which is transmitted in San Marcos, reported that the Health Area Direction (DAS) representatives are monitoring the implementation of the "Healthy Schools Strategy" in 60 schools of eight municipalities. They also monitor the implementation of Healthy Snack Stores to improve the quality of food for the students. According to the news, the DAS representatives are working in coordination with the civil society networks as REDMISAR and REDHOSEN (Network of Men and Women for Reproductive Health, Education and Nutrition) which constantly monitor the schools, to improve the quality of education.

Watch the video: [Vidas saludables en escuelas San Marcos](#)



The First departmental Summit for reproductive Health aims to create awareness among youth of Quetzaltenango to prevent teenage pregnancy.

Photo: Hilda Rivera. HEPP Guatemala

### Youth Summit for reproductive health in Quetzaltenango

The local Newspaper El Quetzalteco, in its August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 edition, reported about the launching of the "First departmental summit: youth for reproductive health" in Quetzaltenango. Eunice Ramírez, representative of the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR), said to the newspaper that it is necessary to train young people about reproductive health. According to the news, after the conferences of the summit, the Health Area Director, Juan Carlos Moir, and the Departmental Education Director will sign an understanding letter, which aims to promote jointly actions to prevent teenage pregnancy.

Read more: [Empieza cumbre de jóvenes](#)



Teenage pregnancy is a risk for the health of young girls, as they are not physically or emotionally ready to become mothers.  
Photo: [www.latribunaguatemala.com.gt](http://www.latribunaguatemala.com.gt)

### Lack of Sexual Education to prevent teenage pregnancy

On August 20th, 2014, the website “*La Tribuna*” published that the Guatemalan Education System does not have an adequate training program about sexual education and family planning to prevent teenage pregnancy. According to the website, the education about reproductive health is one of the main factors affecting high maternal mortality rates; Mirna Montenegro, representative of the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR), said that teenage pregnancy is a risk for the health of young girls, because they need a cesarean procedure as their body is not ready for a normal delivery.

Read more: [Jóvenes no reciben educación sexual](#)

### REDMISAR’s representatives monitored Health Care Services in Alta Verapaz

On August 20th, 2014, the local cable channel “*Acción Periodística*”, which is transmitted in Alta Verapaz, published an interview with Mrs. Imelda Cho, representative of the Network of Indigenous Women for Reproductive Health, Education and Nutrition (REDMISAR) about the monitoring activities conducted in the health-care centers of that department. During the interview, Mrs. Cho said they are monitoring the appropriate provision of medicines and supplies as well as the quality of health care, especially for indigenous women. The objective of REDMISAR is to advocate for the implementation of policies to improve the quality of reproductive health, education and nutrition services in the rural indigenous communities of Guatemala.



Screenshot of the interview to Imelda Cho, representative of REDMISAR.

### Health Crisis in Guatemala

The newspaper *Prensa Libre*, in its August 28th 2014 edition, reported on the discontent of the different sectors in Guatemala, including civil society organizations, regarding the health crisis due to shortage of vaccines, supplies and poor family planning services at the public health-care facilities, which might increase the cases of maternal and neonatal mortality. Roberto Kestler, President of the Health Commission in Congress said to the newspaper that the lack of response from the Ministry of Health to this situation, could lead to a state of un-governability. According to Mirna Montenegro, representative of the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR), the Ministry of Health should expedite the distribution of contraceptives at the healthcare facilities to prevent maternal mortality cases.

Read more: [Prensa Libre: Se agrava la crisis de salud en el país](#)



According to *Prensa Libre*, the budget for contraceptives supplies is Q46 million but only Q12 million have been executed.  
Photo: *Prensa Libre* Newspaper



According to the radio station interview, 150 thousand people have no access to public healthcare services due to the termination of the PEC organizations contracts.

Photo: Susana Palma. HEPP Guatemala

### OSAR representatives requested for solutions to attend users of the Health Extension Program in Quetzaltenango

On August 26th, 2014, the local radio *STEREO 100*, which is transmitted in Quetzaltenango, made an interview with the representatives of the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR) who expressed concern about the decision of the central government to cancel the contracts of the local organizations providing healthcare services in the scope of the Health Extension Program (PEC) of the Ministry of Health. During the interview, the representatives of OSAR requested to the Government authorities to inform all citizens about the alternative ways to access healthcare services at the communities that were attended by the PEC organizations.

