Mobilizing Youth to Better their Community: Community-Based Participatory Research in the Bañado Sur Neighborhood of Asunción, Paraguay
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Background
The project builds on an existing collaboration between Emory and the National Institute of Health in Paraguay, funded by the USAID mission through Higher Education for Development (HEID) for 3 years, 2009-2011. It contributes to the development of a collaborative research agenda with a larger set of Paraguayan institutions that were involved in an agenda-setting workshop sponsored by Emory’s Institute for Developing Nations (IDN) in September 2010. The IDN Multidisciplinary Team project will lay the foundation for the development of longer-term Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) projects in the marginalized Bañado Sur neighborhood of Asunción, in conjunction with a youth-serving community-based organization, MI Solidarios.

The primary goal of the team project is to support the development of a collaborative research agenda between Emory and Paraguay by:
- Establishing dialogue within the community in order to identify key community health and development issues of importance to youth
- Conducting a set of community-based participatory research activities that will provide local knowledge to serve as a baseline for future projects
- Engaging youth in prioritizing community health issues based on their assessment

Rachel Blumenfeld
Project Title: Paternal-Adolescent Communication and Knowledge of Risky Behaviors in Asunción, Paraguay: A Qualitative Study
Specific Aims:
To determine the current state of paternal-adolescent communication and knowledge of risky behaviors in the Bañado Sur community in Asunción, Paraguay.

Methods:
Developed key informant, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussion guides in English and Spanish. Conducted 8 non-clergy individual interviews with key informants, 15 father/adolescent dyads, and 2 focus group discussions with 7 participants.

Preliminary Results:
In general, fathers and their adolescents expressed their thoughts on not enough sexual education for adolescents, too much community violence and issues with alcohol abuse throughout. The idea of using faith-based organizations as a venue for intervention was accepted by some and less so by others. Fathers also expressed the desire for their children to lead more educated and successful lives than their own.

Trey Comstock
Specific Aims:
To understand adolescent's pre-teen experiences related to SRH and education related to SRH.

Methods:
Qualitative research methods including in-depth interviews with adolescents, focus group discussions with adolescent males, in-depth interviews with clergy from various denominations, and key informant interviews with health and development experts in Asunción.

Preliminary Results:
Based on preliminary data analysis, there does seem to be some possibility of an intervention specifically for adolescent males. Fathers also expressed the desire for their children to have more education and successful lives than their own.

Catherine Couper
Specific Aims:
To understand adolescent’s pre-teens experiences related to SRH and education related to SRH.

Methods:
Qualitative research methods including in-depth interviews with adolescent females, focus group discussions with adolescent females and key informant interviews with both clergy from various denominations and non-clergy members in Asunción.

Preliminary Results:
Based on preliminary data analysis, it is not recommended that faith-based organizations serve as sites for sexual reproductive health interventions targeting female adolescents in this community. Female adolescents strongly preferred to learn about SRH at school or from their mothers. There was a wide spectrum of beliefs from clergy members as to whether or not interventions related to SRH should be held at their churches and/or led by members from the congregation.

Alexis Coppola
Specific Aims:
To examine concerns among mothers around violent behavior in the Bañado Sur

Methods:
Qualitative research methods including in-depth interviews with adolescent females, focus group discussions with adolescent females and key informant interviews with both clergy from various denominations and non-clergy members in Asunción.

Preliminary Results:
Based on preliminary data analysis, there does seem to be some possibility of an intervention specifically for adolescent males. Fathers also expressed the desire for their children to lead more educated and successful lives than their own.

Target Populations/Communities Served:
- Male adolescents ages 14 to 18 who participate in MI Solidarios and Clergy who serve in Bañado Sur and nearby areas.
- Mothers in the Bañado Sur community in Asunción, Paraguay

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Additional Project Activities
The team created a 50 minute documentary on the project, which was distributed to community-based organizations to facilitate conversations around violence prevention between parents and their adolescent children.