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# Students for Development



## **Student Internship Research Presentation**

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Dane Froese, Sarah Schwendamann, Jon Fischer

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Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

July 27, 2012

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# Outline of Presentation

## Part I

- Acknowledgments
- Research Background
- General Observations

## Part II

- Specific Observations and Recommendations
  - Community Nutrition (Karlee Dyck and Heather Giesbrecht)
  - Food Security (Dane Froese and Dana Hatherly)
  - Children and Youth (Janina Kulik and Stephanie Romanson)
  - Community Economic Development (Elyse Cook and Jon Fischer)

## Part III

- General Recommendations



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# Research Background

Sarah Schwendemann (Social Development)



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# Research Background

– Rationale for the study:

- After centuries of exclusion and discrimination, Indigenous peoples still continue to be treated unfairly in almost all parts of the world.
- They continue to suffer from disproportionately high rates of poverty, health problems, violence, and human rights abuses.
- Addressing this unfortunate situation is fundamental for advancing a more just and fair global society.
- Action-oriented research is a valid tool to advance this objective.



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# Research Background

- Objective of the study and target group
  - To examine the social and human development situation of the Guarani and Terena Indigenous communities in Mato Grosso do Sul with an emphasis on:
    - Food security
    - Nutrition and health
    - Children and youth
    - Community development
  - To explore community and government services and programs in these communities
  - To advance potential contextualized recommendations for each community that may be used to develop small-scale programs to meet their needs
  - This study was conducted at two communities: Te'Yikue (city of Caarapo) and Ipegue (city of Aquidauana).



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# Research Background

## – Methodology

- Participant Observation
- Focus groups
- Interviews of community members
- Interviews of Government Authorities



## – Constraints

- Language barriers
- Geographic constraints



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# General Observations

## – Social

- Widespread and systemic poverty
- Poor health
- Land conflicts
- Inadequate educational funding
- Limited access to professionals (counsellors)





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# General Observations

## – Cultural

- Systemic marginalization/discrimination
- Loss of cultural and language identity
- Cultural barriers to university education
- Influence of Western Culture
- Loss of livelihoods



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# General Observations

## – Economic

- Limited employment opportunities
- Pensions main source of income
- Limited access to university education
- Dire situation of single mothers





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# General Observations

## – Environmental

- Land degradation
- Loss of access to lakes or rivers
- Population growth







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# General Recommendations

- Expand Escola Experimental
- Increase and expand community – university partnerships
- Create new partnerships with international NGO's



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# General Recommendations

- Increase organized after-school activities for youth
- Recognize underutilized resources
- Establish small-scale cooperatives



Thank You