Read more: [STEREO 100: Se pronuncian ante cierre del Programa Extensión de Cobertura](#)



According to the Health Area Direction, there are 1,400 midwives who provide health care to 8 out of 10 deliveries.

Photo: El Quetzalteco Newspaper

### Civil Society representatives promote celebration of the Midwife Day

The local newspaper *El Quetzalteco*, in its September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 edition, reported the celebration of the Midwife Day, which is promoted by member organizations of the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR). The Midwife Day aims to dignify the work of 123 thousand women who provide healthcare services for women of the communities of Quetzaltenango. According to Eunice Ramírez, Representative of OSAR, launching the Midwife Day will create awareness to improve healthcare services for women. The newspaper highlighted that the healthcare facilities of Quetzaltenango deliver 20-30 birth services per day; however, the health care is not satisfactory and affects health of women and newborns.

Read more: [EL QUETZALTECO: Buscan mejorar atención a mujeres](#)

Related news:

- [EL QUETZALTECO: Promueven festejar Día de la Comadrona](#)
- [STEREO 100: Aumentan el número de comadronas tradicionales en Quetzaltenango](#)



Left: Carmen Lopez, Coordinator of REDMISAR Huehuetenango, during the interview in the local radio show "*Hablando con el pueblo*".

Photo: Lucas Esteban, HEPP Guatemala

### Civil society representatives "On Air"

On August 2, 2014, the representatives of the civil society networks of REDHOSEN and REDMISAR from San Antonio Huista, Huehuetenango, attended the local radio show "*Hablando con el Pueblo*", which is transmitted in Radio La Tremenda 91.3 in Huehuetenango. The network's representatives talked about their work experiences about the following topics: reproductive health, teenage pregnancy prevention, maternal-child mortality, chronic malnutrition and school performance.



**Activities**



The training workshop was conducted by Matias Gutierrez, Coordinator of REDHOSEN Quiché.  
Photo: HEPP Guatemala.

**Representatives of REDHOSEN and the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) conducted training workshop**

On July 30th, 2014, representatives of the Network of Men for Health, Education and Nutrition (REDHOSEN) of Quiché, in coordination with the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), conducted a training workshop about “New Masculinity” which aims to change masculinity paradigms and reduce violence against women. The workshop, facilitated by Matias Gutierrez, Coordinator of REDHOSEN, was attended by representatives of the Women Commission of the Departmental Development Council (CODEDE), as well as the local government authorities.



During their visit to OSAR Quetzaltenango, they were honored as Distinguished Visitor by the local municipal authorities.  
Photo: Byron Flores. HEPP Guatemala

From August 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the USAID’s Agreement Official Representative, Linda Cahaelen and the Futures Group/HPP Director, Suneeta Sharma, visited Guatemala aiming to assess the activities and impact of the Project. Their visit included interviews with project staff as well as field visits to Quetzaltenango to see the work of the Reproductive Health Watchdog (OSAR), the Network of Men for Reproductive Health, Education and Nutrition (REDHOSEN) and the Network of Indigenous Women for Reproductive Health, Education and Nutrition (REDMISAR).

In addition, they visited one of the schools that REDMISAR monitored in Concepción Chiquirichapa, where they were able to see the improvements achieved in the school as result of the advocacy efforts of the civil society networks. They also visited the storage facilities of the Health Area Direction, operated and supported by the local committee of the National Contraceptive Security Commission (CNAA), as an effort to develop a model for the local branches of this mechanism. Towards the end of the visit, in a meeting with USAID Guatemala and HEPP, both Ms. Sharma and Ms. Cahaelen expressed their satisfaction for the accomplishments and the high quality products achieved.

**Civil society representatives met with officials of USAID’s HEPP and DELIVER projects**

On Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup> 2014, representatives of the National Alliance of Indigenous Women Organizations for Reproductive Health, Education and Nutrition (ALIANMISAR) met with officials of the Project DELIVER and a group of field facilitators of HEPP. The activity was coordinated between both projects aiming to strenghten the knowledge of the networks about handling procedures of medication



Representatives of ALIANMISAR made their advocacy action plan.  
Photo: HEPP Guatemala



## Representatives of the Medical Women Association (AGMM) trained health-care workers in Quetzaltenango



AGMM aims to create awareness and promote the implementation of the Safe Motherhood Law among health-care providers.

