Aim of the study was to determine the following in regards to each project:

- Ongoing health.  Foundational principles of CBPR&P include:
  - Increased capacity of target communities to improve and maintain their own health.
  - Community to be experts on ways to improve the health of such communities.
  - Little information is collected in order to better understand communities' health statuses and the determinants thereof.
  - If any improvements in community health result from such efforts they are typically short-lived (poor sustainability).
  - The communities' capacity to improve and maintain their own health is not increased and may be undermined by the development of donor dependence and the weakening of communities' trust of local providers.

Historically, efforts to promote health in developing countries have commonly exhibited the following characteristics:
- Representatives of a donor organization travel to developing countries to provide health care services and/or education.
- Return visits may or may not occur, but long-term involvement with target communities is rare and limited to infrequent visits by donor organizations.
- Donor organizations are presumed by both themselves and the target community to be experts on ways to improve the health of such communities.
- On completion or return visits, little information is collected in order to better understand communities' health statuses and the determinants thereof.
- Monitoring of care previously delivered and the provision of additional care typically does not occur during the absence of the donor organization.
- If any improvements in community health result from such efforts they are typically short-lived (poor sustainability).
- The communities' capacity to improve and maintain their own health is not increased and may be undermined by the development of donor dependence and the weakening of communities' trust of local providers.

Community-Based Participatory Research and Projects (CBPR&P) is an alternative approach that has gained popularity in recent years and forms the cornerstone of the Global Health Initiative. CBPR&P works to improve the health of communities in developing countries through collaborative partnerships with target community members and leaders, local health care providers, and other stakeholders. The ultimate goal of such efforts is the increased capacity of target communities to improve and maintain their own health. Foundational principles of CBPR&P include:

- Representativeness of a donor organization travel to developing countries to provide health care services and/or education.
- Multiple regions of care previously delivered and the provision of additional care typically does not occur during the absence of the donor organization.
- Donor organizations are presumed by both themselves and the target community to be experts on ways to improve the health of such communities.
- Little information is collected in order to better understand communities' health statuses and the determinants thereof.
- If any improvements in community health result from such efforts they are typically short-lived (poor sustainability).
- The communities' capacity to improve and maintain their own health is not increased and may be undermined by the development of donor dependence and the weakening of communities' trust of local providers.

Project Descriptions

**Honduras** (Bridger Bach)
- Seven days spent delivering free health care and distributing valued at $72,000 USD.
- No partnerships with community members/organizations were established.
- The donor organization returns every three months to deliver similar services. No health care or medications are provided between visits.

**Armenia** (Chris Orlando)
- One instructor and five students traveled to communities in Armenia to meet with potential partner organizations and conduct an assessment of the health needs of candidate communities in the form of interviews with local health care providers and community members.
- Limited enthusiasm displayed by potential partners.
- Needs assessment interviews were few in number or limited to contacts that existed between groups members previous to the trip and those that could be established via long-distance communication. Data collected was inconclusive.
- Newly not representative of the majority of the community members and community leaders.

**Peru** (Katie Hobbs)
- Relationships with local hospitals, healthcare professionals, and advocacy groups have been established over the course of ~5 years through meetings, discussions, workshops, presentations, etc.
- Peruvian healthcare providers and advocacy groups have demonstrated a strong interest in determining the presence and causes of neural tube defects (NTDs) in Peru.
- U of U students and physicians assisted in the collection of significant data on the prevalence of NTDs. It was concluded that NTDs have an abnormally high prevalence in Peru.
- Peruvian healthcare professionals intend to use this data to influence public policy in an effort to reduce possible causes of NTDs. Advocacy groups can augment anecdotal arguments in favor of increased focus on NTDs with the data acquired.

**India** (Chris Orlando)
- A team of U of U students and instructors traveled to nine villages in the district of Fatehgah Sahib to evaluate local health status and identify interests and priorities of community leaders and members.
- The team worked closely with the Mehur Baba Charitable Trust (MBCT). MBCT helped identify interested communities, conduct a demographic survey prior to the team's arrival, and organize meetings with communities. They enthusiastically maintain relationships with the U of U and the nine target communities and facilitate collaboration between all partners between visits from U of U representatives.
- MBCT had identified water quality and sanitation as a community priority before the U of U team arrived, and the team was thus able to come prepared to test water sources for bacterial contamination and train MBCT workers to do so in the future.

**Ghana** (Kaja Vlasak)
- U of U students and Ghanaian medical students conducted semi-structured interviews intended to identify indirect determinants of childhood mortality in the Kumasi region. A considerable amount of valuable data was collected.
- Project participants noted that the medical students felt that had gained important insight into the experiences and health practices of rural Ghanaians.