



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

Regional Literacy and CONFINTEA VI  
Preparatory Conference in Latin America  
and the Caribbean

*"From Literacy to Lifelong Learning:  
Towards the challenges of the 21 Century".*  
(Mexico City, Mexico, 10-13 September 2008)

“Bilingual literacy programme for reproductive health,  
Gender and interculturality”



## United Nations Literacy Decade

### EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the Regional Literacy and CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference in Latin America and the Caribbean, 10-13 September 2008, Mexico City, Mexico

**Programme name:** Bilingual literacy programme for reproductive health, gender and interculturality

**Implemented by:** National Literacy Programme of the Ministry of Education

### Basic facts

Country: Peru

Starting year: 2004

Outreach: 104,765 people between 2004 and 2006

Target Population: Women (+15) in rural areas

Language of instruction: cuatro idiomas y en algunos con sus variantes, lenguas andinas: Quechua (variantes Cusco-Puno, Ayacucho-Chanka) y Aymará, y lengua amazónica: Asháninka (variantes de Río Ene y Río Tambo). Se comenzó a elaborar materiales en lengua matsiguenga (Cusco)

Facilitator/Beneficiary ratio: 1:20

Main Funding: Ministerio de Educación del Perú

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### Brief Description

In Peru, high illiteracy rates are to be found particularly among campesino and indigenous women and are mainly concentrated in the Andean and Amazon rural areas, closely associated with high rates of maternal and child sickness and mortality, and with high indices of poverty and extreme poverty. In these zones indigenous languages are in predominant use and Spanish is weak. This makes it difficult for the women concerned to enter and remain in school since basic bilingual education coverage is very limited.

The Bi-Literacy Programme addresses this problem by means of sessions of literacy instruction in the mother tongue and in Spanish as the second language

and language of national integration, affirming and reasserting the value of the learners' ethnic and cultural identity. Literacy instruction is chiefly for indigenous women aged over 15 years in Andean and Amazon rural areas.

One feature of the Bi-Literacy Programme is reproductive health with respect to the family, the couple and the community as a topic for exchange, reflection, dialogue and fresh knowledge, on the basis of recognition and enhancement of one's own knowledge. This approach helps pupils to become more self-confident, developing their capacities to take decisions that protect their health and enabling them to continue learning about their reproductive health rights. In addition, the programme provides information on the role of parents, on child sex abuse, on the right to live without violence or ill-treatment, on the participation of women in community organizations, and on rights in general, among other matters.