



Health and Social Service Providers Coalition

Building a Coalition: A Formative Assessment of Organizations Serving Marginalized and Abandon Youth in Lima, Peru

Peru has recently experienced a level of economic growth unmatched in many Latin American countries. Investment by multinational corporations and business has provided Peru with a thriving economy. In addition, tourism has had invaluable influence on the economy of Peru. Yet, there continues to be high levels of poverty and social inequality throughout the country. A population that continues to be left behind in terms of gaining greater resources is homeless and abandoned youth. One of the only viable ways to end youth homelessness in Peru is for organizations to collaborate their efforts.

There are a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the cities of Lima and Arequipa providing assistance to the homeless, abandoned and underserved youth – yet, there is very little collaboration and communication between these organizations and agencies. Health Bridges International, a U.S. based NGO who has been working in Peru for almost 20-years is organizing a formative assessment of the programs and organizations working in the city of Lima with marginalized or abandoned youth. The assessment will focus on the identification of key programs toward the establishment of a coalition of service organizations. The intended outcome is the development of a mechanism for building better “bridges of collaboration” between NGOs, faith-based groups and governmental activities to better serve the needs of homeless and abandoned youth.

The purpose of the *Building a Coalition* research is to:

- (1) Formalize an understanding of the number and scope of services provided by organizations (governmental, non-governmental, faith based, and charitable) working with marginalized and abandoned youth in the city of Lima; and to develop a web-based database of these programs.
- (2) To advance the knowledge of providers and organizations working with homeless and abandoned youth on promising practices from North America and the European Union in serving the unique and challenging needs of marginalized youth; and
- (3) Convene health and social service sector NGOs toward the development of greater collaboration and partnerships around serving the needs of youth experiencing homelessness and abandonment to the streets.

The primary objective of the project is to collect information on the organizations working with marginalized and abandoned youth toward the creation of an ongoing forum for communication between Lima-wide health and social service organizations that assist youth abandoned to the streets or experiencing homelessness to better scale service delivery and to work together to solve common problems.

Methods for Achieving Objectives:

1. Create opportunities for NGOs to better collaborate and share resources (e.g. initiate a area wide coalition of agencies and organizations working with underserved youth populations around health and social services).
2. Develop more efficient mechanisms of communication between NGOs (e.g. Lima/Arequipa-wide email Listserve that is managed by one organization and updated weekly regarding activities and events within the NGO community toward serving youth).

3. Define the concrete ways that NGOs can collaborate and share resources (e.g. develop memorandum of agreement (MOA) between NGOs for specific projects and activities)
4. Create outcome measures to assure and enhance collaboration (e.g. establish monthly coalition meetings and track attendance).

The coalition will Focus on:

1. Creating a mechanism for sharing resources, ideas and capacities between agencies and organizations.
2. Developing a unified coalition of NGO's to better facilitate and effect change in government and public policy toward the needs of youth experiencing homelessness and abandon to the streets.
3. Advancing best and promising practices for serving youth experiencing homelessness and abandon to the streets – drawing from evidence supported in North American and European research.
4. Organizing “round table” discussions to share best practices, standards of care and organizational challenges.
5. Ensuring greater communication and collaboration between agencies and organizations working with the underserved youth communities in Lima and Arequipa to better facilitate the equitable distribution of resources.

Project steps may include:

1. Formal evaluation (through web-based investigation and snowball assessment) of youth serving organizations in the Lima area. An assessment instrument will be used to evaluate the scope of services provided by each organization and to ascertain their interest in participating in a coalition-building project.
2. Assessment of youth receiving services with a cursory review of needs and innate abilities to connect to services.
3. Development of a searchable database of organizations. Categorized by geographic location and scope of services.
4. Completion of a formal manuscript outlining the steps of the projects and highlighting key lessons learning and projected next steps for more formal research.
5. Publication of the manuscript in a peer-review or industrial established journal or publication.

Timeline:

| Timing | Task | Outcome |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| June 2016 | Develop methodology for assessing programs and investigating the organizations serving marginalized and abandon youth in Lima; begin with outline of programs created by HBI in 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology • Survey/assessment instruments • Data collection plan |
| July 2016 | Formal assessment of services and organizational capacities – including: focus groups, key informant interviews, web-based survey assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KI interviews • Focus group facilitation • Documentation of data collection |
| August 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write up of findings • Completion of web-based database • Identification of potential funding sources for coalition development • Identify journals/publications for submission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscript (draft) • Web-based database formatted and populated • Consider options for sharing database |
| September-December 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of manuscript for submission • Plan for and deploy the first meeting of the coalition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscript refinement • Submission of manuscript for publication • Convene coalition meeting/symposium in Lima |