Photo: HEPP Guatemala

From August 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Medical Women Association of Guatemala (AGMM) conducted two training workshops in Quetzaltenango, aiming to increase the commitment of the health-care workers in the scope of the Safe Motherhood law implementation. The first workshop was attended by 30 students from the Nursing and Medicine Schools of Quetzaltenango. The second workshop was attended by 34 members from AGMM. These training courses are part of the cooperation agreement between AGMM and HEPP, to promote the implementation of the Safe Motherhood Law.



On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the Watchdog for Food and Nutrition Rights (ODAN), which members are academic institutions and NGOs, including the Network of Men for Health, Education and Nutrition (REDHOSEN), conducted a press conference to request greater transparency and accountability from the Government of Guatemala, in response to the country's imminent drought crisis. In the press release, the representatives of REDHOSEN requested to the national authorities, to strengthen the Health Extension Program of the Ministry of Health, as well as the budget allocation to improve health-care services in the scope of the Zero Hunger Plan.

Related news:

- [Comunicado del observatorio del derecho a la alimentación y nutrición-ODAN ante la preocupante situación de inseguridad alimentaria y nutricional en Guatemala](#)
- [Universidades y ONG's: Hambre se incrementa en Guatemala](#)
- [Inversión por sequía sería superior a gasto por huracán Mitch](#)



## Training workshops about New Masculinities aim to create awareness within government institutions.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> 2014, the Health and Education Policy Project (HEPP) conducted the first of three training workshops, about New Masculinities, which was attended by Gender Unit Representatives from various government institutions, members of the Women's Affairs Cabinet (*Gabinete Especifico de la Mujer*). The trainings aim to create awareness among the staff of these institutions in order to promote inclusion of the New Masculinities approach in their work plan for 2015.

The second and third workshops will be held in September and October, to share the experiences of the Network of Men for Health, Education and Nutrition, and to jointly identify activities for promoting this new approach.

Photo: HEPP Guatemala



The training workshops were held in coordination with the Municipal Health Commission, the Education Sub-commission and the Health Direction of Quetzaltenango.  
Photo: Silvia Maldonado.

**REDMISAR trained 210 professors about reproductive health**

On August 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, the representatives of the Network of Indigenous Women for Reproductive Health, Education and Nutrition (REDMISAR), conducted two training workshops about Reproductive Health, attended by 210 professors of elementary and middle schools of Concepción Chiquirichapa, Quetzaltenango. These trainings aim to improve quality of education at schools, as the students do not attend reproductive health classes, due to the lack of trained professors to conduct this topic. From now on, the trained professors will replicate their knowledge and skills gained during the training workshops.



Edgar Leonel Rodríguez, Minister of Social Development, signed the MOU between MIDES and USAID.  
Photo: HEPP Guatemala

**Ministry of Social Development and USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding**

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) and USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding within the scope of the implementation of the Social Information National System (SNIS), supported by Futures Group, Inc. through the Health and Education Policy Project (HEPP). The objective of this MOU is to formalize the coordination efforts between USAID and MIDES for the implementation of the System and to guarantee appropriation of the products from this intervention. The MOU was signed by Edgar Leonel Rodríguez, Minister of Social Development and Mr. William Brands, USAID Guatemala, Mission Director.



The trained teachers will replicate their knowledge and skills gained during the training workshops, aiming to improve quality of education.  
Photo: Silvia Maldonado. HEPP Guatemala

**REDMISAR trained 231 professors about reproductive health**

Representatives of the Network of Indigenous Women for Reproductive Health, Education and Nutrition (REDMISAR), conducted two training workshops about "Reading Strategies", attended by 164 professors of elementary schools and 49 teachers of middle schools of Concepción Chiquirichapa, Quetzaltenango. Both workshops were held in coordination with the Subcommission of Reading and Writing, FUNDAP, CONALFA, WorldVision, Cuban Teachers and the Municipality of Concepción Chiquirichapa.



AGMM aims to create awareness and promote the implementation of the Safe Motherhood Law among health-care providers.

Photo: AGMM

### **Representatives of the Medical Women Association (AGMM) trained health-care professionals**

On August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, the Medical Women Association of Guatemala (AGMM) conducted two training workshops to increase the commitment of the health-care professionals within the scope of the implementation of the Safe Motherhood Law. The first workshop was attended by 20 professors from the School of Medicine of San Carlos University in Guatemala (USAC). The second workshop was attended by 25 professors from the School of Nursing. Both training workshops are part of the cooperation agreement between AGMM and HEPP, aiming to promote the implementation of the Safe Motherhood Law.