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# The Global Midwife Education Foundation





## OUR MISSION

We believe that every woman, child, and family should have the chance to thrive. We tackle the root causes of maternal and infant mortality using a multifaceted approach to community and health systems empowerment.





# Clean Water & Sanitation







# Community Collaboration





# Improving Reproductive Healthcare Access





# Family Planning

Provision of long-acting, reversible birth control options to rural health clinics



# Access to Facilities

Equipping birth  
rooms in rural  
health centers



# Obstetric Emergency Training for Midwives, Nurses, and Doctors



# Cervical Cancer Prevention and Detection

# We Asked What Was Missing

**Ask**

**Listen**

**Act**

Because so many women and families live far from health centers or lose access to them when the roads are damaged during each rainy season, our partners wanted a community health worker program to train the women in the communities to be a health resource for their community in which they live.



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# PROMOTORAS

Community Health Workers



# What Do They Learn?

Preventing illness,  
promoting health

When to get help

What to do while  
waiting for medical help







# Topics

- The importance of clean water and prevention and treatment of diarrhea and dehydration in children – one of the most significant causes of preventable illness and death in infants and children.
- Good nutrition, the foundation of a healthy pregnancy and healthy childhood.
- Respiratory infections in children.
- Family planning and reproductive health.
- Safe motherhood during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.
- The importance of exclusive breastfeeding for infant survival in difficult environments.
- Newborn and infant care.
- Supporting child development for lifelong health and wellbeing.
- Domestic and gender-based violence.
- Mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- Dental health.
- First aid and the use of basic medicines.
- Prevention and management of chronic illness.

How do they learn?





## Hands on Lessons

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# Practicing Key Skills



# Generating Knowledge Together





## Skits and Role Play





# Laughter & Community Participation



# Collective Problem Solving





Sharing  
Knowledge

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# Outcomes

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- Anchored supplies and knowledge in the rural communities
  - Promotoras became eyes and ears for the communities
  - Built connections and trust between communities and health system
  - Women are empowered to take leadership roles in their community
  - Girls have a trusted source for information about topics that may be difficult to discuss with a man or health care professional they don't know (birth control, sexual health, puberty)



AN  
UNEXPECTED  
OUTCOME  
A SENSE OF  
PURPOSE



FEEDBACK

When asked if they would recommend this program for other communities 100% of participants said yes.



“Yes, because with this program we learn how to save ourselves.”



“Yes, the program it is a great strength for the community and health personnel.”



“Yes, we would recommend it to all departments.”

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## WHAT THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS ARE SAYING

- “We’ve seen big changes, most of all in more women getting prenatal care.”
- “There is more knowledge about health issues in the community because the promotoras share their knowledge with the community.”
- “This program has been a great support and good for the communities. It helps us provide care in time.”
- “This has supported very much in our area of Totorá and thanks to that, we have reduced maternal mortalities and deaths from respiratory infections and diarrhea.”
- “We’ve seen an increased interest in the communities around the importance of promoting health.”

## What the Promotoras Are Saying

- “The community is happy to have a Promotora!”
- “Now I can teach women about birth control.”
- “The community was happy that I was becoming a Promotora and started asking me about their children’s illnesses.”
- “Our communities supported this program. My family and my whole town supported me in becoming a Promotora.”



## What the Communities are Saying

“Now we have a trusted person of the community to guide us on health issues.”

“Now we have a resource within our own community”

“Now we have someone to consult about health problems when there aren't any medical providers available.”

“I was pregnant, I was afraid to go to the health post for checkups. I told the Promotora and she explained to me the importance of prenatal check-ups and even went with to my visits!”



## By the Numbers

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Double the number of prenatal appointments attended by women

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More than 75% reduction in unwanted pregnancies

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More than 30% increase in birth control use

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Dramatic decrease in the number of severely ill babies

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More than 400% increase in women getting cervical cancer screening



## WHAT'S NEXT? Scaling the Program

Numerous communities have expressed interest in participating in this program.

In September 2024 we launched the next two cohorts in the Sacaca and Tinquipaya regions and have several more lined up to begin in 2025.



THANK YOU!



To stay informed:

- Follow us on Instagram @midwifeeducation
- Get in touch by email at [executivedirector@midwifeeducation.org](mailto:executivedirector@midwifeeducation.org)