

Comprehensive sexual education & adolescents: Building bridges between schools and health services.

SI YO FUERA JUAN

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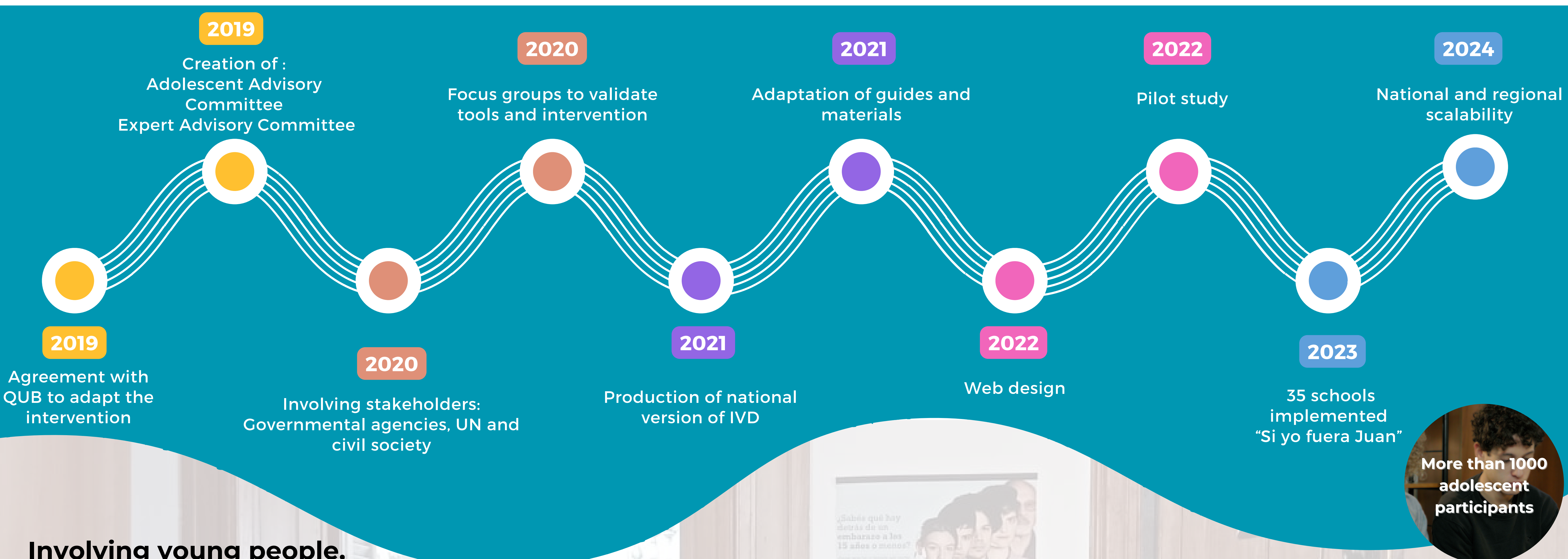
Uruguay has a strong legal framework to protect adolescents SRHR. One of the main challenges of the implementation of SRHR services for adolescents is to be **based on young people's needs** and to strengthen their **participation**.

Although some progress has been made in Latin America since the Montevideo Consensus (CEPAL, 2013), a conservative vision based on an adult-centred, heteronormative and risk-based approach persists.

"Si yo fuera Juan" is a **comprehensive sexual education** intervention to promote SRHR and to prevent unintended adolescent pregnancy, focusing on boys. It has been adapted from "If I Were Jack", developed in United Kingdom by QUB (NI).

SI YO FUERA JUAN:

- Culturally adapted for teenagers and young people in Uruguay.
- Innovative intervention.
- Gender transformative approach and involvement of boys.
- Intersectionality.
- Human rights approach.
- Main tool: Interactive Video Drama (IVD) that tells the story of Juan, a 16 year-old boy facing the situation of unintended pregnancy with his girlfriend Ema, and includes an embedded and anonymous questionnaire.



