

The role of Community Engagement during the Pandemic

Lessons from the Paraguay Experience

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VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

TOWARDS A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD – LESSONS
FROM COVID-19 FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

SEPTEMBER 2021

FORUM ON MICROBIAL THREATS

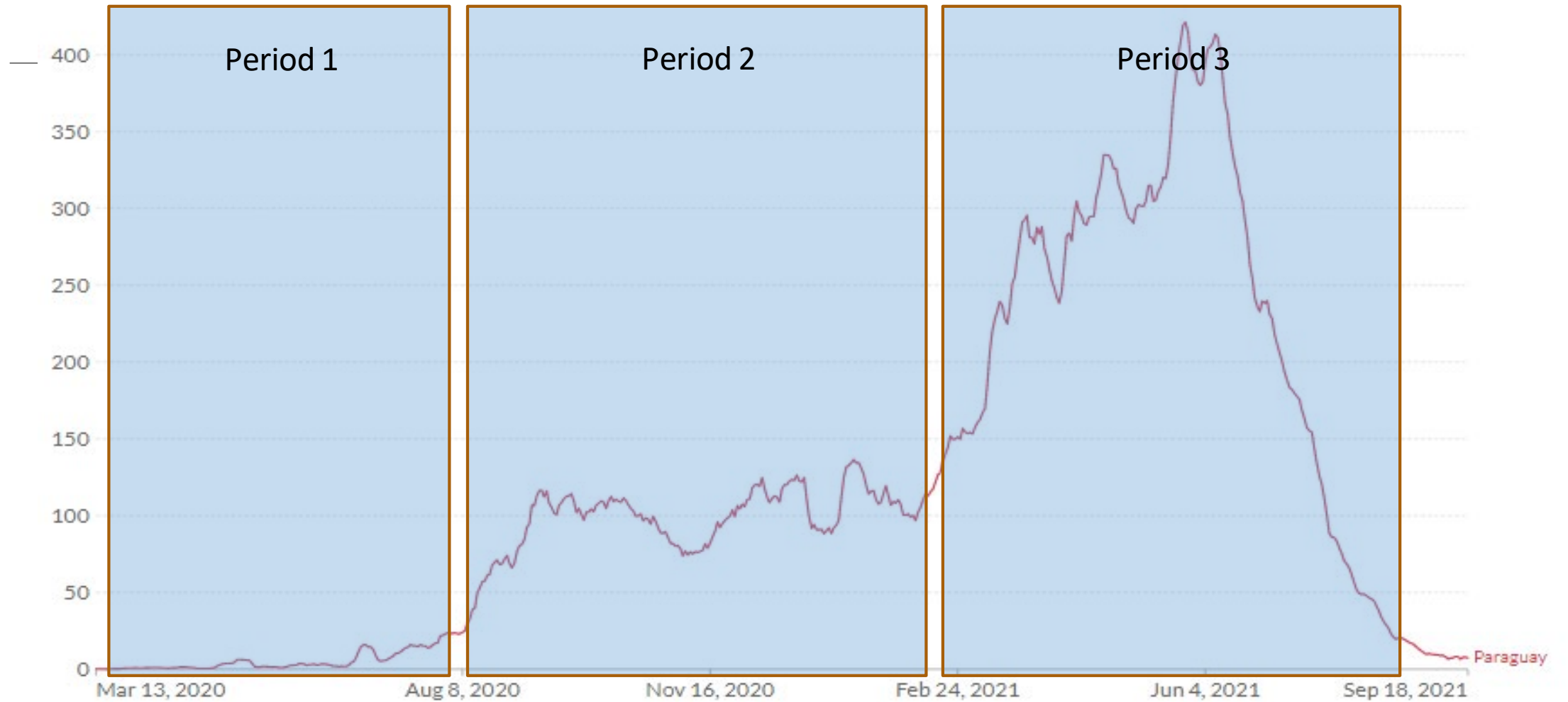
Comparison of COVID-19 cases per million inhabitants Paraguay – Chile 2020 - 2021



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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COVID-19 cases per million inhabitants Paraguay 2020-2021



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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The state starts from a centralized health policy

