



A Concept Note for Multiple District 19 Lions



Project Name:	Educational Opportunities for Girls
Location:	Chincha (Ica) and Huaytará (Huancavelica), Peru
Amount Requested:	\$80,000 over Two Years
CARE Contact:	Dana Tseng

Introduction

While strides have been made in getting young children – particularly girls – into primary schools in Peru, there has been less success in getting them to stay and complete their secondary education. Currently, some 50 percent of Peruvian girls aged 17-19 in rural areas do not complete high school; however, evidence demonstrates that girls who do graduate high school have 40-50 percent more income earning potential than girls who do not finish.

In the departments of Huancavelica and Ica, 49 percent and 17 percent of pupils respectively do not complete secondary school. Among the problems that contribute to the low levels of school completion are gender discrimination and violence; poverty and economic instability; low-quality education; family conflicts; adolescent pregnancy; and limited accessibility to secondary school for girls in rural areas. Not finishing secondary school excludes many adolescent girls from continuing with technical or university studies, having better employment opportunities and earning higher incomes. This limits their options in

life, making it more difficult for them to progress and achieve fulfillment within their personal and professional lives, and ultimately overcome poverty.

CARE's Capacity and Project Strategy

CARE has continuously worked in Peru since 1970, and today our programs are structured around empowering vulnerable groups – especially women, indigenous people and rural populations – to exercise their rights. In Peru, CARE aims to reduce chronic malnutrition and maternal and infant mortality, improve access to water and sanitation, improve regional and local governance, increase household income and improve education quality. We are accomplishing these goals through programs focused on climate change, economic development, disaster risk reduction, gender equality, health and nutrition, water resource management, governance and education.

CARE has developed a program framework for the proposed *Girls with Opportunities* initiative, which intends to reach 100,000 girls nationwide over a 10-year period. The proposed project is part of a broader program framework, and achievement targets have been established to contribute to this broader goal. As part of this broader initiative, CARE seeks funding for **the two-year Girls with Opportunities pilot project, which will target 4,569 girls at 19 schools in the departments of Huancavelica and Ica in southern Peru**. The focus of this project is to empower adolescent girls from rural and marginalized urban areas with better quality education and opportunities to learn important social skills.

Expected results of the project include:

1. An increase in the number of secondary school girls who remain in school and complete all grades, and a related reduction in teen pregnancies;
2. An improvement in the self-confidence, social abilities, leadership skills and life plans of secondary school girls; and
3. An increased awareness and active commitment to the education of girls among parents, teachers and principals from secondary schools.

This project is a natural evolution for CARE's education work in Peru, which has for the past 15 years focused on advancing early childhood development and primary multilingual education. Through this new initiative, CARE aims to create a model that can be replicated and expanded so that we may help 100,000 Peruvian girls complete high school by 2026.

Budget

The total budget for this new initiative is \$80,000. CARE Peru seeks \$40,000 per year over a period of two years to fulfill the objectives of this pilot project.

Conclusion

With more than 70 years of experience, CARE has demonstrated that one of the best ways to deliver lasting change to marginalized communities is to empower women and girls. On behalf of the thousands of girls in southern Peru who would be empowered by this project, we thank you for considering the support of this important work.

April 2016