Reflections on the Indigenous Health Adaptation to Climate Change (IHACC) Project

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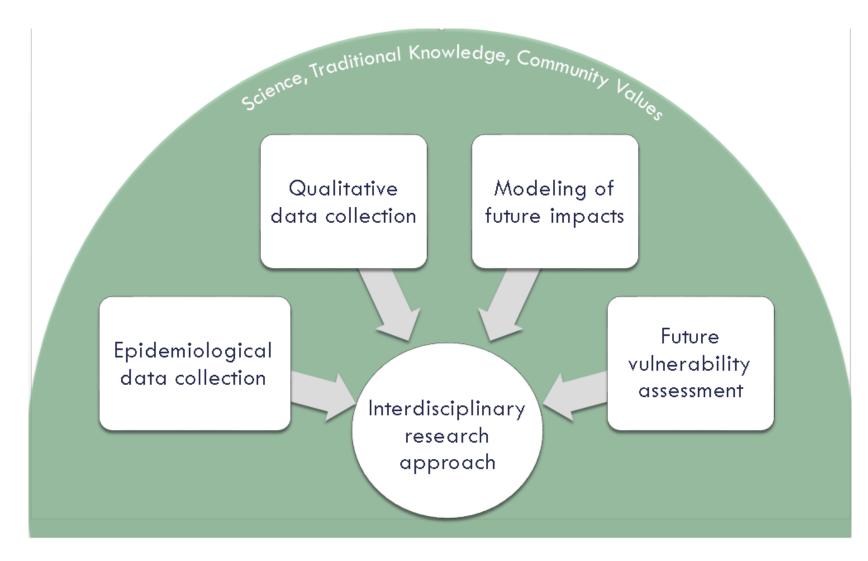
The IHACC Program

- **Overarching goal:** Develop an understanding of the health dimensions of climate change for remote Indigenous populations
- 3 regions: Peruvian Amazon, Uganda, Canadian Arctic
- 3 climate-related health risks: Vector borne disease, food security, acute gastrointestinal illness (AGI)



IHACC community based research in action

Research approach



Did we meet our objectives?

- 18 month self-reflective exercise
- 114 key informant interviews with IHACC researchers, community leaders, students, decision makers
- 21 focus groups with 177 community members



Research Impact

The extent to which the research results have been shared and have contributed to change in the research's sphere of influence

> (E.g., results dissemination, research influence on policy/practice/partners)

> > IHACC

Evaluation

Research Effectiveness

Ability of the research program to complete its research objectives in an efficient and responsive manner

.g., completion of program bjectives/aims, planning, budget anagement and use of resources, exibility in research agenda)

Academic Excellence and Outputs

The scientific quality, rigor, and contribution of research outputs

(E.g., knowledge production, originalit of research, contribution to scientific literature)

Capacity Development

The extent and quality of training and capacity building activities integrated into the research program

(E.g., training students/new researchers, community members and stakeholders)

Research Team Dynamics

The extent of coordination and the quality of working relationships among research team members

(E.g., communication, cohesion, interdisciplinary collaboration)

Institutional Engagement

The quality of researcher-institutional relationships and the involvement of institutional stakeholders in the research program

> E.g., involvement of institutions in research process, institutional needs, institutional expectations and understanding of the research, challenges and benefits of institutional involvement)

Community Engagement

The quality of researcher-community relationships and the involvement of community members in the research program

(E.g., community participation in research, community needs, community expectations and understanding of the research, challenges and benefits of community involvement)

Advancing Knowledge

AIM: Increase knowledge on CC, health & Indig. Peoples

• Ford (2012, AJPH): 44 peer reviewed articles on Indig. health & CC; 1 from LMICs

• IHACC: First such project in Uganda & Peru

- >40 articles (more planned as we're still analyzing results)
- Cited in 17 IPCC WGII chapters

Baseline research on climate-related health risks

- Highest rate of food insecurity globally among Batwa
- Very high AGI among Inuit
- No malaria in Peruvian sites

Potential of CC to worsen existing inequalities

• Establish magnitude of this across the regions



Shaping policies & practice

<u>AIM:</u> Empower Indigenous peoples to adapt to the health effects of climate change

- Modification of practices & livelihoods in communities to reduce vulnerability
 - Provision of ID cards in Peru
 - Crop information in Uganda
 - Safe water use in Arctic
- Empowering community practices around adaptation research
 - 1st ever research project in Ugandan & Peruvian communities

Shaping policies & practice

<u>AIM:</u> Empower Indigenous peoples to adapt to the health effects of climate change

Informed institutional practice among partners

- Baseline info used in health campaigns
- Catalyzed interest in adaptation (especially in Peru)
- Enhanced credibility of partners who were able to get funds (Uganda)
- Informed international adaptation discourse/policy
 - UNFCCC Adaptation Committee work
 - UNESCO collaborations (planned workshop)



Training

<u>AIM:</u> Train next generation of adaptation researchers, create community / institutional adaptation champions

- 1st generation training in research in Uganda & Peru
- CBPR approach new in the regions; noted to be 'gold standard' for future work
- Community RAs assumed leadership roles
- IHACC graduates working in decision making roles in regions
- Rigolet applied for their first research grant

Challenges

• Development deficit very pronounced in Uganda and Peru

- Development vs Research?
- How do we do CBA in such contexts?
- Managing expectations
- Sustaining community interest
- Maintaining partnerships with high institutional turnover





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