



# IMPACT REPORT

#EfectoSinfonía

## Sinfonía por el Perú

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Sustained effects and new  
areas of impact

# Introduction

## Credits

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*Research financed by*

**The Inter-American Development Bank – IDB**

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I am pleased to share with you the results of the “*Second Experimental Impact Evaluation of Sinfonía por el Perú Social Program.*” We commissioned the Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE – the Analysis for Development Group) to conduct this assessment.

For over six years, we have been working with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to generate evidence of the impact of our program on society. Today, at a time when many civic values have been lost, I am proud and moved to be able to present these results to you.

The evidence confirms the importance of our daily work with the Sinfonía por el Perú, a program whose strategies help children and adolescents to strengthen their socioemotional and cognitive skills. It also positively influences the family, leading to a reduction in domestic violence and child labor. We have therefore managed to transform participating children into agents of change.

However, we go even further. Today we can say that Sinfonía por el Perú is a social program that successfully reduces violence, involvement in youth gangs, drug



abuse, teenage pregnancies, school drop-out rates and risk behaviors.

Our impact indicators illustrate the high quality of our project, scientifically proving what we call the *Symphony Effect*. This is a crucial effect that changes the lives of thousands of families throughout Peru. Thanks to this second evaluation, we have identified an additional area of support to the development of our country's children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable and at risk. It is a positive impact that goes beyond the children's continued participation in our program, an im-

pact that will accompany them throughout their lives, also transforming their family, community and society as a whole.

All of these positive effects accompany the artistic achievements of our children and young people, who have frequently crossed our borders and now have a busy national concert tour in the best venues of our country as well as international invitations to participate with our orchestra and youth choir at the prestigious festival in Lucerne, Switzerland, in 2019 and at the World Economic Forum and Dubai EXPO in 2020.

Sinfonía por el Perú is not only a social program of significant impact, but also the best image of success and transformation of our country before the world.

Aligned with the objectives of international agendas such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, Sinfonía por el Perú is a powerful tool for change and positive transformation. The Symphony Effect is a reality that allows us to envision a near future of success and social justice.

**Let's sing together for a Symphony for Peru.**

Juan Diego Flórez

**President,  
Sinfonía  
por el Perú**



# Prelude

Sinfonía por el Perú is a social and musical education program established in 2011 by tenor Juan Diego Flórez. Through the creation of a network of musical education centers (núcleos in Spanish), the *System of Orchestras and Child and Youth Choirs* has been consolidated as a vehicle for social inclusion and education in values for children and adolescents.

More than 7,000 children and young people attend the centers daily, where they find a space of dedication and enjoyment. There, they have the chance to focus on their overall development, strengthening aspects such as self-confidence, identity, camaraderie, tolerance, teamwork and

perseverance through regular group music practice sessions. Their participation encourages continuous improvement in their family, social and educational environment, as well as in the generation of employment opportunities. Additionally, Sinfonía por el Perú has a multiplying effect with its monitor training program, with which the children currently participating will become future music instructors in the program.

This report presents the results of the Consultancy Report for the Impact Evaluation of the program carried out by GRADE. The evaluation was conducted with two comparative stages over a four-year peri-

od, with a sample of 701 documented cases in the centers of Huánuco and Manchay. The main goal of this study was to generate real evidence from an outside source confirming the Symphony Effect as a synonym of rapid transformation, and of participating children and adolescents as agents of change for their families and society as a whole. Between the first and second study, the Symphony children have effectively become agents of change within the family, extending to their social environment, through the development of their self-worth, responsibility and maturity.




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**“By feeling appreciated and acknowledged, the children discover that they can do great things for themselves and their community.”**

*Juan Diego Flórez*

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## EVALUATION OF THE SYMPHONY EFFECT

The methodological design is key for every impact evaluation, and in this case even more so considering that this is the second assessment of the Sinfonía por el Perú project in four years. GRADE conducted both assessments as external project consultants. The experimental methodology was used to guarantee the internal validity of the impact through the measurement of ex-post result indicators.

The experimental methodology applied was the random assignment of study groups, ensuring independence between the distribution and observable and non-observable characteristics of project participants. This guaranteed the study's

scientific rigor by preventing a selection bias and enabled the objective attribution of the differences in result indicators between the two groups.

