



Testimonial: Jesse Vilela

I am Jesse, a trans man living in Peru. I am the leader of Sociedad Trans FTM Perú, a trans men organization.

I am currently studying law at the Catholic University of Peru and I worked on the Unicxs project at the Cayetano Heredia University.

This session provided an opportunity to find out how trans men and trans women can work together. HIV is not a topic of discussion in the trans men population currently as a result of misinformation. Due to lack of education, HIV prevention is not reaching trans men communities. Therefore, it is good that I am attending this workshop in order to be able to inform my community.

The male transgender population in Peru remains invisible. As a result of this lack of visibility, there are no services for trans men in Peru. The only service available to us is the trans-friendly service opened recently at Loayza Hospital, but this only offers HIV testing. There are no comprehensive health services for trans men, and trans men feel inhibited from attending gynecology services that cisgender women attend. This is why it is necessary for us to advocate for services where trans men can receive a diverse range of sexual health care and testing.

For a long time it has been assumed that sexual health issues only affect trans women, due to high prevalence of HIV in this community, in part as a consequence of violations of their human rights through sexual abuse. However, trans men may also be facing violations of their human rights, as well as stigma and discrimination resulting in the necessity of engaging in sex work due to lack of access to the job market. The prevalence of STIs and HIV in the trans men population is currently not known, but it is assumed to be insignificant, despite there being no concrete evidence for this assumption. This is why it is essential to incorporate trans men into the trans HIV response, while still ensuring that differences between trans men and women are respected.

“We need access to comprehensive healthcare with healthcare personnel educated on respecting the rights and understanding the specific needs of trans men in all areas of health, not just gynecology.”

I have learned a lot as this is the first time that I have attended a workshop on the Global Fund. I now have a better idea of what the Global Fund offers in terms of funding and support, and of the possibilities of including trans men in the HIV response in Peru. However, I think that there will be some resistance from CONAMUSA and other organizations engaged in the HIV response in Peru, because there is the false assumption that only trans women are affected by HIV.

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ACTIVITY: 2-Day Session on “Building the capacity of trans communities to provide Monitoring and Oversight of Global Fund Processes in Peru”