Juntos participants had more deliveries at a health centre, more checkups and more vaccinations. Deliveries at home are associated with perinatal mortality, postpartum morbidities and anaemia in women (McDermott *et al.* 1996; Iyengar 2012), and as part of the health checkup, children are subject to growth monitoring and vaccinations, thus preventing some diseases (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2013). Additionally, during the checkup, children receive vitamins and iron supplementation (Dirección General de salud de las Personas 2011).

In conclusion, we found evidence that Juntos reduced the risk of underweight in women and anaemia in children at the individual level. We also found a beneficial effect on overweight in women and acute malnutrition in children, but an adverse effect on anaemia in children at the district level.

Acknowledgement

The authors thank David Vera Tudela Traverso, ex Senior Officer of Social Policies Evaluation at the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, for providing valuable information about the implementation of 'Juntos' Program

Source of funding

Canadian Institutes of Health Research Operating Grant, 'Examining the impact of social policies on health equity' (ROH-115209).

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Contributions

JEP collected, analysed and interpreted the data and wrote the initial draft of the manuscript. CCC, AN and JSK significantly contributed to the design, analysis and report. In addition, they reviewed initial and final drafts of the paper and provided feedback and contributions. All authors critically reviewed and agreed with the final contents.

References

- Abdullahi H., Gasim G.I., Saeed A., Imam A.M. & Adam I. (2014) Antenatal iron and folic acid supplementation use by pregnant women in Khartoum, Sudan. BMC Research Notes 7, 498. DOI: 10.1186/1756-0500-7-498.
- Alcázar L. (2009) El gasto público social frente a la infancia: Análisis del programa Juntos y de la oferta y demanda de servicios asociadas a sus condiciones. Grade—Niños Milen.
- Álvarez-Dongo D., Sánchez-Abanto J., Gómez-Guizado G. & Tarqui-Mamani C. (2012) Sobrepeso y obesidad: prevalencia y determinantes sociales del exceso de peso en la población peruana (2009–2010). Revista Peruana de Medicina Experimental y Salud Pública 29, 303–313.
- Andersen C.T., Reynolds S.A., Behrman J.R., Crookston B.T., Dearden K.A., Escobal J. et al. (2015) Participation in the Juntos conditional cash transfer program in Peru is associated with changes in child anthropometric status but not language development or school achievement. Journal of Nutrition jn213546.. DOI: 10.3945/jn.115.213546.
- Aramburú C.E. (2010) Informe compilatorio: El Programa Juntos, resultados y retos.
- Attanasio O.P., Fernández C., Fitzsimons E.O.A., Grantham-McGregor S.M., Meghir C. & Rubio-Codina M. (2014) Using the infrastructure of a conditional cash transfer program to deliver a scalable integrated early child development program in Colombia: cluster randomized controlled trial. BMJ 349, g5785.
- Baird S., McIntosh C. & Özler B. (2011) Cash or condition? Evidence from a cash transfer experiment. Quarterly Journal of Economics 126, 1709–1753.
- Becerra C., Gonzales G.F., Villena A., De la Cruz D. & Florián A. (1998) Prevalencia de anemia en gestantes, Hospital Regional de Pucallpa, Perú. PAN American Journal of Public Health 3, 285–292.
- Behrman J.R., Parker S.W. & Todd P.E. (2009) Schooling impacts of conditional cash transfers on young children: evidence from Mexico. *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 57, 439–477.
- Brookhart M.A., Schneeweiss S., Rothman K.J., Glynn R.J., Avorn J. & Stürmer T. (2006) Variable selection for propensity score models. American Journal of Epidemiology 163, 1149–1156.
- Carvalho N., Thacker N., Gupta S.S. & Salomon J.A. (2014) More evidence on the impact of India's conditional cash transfer program, Janani Suraksha Yojana: quasiexperimental evaluation of the effects on childhood