The methodological design of this evaluation and its implementation did not interfere with the functioning of the project. This meant that the evaluation assessed the project during its normal operation.

Study participants were divided into two groups, the intervention group and the control group, composed of children and adolescents from the same environment, situation and context. They were incorporated at the beginning of the study.

- a) **Intervention Group**, children and adolescents participating in project center services and activities.
- b) **Control Group**, children and adolescents who did not participate in the project and were enrolled only in the impact study. This group served for comparison purposes with the intervention group.

The literature review indicates that a social intervention such as Sinfonía por el Perú, which uses music as a means of transformation, can have an impact on the development of cognitive and socioemotional skills, academic performance, as well as

on risk behaviors and conditions of labor market entry.

With few exceptions, existing evidence originates from studies of music education programs designed to study the impact of music in several areas rather than from social programs such as Sinfonía por el Perú.




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**“Thanks to a rigorous impact study, we can report that this dream has proven a success.”**

**Juan Diego Flórez**

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**We offer opportunities for the overall development of children and adolescents.**

### Indicators

The dimensions analyzed in the study encompass three extensive areas: personal, family and education, using the same socioemotional and cognitive indicators of the previous study (2014), along with new indicators associated with socioemotional development, educational goals and expectations and risk behaviors.

In the personal area, indicators included: creativity, aggression, self-esteem, perseverance, school self-sufficiency (also belonging to the educational environment), locus of control and relationship with parents (crosscutting indicators with the family environment). An important group

of risk-behavior indicators was also added: prevalence and frequency of alcohol and tobacco consumption, unprotected sexual relations and teenage pregnancies. As part of the cognitive dimension of this environment, the evaluation used indicators that were also analyzed in the previous study: number retention, verbal fluidity, solving of mazes and calculations.

The family area measures indicators of time usage in the household, violence, physical punishment and severity of abuse by mothers and fathers, as well as data on child labor.

Finally, in the educational area, in addi-

tion to the aforementioned indicators, other indicators measure school achievements, behavioral problems, school progress, attendance and abandonment, and educational transitions, as well as explore goals and expectations with respect to students' academic futures. Two types of comparisons were implemented using these indicators:

- a) A simple comparison of averages for the intervention group with respect to the control group.
- b) A comparison of averages adjusted by exogenous co-variables (observ-

able characteristics not affected by the project, such as sex and age of the girls, boys and adolescents; the age and educational level of parents; and the city where the music center functions) for the intervention group with respect to the control group. This adjustment by co-variables improves accuracy.

In practice, the random assignment was stratified by sex and independently in each project music center. This enabled the different results to be analyzed by music center and sex, in addition to global or aggregate impact.

### Instruments

- Cognitive tests
- Socioemotional tests
- Questionnaires for adolescents
- Questionnaires for mothers (applied by interviewers)

### Assumptions

The immediate, intermediate and final results are within the framework of assumptions or environmental conditions:

- Methodology in the appropriate center
- Trained, motivated instructors
- Adequate infrastructure
- Regular attendance
- Availability of musical instruments
- Use of musical instruments
- Group or collaborative work
- Favorable environment



Music has the ability to generate spiritual wealth where there is material poverty, to transform, empower and give hope.

*Juan Diego Flórez*

## The Symphony Effect

**With this in mind, we launched Sinfonía por el Perú, a social project that provides a sense of hope for thousands of at-risk children and adolescents, guiding them toward a better future in a more noble, just society. In other words, irrefutable proof of everything that my own experience has convinced me of.**

*Juan Diego Flórez*

The positive results of GRADE's two impact evaluations of Sinfonía por el Perú in 2014 and 2018, respectively, confirm the improvements in several aspects of the lives of thousands of at-risk children and adolescents in Peru. Thus, it can be said that giving them opportunities, culture and affection enables the development of worthy citizens who will make a positive contribution to the country's future. We like to call these powerful, motivating effects of the project "the Symphony Effect."

This report presents the results of GRADE's second impact evaluation to complement the first study, which demonstrated a significant positive im-

impact on skills. This second study had similar results in socioemotional and cognitive development, and the early impact of these indicators found in the first study has had a favorable impact on participants' development and maturity, as well as on other aspects of their lives.

