

#SheisWe

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Duveiza Alcocer

Bolivia – She shares, We are stronger

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At 19 she was pregnant. At 20 she started fighting for sex-ed programs to prevent teenage pregnancies. She is Duveiza Alcocer. #SheisWe #EDD18

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Story

“I was with my mother that day. It was like a bucket of cold water.” Duveiza was only 19 when she learnt that she was pregnant. She did not feel ready to raise a child and had no stable situation. She even thought of committing suicide, so her son could be raised by her mother instead of her.

Early pregnancy is a real challenge in Bolivia: with the highest rate of teen pregnancy on the continent and the second highest of maternal death, complications are frequent. The girls are often left alone by men who don't accept the responsibility, dropping school and facing an increased risk of poverty and exclusion. “There are so many consequences that you get flooded,” Duveiza says.

Her son and an appropriate care helped her to get out of depression. She took up responsibility and she is now the president of the Youth Council of her city. She works on the implementation of a sexual education program so young people are educated about contraception, sexual rights and reproductive health. “We need to invest, guide and train” young people, she advocates. #SheisWe.

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