

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
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THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



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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

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| Title | Community health workers as key actors in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in rural Chiapas, Mexico |
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| Presenting Author | Zeus Aranda Remon |
| Co-Authors | Bruno Raul Vargas Garcia , Ariwame Jiménez |
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Content

According to the Pan American Health Organization, Mexico is the fifth country with the most confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Americas (212,802). The identification and self-isolation of COVID-19 cases, quarantine of the household, combined with manual contact tracing of all contacts, could reduce the transmission of the virus by over 60% according to the model developed by Kucharski and colleagues (Kucharski et al., 2020). Our organization, Compañeros En Salud (CES), is supporting nine rural communities in the Sierra Madre region of Chiapas, Mexico, to fight the pandemic through ten primary health care centers and a team of over forty community health workers (CHWs). Since 2013, CHWs have been providing home follow-up to chronic patients, pregnant women and patients with mental disorders. After COVID-19 incursion into Chiapas, home follow-up of suspected COVID-19 cases and contact tracing have been included among their responsibilities. Since the program began in mid-April 2020 until the end of June, 44 COVID-19 suspected cases and over 90 contacts have been identified in the nine rural communities supported by CES and about 50% of them have started follow-up with the CHWs' team. With the progression of the pandemic, further analyses will be conducted to assess the effect of the implemented measures on the transmission rate of the virus, comparing the outcomes of the pandemic in our rural communities with other settings of similar characteristics where isolation and manual contact tracing measures have not been implemented.