Another noteworthy aspect of the global results of the assessment is that Sinfonía por el Perú has enormous potential to generate a positive impact on girls and female adolescents, which is especially relevant because in the socioeconomic contexts of the areas where the centers operate, these individuals are more vulnerable than their male counterparts and

their peers of higher socioeconomic status to teenage pregnancy, delayed school enrolment, school abandonment and domestic violence.

The results by general indicators are discussed below:

#### Time usage

The results of the assessment indicate that the children of the intervention group spend less time caring for family members, more time studying at home and more time practicing their instruments. The reduction in caretaking of other fam-

ily members is significant enough to also reduce the time devoted to other domestic chores and work activities.

For female participants, the time spent studying at home increased by 13% and time spent caring for family members, household chores and work declined by 15%. Additionally, the female participants increased their time practicing music by 93%.



**LESS**  
time caring  
for family  
members

**13** % LESS  
time doing  
domestic  
chores

**9%**  
**MORE**  
time  
studying  
at home



**MORE**  
time  
practicing  
music

### Child labor

The study reported less tolerance for child labor among mothers. Specifically, the tolerance for children working was 23% lower than in the control group.

### Physical punishment

The results indicate a lower prevalence in the use of disciplinary physical punishment. This occurs both in situations of disobedience (49% reduction) and in cases of lack of respect (51% reduction).

The study reported a decrease of 52% in the use of physical punishment on the part of the mother or caretaker in both situations, and of 34% when the father was also

considered. A similar result was found in the case of severe punishments, where the prevalence of this type of punishment by both parents decreased by 42%.

### Risk behavior

In the personal environment, when risk behaviors such as smoking, drinking alcohol and having unprotected sex were analyzed, the study found a reduced prevalence of moderate and severe risk behaviors among female participants. What is more, for female participants, there was an even greater reduction in the statistical prevalence of adolescent sex and unprotected sex. The study also reported a decrease in the prevalence of unprotected

sex in the first sexual experience.

In summary:

- An 18% reduction in the prevalence of severe risk behaviors.
- A 20% reduction in the prevalence of moderate risk behaviors and a 33% decline in severe risk behaviors among female participants.
- A 57% decrease in unprotected sex for female participants.

### Pregnancy and children

The evaluation also found a lower prevalence of teenage pregnancies and cases of adolescents who already have children. The reductions in these indicators are highly significant and considerable. Thus, there is a clear protective effect of Sinfonía por el Perú, which is once again concentrated among female participants.

Our results indicate a lower prevalence of pregnancies overall, but also a lower prevalence of teenage pregnancies before age 18 and before age 20. The prevalence of pregnancies declined by 75%.



18%  
**FEWER**  
severe  
risk  
behaviors



75%  
**FEWER**  
teenage  
pregnancies



The  
Symphony  
Project has  
a protective  
effect on  
young  
people.

### Educational goals and expectations

In terms of educational goals and expectations, the study identified a positive effect for the complete sample with respect to pursuing a graduate degree or a specialized field of study.

The percentage of young people who plan to pursue graduate or specialized degrees rose by 29%. The percentage of young people who believe they will complete their graduate or specialized studies rose by 26%.

### Education

The analysis of indicators of involvement in educational activities and work disaggregated by sex found that the percentage of female participants who neither study nor work declined. Eighteen percent of children and adolescents continue to practice music daily. Among the female participants, the percentage who practice music daily was 17%, more than double that of the control group, which was 19% among the male participants, more than three times the percentage for the control group.



But I'm not alone. None of this would have been possible without the support of the private sector, international agencies, foundations, the government and individuals, as well as of the wonderful team of professionals, musicians and teachers who work with Symphony for Peru. We have many projects and want to keep growing to benefit more Peruvian children. We hope that more companies and international agencies will join this initiative, which has proven success in making a positive change for the country's future.

*Juan Diego Flórez*



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“Let's sing together for  
a Symphony for Peru.”

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FONDO ESPECIAL JAPONÉS DE  
REDUCCIÓN DE LA POBREZA



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