

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



THE NETWORK  
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



# TUFH2020 MEXICO

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Experiences with Village Health Teams' Income Generating Activities</b>
<b>Type</b>	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
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<b>Abstract N°</b>	TUFH315
<b>Content</b>	<p>Background: Village Health Teams (VHTs) act as a vital link between communities and Uganda's healthcare system. Although the work of VHTs has been successful in educating communities, the program still faces challenges of sustainability. All VHTs work as volunteers and must invest a significant amount of time and resources to participate in the program. In the Covid-19 era, when whole economies have shut down, communities must also find a way to financially and medically sustain themselves. In Healthy Child Uganda (HCU) program areas, VHTs have committed to organizing Income Generating Activities (IGAs): small projects that produce a profit which is either saved or used by members. IGAs pose a unique solution to both economic and professional challenges faced by VHTs. Objective: Our objective is to present, how IGAs are structured and how these activities have contributed to the success of the VHT program. Results: Our results showed all 117 parishes that were surveyed have at least one IGA. The structure and origin of IGAs vary between VHTs. Savings and credit, and cash rounds were the most common practices. Funds raised through IGAs contribute to household improvement and are used to support vulnerable populations (e.g. special needs, transportation for women in labour). Female VHTs involved gained respect, as they were able to financially contribute to their families. Conclusion: IGAs contribute to the financial development, and sustainment of VHT groups and the community. Going forward, VHT groups should be encouraged and helped in developing financial skills.</p>