
Developing research capacity for mental health interventions for youth in Haiti



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Health Care Delivery Challenges in Haiti: Catastrophic 2010 earthquake



- Major earthquake centered in Port-au-Prince on January 12, 2010
- Hundreds of thousands of deaths and casualties
- Thousands of displaced persons
- Continuing water insecurity and ensuing cholera epidemic

Health Care Delivery Challenges in Haiti: Extreme resource gaps for mental health care



- MH care chronically limited and centralized
- Absent culture of help-seeking for mental illness
- Stigma, poverty, and low health literacy are significant barriers
- Professional barriers to mental health research training

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Aim 1



Evaluation of the perceived burden of mental illness in school-going Haitian youth, associated unmet need, and relevant school and community-based priorities and capacities.

Community based participatory research with educators, parents, and youth

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Aim 2



Delivery of didactic training specific to epidemiologic, social science, and implementation research on mental disorders in Haiti

Zanmi Lasante hosted it's first mental health research workshop in January 2012

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Aim 3



Collaborative application of this didactic research training to the development, implementation, and evaluation of a novel school-based pilot mental health intervention in Haiti.

Educator training, epidemiologic assessment and case finding, implementation of school-based navigation to MH services

Progress to date: Delivery of didactic training in Cange, Haiti



Implementation Science in Mental Health Research Seminar: January 2012

- Introduction to implementation research
- Challenges of addressing mental health in Haiti and globally
- Epidemiologic study design
- Qualitative research methods
- Methods for developing valid mental health assessments
- Sampling & recruitment strategies
- Ethical considerations for research on youth mental health
- Problems faced by adolescents in Haiti

Progress to date: Delivery of didactic training in Cange, Haiti



- Small group exercises:
 - Developing a study design
 - Brainstorming recruitment strategies
 - Role-playing informed consent
 - Sources of error in epidemiologic studies

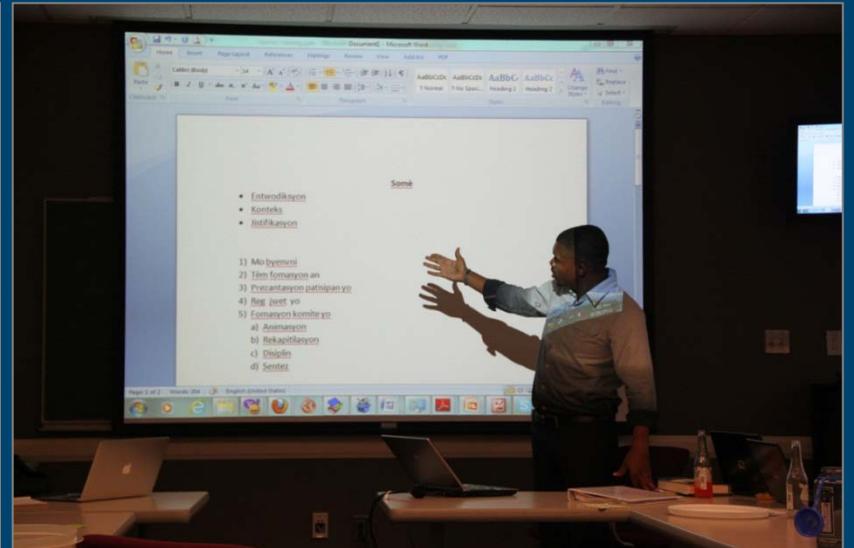


Progress to date:

Evaluation of local knowledge

- Completed 3 focus group discussion interviews (Mar-April, 2012)
 - Secondary school teachers (n=14)
 - Haiti's Ministry of Education (n=6)
- Preliminary findings:
 - High and escalating burden and impact on schools
 - Eagerness to address mental health problems
 - Desire for formal didactic training
 - Openness to the proposed intervention
 - Mental health delivery in schools

Progress to date: ZL Mental Health Retreat in Boston



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- Training on analysis and interpretation of qualitative data (FGDs)
- Development of mental health curriculum for teacher training
- Adaptation of youth mental health risk assessments

Next steps: Implementation of training and pilot school-based intervention

- Completion of FGD interviews with parents in Fall 2012
- Development of mental health training curriculum for teachers
- FGD interviews with secondary school students
- Implementation of school-based intervention beginning in February 2013
- Develop R01 grant



The Team

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