

Implementing a Community-Based Participatory Project: Lessons Learned from



the Hand Washing Education, Tippy Tap and Community Prioritization Project in Peru

What is a Participatory Approach?

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) involves community members or those affected by a community issue – typically in collaboration or partnership with others who have research skills – conducting research on and analyzing that issue, with the goal of planning strategies to resolve it. This ensures that the research aim adequately addresses the needs of the target community¹.

What did we do?

In July 2014, a global health student team (Team Agua CLLEaN), partnered with The Chijnaya Foundation to provide hand-washing education, promote the building of hand-washing stations (Tippy Taps), and conduct community prioritization meetings to Tuni Grande, a rural agricultural community in Peru where poor sanitation is a major obstacle.

What did we accomplish?

Handwashing Education: 23 elementary students grades 1-6 participated in the hand washing education program.

Handwashing Station (Tippy Tap) building: Tippy Taps were built for demonstration for a contest. Twenty-three students participated in the schoolchildren's Tippy Tap contest, 10 families participated in the adult Tippy Tap Contest, 9 people washed their hands at the Pucara fair Tippy Tap demonstration where 30 people received education/promotional handouts

Community Prioritization: The community members identified realistic solutions to their community's main problems through focus groups with women, leaders, and youth. A community wide forum was held where key concerns were expressed and recommendations were given.

What happened after we left?

Community Outcomes

- Tippy Taps were adopted by the manager of the Health Center Tuni Grande as a health measure for implementing Tippy taps in the houses of all the beneficiaries of the Juntos program (program of the Peruvian government) not only in the target Tuni Grande, also to beneficiaries and communities Colquejahua Pacaje (communities belonging to the Posta jurisdicción Tuni Grande).
- Complementary measure of "manufacturing" homemade liquid soap, from striped soap bar and dissolved in hot water
- In addition, implementation of the Tippy Tap health promoter Community Colquejahua received recognition for the national health ministry.

How was a Participatory Approach used in our Project?

1. Ensuring our project was **culturally sensitive** by consulting and working with community members and The Chijnaya Foundation. For example, The Chijnaya Foundation recommended focus groups be conducted separately with leaders, women, and youth to ensure

2. participation. Also community members were asked at their beliefs on handwashing during focus groups.
3. **Building a relationship with the community members and organization** by living with community members & helping with daily chores, and by meeting with and working with The Chijnaya Foundation
4. **Engaging community members and organization in planning and implementing the project** through focus groups, meetings with The Chijnaya Foundation and interactive activities: musical play/singalong, obstacle course, tippy tap building contest, community prioritization focus groups

What did we learn?

- Respecting the cultural practices of a community, build relationships, and involving the organization and community members in planning and implementing an intervention are key to obtaining good outcomes and to motivate the community to adopt healthier behaviors.
- It was important to practice cultural humility (We acknowledged what we did not know about the culture Tuni Grande and were willing to learn from the community members and try new practices)

References

1. Chapter 36. Introduction to Evaluation Section 2. Community-based Participatory Research. (2015). In *Community Toolbox*. Retrieved September 29, 2015, from <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/evaluate/evaluation/intervention-research/main>

