

## ADOLESCENT VOICES

### Contest – Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention

#### 15 July-10 August 2022

Adolescent pregnancy has a profound impact on the life trajectory of girls. In addition to affecting their psychosocial development, it leads to poor health outcomes for these girls and their children, negatively impacts their educational and employment opportunities, and contributes to perpetuating intergenerational cycles of poverty and poor health.

Adolescent mothers (ages 10 to 19) face a higher risk of puerperal endometriosis and systemic infections than women in the 20-24 age group, and infants of adolescent mothers face higher risks of being born prematurely and of having low birthweight or severe neonatal disorders.

Despite the socio-economic growth recorded in recent years in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the adolescent fertility rate in the Region (the second highest in the world) remains unacceptably high, with great inequities between and within countries.

Girls from families in the lowest wealth quintiles, which also have the lowest levels of schooling, and from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are disproportionately affected by adolescent pregnancy. The upward trend in the number of pregnancies among girls under the age of 15 is also extremely concerning.

This contest aims to elicit the opinions of adolescents in the Region of the Americas—through painting, drawing, illustrations, comics, poems, stories, videos, and songs—by inviting them to visualize the impact of this problem on their lives, and to propose how to change it. The idea is to ask adolescents between 12 to 19 years old this question: How do you visualize the impact of an adolescent pregnancy? And this one: What can States and decision-makers do to change this situation?

**Competition period:** 15 July to 10 August 2022.

## Selection criteria

**Contestants:** Adolescents aged 12 to 19 years, from all countries and ethnic groups in the Region of the Americas. These adolescents may participate with individual or group projects, using their native language.

## Approaches

Contestants may freely choose their entries' approach and category. The approaches are as follows:

**Option 1** – What do you think is the impact of adolescent pregnancy?

**Option 2** - What can States or decision-makers do to change the problem of adolescent pregnancy?

## Categories

Contestants must choose a category, and a medium within that category:

### Art

- Painting: acrylics, watercolors, or any other material or technique.
- Drawing: crayons, pencils, markers, or any other materials.
- Digital illustration: contestants may use whatever techniques and programs they prefer.
- Comics: contestants may use whatever techniques they prefer.

### Writing

- Poem: maximum of 400 words.
- Story or essay: maximum of 800 words.

### Audiovisual

- Video for social networks: maximum duration, 1 minute; creativity and style are the main criteria, using live action, animation, or any other technique. No video may include copyrighted material, resources, or music without the author's permission.
- Song: maximum length, 4 minutes; unpublished lyrics and music written by the contestant.

## Submitting works

Artwork must be submitted in high-resolution JPG files. Written works must be submitted in Word files. Alternatively, handwritten works may be submitted as a clearly legible photographic image. Works in the digital category must be submitted in their original format, compressed for emailing.

Works in indigenous languages must include a Word file with a translation into English or Spanish.

All works must be original, not previously disseminated, and not have previously won a prize.

**They must be uploaded to the PAHO web platform <https://www.paho.org/en/adolescent-voices-contest-adolescent-pregnancy-prevention> along with their authorization forms.**

**Jury:** The jury will be comprised of adolescents and of professionals in the areas of communications, adolescent health, and graphic design.

For judging, entries will be distributed into two age groups:

1. Contestants from 12 to 15 years old
2. Contestants from 16 to 19 years old

The winner will have the highest score, judged as follows: 40% creativity; 40% originality, clarity and coherence of content; and 20% adherence to the approach chosen and requirements of the contest.

**Prizes:** Winners will receive a cash prize, and their works will be published in PAHO communication channels and/or Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention campaigns.

### 1st place

Winner of the 12-15 group: US\$ 500

Winner of the 16-19 group: US\$ 500

### 2nd place

Winner of the 12-15 group: US\$ 250

Winner of the 16-19 group: US\$ 250

### 3rd place

Winner of the 12-15 group: US\$ 150

Winner of the 16-19 group: US\$ 150

## Contest guidelines

- Deadline for entries is 12 noon (Washington, D.C., time) on 10 August 2022.
- Works that have already received a prize from another contest, or that have been published previously by any other organization, will not be considered.
- Works may be submitted in local and indigenous languages of the countries of the Region of the Americas. These entries must include an English or Spanish translation, in a Word file.
- By submitting their material, contestants accept that this material, regardless of whether it wins, may be used by PAHO for educational and/or promotional purposes. Likewise, they grant PAHO a perpetual license for non-exclusive use, free of charge, for which it will be necessary to complete the corresponding authorization.
- PAHO may include its logo, and credit the author of the material if it is used.
- Any person or persons clearly identifiable in the materials must give their consent for the use of their image, signing the authorization for reproduction of their image.
- When submitting materials, contestants must expressly declare being their original authors. They must also declare that they undertake to hold PAHO/WHO free from any liability that may arise from the infringement of the rights of third parties who have or claim to have rights of any nature over the materials submitted to the contest.
- When submitting materials, contestants who are minors must fill out a form signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- The jury will announce the winners and inform them by email. The list of winners will also be published on the PAHO website.
- The winners will be announced in September 2022. Prizes will be awarded through PAHO's Country Offices in the Region of the Americas.
- The words and images contained in the materials must be respectful of cultures and persons and may not include language that is offensive or that is or could be interpreted as discriminatory and stigmatizing. Likewise, language must not be used that violates public order, morals, or good manners.
- The acceptance of the prize by the winners implies the express granting of authorization to the organizers to use these winners' names and surnames, as well as their images, in any public activity or dissemination related to the contest, without resulting in any obligation with regard to compensation, payment, or remuneration of any kind.



# PAHO

- Prizes awarded to minors will be given to their parents or guardians. It is recommended that the prize money be used to cover the winners' educational expenses.
- Winners who are minors must indicate, together with their parents or guardians, whether their works are to be published under the minors' legal names or under pseudonyms.
- PAHO staff or consultants hired by PAHO in any country in the Region of the Americas may not enter the contest, nor may their immediate family members.
- For any further information or if you have any questions about the contest rules, please write to the following email: [adolescent\\_health@paho.org](mailto:adolescent_health@paho.org).

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