

Appendix 2: The *Camino Verde* Intervention: Commonalities and differences in Mexico and Nicaragua [posted as supplied by author]

A. Aspects of interventions common to both countries by reason of the trial's content and objectives

Objective	Reduce dengue risk through a) evidence-based knowledge translation and b) development of a sustainable community-oriented vector control approach
Evidence	Evidence consisted of: a) Life cycle of the <i>Ae. aegypti</i> mosquito; b) evidence shown to household residents of mosquito development in water receptacles on their own properties; and c) baseline survey evidence regarding reported dengue cases & costs, personal protection measures & costs, aggregate entomological data and saliva sample results.
Neighbourhood as unit of intervention	Clusters of ~140 households were the basic units for analysis and intervention. But since these clusters were generally parts of larger neighbourhoods, many interventions reached either whole neighbourhoods or recognizable neighbourhood subdivisions.
Consent of community leadership	This was requisite for the intervention to proceed, not only general consent but also separate consent for major activities such as saliva sampling, periodic household visits, peer monitoring by <i>brigadistas</i> from other communities, etc.
Intermediaries between investigators and communities	Investigators used intermediaries in both countries but their roles, backgrounds, recruitment and activities varied between and within countries. In both countries, investigators relied principally on intermediaries called Facilitators.
Official vector control programme	The government vector control programme continued uninterrupted by SEPA activities in both countries.

B. Aspects of interventions common by reason of the Nicaragua pilot experience

<i>Brigadistas</i> (community volunteers)	All <i>brigadistas</i> were residents of the communities where they conducted SEPA activities. All received training in the life-cycle and habits of the dengue-transmitting mosquito as well as in communication skills that include respect for other community members.
House-to-house visits (<i>visitas de acompañamiento</i>)	During these regular visits, <i>brigadistas</i> explained dengue and the life-cycle of the dengue-transmitting mosquito and enlisted the household residents in overall control efforts.
Neighbourhood shops	The same procedures were performed as conducted in house-to-house visits.
Visits to schools	In and out of school, children were key in the SEPA effort in both countries.
Visits to businesses, churches, clubs and other organisations	Despite diverse main agendas, all organisations shared the threat of dengue and the need for mosquito control. The SEPA programme enlisted as many of these organisations as possible in its mobilisation activities.
Collective events (nature and frequency varying by community characteristics and need)	Community-wide publicity and mobilisation tools included leaflets, posters, parades, songs, games, murals, graffiti, t-shirts, piñatas, bracelets, street theatre and clean-up campaigns to fill potholes and ravines, collect and dispose of empty containers, innovative use of discarded tires and other repositories in which mosquitoes may breed.

C. *Camino Verde* Intervention: Aspects that differed by country and/or community

	Mexico	Nicaragua
Stakeholders	- Residents of communities, both urban and rural - Community leadership of widely differing character	- Residents of communities, all urban - Community leadership with clear structures and government support

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guerrero State Health Secretariat - Municipal health authorities, both urban and rural - Municipal administration, urban & rural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Ministry of Health - Managua regional health authority - Managua municipal administration
Intermediaries between investigators and communities	Facilitators: Recent graduates in social sciences	Territorial coordinators (3 members of the research team) and facilitators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trained with help from Nicaraguan colleagues - Remained in the field during the entire intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All had previous community experience - Presence diminished over the course of the intervention
Brigadistas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received a financial stimulus / allowances - Recruited on criteria of research team and community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unpaid volunteers responding to call from community leadership - Included some community leaders
Second generation brigadistas trained by:	Facilitators and the brigade	The brigade
Intervention launched by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Household feedback of results from saliva samples - Focus groups led by facilitators and <i>brigadistas</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion groups with community leaders on costs associated with dengue, organized and led by researchers and facilitators.
House-to-house visits by:	Facilitators (at beginning) and <i>brigadistas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitators (at beginning) and <i>brigadistas</i> - included community leaders
Relations with official institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Health Secretariat, regional health authorities, local health centres and school authorities informed. - Officials from state dengue control programme participated in all study phases including publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government-sponsored district and neighbourhood leadership, local health centres and city vector control programme were all kept informed. - Health Ministry analysed entomological data and saliva samples. - National/local health officials monitored baseline and follow-up surveys.
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus groups with teachers and school children - Vector studies at schools used as teaching tools - Recycling generated revenue to cover school needs - Schoolchildren joined work of adult <i>brigadistas</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication channels with school authorities maintained - Meetings of <i>brigadistas</i> with teachers - Entomological surveillance and control of school larval development sites used as teaching tools
Public areas: Empty spaces, ravines, cemeteries, parks, streets as well as grounds surrounding churches and schools	Residents and brigades met with relevant officials to reach an understanding. Where this was not possible, they partnered with public authorities to clean empty spaces, ravines, streets, and cemeteries.	Residents and brigades met with persons responsible to reach common understanding. Where this was not possible, they called for support from public services through the local <i>Poder Ciudadano</i> and the Mayor's Office
Factories	None in any of the intervention neighbourhoods	Concerting of community action with public services accomplished by the brigades through the local <i>Poder Ciudadano</i>
Incidental expenses (refreshments, field work materials, transport, etc.)	Managed by facilitators	Responsibility passed from the facilitators to the brigade leaders over the course of the intervention.
<i>Brigadista</i> identification: T-shirts	T-shirts and caps both featuring the Camino Verde logo	T-shirts featuring both the SEPA logo and the name of the community.

depicting the *A aegypti* life cycle

Intervention monitoring (combining quantitative and qualitative instruments)

Meetings

Biological control of mosquito development

- Supervisors through regular meetings.
 - Peers from other neighbourhoods asked when householders were last visited by a *brigadista* and what was the most significant change experienced.
 - Facilitators and researchers: weekly
 - *Brigadistas* and facilitators: weekly
 - General meetings: every 4 months
 - Colloquium all facilitators: once
 - Assembly families and *brigadistas*: 4 times
- Fish in non-drinking water containers in several communities, mainly rural

- Supervisors through regular meetings
 - Peers from other neighbourhoods asking householders when they were last visited by a *brigadista*, inspecting water receptacles and promoting competition for lowest entomological indices.
 - *Brigadistas*, facilitators & area coordinators: weekly
 - Brigade delegates & researchers: monthly
 - Researchers among themselves: monthly
 - Investigators and facilitators: bi-monthly
 - Assembly of all brigades: once
- None