WHAT SHAPES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

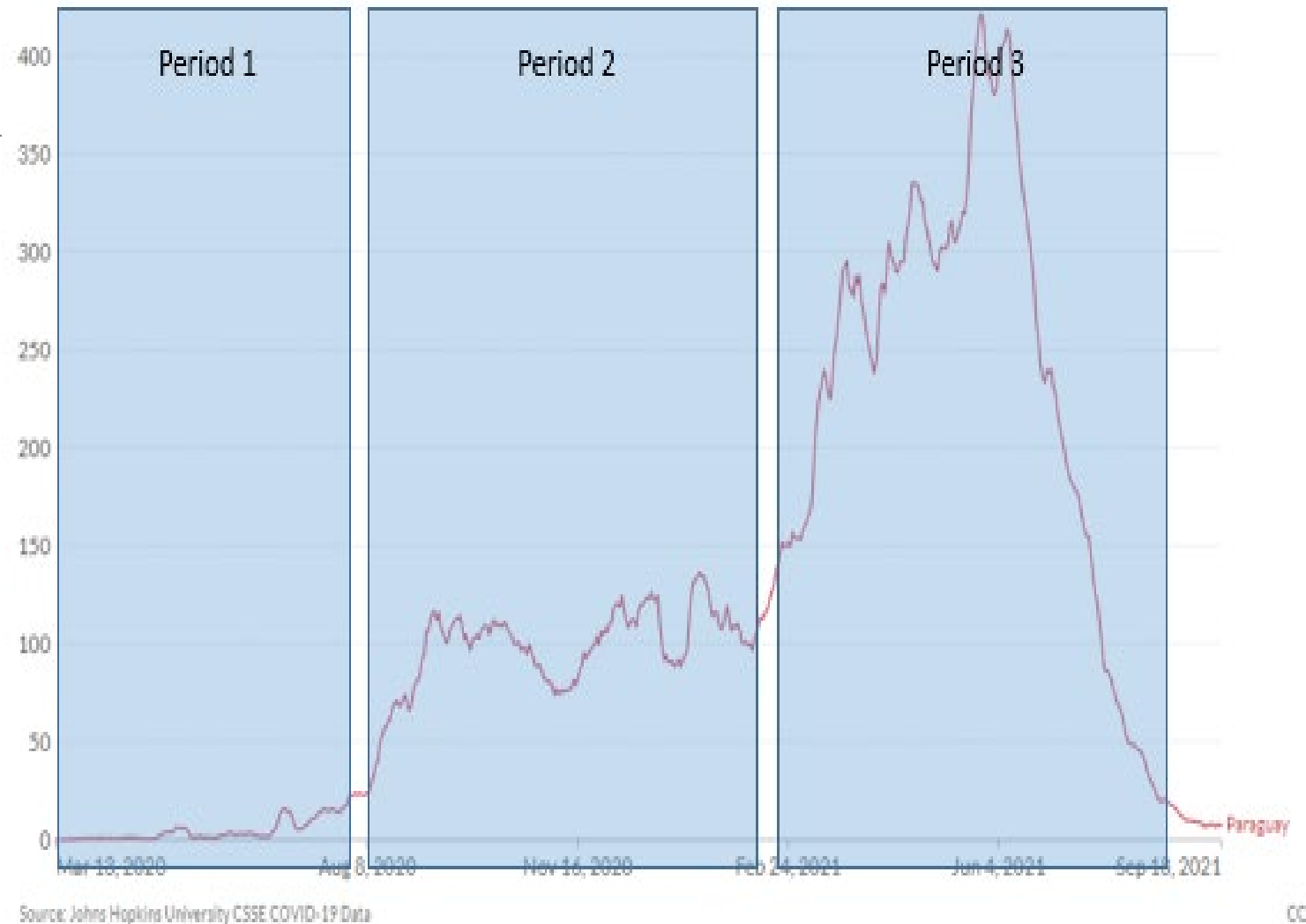
- ❖ Inequality, poverty
- ❖ Local forms of political power
- ❖ Lack of knowledge of rights
- ❖ Non-recognition of diversity and minorities
- ❖ Weak development of social organizations

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- ❖ Disease prevention and control
- ❖ Definition of health policies
- ❖ Social control of financing
- ❖ Purchase/provision of services

