



**PERSPECTIVES ON COLLABORATION
AND CHALLENGES IN BINATIONAL
BORDER HEALTH WORK**

**Non-Governmental Organization
Perspective**

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About PCI



- A global development organization that drives innovation from the ground up to enhance health, end hunger and overcome hardship, resulting in meaningful and measurable change in people's lives.
- The idea of PCI was conceived in this border region over 50 years ago, by a physician from Coronado who decided to volunteer in Tijuana.
- Now, PCI works in 14 countries and reaches an estimated 10 Million people.

Adopting a person-centered approach to public health



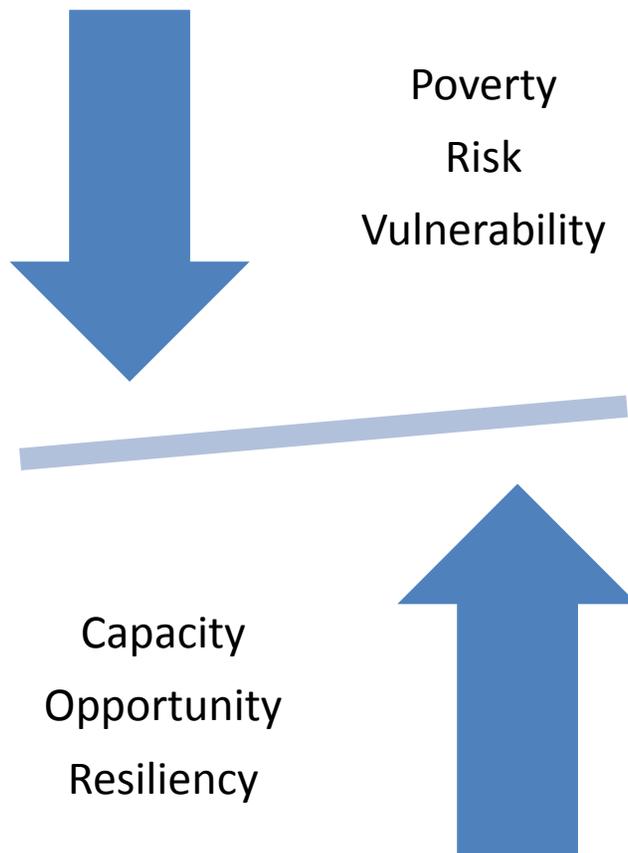
- On both sides of the border.
- From design to implementation, evaluation and learning.
- What are the needs on access? Quality? Utilization?
- How can those needs be addressed?
- What is working and not working from the client's perspective?

Greater involvement of people affected and community mobilization

- Meaningful engagement of people affected by a specific issue leads to early access, effective prevention.
- More than merely utilizing health services, individuals participate in their evaluation and design.
- Community mobilization entails communities understand and *lead* change processes



Poverty-alleviation strategies are key



- Need to analyze/ address social determinants of health
 - Economic stability
 - Neighborhood and built environment
 - Health and Health Care
 - Social and Community Context
 - Education
- Understanding that health is also a result of empowered communities with the capacity to advocate for their own benefit, as much as the combination of health care efforts.

Better collaboration between academia and program implementers

- On both sides of the border, and on border/trans-border issues
- Every day, and in almost every field of science, remarkable progress is made.
- It is less common to learn about how this academic progress is translated into implementation.
- More/ better collaboration is needed, along with better evaluation and learning strategies from the implementation side.



Greater investment in prevention and in local health systems is needed

- After a steep drop in household spending in 2011 in **Mexico**, there was a significant increase in health spending in 2012, particularly in the hospital sector.
- The number of doctors per capita has risen substantially in **Mexico** since 2000, going up from 1.6 doctors per 1000 population in 2000 to 2.2 in 2012, **but still remains below the OECD average of 3.2.**
- <http://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/Briefing-Note-MEXICO-2014.pdf>
- America spends \$2.7 trillion annually on health care—more than any other nation. Too often, however, the health care system focuses more on treating disease and injury after they happen.
- Partly, because millions of people are in poor health --Chronic conditions such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes are responsible for seven in 10 deaths.
- <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2013/12/return-on-investments-in-public-health.html>

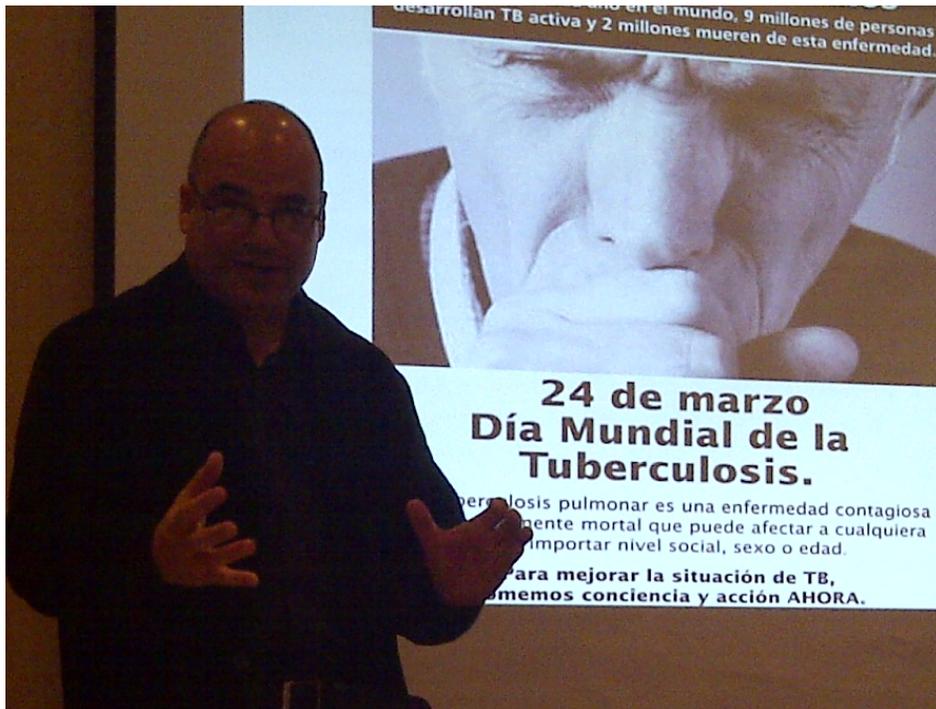
It is at the local level where communities engage for most of the prevention efforts (health promotion, early detection, etc.).

Collaboration in border health...

- Collaboration (working jointly) has been present for the last few decades.
- History of US-Mexico Border Health Association; then the “Commission” and other border or binational projects
- Mainly facilitated by an existing platform and originated by a particular need, issue or problem.
- Does not imply “mirror” interventions, or interventions on both sides of the border, but a good understanding of how, what happens in one country impacts the other one.



Solutions to some barriers to border collaboration



- More collaboration platforms are needed
- Policies that facilitate data-sharing, joint planning and evaluation
- Improved local decision-making
- Improved learning, documentation and dissemination of promising practices

Thank you!

Questions, comments?
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Border Art work by Ana Fernandez

http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/oct/13/artists-vision-make-us-mexico-border-fence-appear-/?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social-media&utm_campaign=kpbs-facebook



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