

Case: Co-production of Climate-Sensitive Infectious Diseases Ethics Rules with Women Grassroots Organizations in Paraguay

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CASE STUDY CONTEXT

Climate change requires a **revision of ethical rules** in **health research**.

The risks and benefits of health research are unevenly distributed under different future climate scenarios.

This study examines the **benefits of co-production ethics rules** for climate-sensitive infectious disease research with grassroots organizations.

OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVE: To **co-create ethical rules** for climate-health research

METHODOLOGY: Transdisciplinary reflective equilibrium

- **Ethical conversations with academic and non-academic participants, with equal control of research**
- Two key moments:
 - a. Identifying responses to cases or ethical dilemmas
 - b. Revising ethic rules.
- **Outcome: Normative** insights, not just statistical.

CASE EXAMPLE

Distribution of vaccine trial benefits under different climate scenarios

Scenario: A clinical trial for a chikungunya vaccine in Paraguay potentially benefits future generations worldwide. Under a high-risk climate scenario, Central Europe may face increasing vulnerability to chikungunya by 2050, while current communities in Paraguay, where the trial is conducted, face immediate exposure.

CASE EXAMPLE

Distribution of vaccine trial benefits under different climate scenarios

Ethical Question: Should we count only the potential benefits of the vaccine for the **Paraguayan current generation and future generations** when calculating the compensation for participating in the vaccine trial, or should we also count the potential benefits of the vaccine for the **future generations of the European region?**

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS: PARAGUAY

High **chikungunya virus** incidence, underscoring climate-health research needs.

National Adaptation Plans lack resources and measurable health sector metrics.

Paraguay's limited resources and high disease incidence make it a **critical case for climate-health ethics.**



IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

- **Why Women?** Women face elevated climate-health risks due to gendered vulnerabilities and specific health risks tied to their societal roles (Cissé et al., 2022).
- **Barriers to Participation:** Gender inequality often limits women's involvement in adaptation planning (Schipper et al., 2022).
- **Role in Advocacy:** Strong history in environmental and reproductive rights, shaping ethical research and policy (Báez et al., 2016).
- **Intersectional Approach and Federal Strategy**

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS IN RESEARCH

Impact on Low-Income Countries

- Vector-borne diseases disproportionately affect (Castellanos et al., 2022).

Principles of Justice

- Distributive Justice: Fair benefits from research outcomes considering future scenarios.
- Procedural Justice: Involve impacted communities in decision-making.

Research Gaps

- Limited ethics analysis in climate-health intersection (Markle et al., 2023).
- Need for more comprehensive reviews in Spanish.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

EPISTEMIC JUSTICE

Key Considerations:

- Non-enough inclusion of Indigenous, local, and grassroots communities.
- Their knowledge and adaptation strategies are often overlooked.

Benefits of Co-Producing Knowledge:

- Incorporating community insights enhances research relevance.
- Empower communities to shape solutions to their challenges.

Addressing Literature Gaps: Includes marginalized voices for normative outcomes.

Collaboration Advantages: Reduce vulnerability, prevent maladaptation, and foster transformative change

CONCLUSIONS

Co-Production of Ethical Rules: Co-Production with women's grassroots organizations in Paraguay illustrates a **transdisciplinary approach**.

Benefits:

- Combines academic insights with local experiences for ethical rules.
- Empower marginalized groups in research and decision-making.

Key Outcomes:

- Builds capacities and fosters social dialogue
- Addresses ethical dilemmas collaboratively
- Enhances research relevance and strengthens community adaptive capacities
- Develop ethical rules for addressing complex cases.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Adopt Transdisciplinary Reflective Equilibrium:

- Co-produce with stakeholders to review ethical rules.
- Ensure ethical deliberations have a meaningful social impact.
- Incorporate non-academic actors into the co-production process by making methodological changes.

2) Engage Women's Organizations:

- Identify stakeholders in the region with a proven experience.
- Involve these groups in co-producing ethical rules.
- Reduce vulnerability, prevent maladaptation, and foster transformative change.

Thank you!