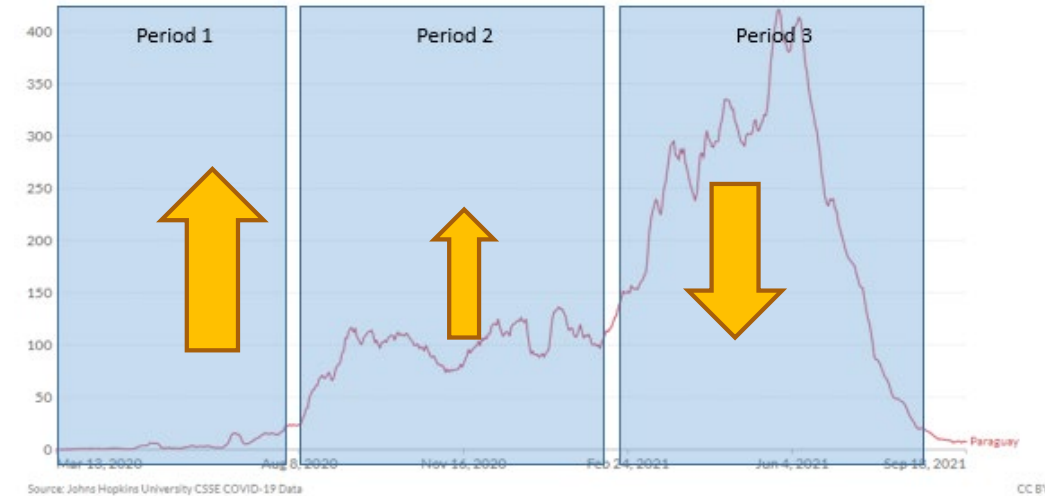
Unpacking the elements that shape community engagement

- ✓ Political leadership
- ✓ Trust in authorities
- ✓ Conditions of inequality
- ✓ Informal work
- ✓ Gender
- ✓ Caregiving role
- ✓ Vulnerable groups
- ✓ Community trust



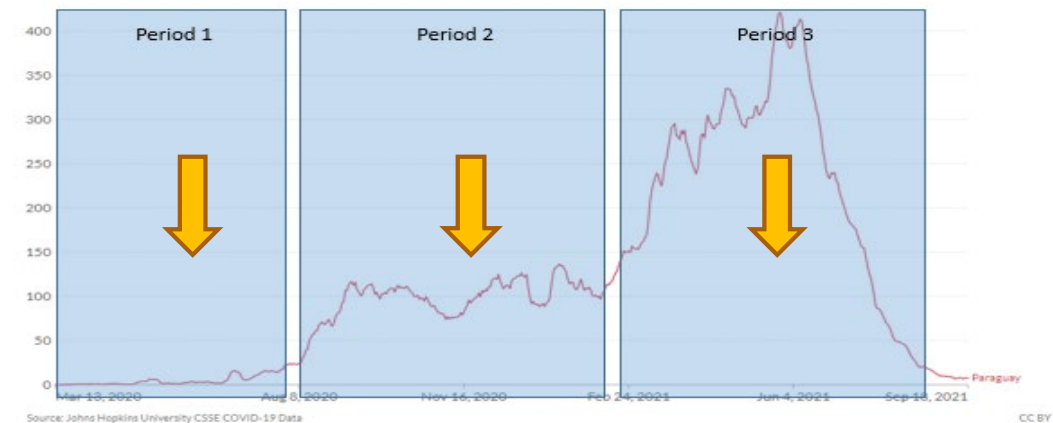
Political leadership and trust in the authorities

- ✓ Rapid response to the emergency
- ✓ An international exemplar of response.
- ✓ Good communication
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Management of vaccine procurement



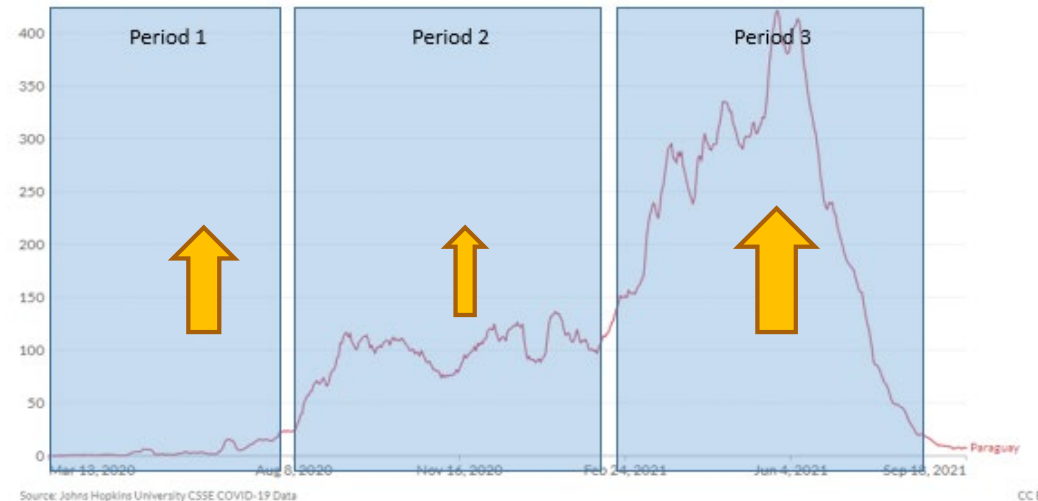
Conditions of inequality / Informal work

- ✓ Structural issue
- ✓ All phases of the pandemic, but more so in phase 1
- ✓ Few social protection policies
- ✓ +70% informal work.



