Project Background

- The project built on studies by Dr. Karen Andes in collaboration with some 15 Emory graduate students who have conducted fieldwork in Asunción since 2010.
- In Paraguay, 10% of adolescent women are mothers.
- Women of lower economic status are 3 times as likely to be mothers before age 19 than women of higher economic status (14% versus 4%); they are over 10 times as likely to have more than one child by age 19 (3.7% versus 3%) in Paraguay.
- Paraguay’s adolescent maternal mortality rates are among the highest in Latin America.
- A recent World Bank study estimates that adolescent pregnancies cost the country upwards of $63 million per year, for a total lifetime cost of 12% of the GDP.
- Sex education in the schools is a topic of fervent debate, and few if any evidence-based interventions for adolescent pregnancy prevention have been adapted for use in Paraguay.

Methodology

- Drafts of three complementary interventions using a recognized adaptation framework, ADAPT-ITT.
  - Families Talking Together - targets parents of adolescents (10-14)
  - My Changing Body: Body Literacy and Fertility Awareness for Young People - targets adolescent males and females (10-14)
  - Program H: Working with Young Men - targets men (15-25)
- Study Population: Paraguayan adolescents ages 10-25 and parents of adolescents from the Mil Solidarios community center in the Bahado Sur neighborhood of Asunción and the Colegio Tecnico Juan XXIII in Pilar.

Findings

- My Changing Body Program – Meredith Moore
  - Because the language is very formal, some terms were not appropriate for younger participants and/or those with limited education.
  - This program assumes the participants have already been exposed to much of this information; however, younger participants had not been exposed to these topics.

- Program H – Mario Corea
  - Due to broad age range (15-24) of target participants, selection of program activities should account for each group’s knowledge base and previous experience with subject matter.

- Families Talking Together – Sarah Galvez
  - The intervention was well received, both parents and adolescents felt it was an important topic.
  - Overall sexual health was not talked about between parents and youth because of: shame, embarrassment and being culturally taboo.

Next Steps

- Deliver a fully adapted draft curriculum for each intervention.
- Produce a manuscript outlining the approach in Spanish, such that the model can be repeated elsewhere in Latin America.
- Propose team in 2016 to implement 3rd stage of ADAPT-ITT:
  - Develop training materials for facilitators and pilot intervention with target population.