

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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TUFH 2021 ABSTRACTS

Title	UNDERSTANDING HEALTH AND LIFE NEEDS OF MARKET SELLERS IN SACABA, BOLIVIA DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Type	Oral Presentation Innovative Ways for Community Mobilization and Engagement of Stakeholders
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Abstract N ^o	TUFH807
Content	<p>Background: Since 2008 Bolivia introduced the Unified Family, Community and Intercultural Health System (SAFCI) as a strategy towards inclusive universal health care, implemented since march 2019 (SUS). It theoretically integrates social participation and interculturality, linking traditional with biomedical medicine. Notwithstanding, practical methods for successful implementation are lacking. Methods: The concept mapping methodology of Trochim adapted by Bolivian sociologists, acquainted with local group dynamics, is used to visualize the health and life needs of market sellers in Sacaba. A baseline questionnaire and activities strengthening ties with the health network, municipal authorities and community representatives facilitate sustainable actions based on the identified needs. Results: During the first COVID-19 wave in Bolivia, from June to august 2020, over half of the market sellers got infected. They healed themselves at home, mainly with medicinal plants, some included modern medicines and less than 10% acceded the health system. Political conflict and lockdowns lived during this period impeded registration of cases and effective prevention strategies. The shared learning, analysis and operational strategy between market leaders, vendors and the interprofessional team in this project empowers the beneficiaries and improves the sustainability of actions. Conclusion: Health includes collective and social dimensions like family, community and livelihood. The COVID-19 pandemic affects people's daily lives in a multidimensional way, which is why broad interventions with intersectoral actions are required for its mitigation. Understanding the needs of market vendors and engaging them can support the sustainability of interventions.</p>