

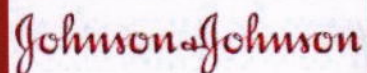
Final Report

(Year-4 progress report: July 2008 – June 2009)

Project: Expanding HIV/AIDS /STI prevention and care integrated to primary care in the City of Fortaleza, Brazil - Year 4: educational intervention and care to women and female adolescents living in specific poor areas of Fortaleza

(Period: July 2008 – June 2009)

Sponsored by:



Relatório
Três de Saúde

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FORTALEZA, BRAZIL

July, 2009

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- Faculdade Christus
- SESA/CE

Sponsored by

- Johnson & Johnson
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 **Fortaleza**
Secretaria Municipal de Saúde de Fortaleza

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE RESOURCE FOUNDATION

Main Indicators

- People directly benefited from the Project: 200,000
 - 150,000 women
 - 50,000 men
 - 120,000 young people (13-24)
 - 60,000 adults (25-50)
 - 20,000 elderly (50+)
 - 1,330 pregnant women
 - 60.000 high risk people
 - 250 health care professionals (trained physicians, nurses and dentists)
 - 120 Health Community Agents
- People indirectly benefited from the Project: 600,000
- Project's Methodology:
 - local involvement / community promoters (yes)
 - home visits (yes)
 - large scale public events (yes)
 - distribution of information materials (yes)
 - development of psychosocial skills (yes)
 - professional training (yes)
 - cooperation with NGOs (yes)
 - cooperation with local schools (yes)
 - cooperation with local community associations and organizations (yes)
 - cooperation with local private companies (for-profit companies (yes: Faculdade Christus – Medical Scholl and Universidade de Fortaleza)

Project Main Strategies – Year 4

- Continued education on STD/AIDS for Family Health Program professionals - Ser II, Fortaleza;
- Intensification of education promotion and assistance actions on STD/AIDS towards women, children and teenagers;
- Education of men and young male teenagers using events and locations where there is higher concentration of this population in order to diffuse information;
- Door to door community education by the Health Community Agents;
- Follow-up and monitoring of activities developed by trained Primary Health Care Units professionals within the scope of the Project;
- Involvement, sensibilization and capacity building of medical students;
- Sensibilization of the elderly population in the area covered by the Primary Health Care Units – UBS.
- Training and update courses on STD/AIDS for new Health Community Agents and medical students.

Achievements

- The community had the opportunity to acquire knowledge and broaden their awareness on STD/AIDS and Family planning;
- University students had the opportunity to learn more about the current status of the epidemics and about community behavior and this enable them to promote

health by changing people's behavior based on the information acquired;

- The access to condoms was simplified and expanded in the community covered by the Primary Health Care Units of SER II;
- The capacity building courses were improved resulting in health care professionals developing their activities with satisfaction;
- The large scale distribution of educational materials on STD/AIDS and Reproductive Health for the Health Community Agents facilitated and improved the performance of their daily activities. The educational process in the community and among health professionals was improved through the use of communication and information equipment donated by the Project such as: 29" TV sets, DVD players, cameras and DVD movies;
- The commitment of Unit's Managers with the Project was more evident.
- Medical students from Faculdade Christus were integrated in the Project actions thus maximizing the work of the Health Community Agents.
- The access to condoms was simplified and expanded in the community covered by the Primary Health Care Units of Regional Executive Secretary II (SER II).
- Large scale distribution of educational materials on STD/AIDS.
- Availability of reproductive health kits to support the work of new Health Care Agents.
- Greater commitment and dedication of Managers from Health Care Units in the Project activities both within the Primary Health Care Units and in the community

- Increased participation of Family Health professionals – Physicians, Nurses, and Health community agents in campaigns developed by the Municipal Department of Health of Fortaleza and State Department of Health of Ceará – a work integrated with Associação Saúde da Família
- Planning of a survey to measure the impact of the Project actions from the point of view of physicians and nurses from the Primary Health Care Units, with the participation medical students from Faculdade Christus, who Will in turn acquire this knowledge.

Impact

- Professionals from 26 Family Health teams were trained and qualified in STD/AIDS and Reproductive Health. Each team is composed of one physician, one nurse, one dentist, two nurse aides and six health community agents and each is responsible for the care of an average of 5,000 people/per month. Thus the project reaches approximately 30,000 people per month at the 06 health care facilities and during home visits;
- 111,971 home visits performed during the year;
- 1,331 pregnant women had an HIV test;
- 1,419 HIV antibody tests performed in the general population;
- 1,487 syphilis antibody tests performed in the general population;
- 278,762 condoms (male and female) distributed by the Primary Health Care Units;
- 11,511 people vaccinated against Hepatitis B;
- 189 Educational sessions performed at the Primary Health Care Unit for Reproductive Health;
- 379 educational sessions performed in the community.

Significant Accomplishments

- Healthcare professionals have now a different view on issues related to sexuality reported by their patients;
- Health Care professionals feel more confident and capable of establishing a STD/AIDS diagnosis;
- The number of STD cases identified has increased due to the assessment of risks performed in an individual basis;
- The psychological support and care of people treated for STDs is now considered an important measure and was adopted by the professionals;
- The access to STD related information was expanded leading to an increase in the number of people seeking HIV and VDR test has increase;
- The access to condoms was facilitated and therefore increased;
- Drugs of choice for the treatment of STDs are now prescribed in a more rational way for the treatment of other pathologies;
- The search for the partners (summon) of STD patients was intensified;
- The community interest on STD/AIDS and treatment recognition and compliance increased;
- Referrals of STD patients to Secondary Units are now more frequent.

Constraints

- Primary Health Care Units' physical infrastructure and equipment need to be improved;
- The great demand for treatment in the Primary Health Units is a significant problem preventing physicians to participate in training activities;
- It is difficult for the health care providers to understand why it is important to keep a continuous and adequate data collection (process indicator data);
- The network of laboratories is not prepared to timely comply with the demand for tests;
- The number of laboratories of the network is not enough to timely comply with the demand for tests.
- Lack of educational materials for the work in the community
- Insufficient number of condoms to meet the increasing demand motivated by the educational and sensibilization actions developed by the Project.
- There is still prejudice regarding STD/AIDS within families and this makes the educational process difficult

Project Changes

- There were no significant changes in the project implementation since Year-3.

Lessons Learned

- The contact with the real world in which people from the community live helps us to evaluate the problems and develop new strategies of action; i.e. to change men's and male teenagers attitude regarding

educational information as they usually think that *“these things are for women.”* Meeting intended only for men were conducted in order to build confidence and to encourage their participation on issues related to health. To draw the attention of teenagers, activities such as lectures and dramatizations are being performed in schools;

- These activities show the need to expand the availability of educational materials during the events;
- The new working hours at the Health Units, which were extended to nights and Saturdays impelled men to seek the services and improved the quality of the contact with family health professionals during these visits;
- The capacity building process, which provides an upgrade to health care professionals (doctors, nurses, dentists and health community agents) newly admitted through public contest, was important to strengthen the knowledge and provide confidence in the approach to the population – “now we are confident to talk to the clients as we are not afraid of the questions they might ask because we know how to answer them. (FHP nurse);
- The educational work and the free distribution of condoms and medication help to build confidence and raise awareness in this population – *“pregnant women no longer refuse and actually now request HIV tests and counseling during prenatal care, i.e. these women do not only wait the decision of a health care professional to get information.* (FHP nurse);
- Monitoring visits and refreshment courses are considered to serve as a stimulus to the work of these