



Celebrating 21 years of *Stepping Stones*

1995-2016

## Stepping Stones Stories from *Central America*.....



**SOLEDAD GUAYASAMÍN CRUZ**

**Organisation:** UNFPA, Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas

**Country:** Ecuador & Central America



**When did you first come across Stepping Stones?**

In 2005 I was lucky enough to participate in the national workshop organised by Plan International – Ecuador, facilitated by Alice Welbourn



**How did you use it and where and when?**

**Firstly**, with Plan International, Regional Office (ROA):

- I coordinated adaptation and pilot-testing of the Latin American version of *Stepping Stones*, 'Paso a Paso'. This was for use in Ecuador, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Peru and Nicaragua
- I supported implementation of 'Paso a Paso' in Ecuador, in the north of Quito and indigenous communities of Cotopaxi
- I coordinated roll-out of 'Paso a Paso'



**Then**, with UNFPA:

- I coordinated implementation of 'Paso a Paso' with young people from Sucumbios-Ecuador, bordering Colombia
- Then we implemented training young promoters in sexual rights from Sucumbios, Orellana, Esmeraldas (provinces which border Colombia, conflict zone)





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★ **Something that you liked about it:**

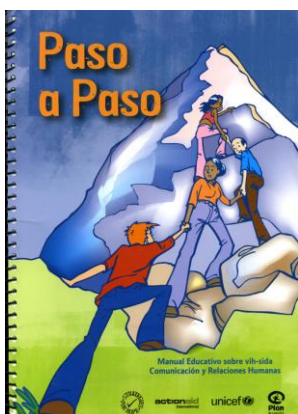
**Positive effect at a personal level** – Despite my training and commitment to gender equality and diversity, training to become a facilitator of ‘Paso a Paso’ showed me that I still harboured “micro-machismo” behaviours which manifested themselves in subtle ways in daily life, namely in raising my daughter, my relationship with my partner and the relationship with the communities I was working with. ‘Paso a Paso’ helped me to become more conscious of this and therefore work personally to overcome it and reduce the breach between discourse and practice.



★ **With the adolescent community** – One adolescent from a community bordering Colombia who participated in the training said “Not long ago some guerrillas suggested I go with them into the rainforest, definitively I said NO..... Now I know that I have rights, that being a woman doesn’t mean that I have to put up with beating and violence. I want to be a professional and have a brighter future. The training has helped me to value myself and respect others.”

★ **A positive message to share:**

I would like to encourage everyone who uses *Stepping Stones* to continue working, despite barriers to implementation and results that aren’t immediately obvious. Be assured that your work is incredibly positive and your example thrives on generosity and compromise.



Thank you Soledad!

To view two films about ‘Paso a Paso’ in Central America, made by Amandine Bollinger, click here: | Plan [Guatemala](#) | Plan El [Salvador](#) |

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