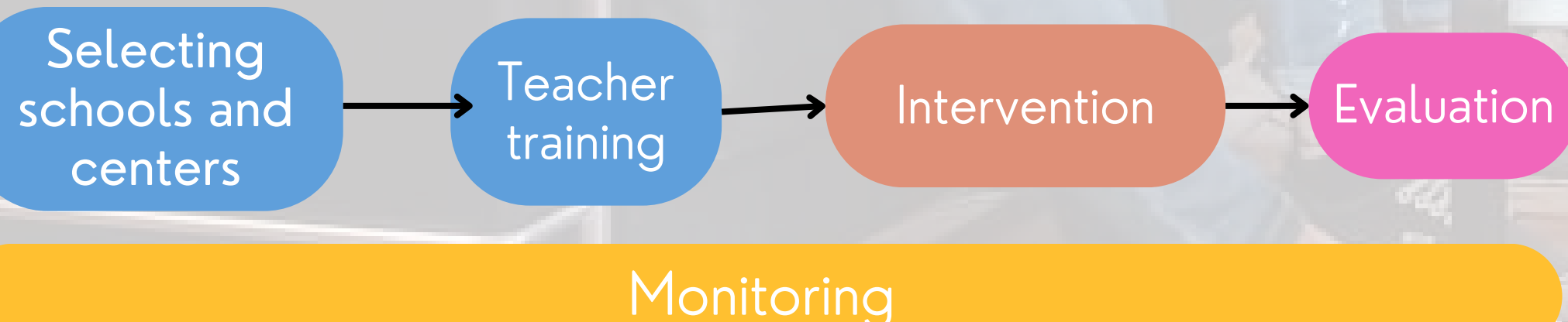
Involving young people, families, schools, health services and communities:

- ✓ 2 advisory committees:
 - Expert Advisory.
 - Adolescent Advisory.
- ✓ Several meetings with stakeholders and partners.
- ✓ 12 focus groups with 99 participants were conducted to evaluate the acceptability of the intervention:

Families Health Sector Education Sector Adolescents

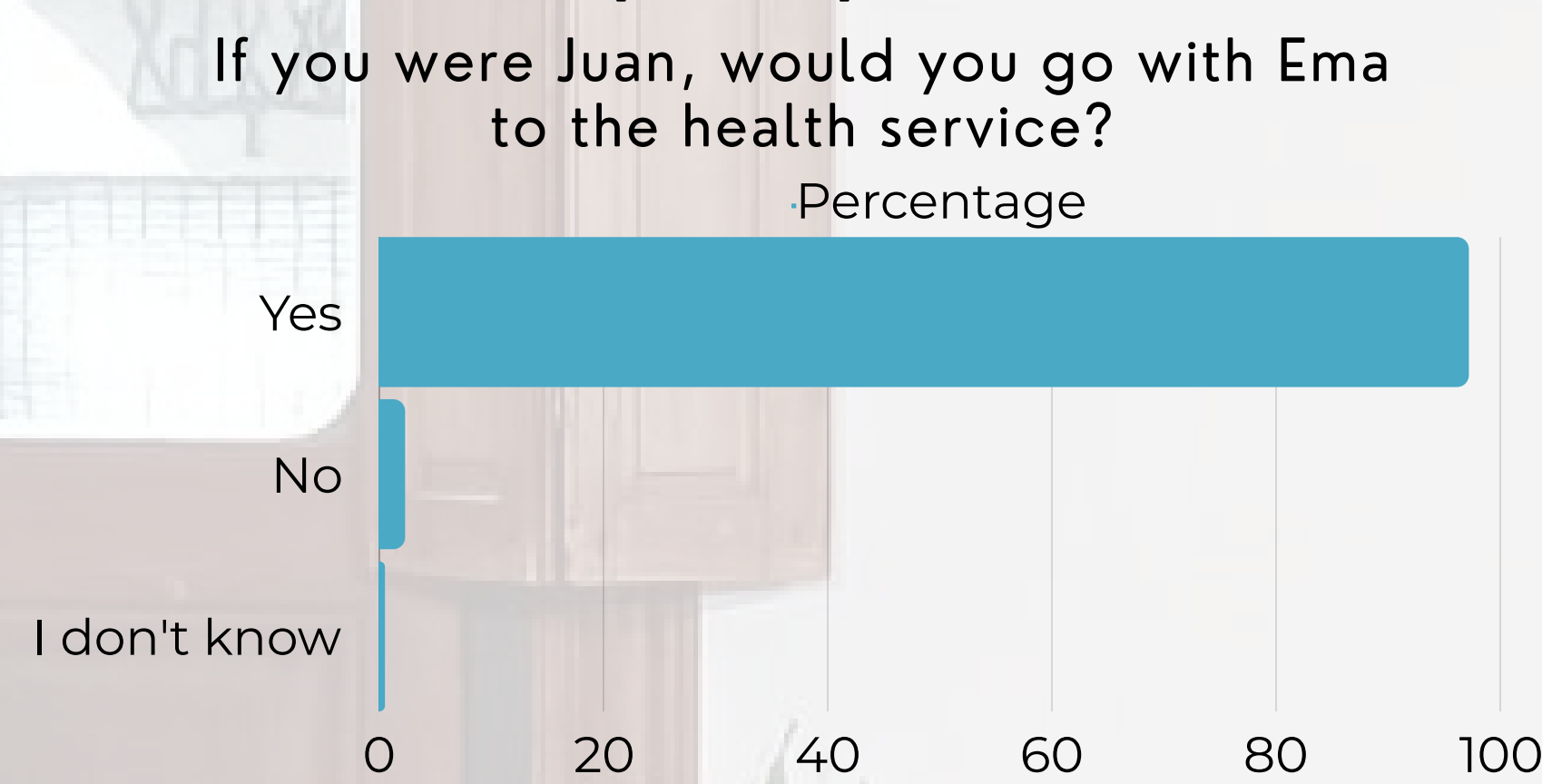
150 people participated in the adaptation process

