

## **What's the monetary cost of violence against women?**

*For the first time, a report quantifies the monetary cost of answering violence against women... from within the affected communities.*

Villa El Salvador is the district that registers the highest number of cases of violence against women in Peru. Only in 2017, more than 3,006 cases were registered in the Women's Emergency Center, a 40% increase compared to the previous year. In this context, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through their project Justa "Villa El Salvador for Justice and Equality", developed the report ***"The cost of not preventing: Analysis and Recommendations to face violence against women from the perspective and experiences in Villa El Salvador."***

The investigation quantifies the economic impact of gender based violence against women (GBV) in the district of Villa El Salvador (VES). It identifies the most common types of costs that the community, the households and even the affected women themselves must face to bear the impact of GBV. This is the first time this groundbreaking methodology has been applied in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Only in 2018, GBV caused an economic loss of more than 72.9 million USD to the communities in VES**, the equivalent of 53% of the Peruvian Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations' national budget for the same year. This amount is also 4 times greater than the amount Villa El Salvador's district government spent on infrastructure in 2016. These costs were caused by general spending to answer GBV (14.3 million USD), new debts (4.3 million USD) and opportunity loss in health, work and education areas, among others (54.3 million USD).

This means that each affected woman, regardless of whether she earns independent income or not, spent in the year 2018 alone between \$330 and \$500 just to answer to violence (about 12 to 16% of a minimum wage yearly salary in Peru). They faced 44.7% of all economic losses related to GBV, mainly

related to seeking medical attention, access to legal justice and personal protection, among others.

These results belong to the first release of the report, which focuses on a community-level analysis of the costs in the whole district. An upcoming set of results will analyze the costs from the perspective of the government. With these results, UNDP looks to emphasize the importance of spending in preventing GBV, bringing much needed help to the network of community-based support, now acting as a strong first responder, amplifying government's services regarding violence against women.

Project Justa is one of 7 UNDP pilot projects focused on preventing gender-based violence. They're being developed in local governments in Bhutan, Lebanon, Indonesia, Iraq, Moldova, Uganda and Peru.

The report will be launched with the participation of Diego Antoni, specialist in Gender policies from UNDP Global, and will be held in the Plaza del Bosque Hotel, in Lima, Peru this Tuesday March 5 at 6 p.m. ET.