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THE NETWORK
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Facultad de Medicina



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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	African medical students; Understanding population activities and community empowerment through student project for health during COVID-19 pandemic
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Content

Objective: This study aims to understand the attitude of new generations in Africa toward population activities and community empowerment through the student's project for health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Methods: This cross-sectional survey includes 297 members of the Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA). They participated in the webinar organized by the Standing Committee on Population Activities (SCOPA). The participants were from 16 African countries. Results: The participants belong to different school curricula; 22.4% community-based medical education, 26.2% traditional, 16.8% problem-based, 9.3% other curricula, and 25.2 not sure. Of them, 74.1% have previous experience with a community empowerment program in their local communities. However, only 28.3% have involved in population activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority believed that research activities to empower their local communities are essential during medical school (72.2%). Majority of them (91.7%) agree that one of the perceived barriers to researching their local community is lack of training on research. However, 65% intend to conduct a project for health addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities. Conclusion: African medical students have a strong desire to serve their local communities by conducting a project for health during COVID-19. However, they faced difficulties such as lack of technical training, lack of funds, and lack of mentors. Keywords: community empowerment, the project for health, Africa, medical students