- ✓ Pilot study involving 4 schools and 3 community organisations.

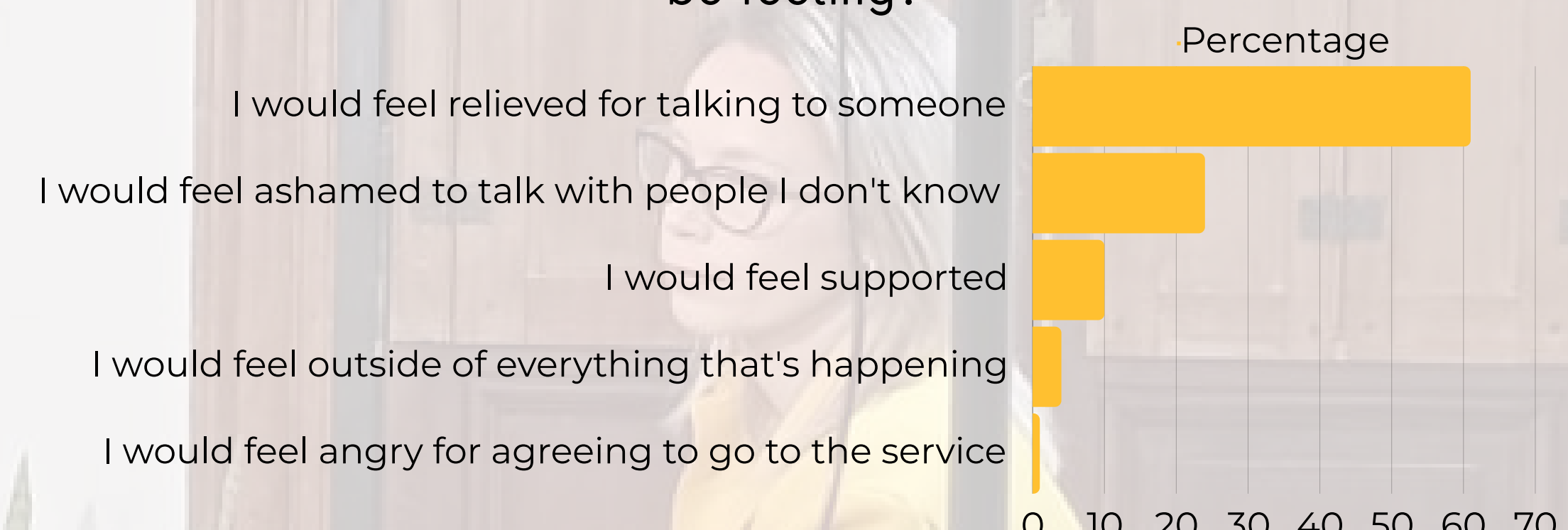


The importance of SRHR services:

Adolescent participants answered:



If you were Juan, how would you be feeling?



"In Uruguay it is very difficult to find such a [friendly] service, where you go and they help you, because there is... a lot of bureaucracy (...) and that's a factor that plays against you, because you go to a health service and they start interrogating you with questions, and you go away and you don't do anything. You close yourself off, that's something that works against you". (Adolescent boy, focus group)

CONCLUSIONS

- Barriers were identified to access RSE in schools and to SRH by young people:
 - Lack of information about sexual and reproductive health and rights.
 - Health services perceived as distant, bureaucratic and mediated by parental control. Restrictions on young people's autonomy to seek advice are observed.
 - Schools and health services disconnected.
- Health professionals, teachers and young people expressed the need for networking on SRHR.
- "Si yo fuera Juan" provides an opportunity to work at the educational level in dialogue with the health sector, while also involving families.

