

GERMANY



The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development presented a new five-point plan “Ending violence against women” in November 2017. The plan highlighted the central role of violence prevention and emphasized providing support to victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.

The project combating violence against women in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Paraguay (ComVoMujer), brings together public, non-governmental, and private-sector stakeholders to collectively implement measures combating violence against women. Campaigns, studies, and the dissemination of information support a process of social change that rejects violence against women. In addition, preventive measures implemented through state, non-governmental, and private partnerships by universities and the media aim to change views within businesses and organizations.

Implemented measures include:

- ▶ In conjunction with project partners, ground-breaking studies on the financial consequences for businesses of violence against women by their partners have been conducted in all four countries. The alarming figures caught the attention of businesses, and motivated them to cooperate with public and non-governmental stakeholders. One outcome is the introduction of the state accreditation “Safe business free from violence and discrimination against women” in Peru and Paraguay.
- ▶ The “Cartas de Mujeres” (Letters from Women) campaign has run in the region since 2011. Women, men, and children affected by violence have expressed their pain in over 44,000 collected letters. This has provided them with a public platform and has brought the issue to the attention of the political authorities.

The lessons learned from Latin America informed a new project, which began in 2017, in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition to the international development cooperation activities, Germany also has a broad, well-differentiated domestic network of protection and advisory facilities for all women and girls affected by violence in Germany. An important central point of contact for the entire support system is the national “Violence Against Women” helpline. Free of charge, it provides help and advice on all forms of violence and on local support facilities. It can be reached 24/7, anonymously, barrier-free and provides service in 18 languages. The national helpline is well received, also by an increasing number of female refugees, with well over 140,000 advisory sessions in 5 years.

