

## Introduction

- 5 Canadian undergraduate students earned *Mitacs Globalink Research Awards* to participate in data collection for 3 months (June-August 2019). Location: Aparecida de Goiânia and Goiânia (state of Goiás-Brazil).
- Interviews with 21 participants were conducted in churches and home settings.

## Pre-field work: Lenses of social justice and inclusiveness used in fieldwork

- Educational sessions hosted by two Latin American faculty diaspora about gender and social vulnerabilities among immigrants and refugees.
- Review of Canadian lens of social justice and community health nursing concepts.
- Ethical issues regarding research with socially vulnerable people.

## Implementation: Social justice and inclusiveness guiding fieldwork

- Immersion in welcoming socio-cultural spaces.
- Broadened awareness of culture by:
  - Collaboration with participants throughout research processes
- Performed data collection in friendly locations to offer physical and cultural safety.
- Promoted inclusive environment by giving participants the opportunity to have a voice in expressing experiences.
- Listened and appropriately responded to personal narratives of participants.
- Fostered diversity by respecting: religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and socio-economic status.

## Resolution of reality-based conflicts/dichotomies

- Being open minded and trying to understand the underlying contextual factors influencing transactions between personal experiences and health.
- Being approachable and mitigating power imbalances through empathy; observing non-verbal cues and responding appropriately; becoming aware of personal biases and suspending them; and refraining from judging participant.
- Gaining trust of gatekeepers (religious leaders) developed through two years between UFG and the community.



Canadian research team



Meeting with religious leaders

## Broadened awareness of culture by:

- Interacting with participants on how their culture perceives sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and exploring traditions influencing their practices.
- Listening to personal narratives.
- Explored the cultural-bounded ideas that support the perception of one's vulnerability to STIs, process of transmission, process of prevention, and process of self-care.
  - By virtue of believing in God [religion], they can be protected from STIs.
  - Differences in interaction between genders.
    - Men talking with men, women talking with women.
  - Since the topic of sexual health is taboo, some experience embarrassment when talking about their sexual health practices.



Visiting a kindergarten built for immigrants and refugees with a religious who organized its establishment.



Inter-professional team after research fieldwork.



## Reflection and thoughts

- During fieldwork
  - Recognizing cultural influences on responses.
- Post-fieldwork
  - How individual, familial, and communal perceptions can influence health practices and decisions.

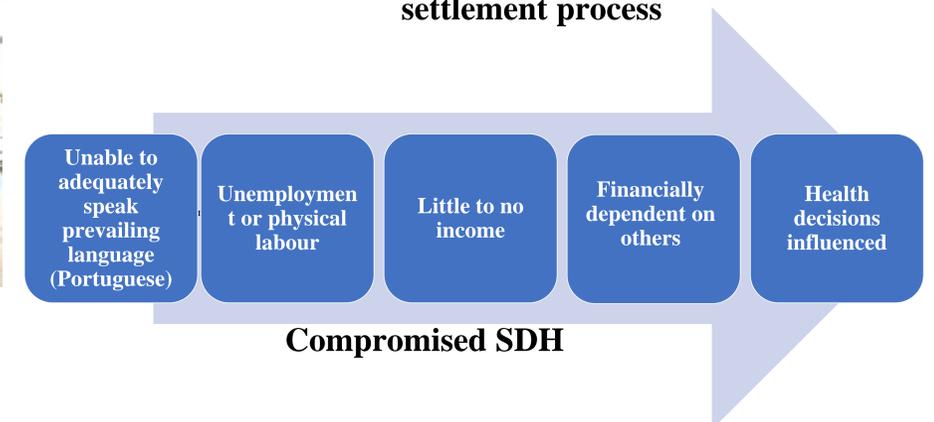
## Social justice: Key experiential learning

- Underlying reasons for immigration and asylum seeking
- New understanding of how culture can exert influence on a person's perception of sexual health.
- Integration of social justice lens when exchanging knowledge with participants by using holistic approaches, observing different cultures, respecting privacy of participants and using high social sensitivity to participants' life trajectory allowing them the choice to answer questions.

## Inclusiveness

- Valuing health perceptions and practices from Haitian and Venezuelan populations' perspectives.
- Acknowledging language barriers and adjusting approaches accordingly through the use of body language, tone of voice, facial expressions, and paraphrasing of questions.
- Applying a holistic perspective when conversing with the vulnerable population by considering the wide context of immigration/asylum trajectory.

## Influences of social determinants of health (SDH) in the settlement process



## Conclusion

- Canadian lens of social justice and inclusiveness facilitated open dialogue and foster enabling environments.
- Identification of SDH in a real-life context provoked an awakening of critical awareness of their impacts summing up to social inequities in health.