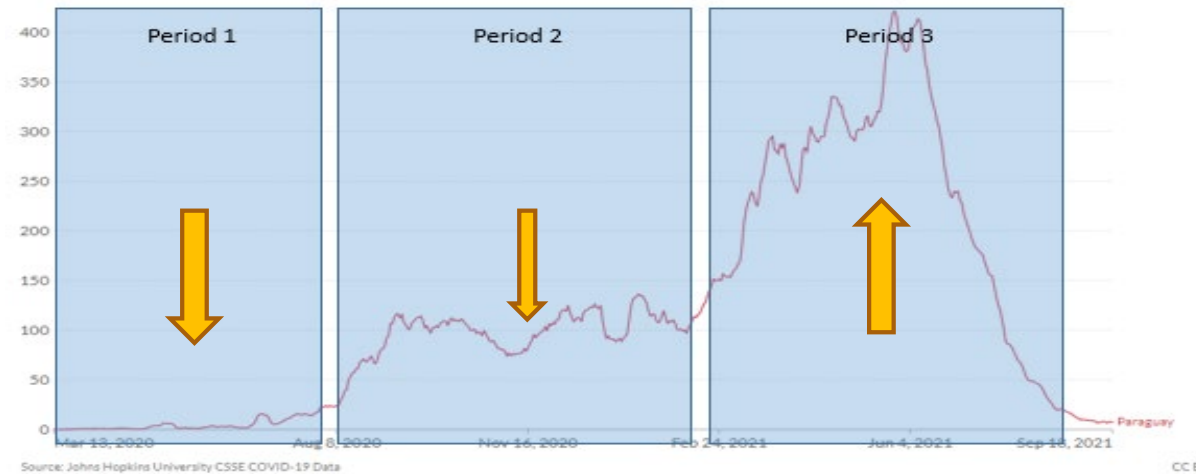
Gender / Role of caregiving

- ✓ Structural issue
- ✓ Domestic violence
- ✓ +70% of health personnel are women
- ✓ The role of care giving has a female face
- ✓ Without social protection, women lead in the pandemic
- ✓ Pandemic management centered in hospitals and not in primary care



Vulnerable groups / Community trust

- ✓ Structural issue
- ✓ Affected all phases of the pandemic
- ✓ Community kitchens
- ✓ "Polladas" (community-based pooling of resources)



From the "polladas" to the crisis



Diplomado de Financiamiento en Salud

Inscripciones abiertas

DIRIGIDO A:
Profesionales del área de salud y líderes comunitarios, familiares de pacientes y personas interesadas

PROGRAMA

- * Polladas, milanesadas y paelladas: Modalidades del financiamiento desde un Estado ausente
- * Gestión de la información: Cómo preparar flyer efectivos
- * Salvemos a los pollos: ¿Y si pensamos en Derechos?

Con la inscripción recibe 5 adhesiones

todos los domingos

Las polladas NO son suficientes! El Estado debe invertir en salud. Hablemos de eso.

#DerechosNoPolladas
#LaSaludNoSeNegocia
#DesprivaticemosLaSalud

Movimiento por el Derecho a la Salud
maría rivarola

ALAMES



Church



Academy



Private sector



Paraguay's hand washing stations



Test, trace, treat and TRUST

- ✓ The strategy is to test, track, treat, but also to build the **confidence** needed to successfully manage the pandemic while preserving social and economic life as much as possible.
 - ✓ Adapting the response to the country's unique situation was critical, as was maintaining public trust through openness, transparency and full government accountability.
- ✓ Society is fundamental in generating mental and spiritual well-being and linking this collective care to activism, political action and new forms of community relations, marked by mutual support, solidarity and trust.
 - ✓ A committed, active, critical and organized participation and engagement that complements the State's response will mature when inequalities in society cease to be so glaring.

Community engagement in health system reform – The need for bold action...

- ✓ How the health system is organized is the greatest expression of how a population is cared for. And this includes the ability to prevent and respond to epidemics and pandemics
- ✓ Reform without community engagement is inconceivable
- ✓ Health is the most important political value of a community

✓ Thank you!

✓ Gracias!

