

Peru

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Presentation of the training program on democratic leadership styles for men and women who wish to prevent gender-specific violence. The participants* were not only sensitized and trained on this topic, the trainings also led to the strengthening of their leadership positions in the community of Chililique Alto. This measure generated such a demand that it was used in more than 70 similarly structured organisations.

Fighting Violence against Women in Latin America

Rondas Campesinas facing violence against women

Context

The Rondas Campesinas have the local community of Chililique Alto, located in the district of Chulucanas in the province of Arequipa and the region of Peru. They just like other rural and remote communities are the direct consequence of the people.

The Rondas Campesinas are an autonomous, democratic and self-organised community organisation which seeks to achieve the dialogue between “rural and urban communities” and the National State. Being recognised as a representative body, they support in conflict resolution, access to ecological conditions, work and improve peace and security within the community.

The Rondas Campesinas are active at the community, district, provincial, regional and national level. At the regional level they collaborate with judicial authorities, the public ministry and the regional government, whereas at the local level they work together with other democratic organisations such as district and provincial councils, government, local government bodies and representatives of local unions.


Objectives

Violence against women in the Chililique Alto community had become such a topic in the community that attention was urgently needed. The provincial government, the local Rondas Campesinas and the Community Development Center (CDA) of Chililique Alto, in collaboration with the National and International Commission on the Elimination of Violence against Women (CIVAW) considered this as a priority area to be addressed.

such an important social organization. The cooperation is based on the commitment of the community members to build training with the aim to prevent violence against women in rural areas.

When the community had its first access to rural extension about gender-based violence, the participants were sensitized through different activities and the need to start a project. The subsequent “Training of community leaders” program, which consisted of three months training, was especially designed for the community leaders of the “Rondas Campesinas” in Chililique Alto. They shared personal experiences and discussed topics such as:

- the different types of violence,
- the importance of better communication, democracy and participation within the community,
- the local state,
- women's autonomy,
- alternative educational models and the importance of the “Rondas Campesinas” in rural and remote areas.



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