



Mi Hábitat: observando con lupa mi barrio (My Habitat: observing my neighborhood through a magnifying glass) Sanitation and waste management; vector-borne diseases (transmitted by animals)



Objectives

- Raise awareness among young people and families on the health risks posed to their communities by dumping sites, rodents and parasites.
- Together with the education community, encourage the most vulnerable neighborhoods (due to this type of pollution) to trigger actions that will improve their quality of life.

Description of citizen participation

Workshops were conducted to identify potential sanitation issues existing in participants' neighborhoods. Based on such issues, an app was adapted, and possible preventive measures were discussed. At said workshops, the following main issues were identified:

- Dumping sites
- Reuse of certain materials
- Compost made from organic waste

Within 15 days, young people grouped in work teams sent—using the app— images showing areas of their neighborhood, mostly photos of dumping sites and rodents, which pose potential health risks to their communities. Once neighborhood mapping was completed by the work teams, workshops were conducted to discuss findings and possible management actions.

Type of citizen science project

Collaborative project: Citizens participate in data collection and analysis.

Participating parties.

Research team of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET, in Spanish).

Status. Completed.

Time frame. 03/01/2017 – 10/30/2017

Frequency of project execution. Based on demand or community outreach.

Participation period. –

Scope of the initiative. Local (city, province).

Geographic scope. Barrio El Carmen, La Plata, Buenos Aires.

Project development members. It was developed with the collaboration of both scientists and participants without formal training.

Number of participants. From 51 to 100.

Action/s involving citizen participation

- Problem identification.
- Data collection.
- Data analysis.

Technological device/tool required.

- Cell phone.
- App.

Recruitment methods. Through visits to two educational facilities.

Replicability. It has not been replicated yet.

Scalability. It has not been upscaled yet.

Open access to data. After the project was completed, the data collected by participants was removed due to lack of funding for the website.

Feedback. Students and teachers contributed towards the development of this project, and several workshops were conducted during its execution.

Linkage with state agency/government. –

Institutional funds. Project's own funding sources.

Awards/distinctions. –

Knowledge areas/disciplines (OECD)

NATURAL SCIENCES / Earth and related Environmental sciences
MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES / Basic medicine



Project leaders.

- Rosario Robles, Centre for Parasitological and Vector Studies (CEPAVE)/National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)-National University of La Plata (UNLP)
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