



THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
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VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Capacity building in organising underserved populations towards community empowerment
Type	TUFHTalk <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
Presenting Author	BONAVENTURE UGWU
Co-Authors	
Country	Nigeria
Abstract N^o	TUFH13
Content	<p>Frequently, community organisers carry out top down social action interventions aimed at empowering disadvantaged populations. These organising activities are usually problem-based and organiser-centred, and transmit to underserved populations impressions that their communities have many shortcomings; thus portraying them as largely dependent people. It is therefore not uncommon to find these interventions terminate almost immediately the initial organisers depart such communities. Experts are thus moving from the need-based community development and social action methods towards the strength-based community/capacity building and empowerment-oriented methods that stress participation and relevance, since health promotion is more effective when participatory. Community building is an orientation to practice that is strength-based, not need-based; focused on community, rather than a strategic framework or approach; building capacities, not fixing problems and stresses the identification, nurturing and celebration of community assets. Asset mapping activities must first take place so ownership can take hold. Needs assessment must be culturally relevant and prioritised from the communities' perspectives. Funding must be collaborative with greater emphasis on community assets especially primary building blocks. Capacities must be accompanied with clear succession plans and active recruitment and engagement of community members as equals throughout the assessment, goal setting, designing, implementation and evaluation stages. Most importantly, the community must be made to appreciate that the intervention belongs to them as self-imposed developments have a meaning and permanence that imposed changes do not. While community development approaches seem to offer some temporary relief, capacity building strategies produce longer lasting outcomes</p>