

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
FOR HEALTH & FACULTAD DE MEDICINA,
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THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



TUFH2020 MEXICO

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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
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SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Community Health Worker Training - Caring for the Sick Child in Rural Guatemala
Type	TUFH Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
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Abstract N^o	TUFH186
Content	<p>Background: Rural Guatemala relies primarily on community health workers (CHWs) to provide healthcare. Language barriers, distance, and poverty impede access to care, which is further pronounced among children. The World Health Organization (WHO) created the training, "Caring for the Sick Child" to address leading causes of childhood mortality, including dehydration, malaria, and respiratory illnesses, equipping communities with necessary skills to confront these challenges firsthand. This training teaches CHWs to recognize severe illnesses in children aged 2 months to 5 years, differentiating children needing referral to a health facility from those who can be treated adequately in the community. Methods: 10 CHWs participated in the one-week WHO training, administered in Spanish by 5 healthcare providers and 5 medical students. CHWs were evaluated by practical and written examinations, assessing improvement with pre- and post-training assessments. Results: The training resulted in a significant increase in pediatric triaging skills in both written and practical evaluations. Results of the written evaluation include $t=4.668$ ($p\text{-value}=0.0012$), $\text{prob}> z=0.0088$, and effect size=1.48. Results of the practical evaluation include $t=7.8$ ($p\text{-value}=0.0000$), $\text{prob}> z=0.0047$, and effect size=2.46. Conclusion: The training significantly improved the knowledge base and practical skillset of CHWs for triaging and managing pediatric patients in a rural health setting. The practical evaluation was more effective than the written evaluation, possibly due to differing literacy levels and Spanish language proficiency. This training could potentially be implemented globally in underserved communities to sustainably improve access to healthcare and decrease childhood mortality rates in developing nations.</p>